

Sir Charles Parsons



Students in Year 12 Walker Tech, as part of their PE lessons, have been taking part in a six week dance programme. Holly Irving from Dance City has been working with some of our students on different forms of dance including hip hop, street and contemporary. As part of our links with the other schools in the Trust, students from the Bridges school have been attending these sessions. Students have worked in pairs, in small groups and as a whole group to put together dance performances with moves choreographed by Holly but also by



themselves. At the end of the 6 week programme the students performed a version of Thriller by Michael Jackson which they had worked hard to practise and perfect the complicated moves. Aaron and Tony particularly excelled with the freezing and popping section of the programme. These students have worked extremely hard and have shown great teamwork and confidence with their performances in front of each other and students from the Bridges school. The students involved were Tony, Courtney, Aaron, Amy, Jay, Nicholas, Laura, Lauren and Lauryn. Well done to all involved.



This year the Tyne and Wear Talent ID day was held at

Monkton Stadium. This was a great opportunity for students across the schools to take part and compete in a number of different track and field events.

Many of our students managed to reach the qualifying standards for their event and they will



the next stage which will be the regionals at Gateshead Stadium. 'I was really pleased and

now go to

happy that I

got to go to Monkton Stadium as I really like my running. I was in a group with people from other schools who I didn't know. I was nervous at first but by the end I had made some new friends. Some of the things we did I hadn't tried before like shot putt and javelin but my favourite activity of the day was running. I came 2nd in my race. I was sooooooo happy. I'm looking forward to going to Gateshead Stadium and running again' - Tracey Ann 7G

'I really enjoyed my day at Monkton Stadium, I liked long jump and running. We had lots of fun on the bus on the way back to school too.

- Dean Clayton 75

I felt excited going to the stadium because it was somewhere new and because I love doing sports. I had never done

high jump before and I was really pleased I was able to get over the bar. I enjoyed being with some new friends too. I am looking forward to going to



Gateshead Stadium. - Brandon Slater 7G





On Monday 29th February, students walked through Sir Charles Parsons School doors full of excitement as well as trepidation. Today

they would be heading off on their eagerly anticipated trip to Poland, many students flying for the very first time.

After arriving at Newcastle airport at about 10.30 everyone checked in for their flight, handed

over their luggage and walked through security. Next stop was 'Burger King', which Josh loved. He said "It was

delicious. I



liked having something to eat before going on the plane because when I walked on I felt scared. I knew the plane was going to go very high and I was worried I would miss my family. When it started to move I felt happy because it was like being in a really fast race car."

In what seemed like no time the plane had landed in Poland and we got a bus to the hotel. When we arrived we had a good look around and found a play room and a room to watch DVDs with beanbags.

We also got to meet our skiing instructor.

Dom, who would teach us how to ski over the next three days. Torigul said "I really

liked the hotel



and my room. We got to keep our own keys which was a responsible thing to do".

After unpacking our cases we had to collect our ski stuff before heading to the slopes where our skiing instructors, Dom and Chris, showed us how to do the snow plough, which has now been (cont.) renamed as the "pizza shape" courtesy of Sam! Each night after our skiing sessions we could choose



what we wanted to do at the hotel, like swimming in the hotel pool or using the jacuzzi. One night we went on a sleigh ride pulled by horses which was Adam's best memory of the trip. He said "On the night time I liked getting sausages when we were on the horses. The horses dropped us off and we cooked sausages and danced around the bonfire." On the final evening we went to Zackapone city centre to spend our money on souvenirs. We then went to a restaurant for our

evening meal. Justin said "I really liked it when we were having the meal because there was a band playing while we



were eating." After this we went back to our hotel.

Before we knew it Friday was here and it was time to head home. Torigul said "I have had a brilliant time. The best thing has been learning to ski by myself. I loved it." Adam said "Chris helped me to get to the top of the mountain to come all the way back down on my skis. It made me really happy." After packing all of our bags we said goodbye to Dom, our fantastic ski instructor. We

all arrived back in Newcastle safe but tired with lots of happy memories of an experience we'll never forget.

Sir Charles Parsons School

# AUBAIR III (NAVOL) BLAVALAIROOKSIA



Almost all of our year 11 students took part in the annual Hawkhirst trip in March. Anthony, Kye and Jordan from 11B give us their take on the visit... 'When we arrived

and after taking our bags in and making our beds we went straight for dinner before doing our first activity. It was very cold and we had to put waterproofs on as we were going bell boating which is like two canoes joined together. It was hard work using the paddles and when we stopped paddling, because we were so tired, an instructor had to give us a push in his speedboat! We got into trouble for splashing Fiona and Mrs Bryan but we thought it was funny! After we dried off we had hot chocolate in the lodge and chilled before having tea. The food was nice and we were allowed seconds. We went for a walk after tea and had to

use torches as it was so dark which was a good laugh. The next day our group climbed a big tower and abseiled down from it, we gave each other lots of encouragement



and the staff said we had worked well as a team. Next we did the best bit which was a giant zip wire through the trees, Jordan said he would like to do it in the dark but nobody else fancied that. The other group had been team building and doing archery and said it was really good. Everyone behaved sensibly on the trip and the staff said they were very proud of us. The last thing we did was building camps in the forest. The instructors built a fire and made camp donuts which were lush. They tested our camps by throwing water on them to test if they were waterproof, ours wasn't and we got soaked! Everyone had a great time and we are all glad that we went. Jordan said he would go back as "it was good to see Mr. Browell smile for a change!" Anthony said "it was a frisk" and Kye said he "liked the girl instructor and she made the trip even better!"

## A Letter from the Head!

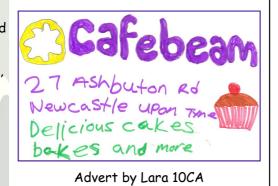


It's hard to believe that the Spring Term is over already. It seems no time at all since we were saying goodbye to Mr Sharing and wishing him well in his retirement. Lots have happened since then and there is lots of information in this newsletter about the residential visits and the events that students have been involved in - there is also information about what Mr Sharing has been up to this term too! There have been big steps forward this term in fundraising for the school with the event in memory of Jake, the setting up of the Friends of Sir Charles Parsons group and all our usual fundraising activities. Thank you to everyone who has been involved. Your efforts make a huge difference to the students, without your support we wouldn't be able to offer the experiences and opportunities that mean so much to the students.

Thank you to everyone - staff, students, parents, carers, governors and friends of the school for the support you have given me in my first term as Acting Head Teacher. It's been an exciting term for me, lots to learn and lots of new experiences.

I hope you all have a happy Easter.

Karen Hamilton Acting Head Teacher



COMPASS



uary students from Sir At the beginning of March, students from all Charles Parsons, Thomas Bewick and Newcasfour Compass Trust Schools came to Sir tle Bridges schools all travelled to Hadrian to join Charles Parsons for a Friendship Thursday in a football skills and tournament event. The morning. We had a choice of activities to teams were given some coaching and skills enjoy together and everyone had a great time. practice from The atmosphere was very good and everyone Graeme Doyle worked in groups mixed up between the of Star different schools.



Strike Soccer. Then after some well-deserved refreshments each team played a round robin of



matches every school playing matches against all of the other teams. Everyone had a great time,

we enjoyed the football and Graeme was an excellent coach, but also enjoyed spending time with friends from other schools. During the morning Paula Gascoigne from Smile for Life joined us to receive a cheque from the students for £89.12 which was raised by students from all four trust schools working together at the first trust student's council coffee morning in December.



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# The Compass Trust

# Student Events

### Football Skills On Thursday 21st Jan- Friendship Thursdays

Some students had a bake off competition and tried make the largest chocolate nest they could.



Another group made paper plate Easter chicks, while one group followed an Easter egg trail and had to answer quiz questions as they went. The last group played some Minecraft and



worked together to build a village.

The next Friendship Thursday will be on the 16th May at Thomas Bewick School.



During whole school assemblies we

now have a regular slot to practice

our MAKATON signing and to learn

new signs. MAKATON signing is

language - signs are used to help

communicate. Signs are used, with

signs can help our students who

understanding of conversations

(signing key words) as well as an

our students who have a hearing

use signing as a key to enhance

essential tool to communicate with

impairment. All staff at our school

learning. Students are encouraged

to learn and use signs so they can

a common medium. As well as this, the physical action of signing

keywords can often aid students to

If any parents, carers or friends of

more about MAKATON and may be

sessions in school, please leave your

details with the school office and

opportunities. Here are the signs

doctor

good afternoon

ill

we will contact you with future

we are learning at the moment.

good morning

happy

our school would like to find out

interested in attending training

recall key learning facts.

communicate with their peers using

speech, in spoken word order. Using

have no speech or whose speech is

designed to support spoken

some of our students to

unclear, to support the

#### 'An Evening for Jake'

Family friends of the late Jake Farley have been fundraising for new specialised sensory play equipment which will be donated in Jake's name.

In February 'An Evening for Jake' was held at Chirton Club. It was extremely successful and through ticket sales, raffles, and collections a staggering £3560 was raised.

Since then John and Paul (the friends leading the fundraising) have donated a further £420.58 on behalf of The Sportsman Pub in North Shields and collections from other family friends.



# SAVIE THE DATE

Our annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Saturday 25th June this year.

The walk begins at St. Mary's Lighthouse in Whitley Bay and follows the coastline along to Tynemouth where the walk ends with a buffet lunch at The Cumberland Arms in Tynemouth.

The walk is open to all families, staff, friends and dogs! Details of sponsorship forms etc. will be sent out in the new term.

Thank You to all Parents, carers and friends who supported our

## Easter Coffee Morning

We raised a fantastic £956.30 which will be used to part fund indoor and outdoor sensory play equipment

The St Oswald's 'Donation Station' in school has now raised over £1,500 purely through donations of old clothes. Jordan regularly visits St Oswald's and says: "I like going to stay at St Oswald's because I like the staff and I like cooking stuff. I go in every month and really look forward to it."

# st **oswald's**





#### In our history lessons

year 7 have been learning about the Romans, who lived 2000 years ago! On Wednesday 16th March we went to Segedunum Roman Fort in Wallsend, Did you know Wallsend is named so because it is where Hadrian's

Wall ended? When we

arrived we looked at



Amy tries on a 'poor Roman ladies coat'

all of the Roman artefacts that archaeologists have dug up. There were things like money, jewellery, pots and bones. We could try on soldiers clothing, a Roman toga and a poor Roman's coat. There were activities like building things the roman way like a bridge and using a pulley system to move large rocks. We looked at a big model of what Segedunum fort used to look like and could see that there used to be a



Why do we need parents, carers and friends of **Birds Eye View!** our school to be involved? Any involvement would hospital, bath house, toilets and barracks to be greatly appreciated and received to help in the live in. We had a go at some brass rubbing and organisation of events and to raise the profile of made pictures of Roman soldiers. Next we had a our school. Those who volunteer help to ensure the walk around outside and we saw where the fort success of fundraising events by spreading the had been and could read information from word and being actively involved in decision making. notices about each bit. When we went back What would they need to do? They would help out inside we took the lift to the viewing platform at events, contribute to meetings and help to for a birds eye view of Segedunum. decide which fund raising activities to proceed with We all enjoyed the morning and learned lots as well as providing input into any new fun ways to more about the romans. Our favourite bits were raise money. Attendance to meetings is not dressing up and using the pulleys. essential but welcomed as any ideas can also be By class 7M

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A catch up with

Mr Sharing!

What has Mr Sharing done since he retired?



He has had a holiday in a cabin in the woods. Unfortunately, he got lost in the forest taking his dog Bertie for a walk at night. It took ages for him to find his way back. Laura, his wife, was very, very cross. She was about to send people out to find him just as he got back!

He has watched his football team - the mighty Boro - lots of times. This is not always fun. He drove

down to a place called Rotherham in Yorkshire. This took him over two hours to get there and over four hours to drive back. His team got beaten 1 - 0 and he got a puncture in one of his car tyres on the way back.

He has enjoyed his hobby of bird watching. He has seen some unusual birds including a bird called a Long-billed Dowitcher. This bird has flown all the way to Northumberland from North America! After Easter he is going back to school to learn how to cook vegetarian meals. He hopes his teacher is as good as Mrs Chalder-Wood.

Mr Sharing has told us he misses all the students loads and has said he would love to visit you all after Easter if that is 'ok' with you.



What does PTA stand for? Parent Teachers Association What does a PTA do? They aim to raise money to help

the school provide extra resources for the students.

#### Students in Walker Technology College have completed their latest work experience placements

Daniel completed his work experience placement at Royston Ltd, on Walker Riverside. Daniel said: "The company fix parts of engines for ships and tug boats, like fuel pumps and pistons. The company is made up of lots of engineers who get the engines, take them apart, clean them and then put them back, together fixed. When I was on work experience there I had to do lots of different jobs. For example testing the fuel pumps, putting oil through to see if they worked ok. I was also fitting liners into engine blocks. I worked with three different groups of people over the week in different areas. We had a break in the morning, then lunch, then a break in the afternoon too. There was a canteen area where we could sit with newspapers and have a drink of pop. People were friendly and very helpful. My favourite bit of the whole week was getting to do the work because I enjoyed learning new skills."



Nicholas and Sajo's work experience took place in Walker Technology College's kitchen. Sajo said "My jobs included filling the dishwasher, chopping vegetables, and taking food through to the café."

Jay Roe completed his work experience placement at Monkchester Nursery in Walker. Jay says "It was really good working at the nursery. I had to play with the kids with dinosaurs. They enjoyed it went I made dinosaur noises, they kept laughing. I also had to do some crafts because it was near mother's day. We were making cards with the children and the glue went everywhere, on the floor and on me. It was pretty funny.

At break times I went outside with the kids. We played hide and seek and ball games. Also I helped some of them down the slide because they were too scared.

At 12.30 it was lunchtime. The kids went home because they were tired and I went for lunch in the staff room. After lunch some new kids came for the afternoon session and then we had to do everything all over again.

I loved all of my work experience."



Tony went to Newburn Leisure Centre for his work experience. Tony said "I enjoyed cycling to work and back everyday. I had

to set equipment up

and help to keep

areas clean."

was great getting to be with Trevor & Nikki again helping all of the students."

Aaron enjoyed

returning to Sir

Charles Parsons to

complete his work

experience with a

year 7 class. "It

#### Project Choice



It's always great to see old students come back into school and let us know what they are up to as young adults. Jack came in to attend a work placement presentation this month as he is now attending Gateshead College and is

preparing for a 'Project Choice' internship. Jack is hoping that it will lead on to paid employment. Other ex-students who followed this path were Jake and Sean who attended supported work experience placements and then 'Project Choice' internships. This helped them to get paid jobs as they now work in the Freeman and RVI Hospitals. Five more students will be following this path on internships when they leave our shared 6<sup>th</sup> form at Walker Technology College this year. Paige also came into school this month. She attended GCSE art lessons in Kenton School twice a week while she was a student with us and also a graphic art work placement when she was in year 11. She is now completing a foundation art degree at Newcastle College. She also has a part-time job in a clothes store in the city centre!



During Enrichment Programme students from year 11 have been learning about Indian culture with Mrs Haq. They have had the opportunity to compare similarities and differences between foods from Indian and English cultures. This involved exploring a range of foods from India through taste, touch and smell—describing flavours and textures as they were eaten.

The cultural experience started with a visit to M.A Brothers, an Asian grocery store in the West End of Newcastle. Through exploring the range of Asian foods available the students decided they wanted to learn how to make an authentic Indian chicken curry and thus embarked on a culinary adventure- from shopping for the ingredients, preparing them, cooking them before



enjoying eating it with their peers. One of the areas that the students explored was

the use of

readymade

sitting and

curry sauces in jars used in England vs the homemade ones using fresh ingredients. They collaboratively worked with staff to create their perfect chicken curry with Anthony taking pride in putting the finishing touch to any decent curry- the chopped coriander garnished over the top. The spicy aromas of the student's cooking could be smelt throughout the school in true 'Bisto' style...Aaaaah!

All of the students sat together and ate the curry with freshly oven warmed naan bread. One student, Melissa, who was at first unsure of tasting the curry, actually finished off everything in her bowl saying "It was nice and not too spicy".

The students were actually very surprised at how different they were in taste! The students preferred the taste of the freshly made curry sauce describing it a 'delicious'. This was also evident as all of them asked for seconds, scooping up every bit of curry left in their bowls with the naan bread. Jordan from 11B even asked if he could take his share of curry home as his dad loves curry!! Three weeks on, and the experience is still fresh in their minds with students recalling every step of the recipe and the rich taste that they savoured so much. The cooking aspect of the culture lessons have not only been a big hit with the students, but also the staff as a few of them have also tried to make the chicken curry at home.

So, we have managed to persuade Mrs Haq to share this delicious recipe so even more people can have a go!

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A. S.	Mrs Haq's Secret Chicken Curry Recipe
See. F	Ingredients
1	∽ 500g boneless chicken breast- cut in small
-	pieces
1	> 3 onions- finely chopped
Part of	→ 3 tomatoes- finely chopped
	S tablespoons vegetable oil
1	🔧 1 tablespoon (or cube) pureed ginger
	>> 1 tablespoon (or cube) pureed garlic
12000	the second seco
	> 2-3 finely chopped green chillies
	∽ 1 green bell pepper- cut into small pieces
	Spices:
	∽ 1/4 teaspoon salt
2000	📏 pinch teaspoon turmeric powder
	> 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
	── 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
1000	1/2teaspoon coriander powder

🤟 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder

#### Method

Fry the onions with the oil in a large pan until golden brown

Add garlic and ginger and sauté for a few minutes

Next, add the tomatoes, green chillies and spices and cook on a low heat, stirring occasionally to prevent the sauce



sticking to the pan (approx. 10 minutes) Add the chicken and cook on a high heat for 10-15 minutes, stirring when needed. Cover and cook on a low heat for a further 15 minutes or until chicken is cooked (the oil rises to the top of the curry)

Then, add the peppers and coriander (save a little coriander for the garnish) and cover and cook for a further 10 minutes

Finally, put the curry in a Balti dish, garnished with chopped coriander and serve with oven warmed naan bread.

## Lots of leftovers? Why not turn them into a curry?

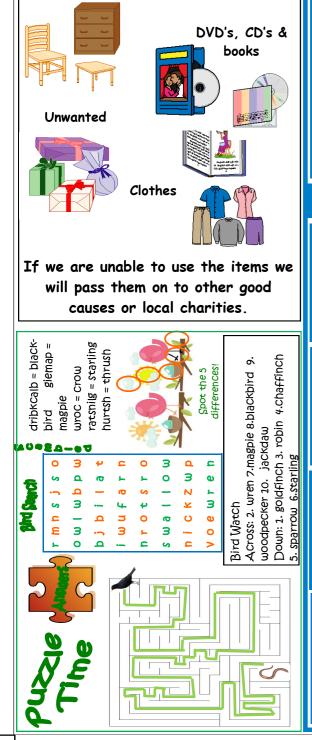
What better way to spice up leftovers by turning them into a delicious curry! Leftovers from meat or a chicken vegetables can be quickly and easily turned into a delicious curry. Simply soften an onion in oil and then add shredded cooked meat or veg. followed by ginger, garlic and spices. To make the curry go further, why not add a tin of chopped tomatoes? Simmer the curry until it's rich, thick and delicious before serving with rice and flatbreads. Don't forget that pulses such as lentils or chickpeas are useful for adding bulk to a curry and work well either on their own or with a combination of other ingredients.



We would like to collect and raise money from the following items. If you have any of the things below we would love you to send them into school for us to upcycle or recycle as part of our fundraising challenge.

(If that isn't possible because your items are too big to carry on your child's transport, let us know and we can arrange collection - 0191 2952280)

Small pieces of solid wooden furniture





## 6G Make **Bird Kebabs**

Students in 6G have recently made 'Bird Kebabs' -no, not kebabs made out of birds we are talking about super tasty bird treats! We have hung ours in the trees outside of the classroom window so we can watch which birds come to snack, so far we have spotted magpies and a robin. Why not make one to hang in the garden at home?

#### You will need: Gather the ingredients you're planning to put on your kebabs, we used apple, banana, bread, raisins dried cranberries and dried apricot and hard cheese. Choose food that will be good for birds. You'll also need floral wire and string.



#### Steps:

Cut apples, bananas and cheese into ice cube-sized pieces. Tear the bread into quarters.

Carefully thread each piece onto the wire, leaving about 8cm at either end.



Bend the ends of the wire into circles and thread the string through before tying to make a loop to hang the kebabs.



Choose a good spot to hang the kebab from to give our birds a tasty treat!



# VYORIAD VYAVR 100

Year 9 students have been learning about World War II during history lessons including what it would have been like to live during this period. In January they had the opportunity to visit to the Victoria Tunnel. The Victoria Tunnel runs beneath the city from the Town Moor down to the Tyne. It was built in 1842 to transport coal from Spital Tongues (Leazes Main) colliery to the riverside ready for loading onto ships. In 1939, it was converted into an air-raid shelter to protect hundreds of Newcastle citizens during World War II. It now has its only entrance at the Ouseburn, Byker.

## THE VICTOBIA TUNNEL



'A little bit scary!'

To try and support with our work in school we ask Alex, 9W said 'We were met by two guides and that parents are more vigilant with their young we had to wear helmets which had lights on to people. As well as this, frequent open and honest protect our heads . It was dark and cold in the conversations about social media and communication tunnel and I saw a bunk bed made of wood that apps with young people is more likely to lead to people had to sleep on during the Blitz. I could them disclosing issues that they may be concerned hear an air raid warning noise and later the about. We would also ask that you make yourself sound of a train and at that point I felt a little familiar with how to screenshot content on your bit scared. I think the people who had to go to young person's phone. Many apps such as Oovoo now the shelter during the war would have been very allow users to delete content so that no further scared and upset and it must have been crowded action can be taken. Using the screen shot function and uncomfortable for them. ' allows you to record inappropriate materials and David, 9G said 'When I got to the tunnel I was pass it on to the relevant organisations, whether given a hat and a flashlight because it was very you feel that is school, CEOP (Child Exploitation dark and damp in there. The guides told us and Online Protection Centre) , or the police. about why people had to go in there to keep The following link http://tinyurl.com/zcj4vr6, will safe during the war. I saw beds and benches allow you to access step-by-step guides explaining that were there because some people had to how to 'screen shot' on a range of mobile devices. stay in there for a long time. I can remember As well as this, extensive materials are available there was a wall called the 'Blast Wall' that kept for a range of groups, including parents, at everyone safe. I was a little bit nervous when

we had to turn off our torches and lights for a minute and we heard an air raid siren so we could feel what it would have been like to live during World War II.'



#### A Message for Parents & Carers

Whilst the holidays provide the students with a break from school, it also

means that they will inevitably be missing their friends from different parts of the city over the next two weeks. Many students will turn to social media, which is extremely powerful in allowing students to 'keep in touch'. However as I'm sure most of you are aware, this poses very real risks to vulnerable people.

All students in school receive 'E-Safety' education through computing lessons and in pastoral sessions. Over the years the focus of these lessons has changed. Initially students needed a high level of support to consider their interactions with friends and peers online, to ensuring they were respectful. While this is still an important focus, a

considerable amount of time is now taken to make students aware of the dangers of conversing with 'strangers'.

In recent weeks there have been a number of incidents which have been on a chat and messaging application called 'Oovoo'. Again the students have been made aware of the potential risks, with it being regularly used as a way to groom young people and encourage vulnerable people to engage in 'sexting' activity.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk. As always, you are welcome to contact Jo Anderson at school for further support in dealing with any issues.





