



Gosforth Academy

Personal Development



Creating Futures

Welcome to Gosforth Academy



We aim to have a strong Enrichment Programme pervasive throughout school life, developing students on their five year journey through Main School and Sixth Form. We want students to enjoy everything that we have to offer, both in class and beyond. We believe our high-quality lessons mixed with our broad and numerous activities, interest groups, leadership and volunteering opportunities, develop students' academic, social and personal skills to provide a springboard for their future, whatever that may be.

Every year, we track the Personal Development opportunities that students participate in, to ensure our extra-curricular offer is as broad and comprehensive as our curriculum, whilst meeting the needs of our students. The Enrichment Programme offers thousands of opportunities for our students and although the offer varies from year to year, the examples provide an indicative view of what is available, based on the activities in recent years. We hope this leaflet will offer a flavour of what we are so proud of!

Subject Related Visits



Real world experiences play an integral role in bringing the curriculum to life. Departments around the school look for interactions with organisations that provide experience and context to the content delivered in the classroom. Whether this is in the form of visits to historical sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, institutions like the Houses of Parliament or to local factories driving regional industry, these experiences expand awareness, improve cultural capital and accelerate academic performance.

Visits that have taken place this year:

- Field study trips in Geography to urban and rural areas of the North East, as well as Iceland in Sixth Form.
- Cultural experiences in China, supporting students studying Mandarin.
- Visits to debating competitions in the Houses of Parliament for subjects across Social Sciences.
- Performances of 'Wor Bella' and 'The Cramlington Train Wreckers' for students completing subjects in the Performing Arts Department.
- Language Exchanges in the local area, as well as Bologna, Gap, Heidelberg and Zaragoza.

Subject Related Visits *continued...*



- Health and Social Care students seeing the inspirational care offered at our local St Oswald's Hospice.
- Business Studies students encountering the workplace in major production units such as Nissan, observing customer service and operational management at Beamish, or researching the development of business planning at Pink Lane Bakery.
- Work experience completed by all Childcare students in a local Primary School.
- Visits to Gibside, Craggside and activity centres to develop cultural awareness and personal qualities in Social Studies.
- Observing cutting-edge technology with visits to local universities in Computer Science and the Centre for Life in Biology.

Guest Speakers



Where visits are not possible, we also host a range of guests to Gosforth Academy who can illuminate areas of the curriculum with their insight and expertise in their field. Whether this is focused on a technical aspect of genetics in Biology, the experience on the road as a promising young actor or the pathway to success for one of the most successful children's authors in the country, we introduce students to this type of experience as often as is appropriate.

Examples:

- Author visits from Matt Oldfield and Emma Whitehall.
- Jimmy Nail talking to students in the Performing Arts Department.
- Various professionals from the NHS offering master classes on routes into working in the sector with Social Sciences.
- Catherine McKinnell MP discussing the Online Safety Bill with Year 10 students.
- Various Gosforth Academy Alumni visiting to discuss routes into Engineering, IT and Cyber Security, Entrepreneurship and Elite Sport.

7UP Activities



Gosforth Academy has a thriving extra-curricular programme, ranging from our ever-successful sporting teams run by the fantastic PE Department, the hive of activity that is the after-school Art Clubs, strategy and role playing games like Warhammer Club and D&D as well as the musical brilliance of the School Choir, Brass Ensemble and Fusion Band. One of the most popular options is Fitness Club where every student is able to access and use the school gym to keep fit.

Many students also use the extra-curricular time to look at the impact they can have on school life. Alongside all this, the school is here to support you academically with Homework Club and extended library opening hours. So whether it is before, during or after school, there will be something on offer for everyone.

Examples:

- Fitness Club (all year groups).
- We Knit @Gosforth
- Gosforth Academy Voices
- Swiftie Society
- Manga Group
- The Big Debate

Yellow Week



Yellow Week is our activity week at the end of the summer term for all our Main School students, whilst our Sixth Form students are engaged with Progression Week. This allows students the opportunity to engage in one of a number of activities that include educational visits both here and abroad as well as our in-school offer. The final Friday focuses on Character Education and the School Community, with three zones (Activity, Festival and Sports) bringing students together before the end of the academic year. Every Yellow Week is different, but some activities have become firm favourites over the years. The following have been available in the past couple of years.

In-school activities, including:

- The Great Gosforth Bake Off, Canny Crafty, Mind games for fun, The Film of the Book, Newcastle United Foundation Football Coaching, Lee Sterry Coaching.

School-based activities, including:

- Surfing at Tynemouth Longsands, Coast to Coasters, North East Adventures, Metro Madness, Life Through a Lens, Theatre Week, Fun with Forensics.

Residential activities, including:

- Western USA (led by the PE Department), London, Science and Culture. Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions. Berlin (led by the IT Department), World Challenge visits to Cambodia, Nepal and South Africa in recent years (Sixth Form only).

Year 9 Enrichment Lessons



Each student joining Year 9 will also take part in three different enrichment activities during their usual school timetable, throughout the year. These are allocated based on student preference and each activity lasts for five sessions. Activities have been designed to ensure students will enjoy their experiences, but that they will also offer the chance to learn or experience something new. Some support students with future study of one of the subjects we offer in Key Stage 4, and some will offer a break from our formal curriculum offer. From scientific experiments to enterprise activities, or from animation projects to first aid, we hope students will enjoy what is on offer.

The programme will change each year and typically includes: Science Crime Scene in Biology, Digital Animation in ICT, Space Exodus in Science, Money Skills in Business, Let's Debate and Monitoring Vital Signs in Social Sciences, Country Challenge and Pride of Place – Local History in Humanities and Stop Frame Animation in ICT, and more.

Sport Teams and Activities



Sport and physical activity has many positive effects on the physical health and mental wellbeing of our students. This is supported through Core PE throughout our Main School Curriculum, with Fitness Club every night after school (and during the day in Sixth Form), and through GCSE PE, A Level PE and CTEC Sport for those with an interest in studying this area further. With such a large intake, with a breadth of experience in sport, we look to offer a varied extra-curricular offer to challenge students who are simply participating and trying something new, to those looking to develop their skills to an elite level.

We celebrate our students' success every year at our Sports Awards Evening. The following is a list of the amazing achievements this year, by some of our students:

- 13 students achieving honours for County representation in Athletics.
- City Champions (Boys) and City Runners-up and Third (Girls) in Badminton.
- Eight students playing for Newcastle Eagles and one also representing Wales at national level.
- Two students representing Northumberland in the National Schools Cross Country Championships.

Sport Teams and Activities *continued...*



- Our U15 Girls team were City Cup Winners with one player representing Newcastle Schools and two playing Academy Football in the area. We had nine boys playing representative football and one playing for a local academy.
- Our KS3 and KS4 Netball teams were both regional finalists and our Sixth Form team finished fourth in the City League.
- In Rugby, our ACE Programme competed in the National ACE Competition, with two students earning professional contracts at Newcastle Falcons. Eight Main School students represented Northumberland (Girls) and one Main School student earned a place in Newcastle Falcons Academy. Teams are also available throughout the age ranges for interested students.
- Our various squash teams were unlucky to miss out on National Final victories to match previous years with a haul of two second places, one third place and one sixth place this year.
- One student represented Wales and Great Britain in swimming.

Character, Care and Wellbeing



The Gosforth Charter:

Courage

Creativity

Integrity

Persistence

Service

Teamwork & Empathy

Details on our Character, Care and Wellbeing Curriculum can be found on the Gosforth Academy Website. However, the Programme extends beyond the classroom with opportunities for students to engage in the local community and with local charitable organisations, building their sense of community responsibility and awareness of the challenges faced by people in their locality.

Example activities:

- Recycling club operating every week to reduce the waste generated by the school's operations.
- Christmas Food Bank Appeal supporting the West End Food Bank
- Christmas Music Performances in the community including at The Grainger Market.
- Senior Citizens Christmas Party with lunch, entertainment and music on offer
- Friendship Letters sent to local Care Homes.
- Remembrance Day Assemblies, Community Service and other outreach activities.
- St Oswald's Charity Appeal at Easter and various other links with our link charity.

Careers Events



Careers Education and the progression of all students onto a meaningful, appropriate pathway is an integral part of our ethos at Gosforth Academy – Create your Future! More information is included in the Careers section of the Website, outlining how we deliver CEIAG across the curriculum. Part of our stable Careers Programme involves the provision of Careers Events that work to provide interactions with employers and training providers, insights into available pathways and tools/experience that can help to make it happen.

Examples:

- Year 9 Speed Dating with a range of local employers.
- GCSE Bitesize Careers Tour available for Year 9 and Year 10.
- The Year 11 Mock Interview process.
- The Careers Convention which welcomes over 40 employers/training providers and over 2000 students and parents every year.
- We offer Work Experience as part a compulsory element of two courses that we offer (CPLD and Access for A Levels) and to all Year 10 and Year 12 students in their respective summer terms.

NUFC Foundation and the Student Support Base (SSB)



Mr Martin is our NUFC Foundation representative who is in place to provide activities and support for identified students, throughout the year. These tend to be targeted, through ongoing communication with colleagues within the Pastoral and Student Support teams, but we have welcomed Newcastle United WFC player and former Gosforth Academy student Anna Soulsby through this relationship, and have had the English Premier League trophy visit us this year.

Examples:

- Various Social Action activities including a No Room for Racism Art Project, Anti Bully Project and Rainbow laces Art work creation.
- Careers events including a Dragons Den Competition, and an Enterprise Event at NUcastle.
- Various 'Love the Planet Upcycle' Projects.

Sixth Form Student Union, Volunteering and Progression Week



We are very proud to see the majority of our Main School students enter our Sixth Form to continue their education with us, but also welcome a number of students from other schools to access our Sixth Form offer. We believe all students in the Sixth Form should demonstrate responsibility and contribute to the wider school community, as this builds personal qualities and the aptitude to enter adult life in the next phase of their lives.

Opportunities are therefore designed to allow students to contribute to the school community and to support those in this community.

Examples:

- Reading Mentoring Programme where Sixth Form students support this lower school Literacy Intervention Group on a weekly basis.
- Roving Reporters for the Enrichment Programme, publicising options that are available.
- Community engagement and progression activities as part of Progression Week.
- Hoppings School where Sixth Form students support children when the famous funfair is in Newcastle in June.
- Student Union representatives and societies.
- Open Evening and Parents Evening volunteering.

What Our Students Say...

“I have had so many brilliant experiences at Gosforth Academy being part of the football team throughout. This helped me through a stage where I was struggling with my attendance - it gave me the push that I needed! It is now helping me manage my revision for my A Level studies.”

Fraser, Year 13 student

“There are so many great opportunities at Gosforth Academy. My favourite department is the Art department! I feel the staff at Gosforth Academy are very supportive and always help me when I need it!”

Holly, Year 10 student

“Seeing the Northern Lights in Iceland was a once in a lifetime opportunity!”

Omar, Year 12 student

“The school has many opportunities for you to pursue. I enjoy the options we have for Yellow Week, we even have the chance to visit other countries too.”

Hannah, Year 11 student

“The enrichment programme has helped me to create a really enjoyable balance between my studies and doing what I enjoy. I have just taken Business and I love it. I am looking forward to having the chance to take Law in Sixth Form too.”

James, Year 10 student

Creating Futures

Our principal aim is to encourage high expectations and high standards of achievement, both academic and personal. Our values embrace honesty, trust, reliability, respect for the legitimate rights of others, care for the weaker members of society, regard for the environment and a kindness towards other people.

We believe that a calm, friendly, disciplined atmosphere, in which hard work and co-operation are respected, is the best way to promote these values.

We are proud of the achievements our students make during their time with us. Post GCSEs, students can choose to stay and join our successful Sixth Form. They can choose from a wide range of A Level and vocational courses and there is strong progression to higher education, apprenticeships or the workplace.

“Pupils work hard and achieve well”

“Staff build positive relations with pupils”

“Pupils talk positively about the opportunities open to them”

“Pupils benefit from a high-quality careers provision”



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