

JOSEPH SWAN ACADEMY

Emmanuel Schools Foundation

A welcome from our new Principal Mr Mark Hall.

In assemblies during the first week after the Easter holidays I asked students to think about what they love about Spring and Easter. This time of year brings with it the hope of new life, with daffodils along the Team Valley and blossoming trees in Saltwell Park! In our assemblies, we took time to think about how we can refocus as we head into the Summer Term, as well as how we can find renewal at Easter-time.

Schools are places for deep learning, so it is a real pleasure to be able to say how noticeable it was that students wanted to make a really good start to this term. And it was especially good to hear how diligently Year 11 and 13 have been revising over the last few weeks too, well done to these students. This pattern of commitment was echoed in the approach the rest of the school made to learning last week; the keenness was almost palpable!

As part of our assemblies Ross Dobson, Head Boy, introduced the Academy Council as a mechanism we are introducing to gather input from each year group: Each tutor group will be asked to consider suggestions to develop and improve the school nominating a student to bring their ideas forward for discussion. Then as a year group, two students will be nominated to represent the year group on the Academy Council.

Getting input from everyone is important so we definitely want parents and carers to be involved too. Please look out for more details on how parents and carers might be involved in the Academy Council as we work "*Towards Outstanding Together*".

Last week also saw the launch of our new website updated with images of our students, past and present. We will be developing the functionality of the website on an ongoing basis so do keep checking back for news updates and information about how we are moving forward as a school. [Click here for our school website](#)

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to so many who have made me feel really welcome as Principal. I am really looking forward to getting to know more about the school and I am delighted with the opportunity to serve students, their parents or carers and all the staff at Joseph Swan Academy.

New Writer's City: Joseph Swan

During the last 6 weeks, Year 7 have been working with New Writing North to overcome the barriers which can sometimes stop students writing creatively, through interactive games, creation of characters and free writing. The workshops have facilitated a fun and safe environment where students are open to sharing their ideas and working collaboratively. Students have built their confidence in speaking and listening, and worked as a group to perform a poem about regional identity. This theme was explored in depth, allowing students to discover what makes them who they are, and what makes them proud to be from the North East. Students have thoroughly enjoyed these workshops and are now more confident writers as a result.

All Year 7 and 8 students will have the chance to work directly with professional writers within their English lessons which encourages the understanding that writing expands beyond the walls of our classrooms into our communities and the wider world. We will update you as more of our students' work is published. For more information about New Writing North and local writing opportunities for young and old alike, [click here](#)

Dates for your Diary:

The Sixth Form Options Evening (for current Year 11s)

The Sixth Form Options evening takes place on Thursday 9th May between 6:00 and 8:00pm. This is a superb opportunity for you and your son/daughter to come and see what life in the Sixth Form at Joseph Swan Academy has to offer. There will be keynote speeches in the Main Hall followed by the chance to

Speak with staff and current Sixth Form students about the content and requirements of the different courses on our curriculum. Members of the Sixth Form team will also be available to discuss the broader opportunities and expectations of students in the Sixth Form.

The KS4 Options Evening (for current year 9s)

We are delighted to inform parents/carers of Year 9 students, that our KS4 Options Evening for 2019 will take place on the Thursday 23rd May, between 6-8pm.

Parents/carers and students will soon be receiving the prospectus and information on the options process. This information will also include your personal invitation to a briefing in our main Hall.

Before completing your options form, there will be additional time to talk to the Senior Management Team, Heads of Departments and Student Ambassadors to support you and your child to make your decisions about the best subjects to study in Years 10 and 11.

We very much look forward to welcoming you all on this evening.

Coming Up:

This Week in the Academy:

Tuesday 30th April: UKMT Maths Challenge - Selected year 7 and 8 students.

Careers Lab (Part 2) - Year 9 S and A Band classes.

Wednesday 1st May: Activity Alliance: Disability Inclusion Support Regional Athletic Championships (Monkton Stadium) - Selected students.

Later this Half Term:

Thursday 9th May 6-8pm: Sixth Form Options Evening.

Thursday 23rd May 6-8pm: KS4 Options Evening.

Mark Hall

Principal

Joseph Swan Academy

Saltwell Road South

Gateshead

NE9 6LE