



# Alumni News

Issue 3. July 2020



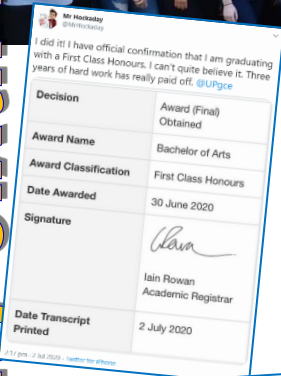
whitburnsixthform



@WhitSixthForm

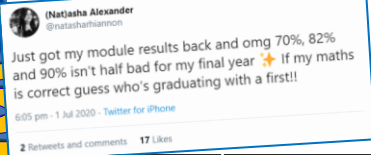
## Congrats to our First Grads!

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



This summer saw our first ever Sixth Form students graduate from University. We are so proud of each and every one of them and are really disappointed for those who were unable to enjoy the usual ceremonial elements due to COVID-19. We heard from the students below via our annual survey but we know there are several others! Please drop Mr Craggs a line at [lcraggs@whitburncofecademy.org](mailto:lcraggs@whitburncofecademy.org) and we can update our records.

CONGRATULATIONS



We are always ready to welcome alumni back to inspire the next generation so please see later about how to contact Mr Moore.

GRADUATE OF 2020

Name	Graduating from:	In (subject):	Next Steps:
Alexander, Natasha	York St John	BA (Hons) Fine Art	MA in Critical & Cultural Theory, University of Leeds
Clarke, James	York St John	BSc (Hons) Computer Science	MSc in Cyber security, York St John
Deary, Lauren	University of Sunderland	BA (Hons) History and Politics	MA in International Relations, Conflict & Security
Fascia, Hannah	University of Hull	BSc (Hons) Geography	MSc in Flood Risk Management, University of Hull
Gibson, Olivia	University of Liverpool	BA (Hons) History with Politics	MSc in Security Studies, University College London
Halligan, Lauren	Leeds Beckett University	BA (Hons) Journalism	Employment in Journalism sector.
Harland, Holly	King's College London	BA (Hons) History	
Hedley, Phoebe	Newcastle University	BA (Hons) Linguistics	Work with a refugee organisation for a year and then apply for a Speech Therapy Postgraduate degree.
Hockaday, Tom	University of Sunderland	BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS	Employment in Primary Education.
Howe, Spencer	Newcastle University	BSc (Hons) Cellular and Molecular Biology	MRes in Musculoskeletal Ageing, Newcastle University
Jahan, Anjum	Sunderland university	BSc (Hons) Biomedical science	MSc
Middleton, Liam	University of York	LLB (Hons) Law	LLM in International Corporate & Commercial Law, University of York
Kelly, Oliver	York St John University	BA (Hons) History	Teach First Placement
Simpson, Alex	University of Sunderland	BA (Hons) Childhood Studies	PGCE- School direct: primary 5-11, University of Sunderland
Tweddell, Beth	Lancaster University	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations	MA
Tyler-Hall, Alix	University of Leeds	BSc (Hons) Psychology	MSc Organisational Psychology, University of Leeds
Wilkie, Lauren	Leeds Beckett University	BSc (Hons) Psychology	MSc Forensic Psychology, Newcastle University



# Alumni News

Our COVID Stories...



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## COVID-19 and the Whitburn Community

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form

2020 has indeed been a strange year with COVID-19 impacting all of our lives. We have been humbled to hear how those in our communities have responded and we are delighted to share these stories with you.

**Rachel Wilson, Class of 2018** has been using her crafting skills to produce rainbow keyrings which she has sent to key workers – including some Whitburn staff – as a token of our appreciation for what they are doing for us all. Read Rachel's story here:

<http://www.thecourieronline.co.uk/good-news-creative-quarantines/>



**Jerin Juby, Class of 2018** has, as part of the Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron, ran the equivalent distance of RAF Lossiemouth to RAF Akrotiri and back again within back gardens. They raised over £16,000 for the NHS Charities Together. More information can be found on '[Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron](#)' Facebook page.

**Phoebe Hedley, Class of 2017** has been volunteering with a refugee organisation, North East Solidarity and Teaching. They help this specific community to not feel alone during this crisis, by providing lessons via YouTube or Zoom 7 days a week, as well as bed time stories for the children of the refugees.



"Students at Newcastle University Students' Union are stepping up to help refugees with online teaching and support during the COVID-19 lockdown."

N.E.S.T's Response to COVID-19 as described in an article released by Newcastle University.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/.../2020/04/nestresponsestocovid-19/...](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/.../2020/04/nestresponsestocovid-19/)  
See more



19 update · 30 April · 37 likes · 1 comment · 7 share

Like Comment Share



**Bethany Daniel, Class of 2018** reports that, along with colleagues at Care Outcomes (including other SF alumni **Annabel Wilson, Claudia Black and Abbey Daniel**) they have been working hard to ensure the vulnerable people they look after are staying safe and keeping entertained! They put together a [video of their clients singing 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow'](#). Bethany and colleagues have also been making [Tiktoks to keep the clients entertained](#)



At 0800 this morning we finished! With the help of 11 other UAS' we ran from @raflossiemouth to @rafakrotiri and back again! As a collective we have raised over £16,000 for the hugely deserving NHS Charities Together. Such a huge achievement for all involved and we want to thank everyone for their kind donations and all the support.



#weareyorkshire #sheffieldduni #sheffieldhallam #leedsuni #leedsbeckett #hulluni #huduni #bradforduni #yorkuni #yorkjohn



**Natasha Alexander, Class of 2017** set up an [online gallery](#) for graduating creative students whose degree shows are cancelled because of the virus. Check out [@thesocialdistanceartproject](#) on Instagram which has been featured in interviews and podcasts with art magazines and is now partnering up with a gallery in New York.



How amazing are these guys? 🙌  
Special constables Lewis Steele and Lauren Brook have dedicated over 130 hours of their time to us since lockdown.

Thank you to all our incredible volunteers - you're an asset the Force

[bit.ly/2VAr796](https://bit.ly/2VAr796)



The Social Distance Art Project

About TSDAP VSJ2020 Gallery Directory FAQ Submit Your Work

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

**Lauren Brook, Class of 2018** has volunteered over 150 hours to Northumbria Police during lockdown.



# Alumni News

Success at Whitburn...



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Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



## Certificate Presentation Evening

It was great to welcome back Class of 2019 to receive their A Level certificates in December. James Hardy passed on the Award for Academic Excellence to Alex Vardill whilst Callum Laval received 'Academic Progress' from Sam Carman.



## Celebrating Outstanding Progress

2019's A Level results were, as always, a cause for celebration for the majority. This year though, our progress data placed us in the top 17% of schools and colleges nationally. This means that students at Whitburn Sixth Form make more progress, based on their GCSE starting points than students do at 83% of other Schools and Colleges. We were hoping to repeat this success in Summer 2020 and whilst we expect our students to do exceptionally well once again, there will be no data published due to the COVID-19 crisis.

HEI	2017 Entry Placed	2018 Entry Placed	2019 Entry Placed	2020 Entry Firm Choice	TOTAL
Sunderland	9	11	15	21	56
Newcastle University	7	8	14	15	44
Northumbria	6	10	8	15	39
Leeds Beckett	7	11	3	1	22
University of Leeds	4	5	2	4	15
York St John	2	7		4	13
University of Manchester	4	3		2	9
Durham University	3	1	1	3	8
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh		2	4	2	8
University of York	1	4	2	1	8
Lancaster University	2	2	1	1	6
University of Sheffield	0	2		4	6
Manchester Metropolitan	0	1	2	2	5
Teesside	1	2	1	1	5
University of Glasgow	2		1	2	5
Hull	1	2	1		4
University of Nottingham	2	1	1		4
Edge Hill			1	2	3
Edinburgh Napier			2	1	3
Leeds Trinity		1	1	1	3
Nottingham Trent		2		1	3
Sheffield Hallam	2				3
University of Liverpool	1			2	3
Cumbria	1		1		2
Hull-York Medical School			1	1	2
Lincoln				2	2
Liverpool Hope			1	1	2
Loughborough	1			1	2
Stirling				2	2
University of Bristol			1	1	2
University of Cambridge		1	1		2
University of Edinburgh	1			1	2
Newcastle College	1			1	2
Anglia Ruskin				1	1
Birmingham City				1	1
Central Lancashire (UCLAN)	1				1
DeMontford				1	1
Essex		1			1
Imperial College London		1			1
Kent				1	1
Norwich University of the Arts	1				1
Reading			1		1
Staffordshire				1	1
Strathclyde				1	1
Sussex				1	1
Swansea		1			1
University of Birmingham	1				1
University of Exeter				1	1
University of Oxford	1				1
University of Warwick		1			1

Student Presidents Alice and Matthew accompanied Mr Craggs to Sheffield for the World Class Schools Symposium in July 2019. Alice & Matthew networked with other World Class Students and participated in seminars.



Whitburn Politics @PoliticsWhi... · 10m  
@WhitSixthForm @WhitCofEAcad the sixth form election has been counted.

### Student Society

@PoliticsWhitbu1 ran a ballot for and established that @WhitSixthForm is a Labour safe seat. We were 'Remain' by a landslide in 2016 too.

Lab: 47%  
Con: 22%  
Green: 14%  
LibDem: 11%  
Brexit Party: 2%  
Indy: 1%  
UKIP: 1%

## UCAS

Spoilt ballots: 2%

**UCAS stats** As you can see, left, our students are still willing to travel far and wide to get the best education they can. Local unis and those in other 'big Northern cities' still dominate our applications though! Top courses for 2019: *Biomedical Science, Psychology 8; English/Literature, Mathematics 5; Economics 4; Adult Nursing, Civil Engineering, History, Medicine 3.*



# Alumni News



Student Stories...

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form

**Hannah Buchanan, Class of 2018** and her elder brother Alistair are both pursuing careers in the Royal Navy. Hannah chose not to go to University and instead joined the Navy as a rating and is currently involved in training and working on the Commando Helicopter Force Merlin helicopters. Alistair went to University and went down the officer route of the Royal Navy and is now a fully qualified Air Traffic Control Officer. Hannah and Alistair have offered to come in and deliver a Careers talk and have sent some impressive photos, right.



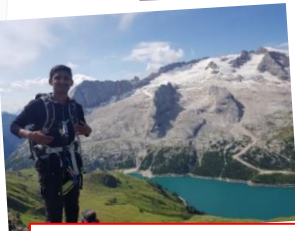
**Jessica Harker, Class of 2019** is loving life at Durham University and has made the most of her time there before lockdown. **Jessica and Jack Hope, Class of 2019** enjoyed a trip to Norway and sent this beautiful photo, left.

**Jack Richardson, Class of 2019** enjoyed a bonus on starting Edge Hill as he won a scholarship award. Every little helps! You may remember Jack campaigning to increase numbers on the Organ Donation register. [Check out new opt-out rules here.](#)



**Matthew Dickinson 1999–2020**  
We were saddened to hear in April of the passing of **Matthew Dickinson, Class of 2017**. **Joanna Robinson, also Class of 2017** knew him best and wrote this lovely tribute for this newsletter:

*"Matthew inspired everyone to strive for the very best and did so himself in every aspect of his life. He was successful with everything he put his hand to; as well as being successful at his school work and at university, Matt was also an extremely successful fencer and won many awards and titles. His joviality and good nature attracted people the moment he walked in the room, and no one could forget his raucous and contagious laugh. I know in my heart he would not want us grieving for too long. Matthew would want us to be celebrating his 20 years that he lived to the absolute fullest and remembering the good times. I, for one, will never forget the memories, the laughter, and the sheer happiness I spent whenever I was around Matthew and his crazy but funny nature. If love could have saved him, he would have lived forever, but it brings me peace knowing he is undoubtedly lighting up heaven with his beautiful smile".*



**Jerin Juby, Class of 2018** enjoyed an expedition to Italy and sent this photo.

**Returning Students**  
We are always keen to catch up with any of you and we have been delighted to welcome back the following to deliver talks and take part in careers fayres:  
**Chloe Manuel** – Oxford University  
**Lucy Bell** – BES and Cambridge University  
**Dom Corr** – Institute of Civil Engineers  
**Samantha Brownson** – Womble Bond Dickinson  
**Lewis Farish** – RSM Tenon  
**Charlotte Chambers** – Teaching placement  
**Alice Gill** – Teaching Placement  
**Tom Hockaday** – Teaching Placement  
Contact Mr Moore if you can come and help:  
[amoore@whitburncofecollege.org](mailto:amoore@whitburncofecollege.org)

**Please opt-in!** Under data protection rules, we need your permission to store your email address & send you these bulletins. Please update your details at <https://forms.gle/8UwqHDJ6HLVigLVa9> and also tell us if you have changed course/programme/uni/job/apprenticeship since you left us.





# Alumni News



whitburnsixthform



@WhitSixthForm

What's been happening at @WhitSixthForm...

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



The Young Enterprise scheme at Whitburn continues to see great success under the guidance of Mrs Amin. After 2018's Heavenly Handmade success, @EskeUK are doing excellent work to work on a business plan which focuses on supporting our aim to remove single use plastic bottles. Eske are marketing a range of smartly designed, re-fillable bottles locally. Well done!

This year, our charity reps organised a 'wear yellow' day in support of Young Minds to mark World Mental Health Day. Check out this fab photo, right.



We continue to support the community around us with our ever-popular annual MacMillan Coffee Morning and this year we set a Sixth Form record for the number of shoeboxes filled at Christmas.

We continue to work with the Holocaust Education Trust to give two students each year the opportunity to visit the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Part of their commitment is to share their experiences with others on their return. These photos are of the 2019 North East visit in October 2019.



### HET Ambassadors

2016-7 Olivia Gibson & Holly Carmichael

2017-8 Hannah Hamilton & Daniel Hunter

2018-9 Richard Broughton & Emily Bowles

2019-20 Beth Fowler, Thomas Milburn, Ollie Hughes & Jessica Taylor

2019-20 Charlotte Taylor, Joe Fawdon, Lily Shelmerdine & William Harcus



# Alumni News



The Back Page!

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



The annual Memory Walk for Alzheimer's Society raised approx. £120 this year. As you can see the weather wasn't so good, but Mr Moore's natty treads still shone through the gloom! We returned to the news that the school was being forced to close. Little did we know then what would unfold in the months that followed!

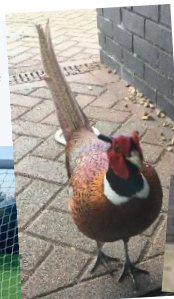
You Retweeted

WhitburnPE @PEWhitburn · Jun 6

Our U19 Football season unfortunately came to a premature end, but we were well on course to have our most successful season ever. We were still in two semi finals and it was looking like we would finish runners up in the league - our highest finish. @AfcWhitburn



3 comments, 7 retweets, 27 likes



This rather handsome pheasant took up residence during the school closure. His partner has a clutch of chicks. Best be careful though as we have also seen a fox...!



### Staff leavers 2020:

Dr Allan, Geography (Promotion, Curriculum lead, Southmoor Academy)

Mr Barclay, Maths (Well earned retirement - lots of sporting plans)

Mr Connolly, Physics (Well-earned retirement)

Mrs Dorner, History (Well-earned retirement - lots of travel plans)

Mrs Miller, PBSTA (New post, Venerable Bede)

Mr Rose, Music (New post, Teesside)

Ms Stewart, English (New Post, North Yorks)

Ms K Wilson, English (End of maternity cover)

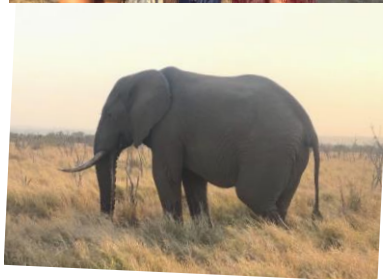
### World Challenge

2018 Malawi

2019 Swaziland

2020 Cambodia

2021 Tanzania



Our second team of World Challengers returned from an unforgettable, life-changing expedition to Swaziland. The students were involved in a community education project and also had time to go on safari. It was with great sadness that our 2020 Cambodia expedition was cancelled due to COVID-19. Team members can join an independent expedition instead.



### Student Presidents

2016-7 Chloe Manuel & Chris Williams

2017-8 Dom Corr & Mel Owens

2018-9 Sam Johnston & Eleanor Reay

2019-20 Alice Casey & Matthew Appleby

2019-20 Patrick Allen & Cameron Chilton