



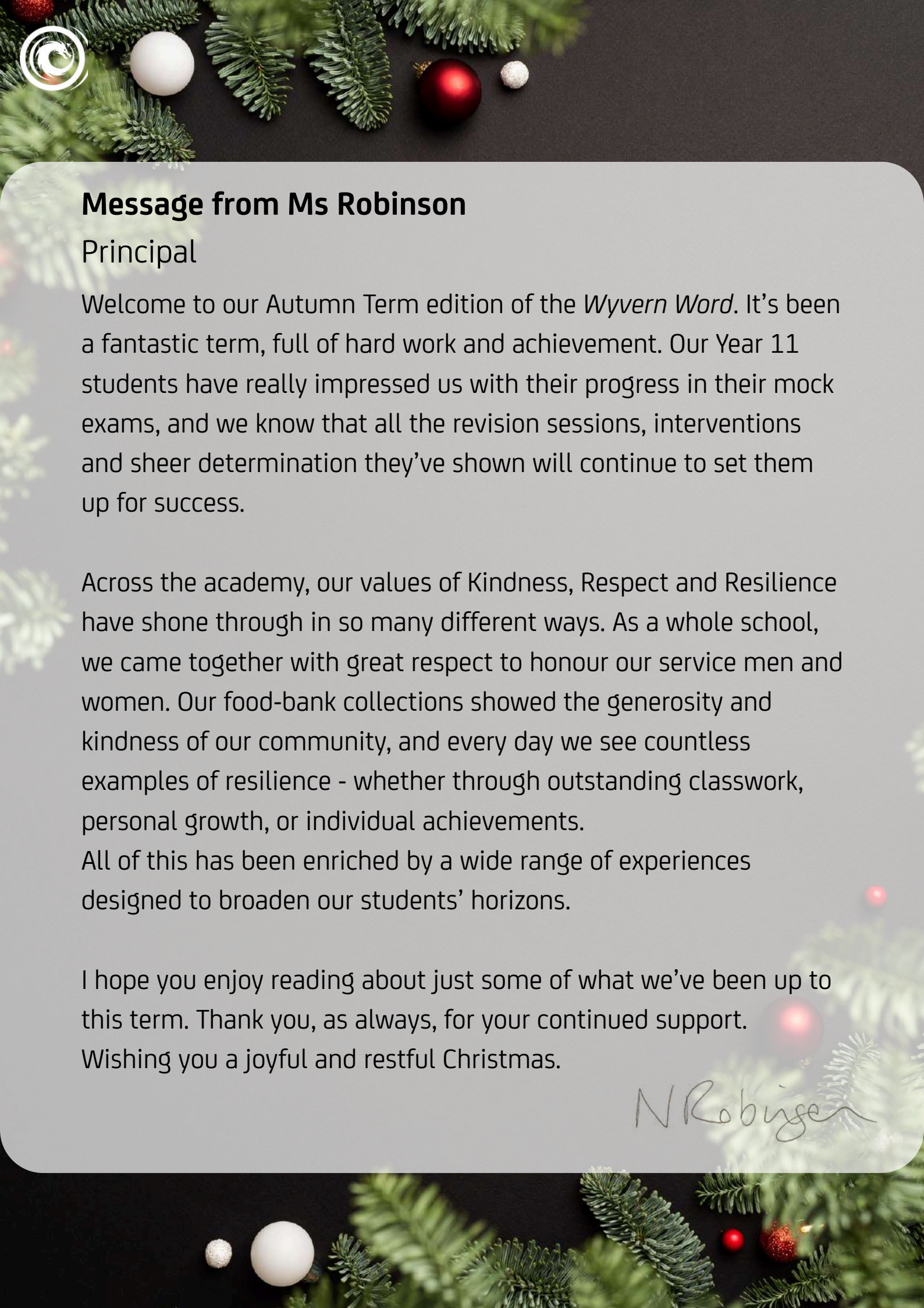
December 2025

Wyvern Academy's
Termly Newsletter

THE
WYVERN
WORD

In this Newsletter:

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Message from Ms Robinson

Principal

Welcome to our Autumn Term edition of the *Wyvern Word*. It's been a fantastic term, full of hard work and achievement. Our Year 11 students have really impressed us with their progress in their mock exams, and we know that all the revision sessions, interventions and sheer determination they've shown will continue to set them up for success.

Across the academy, our values of Kindness, Respect and Resilience have shone through in so many different ways. As a whole school, we came together with great respect to honour our service men and women. Our food-bank collections showed the generosity and kindness of our community, and every day we see countless examples of resilience - whether through outstanding classwork, personal growth, or individual achievements.

All of this has been enriched by a wide range of experiences designed to broaden our students' horizons.

I hope you enjoy reading about just some of what we've been up to this term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you a joyful and restful Christmas.

N Robinson



Remembrance Day

Wyvern Academy held a whole school assembly with the focus on the kindness and respect of wearing a poppy, whilst finding out about why the poppy is used for remembrance and where the money given to the Royal British Legion helps to support service men and women.

We focused on the resilience of the poppy, growing out of the battle- scarred Flanders fields and discussed many other countries use of other types of flowers to remember such as the German forget-me-not and the French Bleuet.

Thank you to Amelia B, Jasmine H, Phoebe T, Cian F, Kelsie C, Lacie B, Maksym K and Isobel P for their contributions to the whole school event, a wonderful tribute to Remembrance.





Music



The Forum

On our second annual visit to the Forum, Darlington, our Year 11 GCSE Music students had a brilliant day exploring the world of music technology, hands on.

Students used both the recording studio and live sound stage, noting the differences in approach for both, performed a song on stage, and recorded a song in the studio. We look forward to returning next year with the current Year 10s!



Mary Poppins

Our third 'West End on Tour' trip following Wicked and Hamilton, Mary Poppins.

Wow. This show truly was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

With 20% of our student body in attendance, we were stunned and in awe of the performances on stage. Every aspect was exceptional, from the vocal performances to the choreography, the set design to the stage magic. Brilliant in every way.



WYVERN'S got T★TALENT



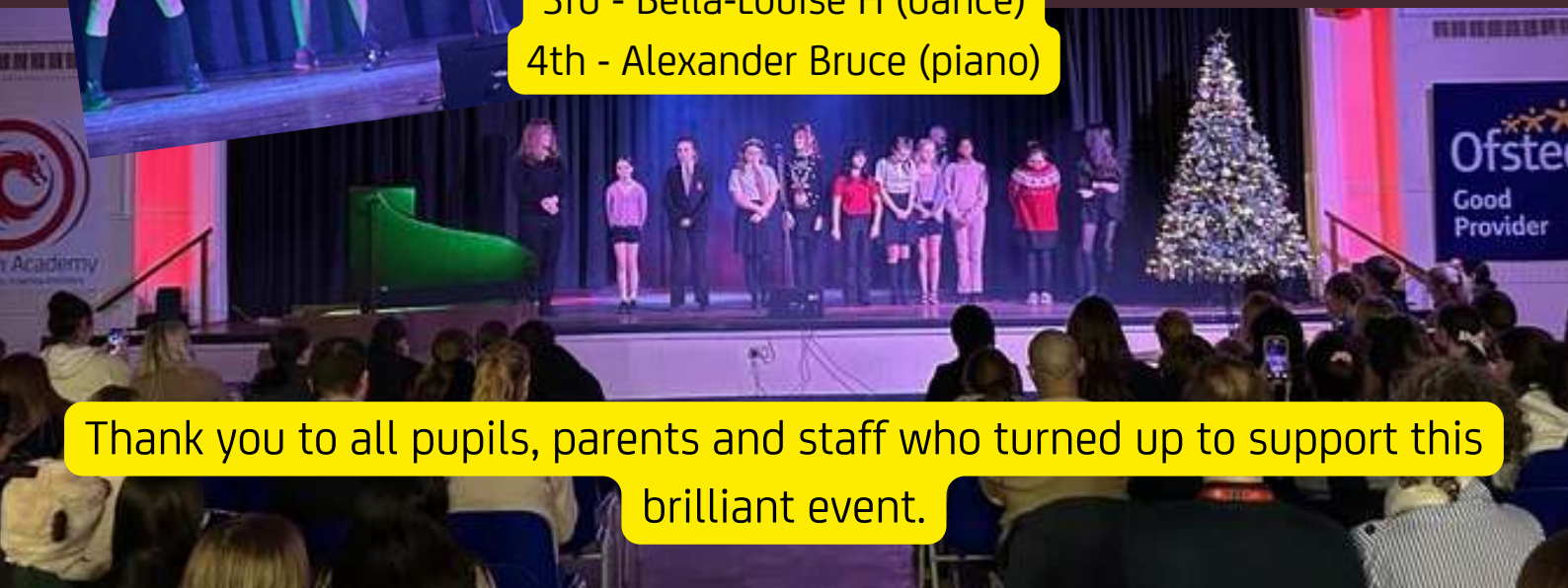
After a great Wyvern's got Talent on Thursday 4 December, the following were crowned victorious:

1st - Melody N (singing)

2nd - Esme M (singing)

3rd - Bella-Louise H (dance)

4th - Alexander Bruce (piano)



Thank you to all pupils, parents and staff who turned up to support this brilliant event.

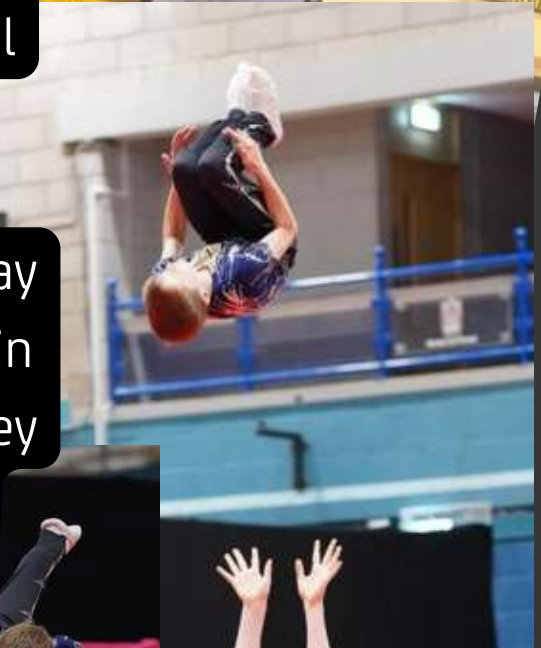


Success for Ethan

What a year it has been for Ethan in Year 8.

Before the summer, Ethan represented the North of England at Nationals in Acro Gymnastics, in which he came third; he also represented Great Britain in an international Gymnastics Festival in Italy.

In September Ethan's gymnastics display team, Alcina, performed at Ministrada in the Blackpool Tower; and in October they took part in the London Gymnastics festival.





Introducing *the Admin Team*



We are delighted to introduce the school's Admin Team to you. This dedicated group of staff are always on hand to support pupils, staff and families during their time with Wyvern Academy.

All visitors are given a warm welcome to the main reception on arrival. The team will always strive to assist wherever they can.

Miss Hayes-Admin Assistant

Miss Hayes has been with the Academy for 7 years. She previously worked at Orange/EE and a pharmaceuticals company. Miss Hayes is responsible for checking through the meds cabinet, data input, answering calls and responding to email enquiries.

Mrs Millward-Admin Assistant

Mrs Millward has been with the Academy for 3 years and was previously employed by from both Darlington and Middlesbrough Colleges. She is responsible for organising the school trips, data input, answering calls and responding to email enquiries.

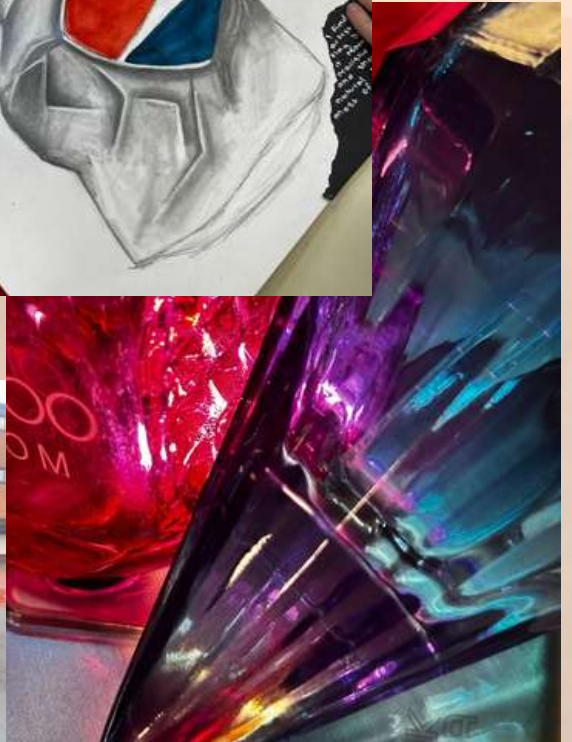
Mr Wilkinson-Admin Manager

Mr Wilkinson has been at Wyvern for 8 years. He had previously worked for St Aidans as part of the Admin Team, and before that, a Basic Skills/Employability Tutor for a training provider covering Tyneside and Teesvalley. Mr Wilkinson is responsible for the day to day running of the office.



Wyvern Art Gallery

Pupils across the school have been working extremely hard in Art, Photography and Co-Curricular. Here is this month's Wyvern Art Gallery





Well done to all of our pupils who took part in the Wyvern Christmas Card Competition. It was a difficult decision to choose our winner(s) but in the end these fabulous pictures won.

Sophia O's design has been sent to our feeder primaries this year.

Sophia O.



Christmas Card Competition



Isla B.



Sophie H.





Humanities at Wyvern



This term has seen a range of exciting and enriching activities in the Humanities Department; we have shown off what the subject has to offer in the gladiator fights and Roman foods in our 'Circus Maximus' themed open evening, aimed at inspiring a love of history and geography in upcoming students.



We have encouraged deeper thinking and reflection in our Year 11 students in particular, taking 32 of them on a First World War Battlefields trip to Belgium and France. Whilst there, we had the opportunity to see the battlefields first hand, helping the students understand challenges soldiers would have faced whilst fighting there, and also visited a number of cemeteries and war memorials which demonstrated the sheer cost of the Great War which helped us to remember the sacrifices made in that conflict and in others.



Humanities at Wyvern



In the Humanities classrooms, students have worked hard studying a range of topics in history, ranging from the Battle of Hastings, where year 7 students reenacted this pivotal moment in English History and entered a homework house competition to create a shield for the battle; whilst Year 9 have studied the First World War and its aftermath, with some students creating Poppy Wreaths which were used in our moving Remembrance Assembly. Some of our Year 11 students who attended the Battlefields trip spoke about their experiences during the Wyvern Remembrance assembly, enabling them to share the important messages they took from the trip with their peers. We would like to thank a special Nan, who knitted the Humanities Department a soldier, adorned with a poppy.

In KS3, the Geography team are looking forward to judging the house competition in which students have to create their own country, including its constitution, flag, leadership style, terrain and climate.

In extra-curricular, students are learning about the functions of a volcano through building a giant one; that will hopefully work!





PE

Achievements



Year 7 Winners

The Year 7 girls Futsal team were drawn in Group A, meaning they played group games against Longfield and Hummersknott. Despite losing their first group game to Longfield the girls came back strongly in the second game with a 1-0 against Hummersknott. This meant that they finished runners up in group A and played the winners of group B, Carmel in the semi-final.

A tight game was won 1-0 after an excellent goal by Bailey W.

In the final the girls played Haughton, and another tight game ensued. With only 2 minutes left Lily S scored a brilliant team goal and the girls hung on to win the tournament, a fantastic achievement, well done!

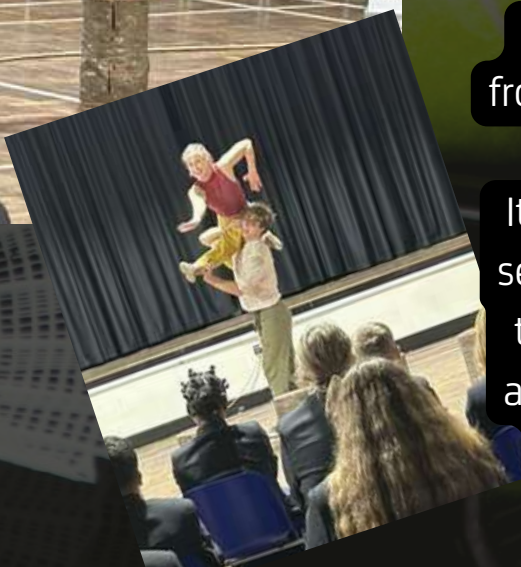
They now progress to the Durham County finals in early 2026. The team were Peculiar S, Hallie P, Bailey W, Lily S, Mishika L, Olivia S and Isla C.



Vanhulle Visits Wyvern

Years 7 and 8 were lucky enough to watch a project from Vanhulle Dance theatre which is travelling around the country with a show called Olive Branch.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to see contemporary art in our setting. There were lots of themes the pupils could identify and the performers also engaged with pupil about how and why they had got into dance and martial arts in the first place.





Sports Achievements



Well done Leighton



Well done to Leighton (Second in from the right) in Year 11 who has won the Teesside Union Championship-Boys Champion and Team Champion. He was also part of the Teesside Union boys team, which also won their respective league.

Leighton is part of Blackwell Grange Junior County Team who have won the Durham and Southern League Championship.

All of the above are amazing considering he's only been playing golf for 8 months!

Judo Champ Elliot

Well done to Elliot H in Year 8 who has won gold in the British Judo Northern Area Schools competition on 22nd November.

Elliott the World Kettlebell Champion

World Kettlebell Championships in Poland.

Elliott left us in July after his GCSEs. He has accomplished so much since then.

The Youth Team came 3rd in the World.

Elliott got gold in 24kg Snatch, 24kg Jerk and 24kg Biathlon.

The relay team he was in got gold also.

Elliott now holds 6 world Gold and 2 European Golds.

Elliott's next competition is the European Championships in York 2026 and World in Lithuania in Oct 2026





Careers News!

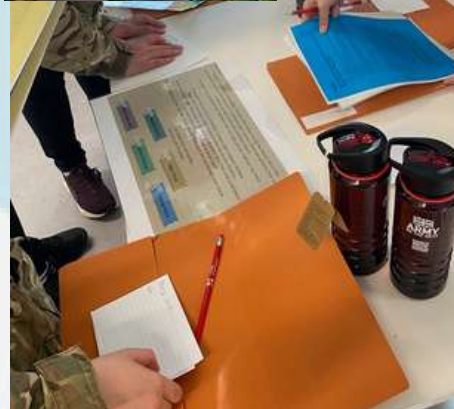


ARMY CAREERS DAY

A group of Year 10 History students had the amazing opportunity to visit The Story in Durham and learn more about the history of the Durham Light Infantry in collaboration with the British Army.

Students were set challenges that relied on their communication and teamworking skills to race against the clock to beat the other team. Linking to curriculum subjects including Maths and History students had to research and crack the codes which revealed the missing pieces needed to create their radios, such like the one prisoners of war secretly built during WWII.

Students finished the morning with a careers talk from the British Army highlighting all the different sectors and the job roles available within the Army, along with the entry requirements needed and future qualifications that could be gained.





McDonald's Experience

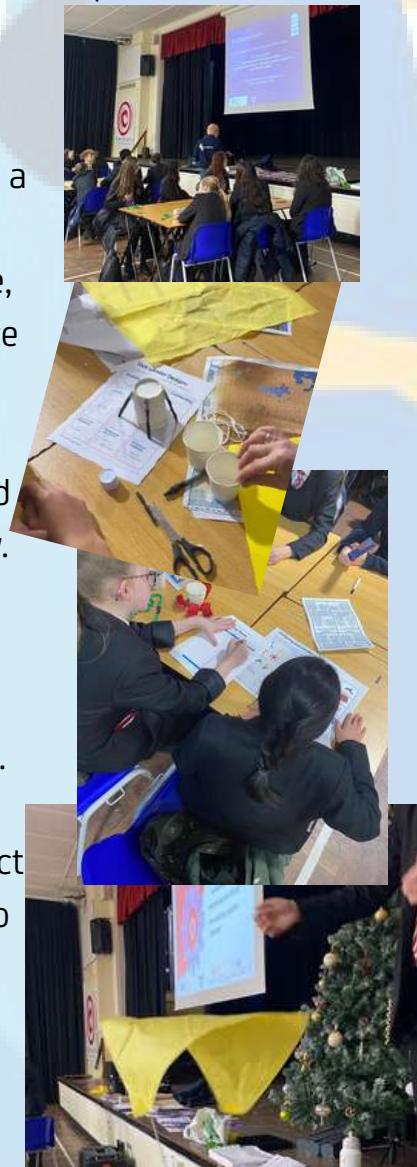
Thank you to McDonald's for hosting Wyvern Academy students for a fantastic behind the scenes tour of the workplace. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the visit, being able to see how the food is made, learning about the different roles within the business from crew member to managers as well as corporate positions, and ending the experience making their own McFlurry.

STEM EVENT

The RAF Charitable Trust in partnership with the Smallpeice Trust delivered a STEM day to 60 Year 8 and 9 students. The space themed event was an educational, practical day designed to spark curiosity and build confidence, giving students the chance to explore real world challenges in air and space while imagining the future of flight and space exploration.

Students were tasked with the challenge to build a space lander that could be used to explore a new planet, deciding where they would land and why. Teams created a name, logo and slogan for their company with a unique selling point to their project. Testing prototypes that included stability, cushioning and drag to decide which would be best for their final space lander that could withstand the weight of 100g and hold a ping pong ball.

Linking careers to curriculum subjects, students took on roles such as project manager, finance manager, designer, engineer and marketing executives to work as a team to complete their project. Demonstrating and developing their skills through teamwork, problem solving, speaking and listening as well as building confidence to present their final pitch to their peers.





Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

A fab day was had by both pupils and staff at Wyvern with Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day. Can you spot any familiar faces?





Wyvern Food Bank



Thank you for your
generous donation
to St Mary's Food Bank

Have a special
festive season

Happy Christmas
from
all at the Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who
has kindly donated foodstuffs
to the Wyvern Foodbank.

Miss Robinson and Mrs
O'Keeffe took this all to a very
grateful
St Mary's Church in Cockerton.





Safeguarding

Information

At Wyvern Academy we know how important safeguarding is. Safeguarding is a vital aspect of any school setting, as it ensures the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors. We foster a culture and practice of safeguarding. All staff have annual safeguarding training and all school policies and practices are fully compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

We work with professionals to ensure students can thrive and be safe. We take action to enable all children have the best outcomes, as we want our students to have the best start to life.

All staff are trained level 2 safeguarding leads and are able to support your child if they are need to speak to them about their concerns.

Safeguarding Team

Wyvern Academy is committed to promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of every pupil. We encourage you not to ignore anything you see, hear or read which causes you concern for the safety of our pupils and school community

Please report any concerns to one of the team, or email at wyv.safeguarding@consilium-at.com

Useful Links



**Growing
Healthy**



**The
Samaritans**



MIND



KOOTH

**Scan the above QR codes for
more information**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026

Staff Professional Development Day Monday 5th January 2026

(Pupils return to school Tuesday 6th January 2026)

Parents' Evenings (4pm-6pm)

Year 9 - Thursday 5th March 2026

Year 7 - Thursday 26th March 2026

Year 8 - Thursday 30th April 2026

Year 10 - Thursday 9th July 2026

Holiday Dates

Monday 23rd February 2026-Friday 27th February 2026

Monday 6th April 2026-Friday 17th April 2026

Monday 25th May 2026-Friday 29th May 2026

GCSE Exam Dates

Tuesday 5th May 2026- Friday 26th June 2026

Summer Holidays:

Monday 20th July 2026- Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Year 6 Transition Dates

Wednesday 24th June 2026- Friday 26th June 2026

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 29th June 2026 - Friday 3rd July 2026

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

From Wyvern Academy