



# THE TORCH

2023/24



# WELCOME TO THE TORCH

## 2023/24

In 1919, six years after the school opened, Durham Girls Grammar School published its first magazine. The name reflected the school motto 'Lampada Trado' which refers to the duty to pass on the flame; the flame of knowledge, experience and responsibility. From that date, the school went through many transitions to become the Durham Sixth Form Centre it is today. As an institution, we still aspire to mirror that original school motto and help the next generation move successfully into the next stage of their life and career; becoming kind, responsible and independent young people with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive and prosper, following whatever direction is right for them.

The last school magazine was published in the 1970s, and in 2024 we thought it fitting to resurrect it, reimagined in a digital form. The Torch will shine a light on the amazing students we are privileged to teach, the amazing staff we are fortunate to call colleagues and some of the amazing things they do together during the two years the students are with us.

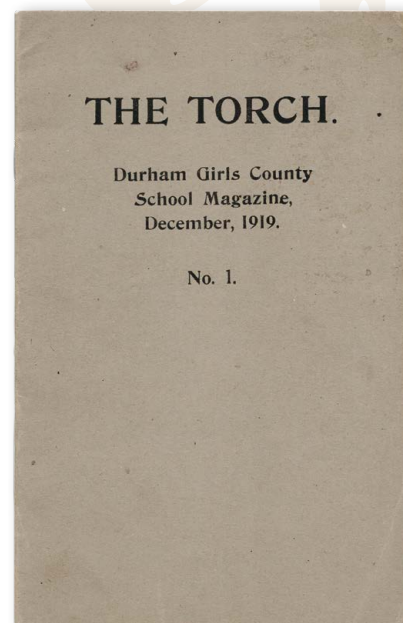
Heritage is important. Rooted in the past is an educational institution which has evolved and grown over 110 years to be

a beacon of excellence in post-16 education. Our students understand that thousands of people have passed through our doors, many of them their relatives and friends, and go on to do great things. They are proud to belong to Durham Sixth Form Centre and we are proud that they have chosen us for their next steps. The Torch endeavours to bring that pride to life.

I hope that this publication also begins a new tradition, and the torch continues to blaze. This year has seen some remarkable achievements academically but also in sport, creativity and social endeavours. Our students have travelled the length of Britain and around the world, supported charities and, most importantly, each other.

This summer, around 750 year 13 students will leave us to start their next journey. I wish them well and hope they remember their time here fondly. I also look forward to welcoming our new cohort and watching them begin their post-16 life. Nothing stands still but I hope the following pages help capture a moment in time.

**Jo Lain**  
*Principal 2024*



*The first edition of The Torch, the long-running school magazine, which has been used as inspiration for our new publication.*

# A LONG TRADITION OF AMAZING PEOPLE DOING AMAZING THINGS



In November 1913, the Durham Girls' County School opened its doors to students for the first time. Only 248 girls attended that first year.

110 years later, following 11 headteachers, 6 name changes and significant expansions to the school site, the centre now boasts a student intake of around 1,700.

Throughout all these years, there has been one constant; to maintain the highest quality inspirational teaching and learning standards, and to instill ambition and encourage progress for all of our students.



# POETRY BY HEART



Talented students at Durham Sixth Form Centre have been taking part in an inspiring competition designed to encourage pupils in England to choose a poem, learn it by heart and perform it out loud.

We are delighted to announce that year 13 Millie Swainson, who won the competition at Durham Sixth Form Centre, has been successful in gaining a place in the national finals. The 2024 Poetry by Heart Grand Finale event will take place on 1st July at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Our event took place on Valentine's Day with a wonderful evening of invited guests and 25 students performing from both year groups. Our winner, Millie recited Peter Porter's 1962 poem, Your Attention Please. Porter's searingly ironic indictment

of the arms race begins with the chilling announcement that a nuclear strike has been launched against 'our major cities.' Millie delivered the poem with such passion and power, everyone was incredibly moved.

Poetry by Heart is the national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. It's also a website for teaching and learning about poetry; by heart and out loud, and with plenty of choice for young people to explore poems and find the ones they love.

The competition is open to all schools and colleges in England and invites young people aged from 7 – 18 to choose two poems they love, learn them by heart and perform them in a school or college performance event. School staff then select students to enter the national round, submitting entries via video upload. Finalists are invited to perform live at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre at the Grand Finale.



In 2023, its tenth anniversary year, a record 90,000 young people took part in Poetry By Heart. 37,000 learned a poem by heart and schools submitted 2,000 performances to the judges.

Taking part in Poetry By Heart is all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way, with registration, participation and competition entry free for schools and colleges in England.

The former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, who set up Poetry By Heart with co-founder Dr Julie Blake in 2013, says,

*"In ten years, Poetry By Heart has grown from strength to strength: since 2013 thousands of students have not only learned great poems for life but they have also shared them with friends and families in the inspiring and moving performances that are at the heart of every competition. I am constantly surprised and delighted by the quality of the students' achievements."*

Daljit Nagra, Poetry By Heart Advisor and Judge, says, "I am always stunned by our children and their ability to stand before an audience of strangers to deliver a poem with an intimacy and intellectual authority that gives the poem fresh meaning while bringing it utterly alive."

We wish Millie all the very best of luck for her performance at The Globe.



# POETRY BY HEART

Poetry By Heart is funded with the support of the Department for Education. For more information visit [poetrybyheart.org.uk](https://poetrybyheart.org.uk)

# NEXTGEN ENGINEERING



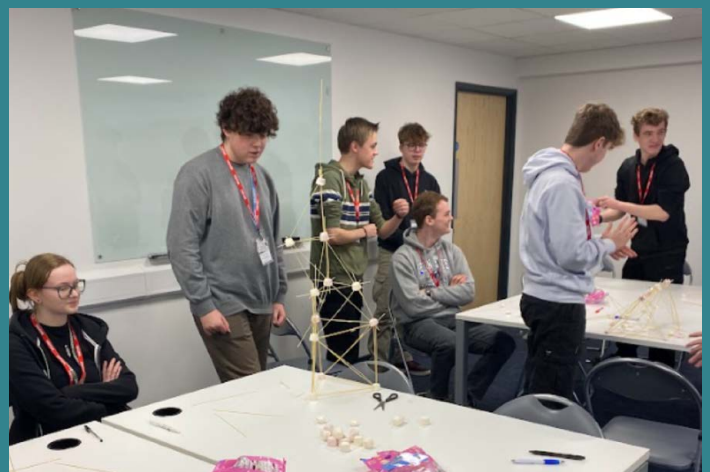
Recently, our Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit Alexander Batteries, a local company known for its cutting-edge technology and commitment to innovation in the field of energy storage. The primary objective of the trip was to expose students to potential apprenticeship opportunities and to provide a glimpse into the exciting world of technology and engineering.

One of the highlights of the trip was the interactive session with current apprentices at Alexander Batteries. These young professionals shared their personal journeys, detailing how the apprenticeship program had provided them with practical skills and invaluable industry knowledge.

They were then given a tour of the production floor, where students observed the assembly line in action. The meticulous attention to detail and the precision required in manufacturing batteries left a lasting impression on the students. It was a hands-on experience that allowed them to appreciate the complexity of the production process and the significance of quality control in ensuring reliable products.

The visit concluded with an assessment day skills session. Students enjoyed taking part in some of these challenges, including building a structure out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

The combination of hands-on exploration, insightful discussions with apprentices, and exposure to cutting-edge technology left a lasting impact, sparking interest and curiosity about potential career paths. As we strive to prepare our students for the future, such trips play a crucial role in bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, empowering the next generation to make informed decisions about their career aspirations.



# VIKING CSI

Durham Sixth Form Centre was privileged to be invited to participate in an exclusive programme offered by the Department of Archaeology at Durham University.

The scene was set with a university style lecture in which students were given the task for the day; to solve a Viking age mystery.

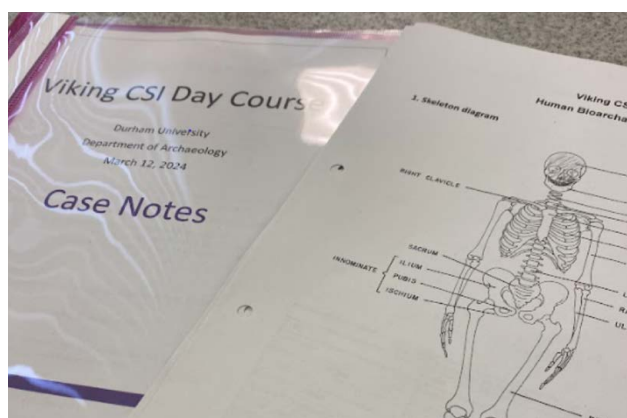
During a summer field course, Durham University students excavated a mysterious human burial accompanied by animal bones and artefacts. Under the supervision of academics, our students' job would be to determine the deceased person's biological sex, age, health, diet, identity, geographical origins, and cause of death.

They started by exploring the artefacts brought out of the grave, including casts of human and animal bones. Professor Milek and Dr Jakob guided them through the methods used by archaeologists to analyse bioarchaeological materials, and students gained an insight into how scientific methodologies can be employed to decipher historical narratives. They explored the rich cultural tapestry of Viking Age funerary practices, beliefs, and material culture, thereby gaining a deeper appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of archaeological inquiry.

Next, Professor Montgomery led her cutting edge research into stable isotope analysis and students used carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen isotopes extracted from bones and teeth to determine diet and geographical origins. This was further highlighted after lunch when they headed into a lab equipped with computers to help us use DNA to determine biological sex and paternal ancestry with Dr Fernández-Domínguez.

The final session brought together all of the information and data collected throughout the day, to solve this intriguing case. It was determined that this boat burial, a common funeral practice in Viking Britain, held a man and horse who had travelled from Norway along with a dog from the North East of England. Students were able to make insightful suggestions about how the artefacts found contribute to our understanding of beliefs surrounding death and the afterlife at this time.

The day gave an enriching insight into this fascinating realm where science and history converge, leaving participants inspired and equipped with newfound knowledge and skills.





# BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE

In January, we invited DEN (Deaf Empowering Network) to host a 6 week course of workshops of BSL (British Sign Language) for students.

The course was developed for learners who wish to acquire basic understanding of BSL for the purpose of holding a simple conversation with deaf people, including – family, friends, and colleagues.

This was an exciting opportunity, especially for those interested in career paths in fields where BSL proficiency is an asset, such as education, healthcare, and social services. From this course, students are now able to stand out in university and job applications, by showcasing a commitment to diversity and inclusion. It was led by the incredible Michelle Calvert, a profoundly

deaf teacher with a passion for empowering others and her interpreter, Emma.

Over the 6 week course, students gained an overview of deaf culture, deaf history and deaf awareness, giving them a good understanding of the background to BSL. They learned basic BSL, including some common words and words relevant to them. They also learned how to finger spell.

To top the 6 weeks off, the students then participated in a BSL Bingo game as a class, where they solidified their understanding and signed numbers in BSL.

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This year, 21 DSFC students have been working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The program's four sections help participants grow by teaching new skills, boosting confidence, and encouraging independence. Physical activities improve fitness and well being, while volunteering allows participants give back to their communities.

Over six months of volunteering, this year's participants have helped in local charity shops, coached sports teams, taught self-defence, volunteered at an animal shelter and helped Y12's with their maths and phonics at a primary school. Some even used this section as an opportunity to take on leadership roles in the Scouts and Army Cadets. In the Skills Section, participants broaden their understanding and expertise in a specific skill.

Finally, on a sunny weekend in May, the participants took part in a practice expedition near Middleton-in-Teesdale as part of their training for their Qualifying Expedition in September. The weather was wonderful if anything, a bit too warm! The students worked in teams of 4 - 7 people to complete all aspects of the expedition independently working together to set up tents, cook meals, wash up, and most importantly support each other on the long 10 mile hike each day.

They used the orienteering skills that they had practised as part of their training to navigate through some beautiful scenery including High Force Waterfall and incredible views across the Teesdale, all whilst carrying their rucksacks containing everything that they needed for the expedition. They all made it to the final checkpoint happy, tired and looking forward to the Qualifying Expedition in September.



Well done to everyone who has taken part in DofE this year, you have pushed and challenged yourselves and shown great tenacity and resilience and should feel really proud of yourselves!





'Commuters' by  
Grace Rogers

Self portrait  
of Grace



# ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

In a stunning achievement we are delighted to announce that Year 12 student, Grace Rogers has been selected to showcase her artwork in the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer show 2024.

Now in its sixth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–19 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. The Academy received over 21,500 submissions and were blown away by all the entries this year.

Grace's captivating painting, titled 'Commuters,' is an exploration into appreciating the beauty within everyday life. With its gritty expression and emotive storytelling, the painting earned Grace a spot amongst the UK's most promising emerging artists.

Speaking about her selection, Grace expressed her gratitude stating *"It's great to see hard work pay off to achieve this accolade"*.

Ruth Watson, Teacher of Fine Art and Assistant Principal added *"Grace has demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication to her craft. This remarkable accomplishment serves as a testament to Grace's hard work, creativity, and unwavering commitment to excellence"*.

Durham Sixth Form Centre is immensely proud of Grace's achievement and congratulates her on this well-deserved honour. Her success not only reflects her individual talent but also highlights the vibrant arts community flourishing within our academy, recently re-designated an Artsmark Platinum provider by Arts Council England.



**Artsmark**  
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

**RA** Royal  
Academy  
of Arts



# MACMILLAN CHARITY WALK

Following a year where several staff members and the wider community had been affected both directly and indirectly by Cancer, the staff 'Wellbeing Working Group' organised a fundraiser to raise funds for a charity so that we could 'give back' and show support. A walk seemed the ideal way to do something positive together and to remember those affected.

24 members of staff, alongside some friends and family, completed the walk for Macmillan Cancer Support around Durham city on Saturday 22nd June. The 14 mile route started at DSFC, with timely pit-stops at two public houses along the way, finishing back at DSFC and ending with a celebratory drink at Wetherspoons.

We raised an amazing £1,439! A huge thank you and well done to all those who participated and donated!

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

# GOLF ACADEMY SUCCESS

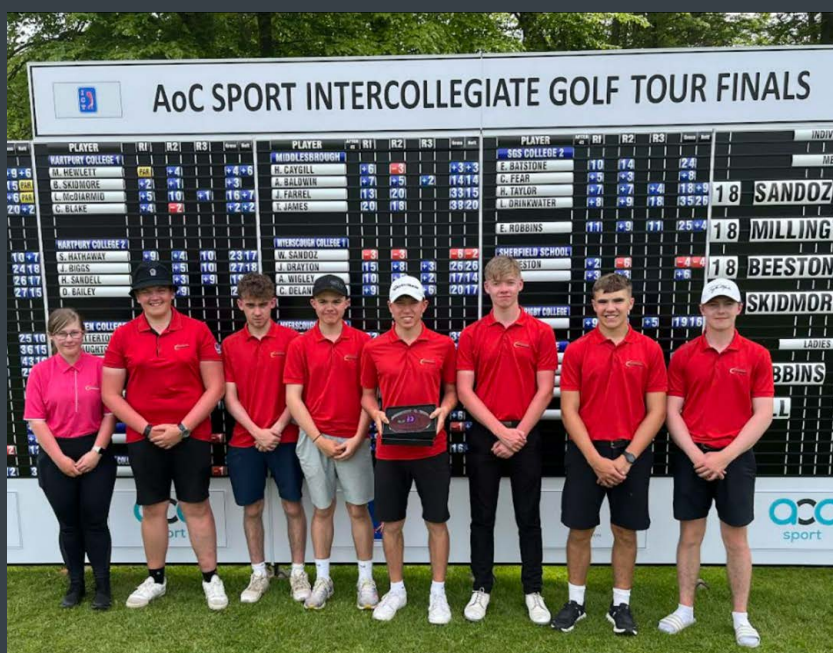
The Durham Sixth Form Centre Golf Academy has earned a strong reputation for producing student golfers that excel both on the course and in the classroom. Former students have gone on to represent their country while others have secured prestigious scholarships in the United States. Our experienced team combined with outstanding facilities and a supportive environment mean student success stories are plentiful.

## AoC Intercollegiate Golf Tour North Region

In April our young golfers clinched the prestigious AoC Intercollegiate Tour North Region Team Scratch Trophy. The journey to victory began in September with a first place finish in round 1 at Matlock GC, Derbyshire. This was backed up with a win on home soil in round 2 at Ramside GC, Durham in October. Due to the biblical downpour of rain from January onwards fixture after fixture was cancelled and rearranged only to be cancelled again.

The team eventually got back into action at Oulton Hall GC, Leeds in March and despite the challenging weather conditions, the scratch team, led by captain Callum Brown, rose admirably to the occasion and managed to hold the chasing pack from Myerscough, Scarborough, Derby, Birmingham and Middlesbrough at bay. A third place finish in round 4 at Oakmont Park GC, Nottingham would be enough to secure victory. This duly arrived with room to spare.

Congratulations to the team Callum Brown, Maggie Whitehead, James King, Thomas Southwell, Josh White & Jack Crampton. In addition, Alfie Baldwin (Middlesbrough), just pipping Maggie Whitehead (Durham), with a late surge from defending national champion Will Sandos.



## AoC Intercollegiate Tour National Finals

The National Finals at Kedleston Park GC Derby, saw DSFC qualify with two teams. One gross and one nett. The best 125 students from schools and colleges across the UK competed in a 54 hole competition. The golf course an Open Qualifying Event proved to be an excellent challenge for these young stars of the future. Despite a valiant effort from all our players we were unable to add to the silverware.

The gross team finished 7th in the scratch event (Callum Brown, Will Megginson, Thomas Southwell and Josh White).

The nett team finished 6th in the handicap event (James King, Kayla Hall, Matthew Bennett and Jack Crampton).

Congratulations to Kayla Hall runner up in the girls individual competition and Callum Brown 14th in the boys competition.

## AoC 'Ryder Cup' North vs South

The 2nd AoC Ryder Cup competition was held at Beeston Park GC, Nottingham. Over the course of the season players in both the North and South regions have been battling it out to secure points which would see the 12 highest points scorers from each region competing in a Ryder Cup format event.

DSFC had four players selected: Callum Brown, Maggie Whitehead, Thomas Southwell and Sam Elves. Unfortunately due to exam commitments neither Maggie or Thomas could take up their place in the team.

9 holes of fourballs, would be followed by 9 holes of foursomes and finally 18 holes of singles. Captains for the event were Mr R Miller (Durham Sixth Form Centre) for the North and Mr M Wheeler (Itchen College) for the South. With scores all square after the first 18 holes it would all be down to the singles. The North rained supreme running out worthy winners by 13.5 points to 10.5 points. Avenging the painful defeat from 2023.

To cap off a great AoC season Maggie also received the gross winners trophy and Callum the nett winners trophy.

## Durham County Schools Golf Championships

Like all of the competitions the students played in post January, the County schools also fell foul of the weather. For the first time in 53 years it was postponed by two weeks. 84 participants (10 girls and 74 boys) battled it out to be both team and individual champions. Callum Brown continued his good run of form shooting 69 to win the open age group. The 'A' team also won the scratch team event.

Callum Brown and Josh White secured selection for the North of England Regional Schools Championships which will be held at Heysham GC on Friday 31st May. Where Callum will captain the Durham team, comprising of 4 boys and 3 girls.

Callum and Josh along with James King will also battle it out at The National Golf Centre Woodhall Spa to be England Schools champions in July.

**Congratulations to all our Golf Academy winners and players on an exceptional 2023/24 season!**



# FOOTBALL SUCCESS



Durham Sixth Form Centre is proud to announce that our Boys' Football Academy first team was crowned National Football Youth League (NFYL) North Division 1 Champions after a hard-fought season in the highest level of football, outside the academy system.

Ewan Stones won the sixth form's Golden Boot this year with 20 goals across the campaign, closely followed by Owen Hayton (19), putting them both in the top 5 scorers in the league and together firing us to our first National Football Youth League title. Fin Rose scored a very respectable 11 goals en route to the title, including a world-class free kick in the last game of the season, while Zack Blythe contributed 9 goals in 8 games. Meanwhile, captain Ben Pyle sired up the defence, despite playing out of position, leading the boys through some difficult times throughout the season. Goalkeeper James Barron shared the Golden Glove, with goalkeepers from Barnsley and Burnley, recording 9 clean sheets.

Tom Brandon contributed 8 goals in 8 games, while Kal Coulthard was a midfield general, with man of the match performances, most notably in the 2-1 away win at Middlesbrough. Jake Bewley has been a mainstay in this side, along with Taylor Bowen, Jack Scanlon, George Wilkinson and Matthew Lounton (GK), providing a defensive foundation for the attackers to thrive, all leaving the

centre with a trophy to show for their efforts. The left-back dream team of James Hoband and Alex Carr also leave us this year after 2 years of hard work up and down the wings, along with Isaac Jowett whose clever attacking play has been a headache for opposition defences.

Our year 12 players really stepped up this year, with Sam Field, Jason Fitzpatrick, Hugh Otwinowski and Jamile Patey all playing extremely well. There have been many appearances from other year 12's who have come into the side during injury spells for teammates. They have all raised their level to the standard of the NFYL, including Noah Honour, Alfie Howard, Daniel Jarvis, Archie Munsey, Luke Sowden, Cain Swanson and Jack Roberts. They each have made a real case for being included in the NFYL side next year, joining Harrison Craig and Nathan Scaife, who have had injury-hit seasons but have contributed nonetheless.

29 players have contributed to this achievement, proving that this truly is a squad game!

Congratulations to all the boys involved this year and a fond farewell to the year 13's who left us in the summer.



### Poppy Pritchard joins Manchester City for an undisclosed fee

In the January transfer window Durham Sixth Form Centre student Poppy Pritchard made the big move from Championship side Durham Women to Womens Super League (WSL) side Manchester City.

Poppy came through the academy at Durham and established herself in the Senior squad during the 2023/24 campaign making 22 appearances and scoring twice. Her impressive performances meant she was called up to the England U19 squad where she has scored a remarkable 13 goals in 13 appearances. This attracted the attention of many top clubs in the WSL but it was City that secured her signature.

Poppy has since been loaned out to WSL newcomers Crystal Palace where her sparkling potential will be nurtured as they look to establish themselves in the league. At Durham Sixth Form Centre we are immensely proud of Poppy's achievements and wish her the best of luck for the future!



### Anna King signs first professional contract with Durham Women

Former Durham Sixth Form Centre student Anna King signed her first professional contract with Durham Women in summer 2024. She put pen to paper on a long-term contract at Maiden Castle – having first joined the club at 14.

Anna started out in our under-16 side before progressing through the club's pathway which has resulted in her representing Durham's Professional Game Academy under-21 side over the last two seasons. The shot stopper has put in a number of eye-catching performances in the PGA League, while also gaining valuable experience of senior football with Durham Cestria in the FA Women's National League.

And after agreeing her first professional deal, Anna paid tribute to the club's pathway for aiding her development. Massive congratulations to Anna, we are very excited to see how her career develops!



### Ella Wilson signs first professional contract with Durham Women

At the start of the year Durham Sixth Form Centre student Ella Wilson put pen to paper on a long-term contract at Maiden Castle having become a regular part of the first-team squad.

Ella joined Durham's Professional Game Academy in 2022 and was a regular in the under-21 side before being handed a first-team debut on the final day of the 2022/23 campaign during a win at Lewes. The left-sided player, who is also an England youth international, has gone on to be a regular feature in the first-team match day squad.

Ella expressed her delight at fulfilling her dream of signing a professional deal.

"I'm absolutely delighted. To get this opportunity at such a young age is a pleasure, but I know that now the hard work starts."

Congratulations Ella! We can't wait to see where your talent takes you!

### Poppy Pritchard signs for Crystal Palace on loan for the 2024/25 season!





**GOING TO  
AMAZING  
PLACES...**



# HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

**Every year, students and staff from the Politics department visit the Houses of Parliament.**

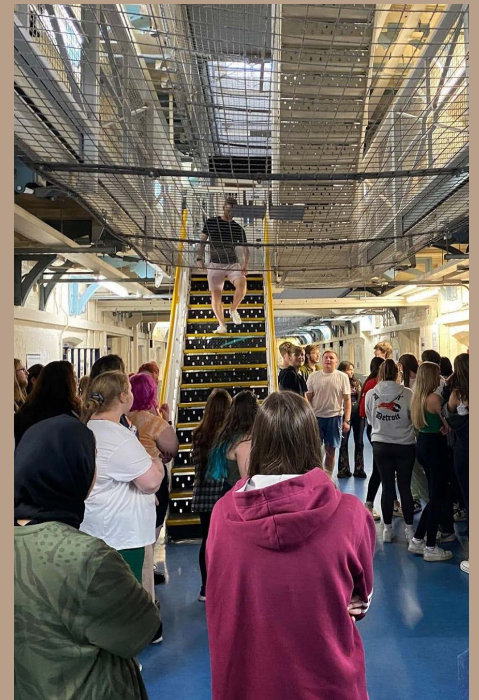
The first part of the day consisted of a walk down Whitehall, a look at 10 Downing Street, numerous government departments and then lunch at Trafalgar Square. After lunch, they visited the various courtrooms, displays and exhibitions of the Supreme Court, the UK's highest appeal court, where many important decisions are taken concerning our rights and liberties.

Then a tour of Parliament that lasted about an hour and a half, though it would take far longer to do real justice to such a large, historical and interesting building and all that takes place within it. Parliament was busy as usual, students were incredibly lucky to see a debate taking place in the House of Lords on civil liberties. Also in the House of Commons ministers such as The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mel Stride MP, were discussing their recent policy decisions.

They also took in some of the history of Westminster Hall, the public galleries, the Central Lobby, St. Stephens Hall and other areas of the Palace of Westminster.

Finally, they took part in a Debating in Parliament exercise which involved all students participating in a Commons mock debate exercise. There was also a short amount of time to sightsee Central London before getting a train back to Durham. All in all, an interesting day out in the capital.





# PRISON!

In July, year 12 students made the journey to Shrewsbury Prison. Originally built in 1793, it was redeveloped during the Victorian era before being decommissioned as a prison in 2013 and reopened as a tourist attraction.

The purpose of our visit was to observe and study the design of the prison, how forms of punishment have changed (e.g. the abolishment of capital punishment) and to consider how these institutions meet the aims of punishment that we have today.

We were informed that the Victorians very much focussed on punishment rather than rehabilitation and if you were unlucky to have been sent to prison then all you would have had was wooden slats to sleep on. How grateful we were to see mattresses in our cells!

The students had a lot of fun and learned a huge amount about the history of the penal system and Shrewsbury Prison itself. Skills came to the forefront as they had to make their own beds, solve problems in the escape rooms, take part in the ghost tour and contemplate life as a prisoner in their own cells. As a result, everyone had a (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The students behaved impeccably and were real ambassadors for Durham Sixth Form Centre. The persistent rain didn't dampen their spirits and despite being awoken at 6am the next morning, we went home full of excitement, reflecting fondly on a great experience.



# AUSCHWITZ

**A group of four history students were offered the opportunity to visit the Auschwitz concentration camps as part of an annual project organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (UK).**



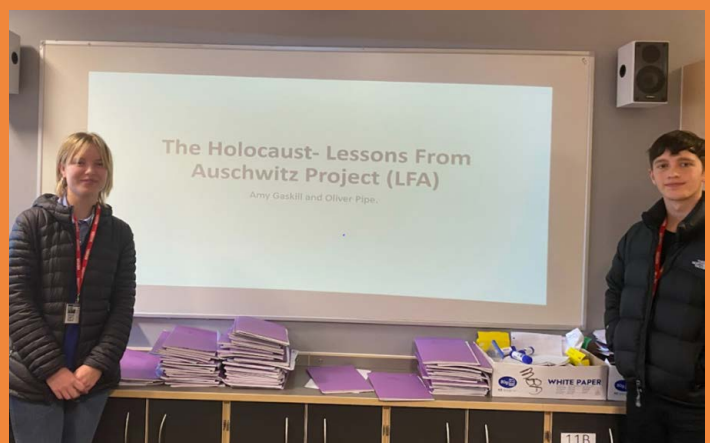
Every year, this project includes a visit to the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp which now stands as a museum to educate people on the horrors of the Holocaust. Following an early flight, our four students visited this site and returned back later that day. Whilst there they witnessed the many objects belonging to the victims of the Holocaust, rooms full of shoes and former belongings which served a shocking representation of the scale of murder perpetrated in the camps.

Upon their return, the students were able to share their experience and help inform their local communities of the Holocaust so that it may not be forgotten. Many focused on individual stories of those who lost their lives, remembering them as people and not just statistics in a senseless slaughter.

Year 12 students, Oliver Pipe and Amy Gaskill, helped their communities by returning to their secondary school and educating the students on their experience and antisemitism, as well as sharing stories of individuals such as Berta Rosenhein. Tim Crampton and Laura Anderson wrote an article on their experience and the importance of remembering the Holocaust and what stuck with them after their visit.

We would like to thank the Holocaust Educational Trust for continually organising this. We have been able to send students every year and it is always eye opening to hear their experiences. The Holocaust Educational Trust was established in 1988 with the aim to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learnt for today.

**HOLOCAUST  
EDUCATIONAL  
TRUST**



| *Oliver Pipe and Amy Gaskill*

# ANDORRA

During February half term, 40 students and 4 members of staff hit the slopes of Andorra for an exciting skiing adventure.

Andorra is a tiny principality between France and Spain and ski holidays there have been enticing skiers for decades. Andorra's ski resorts are rated some of the best in Europe, so it was DSFC's time to take advantage of this.

Students and staff all met at Newcastle Airport bright and early on Sunday 18th February to start their journey. Flying from Newcastle to Amsterdam, Amsterdam to Toulouse and then the coach from Toulouse to Andorra, arriving late on Sunday evening to the hotel in Andorra, la Vella.

After a restful night's sleep, following a long day of travelling, they got kitted out with ski wear on Monday and hit the slopes of El Pas de la Casa. As they all had different skiing abilities, they were organised into different groups. Mr Miller, a self-proclaimed skiing expert, and the advanced skiers went off to the slopes after an initial induction; Mr and Mrs Kirkpatrick went with those students who had some prior experience of skiing and Mr Bone stayed with the students who, like him, had not skied before. All students made great progress throughout the course of the week.

Each day consisted of five hours of skiing, which in itself was tiring, but all staff and students had a fantastic time. Despite them all packing multiple layers of thermals, the weather was bright, sunny and warm (13 degrees) and sun cream was the sought after product. The only day it snowed was their final one!

Prior to departure, there was a little bit of time for some tax-free shopping in the malls of Andorra, which students were very happy about. The students were an absolute pleasure to be with and were excellent ambassadors of Durham Sixth Form Centre.



# BORNEO

During the summer term, 22 students and 3 members of staff travelled over 7000 miles for an unforgettable adventure in Borneo.

In July, as part of the Turing Scheme funding, our students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Borneo in Malaysia, exploring its rich culture, breathtaking landscapes, and diverse wildlife. From cultural villages to lush jungles, here's a glimpse into their trip.

The adventure kicked off with a visit to the Mari Mari Cultural Village (MMCV). Students were warmly welcomed by the village chief and took part in traditional ceremonies and activities, such as bamboo cooking and Montoku (rice wine) processing. They learned about the vibrant lifestyles of the indigenous tribes, including the Dusun, Rungus, and Murut, experiencing fire-starting, tattooing, and ethnic crafts, firsthand.

The group then travelled to the Tip of Borneo, where they marveled at the meeting point of the South China Sea and the Sulu Sea, a sight to behold after a day of cultural

immersion. A stop at the Borneo Honeybee Centre and Sumangkap Village for traditional gong-making added to the day's experience.

Day two took students to the Linangkit Cultural Village for an engaging cultural tour, where they were introduced to the traditional weaving of the Lotud tribe. The students even tried their hand at blowpipe activities and dressed in traditional costumes. After lunch, they cycled to Tembara Jetty, where they kayaked through mangroves, and learned traditional games like coconut shell walking.

Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in local life with a homestay at Kiau Taburi, where they explored a pineapple farm, a stingless bee farm, and a traditional coffee-processing home. The day ended with a beautiful sunset and a cultural performance at a primary school by their hosts.

A visit to the Kundasang War Memorial followed, paying tribute to prisoners of war, where they learnt about a key moment in history. The students also explored Desa Cattle Dairy Farm, often called the "Little New Zealand" of Sabah, surrounded by scenic mountain views.

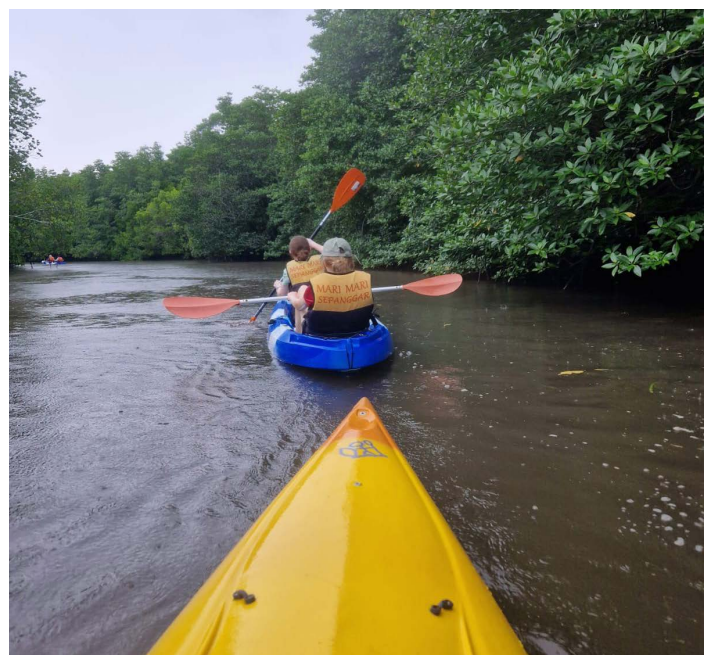
Adventure continued as the students conquered the Poring Hot Springs' Canopy Walkway, taking in stunning views 41 meters above the forest floor. They also enjoyed a river cruise, where they spotted wildlife such as proboscis monkeys and macaques.

On the final day, students visited the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre and the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre. They were able to see the care and rehabilitation efforts for these amazing creatures and learned about the importance of conservation. It was a humbling and eye-opening experience for all.

The trip concluded with a layover in Kuala Lumpur, where students enjoyed a quick sightseeing tour of the city's iconic skyscrapers, including the famous Petronas Towers.

This trip was more than just an adventure; it was an opportunity for students to learn about different cultures, gain a deeper understanding of conservation, and experience the wonders of Borneo's wildlife and nature. The memories made and lessons learned will undoubtedly stay with them for years to come.

A big thank you to staff members Mr Miller, Mrs Harris and Miss Sirrell for supporting students on this wonderful adventure.



**TURING**  
**SCHEME**

# SUCCESS!

## ANOTHER YEAR OF OUTSTANDING RESULTS:

Students and staff at Durham Sixth Form Centre are celebrating success following the publication of the 2024 Level 3 results, marking yet another year of outstanding academic and personal achievements.

In our A Level and other academic qualifications, we achieved a 100% pass rate and an average Grade B, with almost three-quarters of the grades awarded being impressive A\*-B grades.

We enjoyed similar outstanding success in vocational subjects with over 90% of the grades awarded being the very highest Distinction\*-Distinction grades.

We are delighted to have maintained our track record of excellent results!

## WELL DONE AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!



**FINLAY  
BLACKALL**



Accounting, Economics, Finance & Business  
Previous School: Ferryhill Business College  
Progression: Durham University



**ANNABEL  
BURNS**



History, English Literature, EPQ & French  
Previous School: St Leonards Catholic School  
Progression: Apprenticeship



**MAX  
ROBSON**



Chemistry, Physics, Maths & Further Maths  
Previous School: Park View  
Progression: University of Edinburgh



**ISABELLE  
BURNETT**



Law, English Language & Politics  
Previous School: Tanfield School  
Progression: Apprenticeship



**MICHAEL  
WILSON**



Maths, Further Maths, Physics & Computer Science  
Previous School: The Academy at Shotton Hall  
Progression: University of Warwick





## ERIN WRIGHT



Law, Economics, Geography & English Literature  
Previous School: Wolsingham School  
Progression: University of Leeds



## HARRY DAVIDSON



Biology, Chemistry & Maths  
Previous School: Argyle House  
Progression: Durham University



## MYLES LANGLEY



Law, Psychology & Maths  
Previous School: Sedgefield Community College  
Progression: University of York



## ANNA PUNCHER



Theatre Studies, English Language & Performing Arts  
Previous School: Hummersknott Academy  
Progression: Italia Conti



## ELIJAH DOWSETT



Politics, Media Studies & CDMP  
Previous School: Venerable Bede CE Academy  
Progression: Birmingham City University



## ANNA CALLANAN



EPQ, Biology, Chemistry, Maths & Physics  
Previous School: Sedgefield Community College  
Progression: Smith College, USA



## JACK ALLEN



Maths, Further Maths & Physics  
Previous School: Wolsingham School  
Progression: University of York



## MOLLY DONALDSON



Art and Design, Fashion and Textiles & CDMP  
Previous School: Belmont Community School  
Progression: University of Edinburgh



## ALEX FLEMING



Fine Art, Biology & Psychology  
Previous School: St Leonards Catholic School  
Progression: Newcastle University



## THOMAS BLAIR



Maths, Physics & Computer Science  
Previous School: Wellfield Community College  
Progression: Durham University





A huge thank you to ex-student and Designer-in-Residence Charlotte Solly, who played a significant role working alongside the design team in bringing together the content and designing the layout for the re-launch of The Torch magazine. We wish Charlotte every success in her future endeavours and thank her for the time and effort she spent resurrecting this publication.

# THE TORCH

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LEARNING PARTNERSHIP