



Alumni News

Issue 5. July 2022



whitburnsixthform



@WhitSixthForm

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



CONGRATULATIONS



We love coming into the summer term and picking up news via Twitter, LinkedIn, emails and word-of-mouth that our alumni have graduated! We no longer feel like a 'new' Sixth Form and our sixth cohort left this summer. An increasing 'pool' of alumni are setting out on professional pathways and making a real difference in the local and national communities. We hope you enjoy reading some of this news in this years' bulletin. We heard from most of the students featured [via our annual survey](#) but we know there are several others! Please drop Mr Craggs a line at lcraggs@whitburncofecademy.org and we can update our records.

Name	Class of:	Graduating from:	In (subject):	Next Steps:
Alexander, Natasha	2017			Starting an MRes in Art History in September 2022
Bajwa, Sumandeep	2018	Newcastle University	Pharmacy	Starting pre-reg/foundation year training in August
Broughton, Richard	2019	Northumbria University	Biomedical Science	Research and development internship at P&G
Casey, Michael	2018	Newcastle University	BA (Hons) History	TBC
Chambers, Charlotte	2018	Sunderland University	PGCE in Secondary Religious Education	Starting my full time teaching post at St Wilfrids RC College in September 2022
Corr, Dominic	2018	Newcastle University	MEng Civil Engineering	Graduate Highway Engineer at Arup
Dunkerton, Kate	2017	Newcastle University	BA (Hons) English Literature	Studying an MA in Film Distribution and Marketing at Birmingham City University
Elsy, Laura	2020			Starting a Primary Education degree at Durham University in September
Gibson, Mary	2017	Nottingham Trent	BSc (Hons) Physics with Nuclear Technology	Teaching post, Hartlepool
Graham, Georgia	2019	Newcastle University	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences	Masters of Research in Medical Genetics
Gray, Alexandra	2018	Sunderland University	Mpharm (Hons) Pharmacy	Trainee pharmacist at Liverpool heart and chest hospital
Langdon, Joseph	2017	University of Manchester	MEng Civil Engineering	Graduate Civil Structural Engineer at consultancy
Manuel, Chloe	2017	Harvard University	Education Policy and Analysis	Employment in New York
Oughton, Olivia-May	2017	Sunderland University	Primary Education (QTS)	First Teaching Post
Pallas, Jennifer	2019	Leeds Trinity University	English and Creative Writing	Masters in Publishing and Creative Writing, York St John
Richardson, Jack	2019	Edge Hill University	BSc (Hons) Psychology	Take up position with Edge Hill SU as Student Engagement Officer for the Faculty of Arts & Sciences.
Thompson-Watson, Ben	2019	Newcastle University	MComp (Hons) Computer Science	Masters Year
Vardill, Alex	2019	Cambridge University	BA (Hons) English	Gap year to get some WE and focus on climate justice campaigning. Hoping do an English MA in 2023-24.
Walker, Beth	2019	Northumbria University	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences	MSc Physician Associate Studies, Hull York Medical School
Wilson, Rachael	2018	Newcastle University	BA (Hons) English Language	Teaching post
Youlden, Georgina	2019	University of York	MMath (Hons) Mathematics	TBC



Alumni News

Alumni Inspiring the Next Generation...



Alumni inspiring others

We launched our 'Alumni Posters' following an appeal in last year's bulletin. We received great photos and a 'destination' from a number of students.

Room naming

You may remember rooms in Sixth Form being named after prominent local achievers but these were looking dated and we felt the best people to inspire our current and future students were yourselves! Sixth Form rooms all now have an Alumni Poster on the wall at the door.

National Careers Week Trail

Year 7 and 8 students were challenged to complete a trail finding alumni posters in different departments and finding out information about courses, qualifications, universities etc. This is an inspiring part of their careers education and Mr Moore gave prizes to those who completed the trail. See some sample questions below:

Would you like to feature on a poster?

If you would be willing to feature on a poster like those around this page, email your photo and 'destination' info to Mr Craggs: lcraggs@whitburncofeacademy.org

Students returning to Whitburn

We are always keen to catch up with any of you and welcome you back to deliver talks and take part in careers fayres. This year we have caught up with **Jack Graham, Class of 2017** and **Ben Kennedy & Josh King, Class of 2021** at an Employer Engagement event Mr Moore organised for Year 10 and **Dominic Corr, Class of 2018** returns soon to talk about engineering careers with Year 12 students.

Work Experience Placements

The pandemic has made it really difficult to fix up work placements and if you are able to help offer a placement to either Year 10 and/or Year 12 students, please contact Mr Moore. Contact Mr Moore if you can come and help: amoore@whitburncofeacademy.org

Student	Questions:
Billy (History department)	At which university did Billy study? What degree has he graduated in?
Monisha (Science department)	What does Monisha want to study further when she finishes her medical degree? What is her dream job in the future?
Anna (Sociology department Room 38)	Where did Anna first find her passion for sociology? Who is she hoping to work with in the future?
Josh	What has Josh gone onto after completing his A-Level

WHITBURN ALUMNI

My Name is Eleanor, I completed my A-Levels at Whitburn Sixth Form in 2018 then went on to study a degree in Business and Management at Leeds Beckett University. I graduated with a first class honours in 2020, before graduation I managed to secure myself a graduate role as a Process Improvement Consultant in Leeds.

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

WHITBURN ALUMNI

I'm Olivia, I graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2020 with a First in History with Politics and then graduated in 2021 from UCL with an MSc in Security Studies with distinction. Now I work for the Civil Service as a social researcher in the homeland security area.

UCL

WHITBURN ALUMNI

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.

The University of Nottingham

WHITBURN ALUMNI

I'm Ben, I studied Business, Economics and History at Whitburn Sixth Form from 2018 to 2021. When I first started, I knew I didn't want to go to university full time. I am now on a Chartered Degree Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying. As a Degree Apprentice, I am able to build a career while earning a good wage, allowing me to stay about my goals in the future. I would advise anyone who has the opportunity to complete a Degree Apprenticeship to grasp it with both hands.

ROBERTSON

WHITBURN ALUMNI

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

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

WHITBURN ALUMNI

I'm Jack, At sixth form I studied Business, Economics and Geography. After completing my A-Levels I started a degree apprenticeship with Vertu Motors. I will qualify with a Business Management and Leadership Practice Degree from Northumbria University. Additionally, I will be a Qualified Chartered Manager Recognised by The Chartered Management Institute.

Vertu Motors

WHITBURN ALUMNI

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.

University of Sunderland

WHITBURN ALUMNI

I'm Nathan, I studied at Whitburn Sixth Form. I now have a masters in law from Northumbria University, graduating with a first. I recently completed a summer placement at a commercial law firm in Newcastle called Moxley LLP. This involved working alongside lawyers in a range of different sectors, including sports, corporate and property law; am now looking to further develop my career in a legal consultancy role.

Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

WHITBURN ALUMNI

I'm Lucy, I graduated from Northumbria with a Bachelors in Business Administration, after studying at Whitburn Sixth Form. I now work Full-time in Clinical Operations for a private healthcare company.

Northumbria University NEWCASTLE



Jack Richardson, Class of 2019 was elected to the role of Arts and Sciences officer for Edge Hill Student Union. We asked him what this would involve: *“the role will involve coming up with new initiatives and events etc. to help to improve student experience within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. It also will involve attending faculty boards and communicating with senior university staff to help make the changes needed. I am really looking forward to working at the Student Union and getting to make changes which I noticed needed changing and help make things better for future cohorts”.* We wish Jack every success for his year in office!

Cancer survivor who fought rare illness at 15 follows dream of helping others to become charity ambassador

A cancer survivor is following her dream of helping others as she becomes an ambassador to a leading UK charity and prepares to start a masters degree, six years after gruelling chemotherapy.



Phoebe Hedley, Class of 2017 continues to turn her experiences into a positive by helping others. In August, shortly after publication of last year’s bulletin, [the Echo reported](#) on Phoebe being named an ambassador for the charities [Climbing Out](#) and the [Teenage Cancer Trust](#).

Phoebe will be balancing these commitments with studying for a Masters in Speech Therapy and we are confident she will succeed with her characteristic determination and good cheer!

Alix Tyler-Hall & Emily Palmer, Class of 2017 are planning to tackle the Great North Run in September to raise funds for [Breast Cancer Now](#). They have [a Just Giving page](#) if you feel able to support two of your fellow Alumni with their fundraising. We will watch out for you on the TV!



Alix Tyler-Hall · 1st
Assistant People and Organisations consultant
23h · 🌐

This year I am running the Great North Run to raise money for Breast Cancer Now.

Breast Cancer Now are an incredible charity who provide life changing support, conduct world class research, and really do make a difference to those impacted by Breast Cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the UK with one woman diagnosed every 10 minutes. Around 55,000 women and 370 men are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in the UK.

I know we are in challenging times, but any donations, no matter how small, would be really appreciated

Thank you!

[#greatnorthrun](#) [#fundraising](#) [#charity](#)

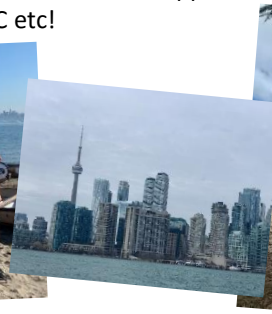
Sam Golzar, Class of 2020 landed a fantastic position as Design Engineer at Komatsu. I’m sure Mr Moore will be in touch...!



Sam Golzar · 1st
2nd year MEng Mechanical Engineer at Newcastle University | UpReach Associate
3d

Congratulate Sam for starting a new position as Design Engineer at Komatsu UK Ltd

Jess Harker, Class of 2019 made us green with envy by sending these photos of her amazing year abroad placement in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia. Jess had lots of opportunities for travel to Hawaii, LA, Niagara Falls, NYC etc!



Due to a national shortage of **exam invigilators**, we were pleased to welcome back **Thomas Milburn, Class of 2020; Isaac Reed & Lauren Usher, Class of 2019** to help us run GCSE and A Level exams this Summer. All were relieved not to be behind the little desks this time and they were able to earn some holiday money. If you would be interested in joining our panel of invigilators and would be available for work November, January and/or May-June, please contact lcraggs@whitburncofeacademy.org



Temp Work
Exam Invigilation

Approx. £10 per hour
November/January/
May-June
Contact:

lcraggs@whitburncofeacademy.org



Alumni News



Success at Whitburn...



Success in Biology Olympiads...

A good number of you will remember volunteering to take part in Science Olympiads. These national competitions allow A level Biology students to test themselves against other exceptional students nationally. Many independent schools enter these so the competition is fierce and you need to be in the top 6% for Gold, the top 15% for Silver, the top 30% for Bronze typically.

Biology Intermediate Olympiad

GOLD

- 2017 James Hardy
- 2018 Jack Hope
- 2019 Henry Robson
- 2022 Alistair Crossbie
- 2022 Ellen Wood

SILVER

- 2019 Jamie McAllister
- 2022 Evic Ruddick

BRONZE

- 2017 Monisha Gupta
- 2019 Alice Casey
- 2019 Beth Fowler
- 2019 Harry Mitchell
- 2021 Grace Woolston
- 2021 Elliot Wright
- 2022 Jamie Ayre
- 2022 Naomi Casey
- 2022 James Harker
- 2022 Emily Young



Students from the **Class of 2023** receive their Biology Olympiad certificates recently as Mr Craggs presents a Gold Award to **Ellen Wood**.

2021 Academic Awards

Sadly, COVID claimed our certificate presentation evening once again but at least this cohort had their Leavers' Do in Newcastle in September. We invited Carl Murta and Ellen Hayes back recently to be presented with awards by previous winners. Ms Dickenson, on behalf of 2020 winner Charlotte Bech presented Carl with the Award for Academic Excellence and Heaven Kalam returned to present Ellen with the Academic Progress Award.

Year 12 students were present to watch these presentations and will no doubt be inspired to strive to achieve the best they can too.



UCAS stats As you can see, *right*, we are edging close to sending our 500th student off to study at uni! Top courses for 2021 Entry were: *Psychology 8; Business Management, History 5.*



HEI	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	
	Placed	Placed	Placed	Placed	Placed	Firm	
Northumbria	6	10	8	20	10	30	84
Newcastle University	7	8	14	16	9	20	74
University of Sunderland	9	11	15	14	5	8	62
Leeds Beckett	7	11	3	1	2	9	33
University of Leeds	4	5	2	4	4	6	25
University of York	1	4	2	2	6	4	19
York St John	2	7		3	1	3	16
Durham University	3	1	1	3	5	2	15
University of Manchester	4	3		1	6	1	15
Manchester Metropolitan	0	1	2	4	2	3	12
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh		2	4	2	1		9
University of Liverpool	1			1	3	3	8
Lancaster University	2	2	1			2	7
University of Nottingham	2	1	1	1	2		7
University of Sheffield		2		3	1	1	7
University of Glasgow	2		1	1	2		6
Nottingham Trent		2		1	2		5
Sheffield Hallam	2			1	1	1	5
University of Cambridge		1	1		1	2	5
Teesside	1	2	1				4
University of Hull	1	2			1		4
Cumbria	1		1	1			3
Edge Hill			1	2			3
Leeds Trinity		1	1	1			3
Newcastle College	1			1		1	3
University of Exeter				1	2		3
Edinburgh Napier			2				2

HEI	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	Entry	
	Placed	Placed	Placed	Placed	Placed	Firm	
Hull-York Medical School			1	1			2
Liverpool Hope			1	1			2
Loughborough	1			1			2
UCFB						2	2
Univ. College London					1	1	2
University of Birmingham	1				1		2
University of Bristol			1	1			2
University of Oxford	1					1	2
University of St Andrews					2	2	2
Cardiff University					1		1
Central Lancashire (UCLAN)							1
City, University of London	1				1		1
Essex		1					1
Imperial College London		1					1
Kingston University					1		1
LSE						1	1
Norwich University of the Arts							1
Reading	1		1				1
Stirling				1			1
Swansea		1					1
University of Derby					1		1
University of Edinburgh	1						1
University of Gloucester					1		1
University of Kent				1			1
University of Leicester					1		1
University of Lincoln				1			1
University of Warwick		1					1
	62	80	65	91	75	103	476

Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



Alumni News

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



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@WhitSixthForm



University Challenge 2022
Our ever-popular SF version of University Challenge saw a very tight finish in the final between the staff team, 'Crowe College' and Mrs Dembele's form, 'Dembele College' with the students ultimately celebrating the win! Mr Gardner once again was a superb Paxman quiz master!



Christmas Quiz 2021
Another highlight of the year is the Christmas Quiz and community events like this help to build memories and add to the enjoyment of what can otherwise be a stressful two years! These events have also brought some 'normality' back following the pandemic.



New Study Pods
We made a large investment in installing study pods in the upstairs study just before Christmas. Despite some initial scepticism, the pods have proved hugely popular with students preparing for finals (Y13) and mocks (Y12). It has improved the study facilities and we hope to see that reflected in student successes!

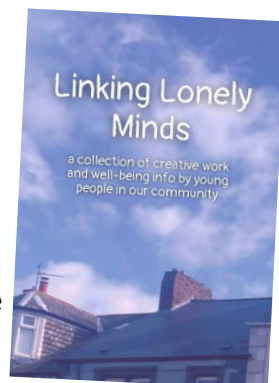


SAIS vs Anti-vaxxers!

The national vaccines programme brought a range of visitors to our doors this year! We had a group of anti-vaxxers in the village leafletting students with some scary information. The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) sent their colourful 'vaccines bus' to give students a chance to catch up on their vaccinations.

Young People's Project with Washington Mind

Megan Atkinson, Year 12 was successfully interviewed and has worked as a loneliness ambassador this year. The project has culminated in an assembly where Megan taught Year 12 about loneliness and strategies to combat it. You may have seen the recent BBC News article about [loneliness in university students](#)? There was also a workshop during PSHE. The project have produced a 'zine', a collection of creative work produced by the young people of South Tyneside to share their experiences of loneliness. The zine is available here: [Linking Lonely Minds | MHZL \(mentalhealthzinelibrary.co.uk\)](#)





DofE Successes A number of Year 12 and 13 students received certificates in assembly in January, whilst some students were able to enjoy a day out with **Mr Sheard** to collect Gold Awards. Seen here are **Eilidh Thomson, Jasmine Elliot & Olivia Wight, Class of 2020**



Whitburn Sixth Form AFC won their league this year giving them an opportunity to play formidable opposition in Durham Johnston in the final which took place on a freezing night at Durham University's sports complex.



Whilst 'the Wizards' were beaten, they put up a spirited display. **Oliver Pallas, Class of 2022** has followed the team writing some brilliant match reports to support his application to study journalism at uni. [Read his report on the final here.](#)

Whilst **Jay Turner Cooke** secured a football contract and did not come to Sixth Form, he would have been **Class of 2022**. The Sunderland fans amongst you may know Jay's Dad John Cooke served SAFC as Kit Man for many years and was unceremoniously 'let go' by the club.

A testimonial match for 'Cookie' was hosted by South Shields FC which saw many North East football legends return to show their support. Mr Craggs caught up with **Simon Ludlow, Class of 2018** at this event. Simon was playing for South Tyneside Ability FC. Simon told us *"I have been involved with the club for nearly a decade by joining the junior team when I was 12 all the way up to the adults after I left secondary school. I have achieved many things with this club winning various tournaments across the country in places such as Bradford, Doncaster and Fleetwood. I've competed in events such as the FA people's cup and came runner up in the UK in a tournament based in Northern Ireland. I am very much thankful for the opportunities this club has given me and providing a space where my short comings in life can be seen as normal. I love playing for this club and want to achieve more in the future."*

Mr Craggs was hugely envious of Simon sharing a pitch with Niall Quinn, Kevin Phillips, Ally McCoist and more!

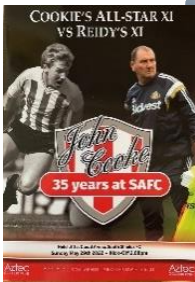
Starting XI

Durham Johnston v Whitburn Wizards

1	JOE ROPER
2	JACK DORWARD
3	CIARAN YOUNG
4	SPENCER HARRISON
5	THEO HUGHES
6	DYLAN BROCK
7	ADAM MILLER
8	ETHAN BISHOP
9	JACK POLLOCK
10	STU SIMPSON
11	BEN GILES

SUBSTITUTION

Kieran Garrick, Josh Davies, Gabe Veater, Ben Craggs



Dom Mallaby, Class of 2017 and **Ben Kennedy, Class of 2021** play for Whitburn CC. They also coach an Under-11 side where they caught up with Mr Craggs whose son was playing for the opposition.





Alumni News

The Back Page!



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Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form



Mrs Townsley (was Miss Yule) replaced Miss McAneny in September 2020 and was married during the October half term. A caricature artist at the evening 'do' drew these portraits of the Sixth Form Team. What do you think?!



Mrs Townsley took this arty shot of our building earlier this year.



World Challenge

- 2018 Malawi
- 2019 Swaziland
- 2020 Cambodia
- 2021 Thailand
- 2022 Nepal
- 2023 Cambodia
- 2024 Borneo

World Challenge Nepal 2022

After two disappointing cancellations, we have a team excitedly completing final preparations to fly off to Nepal. We look forward to bringing you images & news from this next year!

Staff leavers 2022:

- Mr Ellison, ICT & Computing (Promotion – SLT, Our Lady of St Bede School)
- Miss Ford, Office Manager (New role in Primary MAT)
- Mrs L Gray, LSA (New role, Sea View Primary School)

Staff going on maternity leave:

- Ms Dickenson
- Miss Charles
- Mrs Rush



Sixth Form Team, Leavers' Do '21

- Mrs Townsley**
Sixth Form Administrator
- Mr Moore**
Whole School Careers Lead
- Miss Manning**
Sixth Form Pastoral Lead
- Ms Dickenson**
Sixth Form Progress Lead
- Mr Craggs**
Assistant Head Teacher (Head of Sixth Form)



Please opt-in! Under data protection rules, we need your permission to store your email address & send you these bulletins. [Please update your details here](#) and also tell us if you have changed course/ programme/uni/job/apprentice-ship 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 2022



1. Mr Moore
2. Mr Liddle, Mr Mackie



1. Miss Charles
2. Miss Phillipson, Mr Swift
3. Miss Boswell