



WINTER 2018



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Our students around the campfire on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition!



# OUR TERM IN PICTURES



[www.whitleybayhighschool.org](http://www.whitleybayhighschool.org)

# Duke of Edinburgh

October 2018



In October a group of Year 11 students completed their Silver practice expedition. The 3 day, 2 night trip took place in the beautiful Ingram Valley in Northumberland National Park.

Students reached the top of the 500m high peak of Shill Moor overlooking the Ingram Valley.

Saturday night was spectacular; a clear sky and incredibly dark. The rural location with few lights meant that we could see thousands of stars (Mr Okwe-Pearson seeing no less than 8 shooting stars!). It was extremely cold so students gathered near the bbq/fire on the Saturday where we entertained ourselves with many songs! Lots of memories were made on this fantastic expedition.

Mr Berry

'My team consisted of Anna Wardle, Leonie Aldridge, Kirsten Downey, Chris Van Der Merwe and Matthew Johnson. We spent 2 nights camping in Ingram Valley and completing a very hard and hilly walk. Matthew was the motivator of the group. He was determined we would finish first and insisted we walked faster and didn't stop for any breaks! (we didn't finish first). Sitting around the campfire on the evening was great fun as we sang campfire songs (poorly). But going in a tent to sleep when it is -5 degrees is not fun! This was just a trial, so hopefully I can survive the real thing when it's time!

Alix Petty 11CAC

UPDATE

## STUDENT

On the agenda:

- The start of term - settling in
- The canteen
- Litter and a proposed pick
- The year of good mental health

In our recent meetings we have been working hard to create ideas to help improve the school canteen; the price, the range, the environmental impacts and card payments. We have also looked at litter in the local community and around the school and are planning a litter pick. It is the "Year of Good Mental Health" and we discussed how students are settling and coping. Charity events are being organised in year group councils and we also welcomed some pupils from Wellfield Middle School to observe our meeting. We hope to make many improvements round the school this year to benefit all pupils and staff.

Neil Silence 09AM

## COUNCIL

"I wanted to join the Student Council because I believe that it is important for students to have their say on how the school runs. I enjoy listening to suggestions and discussing ideas during the meetings."

James Watson 11AKH





## SOROPTIMIST VISION

Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

## SOROPTIMIST MISSION

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

## MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT - Jasmine Stephenson

SECRETARY - Ellie Wilkinson

TREASURER - Kate Ritchie

IT/COMMUNICATIONS - Sophie Lord

A core of 16 girls attend a regular Monday meeting with the SI Tynemouth and Whitley Bay District. The group have been involved in a number of projects to raise awareness and money for various charities who have women and girls at their heart.



Pictured above: thirteen girls from WBHS attended a meeting with Dame Vera Baird DBE QC back in June.

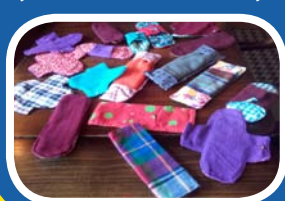
## MANZINI YOUTH PROJECT

Trustees of the Manzini Youth Project provided tuition, materials and guidance for the 6th Form students to cut and prepare the several layers needed to stitch together to make re-usable sanitary protection for girls in Manzini, ensuring they can attend school during menstruation.

Manzini Youth Project trustee, Chris O'Neil, first came across the re-usable sanitary towel via a friend who had visited a refuge camp in Syria. Deconstructing a sample she created the pattern and added a waterproof layer cut from a shower curtain. Taking this idea to Manzini in Swaziland a sewing machine was bought and the volunteers made packs for each girl. A pack contains enough towels for 1 week plus 7 pairs of knickers and soap in a thick plastic bag, which is then used as a receptacle to wash the pad. Progressing with this education packs are also now given out so empowering the girls.

Chris and Margaret Parsons were so grateful for the time, effort and enthusiasm displayed by the girls from WBHS.

Louise Bower  
Tynemouth & Whitley Bay Soroptimists



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The students were fascinated to learn about Dame Vera's background and how she got to where she is now. The group asked some really good questions including questions around any sex discrimination she had faced in the work place.

Vera really related to the fact the girls are at a point in their lives where they need to make choices about careers and she finished by telling them they could be anything they wanted to be if they worked hard and to go out and conquer the world.

The girls all said they found her inspirational. The group were a credit to the school.

Cynthia Bartley



## QUIZ NIGHT FOR HARBOUR REFUGE

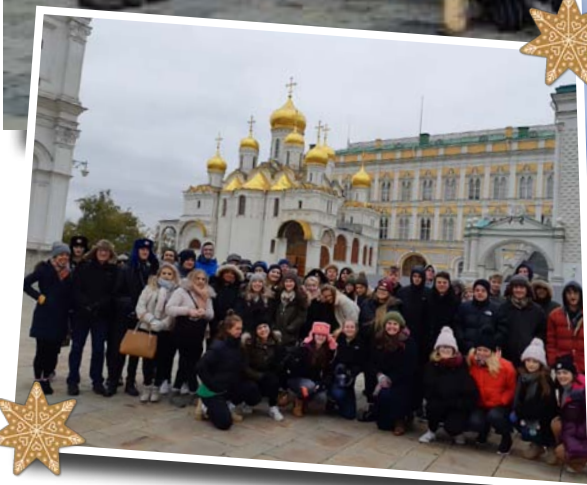
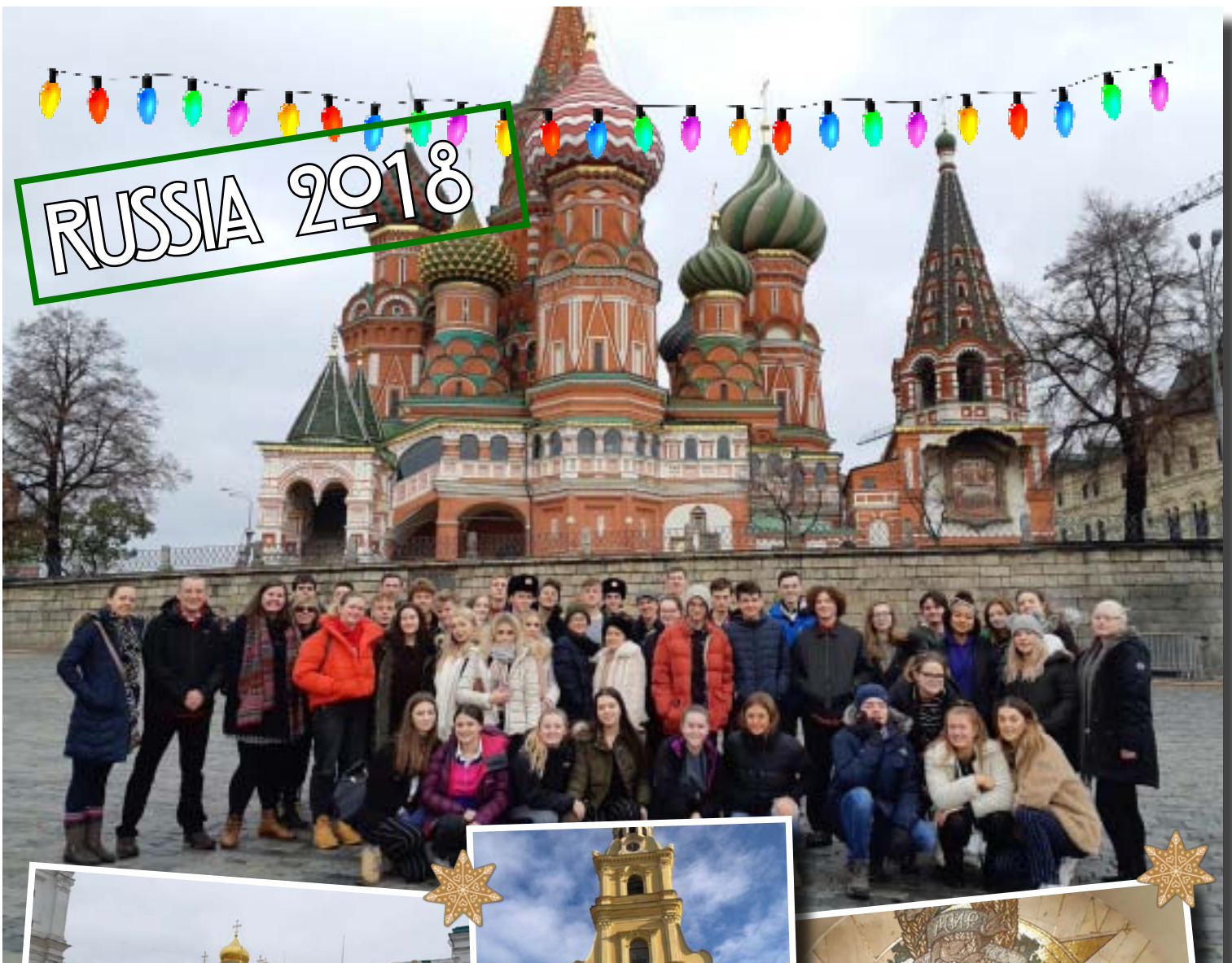
Back in September a quiz night was organised to raise money for Harbour Refuge, a local organisation who provide assistance to families and individuals affected by domestic abuse.

A huge thank you to all 51 guests: the girls from Whitley Bay High School, family, friends, club members and guest Tricia, from Harbour.

So, the room got booked, the quizzes created & printed, food ordered, raffle prizes collected, tickets printed and sold, displays made, wine and water collected, room organised, hamper created, balloons inflated, snacks eaten (so unhealthy girls!), raffle tickets sold, and so the quiz began, **each quiz round totalled, money totted up to reveal an awesome £360 raised for Harbour.**

Louise Bower  
Tynemouth & Whitley Bay Soroptimists

# RUSSIA 2018



## STUDENTS' FAVOURITE MEMORIES:

"Sitting chatting with the lads on the overnight train and then walking around Red Square in the morning." William Davison 13CIJ

"Visiting Catherine's Palace; especially the Amber Room." Eleanor Donaldson 13CIJ

"Looking around the Hermitage Museum where the Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace." Emily Nixey 13JJB

"Seeing big old St Basil's Cathedral ... oaf!" Joel Shotton 13SMD

"I really enjoyed watching the Russian Traditional Folk show." Soul Ferguson 13STM

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Please donate to:

[Virginmoneygiving.com/Rock4Olly](https://virginmoneygiving.com/Rock4Olly)



**49** of our inspirational Year 9 boys took part in a head shave to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust to help their friend Olly.

We are so proud of all of them!



Rock4Olly is the collective effort of Rockcliff Rugby Club to support Olly Little in his brave fight against cancer. The Rugby Club have been raising money for Teenage Cancer Trust who are helping to care for Olly at the Great North Children's Hospital.

Olly was recently diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (Bone Cancer) in his right leg and has had an operation to remove his leg just above the knee. This should give Olly the best chance of being tumour free and allow him to get 90% mobility back with the aid of a prosthetic. What makes this more challenging for Olly is that he lost his mum to breast cancer when he was 7. Olly has already gone through more than many adults will ever do.

Rockcliff Rugby Club have hosted a number of charity events to raise money for the trust including a group of 49 of Olly's mates from Whitley Bay High School to shave their heads!!

'As soon as my head was shaved I could feel the cold and wind. The head shave took place at the Rugby Club. two barbers were brought in to do the shaving, along with Olly and his dad. It was really funny!' Leo Johnston

'Olly went to my first school. It felt really good to take part in the charity head shave to raise money for Olly. Olly aims to be walking with a prosthetic leg by Christmas and hopes to join WBHS in Yr 10.' Evan Bell-Daniels

'I know Olly through playing Rugby and also hanging out together outside of school. It felt really strange when they shaved my head, your brain tricks you and you think your hair is still there until you touch your head! Olly is very ambitious; now he can't play rugby he plans to be a sprinter. Rockcliff Rugby Club have already raised money for a running blade for him.' Matthew Ratcliff

**TOTAL RAISED SO FAR = £7,990.33**



# CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP



Every Thursday after school in the library, we meet as a Current Affairs club to learn, discuss, and present ideas to one another about recent events in the news and politics.

The group is a fantastic environment to consider how the world works and find out more, as we each take turns to present ideas and issues that we find interesting or important.

Anyone is welcome to join us and we are delighted to have members from both the lower school and the sixth form.

Max Earnshaw 12AP



## WHITLEY WORLD RECORDS

**Year 10 students participated in their first whole year group challenge - the Whitley World Records!**

Students worked as a form class to beat certain records - from the longest time holding a yoga natarajasana pose to the most sit-ups completed in a minute. The students gave it their all and came out with fantastic results. Here are some examples of awards won:

**58 backward skips in 3 minutes**

**3 mins 37 seconds hula hooping**

**402 SIT UPS IN A CLASS**

Mrs Lawson





In October, Mr Cadman and four Year 12 students visited Auschwitz in Poland.

# Auschwitz Trip



"The trip to Auschwitz was eye-opening as well as overwhelming. It was such a life-changing experience."

Katie Shipley 12PJB

One moment that really stood out to me was when we went into a room in Auschwitz which had a glass case full of plaited hair that had been shaved from the prisoner's heads. Our educator handed us a poem called 'Pigtail' which really stuck with me.

Ruby Watson 12BPB

## Pigtail

When all the women in the transport  
Had their heads shaved  
Four workmen with brooms made of birch twigs  
Swept up  
And gathered up the hair

Behind clean glass  
The stiff hair lies  
Of those suffocated in gas chambers  
There are pins and slide combs  
In this hair

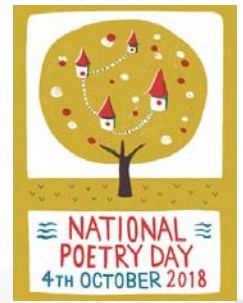
The hair is not shot through with light  
Is not parted by the breeze  
Is not touched by any hand  
Or rain or lips

In huge chests  
Clouds of dry hair  
Of those suffocated  
And a faded plait  
A pigtail with ribbon  
Pulled at schools  
By naughty boys.

Tadeusz Rózewicz



# NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2018



*National Poetry Day is in many ways a living poetry anthology representing the wide diversity of poetry appreciation among the students of Whitley Bay High School.*

*Every year group was represented by the volunteer readers who kept the huge audience spellbound for the entire lunch time with their choice of poems. Indeed, many of the poems performed were written by the students themselves, and we were even treated to a rap about John Keats, which explored the work and life of the Romantic Poet with a verbal dexterity that the man himself would have been proud of!*

*Yet again the annual and much-anticipated event proved that poetry is alive and kicking in the hearts and minds of Whitley Bay High School's students, allowing us to reflect upon, scrutinise and celebrate the world we live in.*



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