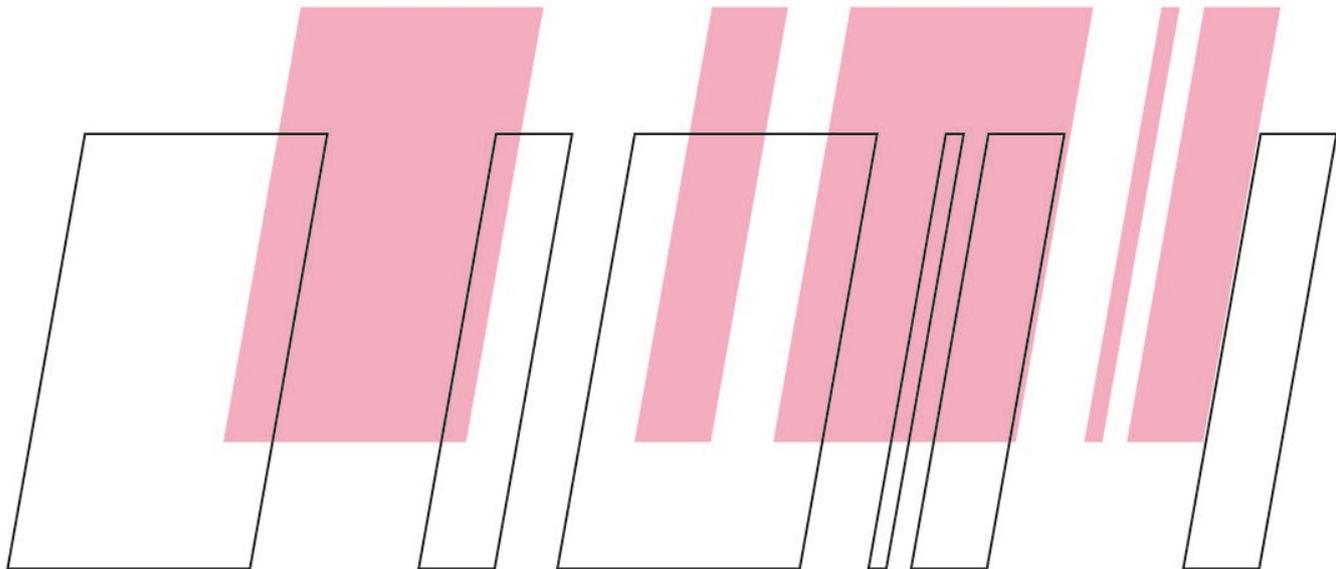


Sixth Form, ELC, Sport & Uniformed Services

Newsletter February 2022



FIND YOUR NEW

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A Levels

Post-16 Work Experience Programme

Durham University Library and Collections are offering a virtual work experience opportunity for Sixth Form students who are interested in learning more about the heritage sector. They will be able to work with the Curatorial Team, Archives and Special Collections Team, Conservation Team, Visitor Services Team and the Learning and Engagement Team.

The work experience programme is based at the [visitor attraction](#) venues; the [Oriental Museum](#), [Museum of Archaeology](#), [Palace Green Library](#) and [Durham Castle](#).

The aim of the work experience is to offer an insight into the careers and opportunities available within the heritage sector, while giving you the chance to contribute to the delivery and development of their services.

The three day online work experience will focus upon curatorial work, archives, conservation, learning and engagement activities with collections. The event takes place during half term 22- 24 February.

The opportunity was open to post 16 pupils across the UK and there were only 30 places available .We are delighted that four New College Durham AS History and Classics students have been selected to take part in this exciting opportunity.

There is also the possibility that they can take part in a five-day onsite event in July!!!

The students involved are:

Olivia Shaw

Alannah Wheatley

Matthew Brown

Harold Rosales



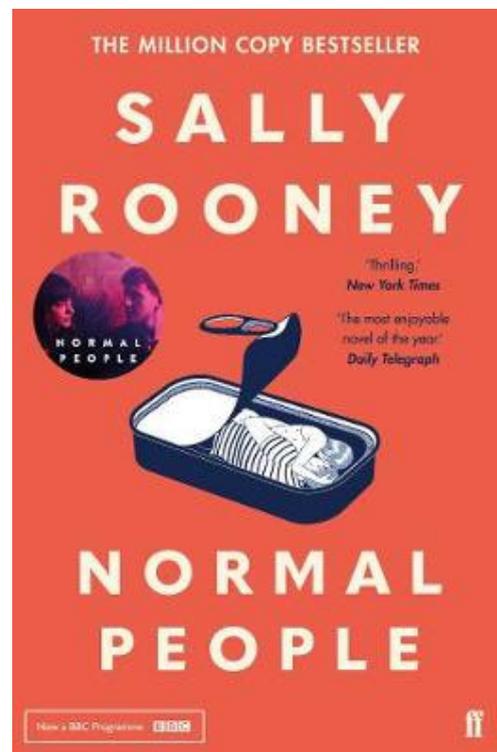
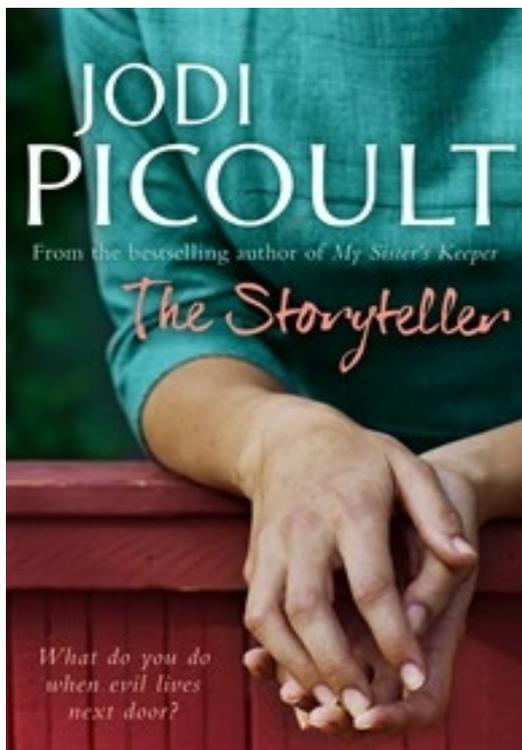
A Levels

Reading for Pleasure

In the Sixth Form Centre we are keen to create a culture of reading among our students by providing opportunities for students and teachers to engage in conversations and activities around reading.

English Literature students have been involved in a 'Book of the Month' initiative. Students are encouraged to read for pleasure and are offered opportunities in lessons to share what they are currently reading. Since the start of this academic year students have also submitted suggestions for the 'Book of the Month' and written a short synopsis of their chosen book. We have displayed posters around the sixth form classrooms, corridors, and study rooms; the book is also shared on class Teams pages for students to like, comment and share their thoughts on the selection.

We intend to develop this by filling a jar with tiny copies of these books; this will be used to allow students to select their next book to read and for discussion purposes to develop oracy skills. In the study area we intend to ask for staff book donations and these books will be wrapped in brown paper with teaser sentences create by our Literature students to invite students and staff to try something new to read. We hope this will pass on a culture of reading from student to student.



English Language Centre

Wurtu Mohammed Abaker – A Student Case Study



This is Wurtu from Darfur, in western Sudan. His first language is Fur which is a spoken language with no written form. Wurtu never had the chance to go to school, and at the age of 15, he was forced to leave his home and make the dangerous journey to Europe alone. He suffered unspeakable horrors on this journey, but finally arrived in Durham in 2019.

He started at absolute zero, with no written language of any kind; no spoken language and no experience of being in education. He looked shellshocked when he came in for an assessment. He was living in supported lodgings with an older gentleman, which did wonders for his spoken language but tragedy struck and his supported lodgings provider passed away from COVID during the first lock down, when we were unable to be there to support Wurtu.

But this is a tale of resilience and hope. Despite all of the hardships he has suffered, Wurtu has found his feet and is thriving in college. He says he feels happy to be at New College and it has helped him with his language a lot. He recalls his early days here with a smile. ‘I had no language,’ he says.

2 years after starting, he is a confident young man, able to express himself very well and happy to go and talk to anyone. He has fully embraced everything that New College offers. He loves everything about the college. He says, ‘The best thing is that the people are all so friendly.’ He will tell you that in the future he wants to be a mechanic or a journalist, and for the first time in a very long time, his future looks bright.

We are immensely proud of how far he has come despite all of the setbacks he has had in his life.

Sport

Sport Enrichment Trip

Sports student got to relax and compete against their classmates at the New Angry Birds Adventure Golf Course. All students said it was a great experience which they would never forget.

The sports students played their way around the course, which was full of obstacles and challenges, and explored locations seen in The Angry Birds Movie. Josh and Cobi even had time for a photo with Leonard the Pig.

John Richardson Sport Lecturer 'It's great to have these reward trips for our students, they have been working hard on their studies and deserve some fun.'

Joel Tallentire 'I really enjoyed being with my classmates, we haven't had the opportunity to do anything like this for ages due to lockdown.'



Sport

Mental Health Matters

New College Durham students had the opportunity to attend a 'If You Care Share' workshop and listen to some of the personal stories shared by the tutors. The aim of the workshop was to encourage people to share their problems instead of burying them within. It discussed emotional Wellbeing and gave students the tools for building resilience for their future.

John Richardson Futureme ' It's great to see these workshops happening in college, a lot of the time our students only focus on their physical health. This workshop showed them mental health is just as important'.

Barry Poskett ' Thanks to the 'If You Care Share Team' for coming into college, it was great for our students to hear real stories and look at the importance of good mental health'



Uniformed Services

RAF Presentation

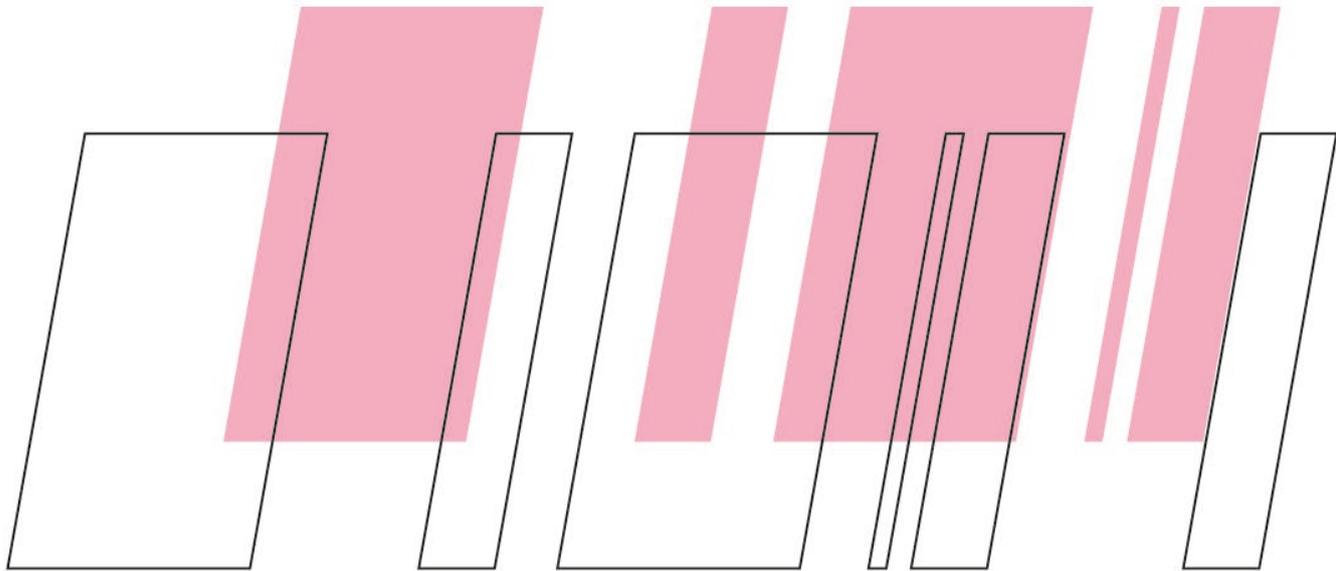
On Tuesday 14 December 2021, Sgt Gemma Kimble from the Royal Air Force Careers Office gave members of the Uniformed Services a presentation on careers within the Royal Air Force, explaining the process of applying, selection, and training. This was done over two sessions to ensure that all the students from Levels 1, 2 and Level 3 Diplomas were able to attend. She gave an overview of the RAF in general, where in the world they are operating, Bases, and training locations, and she covered all areas from enlisting as a basic Airman to Officer selection, opportunities, money and benefits, travel, and qualifications they will gain after they completed basic training.

As some of the US students are looking at joining the RAF once they have finished college and this was a great insight into the career that they would be doing. Talking about the different roles within the RAF, she explained how the course and modules they are undertaking in college will stand them in good stead for each job role, and how they will benefit from it.

There were some very good questions asked by the students with regards to opportunities, Career progression and which other qualifications could be gained while serving. Differences between the Air and ground roles and what types of weapons, equipment and aircraft are used for different roles, and it was good to hear that some were thinking about a career change as they were not aware of the various roles within the RAF.

Overall, both presentations went very well, and some very good feedback from the students from all levels. Sgt Kimble is keen to work with the college, and in the new year, we will be hoping to organize other activities with her and her team.





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