

# Gosforth East Middle School News



Assistant Editors Charlotte and Leila

Spring 1 2018

## National Winners

By Ava and Kate



The girls Under 13 squash team, Evie , Zoe , Kate and Ava from GEMS and Grace and Libby from GCMS , played Royal Grammar School at Northumberland Tennis Club and won which meant that they were then through to the national finals. They won every game that they played which gave them a lot of confidence for the next round of matches. On Monday 19th March, they played in the finals which were in Nottingham. The team stayed overnight and had lots of fun. They went to bed at 10pm and had to get up at 6am so there were some sleepy faces at breakfast. Each member of the team played one or two matches and only three were lost. This was a brilliant achievement as their opponents were generally 13 year olds and Kate noted how tall they were compared to her diminutive 4' 6"! In a ceremony at the end of the competition the team received a trophy for the school and medals for each team member. Ava and Kate train everyday so this effort and dedication has certainly paid off. The team had left Newcastle hopeful and returned delighted if a bit unwell after too many celebratory sweets! Well done to the team and to coach Richard Vitty.

Dear Parents

This has been one of the busiest half terms I can remember with so many activities happening both in and out of school. We have to start with the amazing achievements of our squash players. For the girls to be National Champions and the boys to have come third is such a fantastic achievement for all concerned. It really does reflect what a fabulous squash set up we have around Northern Squash Club and the associated links with the schools in the area. So many of our children play an active part in squash in the community and a massive thank you should go to Richard Vitty and his team for generating so much interest and enthusiasm for this sport. I would also like to especially thank Mrs Sharon Naisbitt for taking time out of her busy schedule to accompany Mr Slipper and Mrs Murtagh from Gosforth Central Middle School to the tournament. We really did appreciate their involvement in the visit.

Also on the sporting theme, our Year 6 boys are now the winners of the Simpson League for Under 11 Football in Newcastle. They were successful by winning 11 out of 12 games and drawing the other! A great result and very well played boys.

Also Ethan Bond achieved superbly in the National Cross Country Championships in Loughborough. He finished 20th overall and 2nd in the Northumberland Team who went on to win Silver. An excellent achievement Ethan and very well done.

As I said, there have been many other activities taking place in school over the past few weeks and the Newsletter can only give a snapshot of these. Our Year 8 pupils have been enjoying work experience at Accenture finding out about what life may be like after school. Children enjoyed our second attempt at World Book Day and there were many wild and wonderful costumes, both children and staff.

Another colourful event was the Colour Run. This was the first time we have done such an event but it was so popular and successful that I am sure we will repeat it in the future. Many children felt it was “the best time, ever!” Another really positive first for Gosforth East Middle School was our visit to the Escape Rooms in Newcastle. The children and staff certainly enjoyed the challenges presented before them and had a great time working out the puzzles.

We have also had many visitors in school. Mr Dave Burn came in to discuss the threat of knife crime and its consequences for all parties. We also enjoyed the company of our Hindu priest who is an annual visitor to GEMS and always is asked the most challenging questions by Year 8.

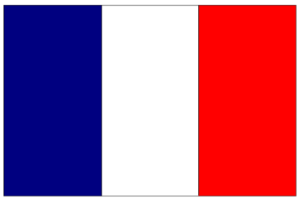
Our school visited the Live Tales at the Tyne Theatre and had a great time and visits such as this enhance the children’s experiences and writing.

I have to end my review of the half term with the joy that was Buggy. Whilst a fantastic achievement for a group of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who, under the wonderful direction of Ms Hodgson and Miss Thompson managed to reach such heights. I absolutely love seeing the range and depth of talent on show and the sheer hard work which enables them to achieve such great shows. Very well done to all involved with the show. It is a perfect example of the depth of the community spirit which brings this all together.

I hope you all have an eggcellent Easter holiday and have a happy and content family time.

School re-opens for all on 16th April at 8.50am.

**Mr T J Stout—Headteacher**



## ...Oh la la

The Year Sevens were lucky enough to watch an entire play in French. It was performed in the hall on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 4 brilliant actors, whose first language was English yet

they were so confident and fluent in French. The four actors played many different parts and it was a very funny play.

We understood it even though it was in French... we understood most of it, anyway! The actions and songs helped us to piece together the words we didn't know and I'm sure it helped us to understand more French.

There were many opportunities to get involved. Who doesn't love a bit of audience participation? As there were many songs, we could join in and sometimes stand up and sing. There was also one very funny moment when one of the male actors summoned a female teacher on to the stage to dance with him. Everybody was laughing and were surprised when she did!

Overall it was a very funny and brilliant play! A big thanks to the actors and actresses!

**By Charlotte**



**More Oh la la...** On the 20<sup>th</sup> March, a group of Year 8 students were given an opportunity to have a MFL trip. The students found this day very eventful and interesting and learnt many new things too. The Year 8s left at 9:00 a.m. and came back right before lunch. Some pupils had a chance to stand up and read their work aloud! The movie that they watched was called 'Sa vie de Courgette'. It is a clay animation and the movie name meant 'My life as Courgette'. The movie was about a boy named 'Courgette' and contrasts from a bad life, to a great one! The movie was highly humorous and some students have something to say about it: One of the students (Jeyana) said: "The movie was hard to understand however, the English subtitles helped and that's when I understood the meaning and concept of the whole film." Another student (Phoebe) said: "The movie was so interesting and I would definitely go again. We did many worksheets and the whole day was entertaining. If you have the chance, go and do it." **By Tal**



# STEM

## Week at GEMS

From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, GEMS and all the other schools in Gosforth were doing a

STEM week. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and we were now focusing on science. All pupils at GEMS did the same activities. The first activity was to make the tallest tower out of paper clips and lolly sticks. We are looking forward to receiving the highest score! The second activity was to make a glider out of paper and a straw. It is called 'the circle glider.' You have to put different sized circles of paper onto a straw. Then you throw it and see how far it has gone. The third activity was 'paper glider' where we made a glider out of paper and blew at



it with a paper straw. It was a little bit like the circle glider where we measured the distance it had flown. The fourth activity was a paper tower, where we took scraps of paper and made them into the tallest tower we could. The STEM week required an enormous amount of scientific skill and everyone had lots of fun. **By Mina SSL**





## Writing Success

Fifteen year 7 children took part in the 'Lit and Phil' writing competition. This was a competition where many children from North East schools entered a piece of writing. The theme for this year's awards was 'Journey.' Children could choose from 3 options: a poem, a non-fiction piece of writing or a fiction piece of writing and for each category there was 1 runner up and 1 winner. However, as there were so many entries into the fiction category there were 2 runners up and 1 final winner!

As most of our fantastic writers attended the awards ceremony, the journey there was full of excitement, nerves and anticipation. We knew it was going to be tough since we were the youngest in our age category Years 7-9. Congratulations to all of our brilliant writers, any one of them could have won. However, a big congratulations to our two winners Freya and Samaha and runner up Katie.



**Proud Winners ...this photo also featured in the local newspaper**

Freya won the nonfiction category with her emotional and brave story 'untitled'. Katie became a runner up to the non-fiction category with a story about Apollo 21 and Samaha won the fiction category. Well done to our fabulous writers and winners. The winners received £50 book tokens and everyone who participated was given a year's membership of the Lit and Phil. **By Charlotte**

## The Reading Challenge

**By Mina 5SL**

Following World Book Day, a reading challenge was set. Pupils had to do 20 tasks, such as read to a pet, read somewhere different, read someplace where you wouldn't normally read, listen to an audiobook, read in the bath (careful!), and many more. Those who completed all of the challenges would be put in a prize draw. The school winners were Olivia 5SL and Mina 5SL (me!). We each won a Maltesers chocolate egg and bag of Maltesers (yummy)!

I actively took part in the reading challenge. The strangest place that I read in was the loft above our garage.



**Wonderful world book day** On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, all of the school dressed up as their favourite book or movie character. Some of the teachers dressed up, such as... Miss Thompson: Robin Hood, Mrs Collister: Mummy pig, Mrs Leahy: Miss Trunchbull and Mr Salkeld: an Umpa Lumpa. Every one enjoyed the fabulous day -especially when they had to guess who everyone was. There is a sponsored read and for every £600 we raise the school get £350 for books to go into or school library.

The money we donated went to schools in different countries to give them books and pens so that they can also have a good education.



**The winners in costume**

The costumes ranged from characters from 'Matilda' to the protagonists in 'Murder Most Unladylike'. The most popular costume was Harry Potter and Hermione but even President Donald Trump made a personal appearance.

Bill (Donald Trump) said about his costume choice....

*"I thought it was funny and would make people laugh.... It did! I practised my voice and poses to make the character more convincing. It payed off because I won a £5 book token—but I won't be spending it on a Trump autobiography."*



**..and out**

**By Tarika Year 6**



## A large collage of 30 photographs showing children and adults in various costumes for a school event. The costumes include characters like Smiley Face, Star Wars figures, Batman, Minions, and various animals. The children are posing in a school hallway with colorful decorations.





# Marvellous Maths Trip

by Imogen

Four children from 5.1Maths (Teddy, Imogen, Finnly and Jaival) went by Metro to Newcastle High School for Girls to take part in the competition on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, they did not win, however, they still had lots of fun! In the morning, all the Year Fives at the High School went outside and were joined up with another school. There were six activities around the playground and each team had fifteen minutes to complete each activity, before a bell rang and they had to move on. The activities were fun and made us use our mathematical brains. We enjoyed challenging ourselves and using our maths skills in a whole variety of situations.



## Super S.T.E.M girls

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, some year 7 and 8 girls participated in a stem trip, which was held at St. James's park. Once we arrived, we completed a variety of activities related to stem. But before that, our hosts and helpers were introduced and introduced us to S.T.E.M. We were in a big room that was decorated perfectly. So much effort had been put into the decorations. There were so many tables, as there was so many girls. Huge balloons were spread out across the hall and every decoration was linked to the other. First impressions.... WOW!

After the introduction speeches were made, we were split into the green and purple teams. Basically, the two teams completed the same activities but at different times because there were so many girls. We stayed united as a school throughout the full day and completed all of the activities as a team. We experienced a design thinking workshop, which brought out everybody's creative side.



Dinner was next and it was amazing! No sandwiches or cold food; a selection of delicious hot food. I had burger, chips and beans and I never stopped talking about it the entire trip. I think my friends were sick of me and my burger, chips and beans.



We then went down to the innovation lounge, where we had one and a half hours to complete an activity from 6 different zones. There were activities and stalls spread out everywhere in the room. If we completed all 6 then we were entered into a prize draw. Everybody from our school managed to complete them all and two people from each school won a drone. Our winners were Hannah (year 8) and Megan (year 8). A drone!!!



After that we completed another workshop where we had to build a wind turbine. Our school split into two different groups. Our group's wind turbine span the quickest out of everybody's and we each won an Echo Dot...An Echo Dot! We had decided this was one of the best trips we had ever been on.



By Charlotte





# OUR EXPERIENCE AT JESMOND DENE

We started the Key Group British Pride because we wanted to have a go at organising a trip. We had the idea of helping Jesmond Dene Rangers because we wanted to help the community and wildlife. We thought that this community would be good to support as it provided good activities as well as helping the wildlife. We are helping the wildlife because some are endangered and some animals are dying because of pollution or eating things which are bad for them.

The first step in our project was when we met Sarah (a Jesmond Dene Ranger) and we discussed all the ideas we had. We used our skills of compromise as we organised what we were going to do for the trip to Jesmond Dene. Some activities were: making bird feeders, building new insect houses and even seed planting.

The next step was when we had to talk to some members of the Key, tell them our plans for the trip, and convince them that our project was worth sponsoring with their money. This was a tricky task as it tested our ability to speak for ourselves and convey our ideas to others. Overall it helped us and improved our skills for the future.

Lots of people took part in the trip. We encouraged as many people as we could by speaking at the assembly and asking them to sign up in the resource area at KS2. To choose who was coming to the trip, we decided to pick names out of a hat because there were too many people to take. We had worked out our budget so we knew we had enough money for the things that we would do at Jesmond Dene.



We travelled on a minibus all the way to Jesmond Dene and we met other rangers like Cath, who helped us with seed planting, and Ken, who helped at pets' corner. Everyone had lots of fun (especially when they were feeding animals).

## Here to Help



Recently, our KEY group, ACTNAMS (a group whose aim is to help the homeless), visited the People's Kitchen, a homeless shelter in Newcastle that provides food to anyone that can't afford it themselves. We had a look around and asked some questions about what it is like to volunteer at a homeless shelter. Before that, we went shopping and bought some supplies (like food, toiletries and clothes) to donate to the Kitchen. It was a great experience and we learned a lot about where they keep their supplies and what goes on behind the

scenes at a homeless food kitchen.

Afterwards, we received a letter that told us about how grateful they were for our donation, which was something that really made our project worthwhile. They also told us that they would love more sleeping bags, either new or used. We enjoyed our trip to the People's Kitchen and hope that other people will help them with their goal of helping the homeless.



We would like to inspire our peers to help the homeless through an assembly, so that the People's Kitchen can get even more assistance and can run better.



On Tuesday 6th March, 6 girls (Zahra, Lacie, Jessica, Charlotte, Grace and Maddy) and Mrs Cheape went on a fantastic trip to Sunderland. They left school in the morning and set off to Katie's garden by metro.

Although the weather was cold, when we arrived we met the two nice ladies that worked there and they offered us hot drinks and the most incredible cupcakes. Jess says "It was an excellent experience; I have always wanted to go there!" we created a conveyer belt, and we split into twos and every pair did a part all to create packs for a hospital (The Great North Children's Hospital) which, when made up; turned into 10 amazing unicorn reefs. The two ladies that worked there were very animated and kind people. After we created the packs (which was extremely fiddly) the owners of Katie's Garden showed us all unique types of craft packs and very helpfully gave all of them to donate to the hospital.

The key is an organisation that helps young people prepare for maybe a future in business. It helps boost the skills required for work in an office, such as negotiation, dealing with people in power and authority, planning time and energy and coping with stress and tension. You have to do a project that can benefit the community and you have to do a presentation to a panel of judges who will grant you your money if you pass.

For lunch, the original idea was to go to McDonalds, but that plan went astray, since it was the lunch time rush, so we had our lunch at the cinema before the movie. Lacie had ordered nachos, nothing good can come from nacho sauce as Lacie found out. She spilt the nacho cheese everywhere and went home smelling like cheese. Oops!! In the afternoon the girls watched the movie "The Greatest Showman". They watched and they ate as much popcorn and sweets as their stomachs could carry. "I have watched a lot of musicals; but this was one of the best!" said Charlotte.



## Launchpad Film Afternoon

Recently, a group of Year 8 pupils, Abbie, Bethan, Finn, Muntaha and Phoebe, organised a film afternoon and non-uniform day to raise money for Launchpad, a charity based in Newcastle which supports mental health service users. The film afternoon raised an astounding total of £266.15! They also raised over £443 with a bake sale: a huge success! The film afternoon was hugely enjoyed by all the pupils: Jessica said, "I loved watching the film and it was for such a great cause, too!" Please see our Twitter page for more information

## Our Concordia Trip



On the 9<sup>th</sup> March, a group of girls from Year 5 and 8, had a great time at Concordia Leisure Centre. While they were travelling to Concordia, they went to Nando's to eat before they went on an eventful trip to Concordia. They had a great opportunity because of a generous charity called 'the Key'. The key is a charity, which encourages children to independently come up with a project and then to create a presentation, figure out the time, cost and how many people they need for a trip. This lets the children develop a range of skills while working together. We did our presentation and the Key representatives thought that our trip would be good so decided to give us the grant of £500 to go on the trip.

Hannah said "it was very enjoyable and I want to go back." Sophie also said it was enjoyable and she thinks that they worked together as a team very well. Tal thinks that we should go again because all of the activities were entertaining and we were very active.

We left school at 11:45a.m. and got the mini bus to Nando's. We stayed there for one hour, before walking to Concordia. The first activity was bowling. Jess won bowling and she got 96 points. Straight after we went swimming and we all loved it. Climbing was the last activity and we did the Leap of Faith as well. Rawa could not jump off so the instructor pushed her off...safely of course. We all loved it so much.



## Dancing Lions and Beating Drums

On Friday February 23rd two men named Phil and Paul came to the school to demonstrate Chinese Lion dancing. Pupils went in turns per class. At the beginning, Paul did an elaborate dance using one of the three lions: the biggest one was purple, the middle one was blue and the smallest one was red and yellow. Paul used the purple one to do his dance. Then we practised different stances. After that, we were split into two groups. The first group went with Phil to use the drums. The drum was made out of pigskin,



and, as Phil said, the outside was like cracklings, but cooked differently. The surface had three Chinese characters on it. The inside of the drum was hollow, with springs inside to vibrate the sound. The beaters were like thick curvy sticks. Phil taught us a simple drum tune, which had beats that went like 3 3 7. Everyone had a go and it was really fun. Then Phil said we could branch out and do our own beats. Then we went to do lion dancing.



Paul's group did the dance first. We all took turns walking around in the front and back of the lion and controlling it. It was really fun and we were taught how to make the lion blink and open and close its mouth. Finally, they picked people to do a finale and move around in the lions. It was really fun and all the pupils of GEMS enjoyed themselves tremendously.

**By Mina 5SL**



### GOSFORTH PYRAMID CEILIDH

The Gosforth Pyramid Ceilidh took place at Gosforth Junior Academy. Lots of children came together to make a ceilidh band to perform to their family and friends.

Ms Hodgson took up some of her precious free time to take GEMS' performers (on Wednesdays after school) to practice for the ceilidh.



The first practice was at Central Middle school, and the second at the Junior academy.

On the big day all the children walked over in the morning to Central Middle school (where the performance was to be held). All morning they practised for the big night. After lunch, they played for the Year Four's ceilidh dance. They did really well in playing for the young children and the whole event was a big success. **By Isla Year 5**



### Cupid's favourite disco

In mid February on Wednesday there was a Valentine's disco. There was a DJ and live bands by year 5, 6, 7 and 8- some of our talented students were playing their own music. It was AMAZING there were stalls with food, drinks and sweets. Everyone was dressed to impress and everyone danced the night away ... there were some sore feet the next morning. The hall was decked out with hearts and Chinese new year decorations to put everyone in the mood for love! **By Erin 5SL**





## Marvellous Mums!



Leila 7HTH



To celebrate all the marvellous mums, GEMS had a mother's day afternoon tea with sons and daughters welcome too. For all the cake lovers (including me!) you got some cake, scones, tea/coffee and sandwiches to enjoy.

As you can see from these photographs, it was a great success for everyone and especially for the Mums who were all absolutely spoilt...and quite right too!



These boys really do love their mum!

## GETTING A GOLDEN TICKET FOR THE CRAFTERNOON TEA!

In GEMS, we have a lot of keen crafters and Mrs Cheape wanted to organise a special event, the Crafternoon Tea! It was after school on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March and it finished at 5pm. Anyone from Year 5 to 8 could participate, however, there were only 30 available spaces. The crafters made a 'Willy Wonka dreamcatcher' which was delivered by Katie's Garden, a team of professional crafters who work for a vintage craft/ tea shop in Sunderland. Also the lucky few got treats and drinks too. **By Tasha 6HT**



## The day the rainbow of powder appeared

The colour run event, organised by Mrs Cheape, took place on Friday the 23 of March. It was a 30 minute run where other people throw powder at you. The run was organised to raise money for Sport Relief. Lesson 4, the Year 5s ran and Year 6 threw powder at them, then they swapped round. Lesson 5, Year 7s ran and Year 8s threw then switched. The powder colours used were: yellow, pink, blue, green and purple.

Lots of parents were there to support and/or run as well. Some teachers even took part, such as Mrs Watson, Ms Gill, Miss Fothergill, Mr Salkeld, Mr Jordan, Mr Robertson and more. The children had so much fun and are keen to have a repeat of the event...What do you say Mrs Cheape It surely was a powderhouse for fundraising! **By Tom 6NG.**





## Squash Success

There was more squash success for the boys this time. After having beaten Gosforth Junior High and a team from Manchester Grammar School the under 13s team was through to the finals that took place in Nottingham. Each of our boys played two games in the final. Unfortunately they were drawn against the favourites who went on to win the competition a team from Kings College Cambridge. Our team came a very creditable third and were each awarded a medal.

We spoke to Ben and Matthew who told us they play squash 4 or 5 times a week at Northern Rugby Club. Both boys are keen sportsmen and Matthew's main sport is in fact swimming. For these boys it was their first school competition but not their first medals. Both boys admitted that they had been nervous on the way to the competition but they were pleased with their performance it was just a pity that they drew the eventual winners for the first round.



## Rivalry Match



Netball matches took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the rival school..... CENTRAL! As was expected, everyone had a great time competing.

With a competitive mind, they arrived prepared at around 3.30 after school. The final score for the year 7 girls was 14-2 to GEMS (OBVS!) and the year 8s also fought well with the older group at Gosforth Central.

**Leila Year 6**

## Cricket crazy

On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, at lunch time, a few girls played some cricket with a coach from South Northumberland Cricket Club. We had loads of fun throwing and catching the ball in partners. Each group had a turn to bat and field. We were so tired after. We had a great time. We decided that cricket is a game that we would like to play more often

**By Anushka Year 5**

