



Alumni News



Issue 4. July 2021

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



CONGRATULATIONS



This summer saw more of our alumni graduate including those below. We are so proud of each and every one of them and again, we are 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@whitburncofeacademy.org and we can update our records.



Anna Ball, Class of 2018, left, credits Ms Britton with sparking her passion for Sociology. Ms Britton takes early retirement due to ill-health and has this message: *"It was an honour to teach all of my Sociology 6th form classes, as they have brought me so much pleasure. I am so sorry to miss my form class leaving this summer"*.



Name	Graduating from:	In (subject):	Next Steps:
Ball, Anna	University of Sunderland	BSc (Hons) Sociology	Seeking graduate roles in the energy sector
Bell, Lucy	University of Cambridge	BA (Hons) English	TBC
Carter, Bethany	University of Sunderland	BSc (Hons) Cosmetic Science	MSc Nutritional Science at Northumbria
Chambers, Charlotte	University of Sunderland	BSc (Hons) Psychology	PGCE (Religious Education), University of Sunderland
Fascia, Hannah	University of Hull	MSc Flood Risk Management	TEFL qualification. Apply to teach English abroad
Frazer, Ewen	Northumbria University	BA (Hons) English Literature	MA English Literature, Newcastle of University
Gill, Alice	Leeds Beckett University	Primary Education	Year 3 Teacher, Hedworth Lane Primary School
Graham, Henry	University of Manchester	MPharm Pharmacy	Hospital pharmacy. Royal Free London NHS Trust
Horner-Wilson, Eleanor	Leeds Beckett	BA (Hons) Business & Management	Graduate employment, Process Improvement Consultant
Jacobson, Sophie	Loughborough	BSc (Hons) Accounting & Financial Management	Audit Graduate at Grant Thornton
Longville, Robyn	Sheffield Hallam University	BSc (Hons) Nutrition & Public Health	Volunteering with Projects Global in public health & nutrition in Fiji before beginning masters in Dietetics
Middleton, Liam	University of York	LLM Law	Legal Practice Course (LPC) and LLM in Commercial Law and BPP, University Leeds
Palmer, Emily	Newcastle University	MSc Urban Planning	Seeking graduate employment
Shield, Billy	University of Leeds	International History & Politics	Travel this summer then onto Sandhurst Military Training
Simpson, Alex	Northumbria University	School Direct PGCE	Applying for teaching roles
Tuck, Abby	Durham University	BA (Hons) Criminology	Summer volunteering opportunity on a Llama Farm in Wales through the Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) organisation
Wilkie, Lauren	University of Leeds	BSc (Hons) Psychology	MSc Forensic Psychology, Newcastle University



Alumni News

Our COVID Stories...



whitburnsixthform



@WhitSixthForm

COVID-19 and the Whitburn Community

2021 has seen further disruption in all walks of life due to the continuing COVID pandemic. We have heard from alumni who have paid for accommodation they have hardly used and who have paid tuition fees to watch videos from home. We hope there will be something worked out to compensate students for this last year or two. We shared several COVID stories from healthcare workers on TikTok (Bethany!) to crochet rainbow keyrings (Rachael!) last year. Once again, here are our COVID stories:



We were delighted to welcome back alumni (and parents of alumni!) to staff our Asymptomatic Testing Centre that we set up in February to test students as they returned after lockdown. The former students were invaluable in helping us achieve what looked like an impossible task – nearly 2500 tests in 8 days!
Richard Broughton (2019), Daniel Eriksson (2020) Isaac Reed (2019)



Robyn Longville, Class of 2017 has been volunteering at a testing centre in Sheffield and featured in an interview on the BBC as her centre were testing the snooker players and other staff to allow the World Championships to take place at the Crucible theatre.



Phoebe Hedley, Class of 2017 has been continuing her campaigning to raise cancer awareness. Phoebe reminds us all not to neglect those lumps, bumps, changing moles etc and still get them checked out even if your GP & the NHS may seem busy.



Philippa Gibbons, Class of 2017 has continued to gain publicity for her make-up artistry. In this clip she appears as someone you may recognise...
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFxdNFil9g6/?igshid=1t17qmkd0z5ns>

Sunderland Echo
See video of Sunderland make-up artist as she transforms into Boris Johnson

As a make-up artist who specialises in dramatic, theatrical make-up, Halloween is usually Philippa's busiest time of year, with her diary booked weeks in advance for transformations. But, like all creative industries, her usual flow of bookings has been affected by the local lockdown.



Charlotte Beech
So so happy to get my second Pfizer vaccine as part of my work as a volunteer vaccine marshal for @STSFTrust. I'm hoping to get the message out that it is still perfectly safe for young people after recent news. Side effects: sore arm, slight fatigue and euphoria.



Charlotte Beech and Matthew Agar, Class of 2020 have been volunteering in local vaccination centres doing their bit to keep us safe. Thanks both!

Teenage Cancer Trust
There's a lot going on in the world at the moment, but it's as important as ever to speak to your GP if you're worried about symptoms that you think could be cancer.
Early diagnosis can save lives - it's always #BestToCheck
More info: teenagecancertrust.org/signs



Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form

Halloween has come early for one Sunderland make-up artist as she transforms herself into Boris Johnson.

By Katy Wheeler
Saturday, 16 October 2020, 7:00 am



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Success at Whitburn...

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



2020 Academic Awards

Sadly, COVID claimed our certificate presentation evening although it has been nice to catch up with the Class of 2020 as they have popped in to collect certificates.

We invited Charlotte Beech and Heaven Kalam back recently to be presented with awards by previous winners. 2019 winner Alex Vardill presented Charlotte with the Award for Academic Excellence and Callum Laval returned to present Heaven with the Academic Progress Award.

More success in Business and Netball...

Many of you will have great memories of competing in Business competitions, driven on by Mrs Amin or representing us in Netball driven on by Mrs Rush. These are areas which continue to gain regional and national recognition, as seen in these social media posts, left. Our team progressed to the National Final of the BASE Business competition and Whitburn won 'Netball School of the Year' at the 2020 County Awards.



Great news for our team in the BASE competition ran by @ICAEW - Jacob, Owen, Joseph & Jack placed in the top 24 nationally and now compete in the national final on 16th June. Well done! @northeastlep @WhitCofEAcad @WhitBusiness @WhitburnBusine!



Dear Halima,

We are delighted to let you know that Whitburn Church of England Academy has achieved a place at the BASE National Final! The winning team from your school is Jacob McCord, Joseph Smith, Owen Johnson, Jack Pollock.

...and a large number of applicants this year and

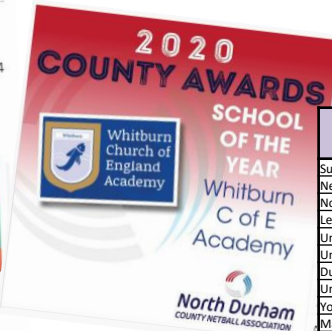


We are noticing what #worldclass support @WhitSixthForm is providing its students.



Covid-19: A-level and GCSE results planned for early July [bbc.co.uk/news/education...](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education...)

12:52 · 22/01/2021 · Twitter Web App



HEI	2017 Entry Placed	2018 Entry Placed	2019 Entry Placed	2020 Entry Placed	2021 Firm	TOTAL
Sunderland	9	11	15	14	6	55
Newcastle University	7	8	14	16	8	53
Northumbria	6	10	8	20	8	52
Leeds Beckett	7	11	3	1	1	23
University of Leeds	4	5	2	4	2	17
University of Manchester	4	3		1	9	17
Durham University	3	1	1	3	5	13
University of York	1	4	2	2	4	13
York St John	2	7		3		12
Manchester Metropolitan	0	1	2	4	3	10
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh		2	4	2		8
University of Nottingham	2	1	1	1	3	8
University of Liverpool	1			1	4	6
University of Sheffield		2		3	1	6
Lancaster University	2	2	1			5
Nottingham Trent		2		1	2	5
University of Glasgow	2		1	1	1	5
Hull	1	2			1	4
Sheffield Hallam	2			1	1	4
Teesside	1	2	1			4
Cumbria	1		1	1		3
Edge Hill			1	2		3
Leeds Trinity		1	1	1		3
University of Cambridge		1	1		1	3
University of Exeter				1	2	3
Edinburgh Napier			2			2
Hull-York Medical School			1	1		2
Liverpool Hope			1	1		2
Loughborough	1			1		2
Newcastle College	1			1		2
University of Bristol			1	1		2
Central Lancashire (UCLAN)	1					1
Essex		1				1
Imperial College London		1				1
Norwich University of Arts	1					1
Reading			1			1
Stirling				1		1
Swansea		1				1
University College London (UCL)					1	1
University of Birmingham	1					1
University of Derby				1		1
University of Edinburgh	1					1
University of Kent				1		1
University of Leicester					1	1
University of Lincoln				1		1
University of Oxford	1					1
University of Warwick		1				1
University of Winchester					1	1



UCAS stats As you can see, *right*, 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 2020: *Psychology 9; Law, Geography 6; Medicine 4.*



Alumni News



Student Stories...



Michael Jude is the youngest ever director at Sunderland's Nissan plant

New HR director Michael Jude, 34, started at the plant in 2010 as a graduate in the HR department. Michael, from East Boldon, is a former pupil at Whitburn who did a degree in Sports Science at the University of Sunderland, followed by a Master's degree at Newcastle University.

His appointment comes as the plant opens a new round of graduate recruitment, with applications now open for vacancies in Engineering, Production Control, Purchase and Supply Chain Management.

Meet the candidates for the St Peter's ward on Sunderland City Council up for election on May 6

More than 120 candidates have thrown their hat in the ring for this year's (2021) round of local elections in Sunderland

By James Harrison
Friday, 30th April 2021, 6:34 PM



Daniel Hunter, Class of 2018 continues to write for Sunderland Fanzine. Fellow fans will laugh and cry at Daniel's article about those who 'stole a living' during their time with the Black cats:

<https://www.a-love-supreme.com/single-post/safc-stole-a-living-xi>

Sam Johnston, Class of 2019 successfully ran in his first local election winning 53.8% of the vote to become Councillor for St Peter's Ward, Sunderland. Well done Sam!



SAFC STOLE A LIVING XI

Meet the 18-year-old Whitburn student who has launched his own miniature railway business during the pandemic

The 18-year-old has launched business GLMR Portable Miniature Railway while studying for his A Levels at Whitburn Sixth Form.

It sees him operate a portable miniature railway, offering £2 train rides to youngsters and their families at venues around the North East – something he says is unique to the region. **Patrick Allen, Class of 2021**



Alumni inspiring others

We are hoping soon to launch our new 'Alumni Posters' following an appeal in our email. We received great photos and a 'destination' from Billy, Monisha and Anna. If you would be willing to feature on a poster like these prototypes (below), email your photo and 'destination' info to Mr Craggs: lcraggs@whitburncofeacademy.org. We are always keen to catch up with any of you and welcome you back to deliver talks and take part in careers fayres. Contact Mr Moore if you can come and help: amoore@whitburncofeacademy.org



Lucy Bell, Class of 2018 celebrated degree completion in messy style. **Lauren Halligan, Class of 2017** celebrated a new role.



I'm Billy. I studied at Whitburn Sixth Form and I've graduated in International History and Politics at the University of Leeds



I'm Monisha. I went to Whitburn Sixth Form and I'm now studying Medicine at the University of Nottingham. When I graduate, I hope to undertake further studies in Public Health/ Global health and get involved in humanitarian work overseas.



I'm Anna, I studied at Whitburn Sixth form where I found my passion for Sociology. I have now graduated with a First Class degree in Bachelor of Science, Sociology. I hope to become a learning coach for those who have been denied access to education, those with learning difficulties & disabilities.



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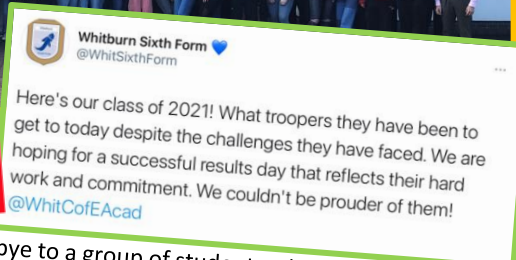
@WhitSixthForm

What's been happening at @WhitSixthForm....

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



We continue to support the community around us with our ever-popular annual MacMillan Coffee Morning and our harvest collections.



Mr Crowe addressing our leavers this afternoon. Really nice to have a fairly normal event! They deserve a great send off for all of their hard work.



In May we said goodbye to a group of students who have faced severe disruption to both Year 12 and 13 of their time in Sixth Form. We felt they were magnificent and summed up the whole 'Keep Calm and Carry On' spirit.

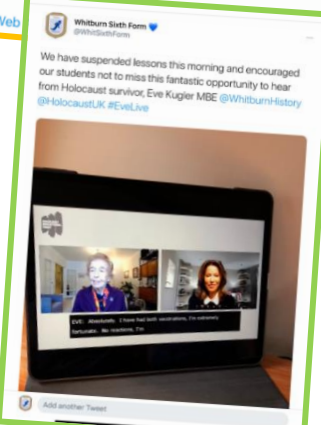
We shared [this petition set up by Whitburn forum](#) to challenge pollution affecting the rockpools many of us use during Science lessons at Whitburn. Please check it out!



In June, we were able to use a kitchen colander to safely view a partial solar eclipse. It is always satisfying to see those 'lightbulb moments' as young students realise what they are seeing!



We continue to work with the Holocaust Education Trust and despite no Auschwitz trip this year, we once again heard from a Holocaust survivor.





Alumni News

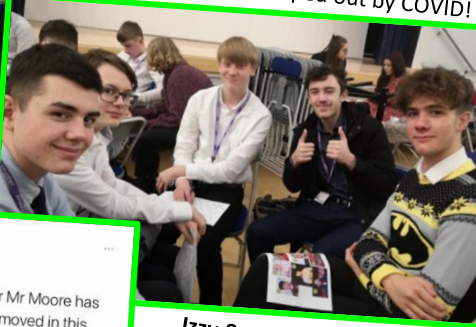


The Back Page!

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



The Christmas Quiz continued to be a highlight and wasn't wiped out by COVID!



Izzy & Hashim, Class of 2021 saw this sign in Whitby and thought of Mr Craggs!



Students waiting, socially distanced, the results of their first Lateral Flow Tests before returning in February!

Whitburn Sixth Form @WhitSixthForm

All Sixth Form alumni will be delighted to hear Mr Moore has his very own office finally! Well deserved. He moved in this morning - all pot plants should be purchased, sanitised and addressed to: Mr Moore, New Office, Sixth Form! 🌱🪴🏡 @whitburncareers

13:21 · 09/09/2020 · Twitter for iPhone



Staff leavers 2021:

- Ms Britton, Sociology (Early retirement due to ill-health)
- Mrs Crosby, Food Tech (Well-earned retirement - plans include holidays, crafting, volunteering, writing...and baking of course!)
- Mrs Husband, Geography (Well earned retirement - plans include walking and conservation volunteering)
- Mrs Morton, LSA (Early retirement)
- Mrs Richards, LSA (Well-earned retirement)
- Mr Smailes, Media (Career change - Software Engineer)

Whitburn Sixth Form @WhitSixthForm

Bon chance James!! 🇫🇷🇫🇷

Translate Tweet

chloeandliamtft @chloeandliamtft · 09/11/2020

A couple of photos of @JamesMcGurk13 who is supported by the Chloe&Liam Together Forever Trust, making his debut for French Rugby league side Palau Broncos yesterday 🇫🇷🇫🇷

Whitburn Sixth Form @WhitSixthForm

Look who's back! It's been a while. Hope he's not been to Harton! #SixthFormCatsBack @whit6thformcat

- 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
 - 2020-21 Anna Tobin & Louie Scott

James McGurk, Class of 2018 achieved a move to the French league. Bon chance!

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/kzYnHc2hWAnLvhyj6> and also tell us if you have changed course/programme/uni/job/apprenticeship since you left us.

Which member of staff do you think was most rebellious during their time in Sixth Form?

Who has been your favourite member of staff during your time in Sixth Form?

Student Leavers' Awards 2021

