

JOSEPH SWAN ACADEMY

Emmanuel Schools Foundation

How to Make Meaningful Change: Determination and Perseverance.



It is my pleasure to write to you again. I wish to compliment teachers and students for their diligent efforts this past week.

This week we have been thinking about determination. We define determination as the following:

We know that hard work and the refusal to give up are essential if we are to achieve anything worthwhile. This obviously applies to our learning in different subjects, but looking wider it applies to anything where we want to achieve something worthwhile.

In assemblies, we considered the determination of two men who fought against slavery in the past. William Wilberforce was the key leader in Parliament who after 46 years of determined effort ensured that slavery was abolished and the slave trade itself was made illegal in the British Empire. The second person we considered was Moses. Moses chose to persevere to free his people from slavery in Egypt. Moses turned his back on any short term gain that he may have had as a member of the royal Egyptian house. Instead he worked fervently to ensure the release of his people. I spoke to students to draw their attention as to how they may apply an understanding of determination to big issues like this but also to look at how they are determined to be true friends and supportive of others. As true friends we must be willing to put aside our personal preferences and value others as more important than ourselves.

It has been a great week. I would like to compliment students on the way they are wearing their uniform and for understanding the importance of starting each lesson promptly, working diligently through each lesson and refusing to give up right through to the end of each lesson.

The news articles below give you an idea of what students have been doing in the Academy this week. It is really impressive to see what has been happening. Well done to one and all.

Year 10 Student Wins a Place on a Prestigious 6 Week Visit to Canada with the British Army Cadets.



Congratulations to Year 10 student, Zak Bodur, who has been awarded the opportunity to take part in an all expenses paid 6 week exchange visit to Canada with the British Army Cadets.

Zak is a Corporal in the Durham Cadets and in April he, along with 108 other cadets from across the country, arrived at Cwrt-y-Gollen Cadet Training Centre, South Wales the Headquarters of Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force (ACF) to take part in Exercise Oak Leaf, the national selection event for the Canadian Exchange 2019.

Over the four days, the cadets took part in a wide range of challenging activities across South West Wales. Cadets were assessed and observed taking part in a grueling collection of activities including swimming, hill walking, kayaking, mountain biking, as well as taking part in interviews which also contributed to the selection procedure. The weekend culminated with the Canadian fitness test on Sunday morning before the cadets departed for their home locations. All of the activities were taken into account to decide the successful 46 cadets who will travel to Canada for 6 weeks this summer.

Colonel Brian Kitching, Commandant Durham ACF said " the decision to select the top 46 cadets was tough however the best cadets were selected to take part in the 2019 exchange".

Zak commented "The selection event has been an amazing experience. I have met some life-long friends. We have taken part in some excellent and challenging activities which will remain with me for years to

come. I am really excited for my trip to Canada in the summer and would recommend the selection event to anyone”.

Congratulations to Zak and we wish you well for your 6 week visit to Canada, we know that you will have an amazing experience and will continue to strive to work with distinction and honor with the British Army Cadets.

Fantastic Exam Results in Year 11.



Congratulations and well done to our Year 11 Health & Social Care students for their excellent exam results!

These results are a testimony to the incredible hard work and commitment by the students. We are especially pleased with the results of Emma Berry and Jessica Sumerville who achieved a Level 2 Distinction, the highest grade possible in this exam. Many thanks to all staff members for running extra sessions to achieve their potential.

The BHT department would like to wish all our BTEC students every success in their impending external assessments which commence on the 7th May.

Joseph Swan Students Fly High with the Falcons.



On the evening of Friday 26th April, 10 girls from Year 8 and 9 took part in a visit to Newcastle Falcons Rugby club. This was a really special and enjoyable visit for our students. They have written their account of the visit for you to read:

We arrived at Kingston Park and were given a training session with the Falcon's Project Rugby coach. After getting our faces painted with the Falcon's design, we discovered some very exciting news: we would be forming the Guard of Honour as the players arrived on the pitch! After welcoming the players, we joined the 3,000 strong crowd to watch the first half of the match.

At half time, we returned to the pitch and played a game in front of the fans, which was quite a daunting experience. The crowd were very encouraging and it was a real privilege to play on this pitch. This was an amazing experience that we will never forget, none of it would have been possible without Miss Wilkinson and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything that she does for us.'

Our thanks go to the Newcastle Falcons for providing this opportunity. We also say 'well done' to our Year 8 and 9 Rugby girls for their enthusiasm and 'have a go' attitude and to Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Beckmans who accompanied the girls on this visit.

Year 9s are Planning for their Futures.



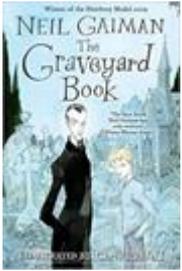
Following on from last term's very successful NHS careers and the BBC Bitesize Roadshow events, all our Year 9 students have taken part in a Careers Lab session entitled 'Aspire'. This involved all our Year 9 students working closely with over 20 local 'Business Ambassadors' with the aim of raising our students aspirations and motivation by exploring different different job roles and the range of employment opportunities available in our local region. We hope that these events will encourage students to think seriously about their own career plan and will help

inform any option choices they soon need to make. (Key Stage 4 Options Evening takes place on Thursday 23rd May 6-8pm).

The 'Aspire' event was run by colleagues from the organisation 'Business in the Community' and was funded through our membership of the North East Ambition: Careers Hub. Joseph Swan Academy is one of only 2 Gateshead Schools to successfully apply for membership of the NE Careers Hub.

Reading at Joseph Swan:

The Booktastic Bookworms reconvene, The North East Book Award and Gateshead Library's 'Reading Hack' group.



We welcomed Andy Hodgkinson, Gateshead Library's Young Adult Reading expert, back to the Reading Room on Wednesday as a part of our 'Every Day Active' co-curricular offer. Andy worked with our keen readers who make up the Booktastic Bookworms to discuss their thoughts after reading the current book-club choice: Neil Gaiman's 'Graveyard Book'. Students commented that they found the mix of pathos and comedy really impressive and that the characters were well drawn and engaging. Many of the readers said that they had read some of Gaiman's other works such as 'Coraline'. All said that they would seek out more of his books again.

The group will reconvene on 15th May at 2:30pm where they will discuss their view of 'The Territory' by Sarah Govett.

2019's North East Book Award, is approaching and Gateshead Library are making places at the Awards ceremony available for Joseph Swan students who have participated in the judging process. The North East Book Award is judged by secondary age readers across the North East. If your child would like to be involved in this process, please encourage them to come along and join the Booktastic Bookworms on 15th May.

There are also opportunities for 13-18 year olds at Gateshead Library's 'Reading Hack' group which runs from 4.30pm until 6pm every Monday excluding Bank Holidays. The group is aimed at young volunteers aged 13-18 who are interested in reading, and would like to gain some amazing volunteer experience.

Year 7 and 8 Mathletes Limber up for the UKMT Maths Challenge.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

On Tuesday 30th April, selected students from years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Challenge. This is a national mathematics competition that pits the natural ability and flair of the best mathematicians against each other to find the best mathematicians in the country. Students worked very hard and reported that they found the experience challenging but very enjoyable. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the results!!

Our Students Share their Skills with Oakfield Infant School.

On April 30th, Year 2 from Oakfield Infants School came down to Joseph Swan to play mixed 6 a side football games on our school field. The tournament, organised by Mr Davidson, was superbly refereed by six of our Year 8 pupils who not only officiated but coached and helped our young guests.

During the afternoon when teams were not involved in fixtures Millie Sugden (Year 8) coached and challenged the youngsters to do skills and tricks.

All of the students had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and Oakfield staff were grateful for the opportunity for their students to play and to gain some practice and support in preparation for our upcoming cluster tournament.

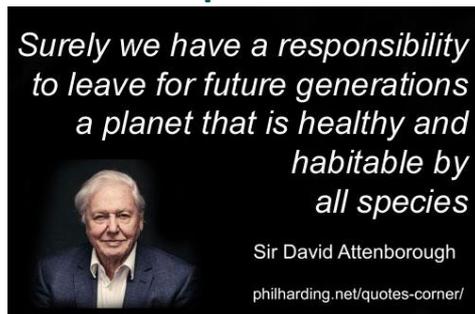
Year 8 Sports Champions



On Wednesday 1st May, four of the Year 8 students from our Supported Provision Group, took part in the Tyne and Wear Regional Athletics Championships organised by the Activity Alliance: Disability Inclusion in Sport organisation. Over 100 young athletes from across the North East, aged 11-20 years, were there to showcase their sporting talents. There were some fantastic performances throughout the event. Events included 100 meter, shot putt, javelin, high jump and long jump. All students had to be within 10% of the national qualifying standards to enter this event so participation in this event this is already a massive achievement.

We eagerly await the results from the various competitions which should arrive in school next week.

Take a Deep Breath...



We know that one of the ways that we must care for our children and loved ones is to ensure that they inherit a planet from us which is one that is fit to live in. And what could be more important than making sure that the air we breathe is clean and safe? It is estimated that 24,000 people die prematurely each year in the UK as a result of air pollution. The NHS identified the cost of ill health as a result of air pollution to be £20 billion a year.

This week we have received a couple of opportunities for the parents and carers in our community to have their voice heard and add to the research in this vital area:

Gerald Tompkins, the Consultant for Public Health for Gateshead Council, has asked us to inform you that you can make your voice heard in a major public consultation concerning your views on potential measures for improving air quality across Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside. The proposals, which include possible charges for drivers, are aimed at improving public health by reducing harmful levels of air pollution caused by traffic. If you would like more information about this please [Follow this link](#)

An ex-student of Joseph Swan will also be using our school site, and the road outside, to measure air quality as the basis of her dissertation in Geography. We wish Amandeep Kaur the best of luck with this and look forward to seeing her work as it progresses.

Finally, Northumbria University is offering all who are interested the chance to have the dust from their homes investigated within their 'Dustsafe' citizen science program. This is a free opportunity to have an analysis of the dust in your own home! Dust may contain pollutants like metals, microbes and pesticides which has a big issue on the health of our children and loved ones. Participants will receive a personalised report with the best prevention strategies for their home. The dust provided will also assist the university in future research and will be part of a global study on house dust. For more information please [click here](#)

This Week's Sports Results:

Football	U14 League
	JSA 0 v Cardinal Hume 7
	JSA 1 v Kingsmeadow 5

Coming up ...

Week Commencing 6th May

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (School closed)

Tuesday 7th May - School re-opens

Thursday 9th May - Sixth Form Options Evening (for year 11) 6-8pm.

Later this half term:

Wednesday 13th May - Year 11 and 13 Terminal Examinations begin.

Thursday 23rd May - KS4 Options Evening (for year 9) 6-8pm.

Mark Hall

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