



A day on campus at Lancaster University

Our Year 12 Sixth Form students, together with Year 11 students who want to stay on for Dallam Sixth Form, visited Lancaster University for a specially designed day to give our students a preview of university life, information and advice on the university application process and things to think about when choosing courses and universities. There was also a session on interview and presentation skills, useful for all students, not just those looking to go onto university. The information sessions were delivered in the university lecture theatres, giving our students a taster of how different lectures are to school and sixth form lessons in classrooms.

There's no better way to find out what university is like than speaking to undergraduate students who are experiencing it now. Parents and carers may have had university experience, but with technological and social changes, their experience will differ to what current students will have. On the visit our students got the chance to chat and tour the campus with Lancaster University's Student Ambassadors giving them an honest perspective and valuable food for thought.

“Following the 'Writing a successful personal statement' lecture, I feel much more confident for when the time comes to writing my own.”

Patrick Baines, Year 12



Deadlines approaching!!

- **Year 9s** have until Friday 11 Feb to submit their GCSE Options choices – [click here for information and the Options form.](#)
- **Year 11s** also have a deadline on Friday 11 Feb for submitting their subject preferences for their Sixth Form application – [click here for more information and the submission form.](#)

Settling back in and getting out and about at boarding

It was great to welcome our students back after a well-earned Christmas break. Feeling refreshed and energised for the new term, the students soon settled back into their routines as our boarding houseparents organised an exciting array of activities for them. Two new members of staff joined the boarding team; Mr and Mrs Nette quickly found their feet and slotted in perfectly.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the ice skating, bowling and pole-fitness trips had to be postponed until later in the year. We were also hoping to go and see Dallam's very own Mr Henneberry, Head of Sixth Form starring as the pantomime dame in the Storth Entertainers *Dick Whittington* panto, but again this outing had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Despite these cancellations, our students have shown incredible maturity and understanding during these frustrating times.

Thankfully, we have been able to squeeze in some trips. One very busy weekend saw a foodie Friday night trip to Lancaster for the seniors, a bouncy Saturday trip to a trampoline park and a wet and wild trip to Sandcastle Waterpark on Sunday!

On the final weekend before the half term break, the whole house travelled to Manchester to celebrate Chinese New Year! Students had the opportunity to explore the bustling city centre whilst taking in the fantastic scenery and culture of its Chinatown, one of the largest outside of China!

In amongst the weekend trips, weekday activities have been as pivotal as ever, encouraging teamwork and developing life skills. Volleyball is always popular with Coniston House narrowly beating Windermere House in the inter-house tournament. Students have been baking every week and preparation for the Easter concert has also begun.



We offer breakfast, after-school, part-week and weekly boarding options – [find out more](#)

Visible Governance in schools

FOCUS on.... Dallam School Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Performance and Evaluation sub-committee

The Dallam School LAC has got two sub-committees – *Safeguarding* and *Performance and Evaluation*. In this issue, we'd like to tell you a bit more about the work of our Performance and Evaluation sub-committee.

How often does it meet?

The committee meets on at least a termly basis.

Who is on the committee?

- David Grecic – Chair of the sub-committee
- Alan Gerrard – Chair of the LAC
- Morag Knight – Vice Chair of the LAC
- Enid Fraser – Chair of the South Westmorland Multi-Academy Trust (SWMAT)
- Deb Park – Parent LAC Member
- Chris Gates – Community LAC Member
- Ms Williams, Mr Fuller and members of the Senior Leadership Team – school representatives
- Heads of Faculties also attend on a rolling basis.

A bit more about the Chair of this committee...

David Grecic is also one of our Community LAC members. David's children, Benjamin and Lucy attend Dallam. David works at UCLAN as Head of Research and Innovation for the School of Sport and Health Sciences, and he's the Director of the Institute for Coaching and Performance. He also volunteers as a sports coach and mentor in golf, football as well as rugby union and league, and some of you may know him well from this.

What does the committee do?

The committee ensures school standards in relation to pupils' progress, attendance, academic performance, behaviour and curricular provision are closely monitored and continually improved. David then reports back at full LAC meetings. The Board of Trustees of the South Westmorland Multi-Academy Trust also oversees the committee's work.

“Our committee acts as a critical friend to the leadership team. It provides an open forum to check and challenge the school's performance and the improvement strategies that are put in place. Pupil achievement is at the centre of all our discussions and our drive is to ensure that every person in our school community has the support they need and the opportunity to succeed.” - David Grecic

For more information about how governance works within the SWMAT and Dallam School, including a structure diagram to see where the sub-committees sit – [please click here](#)

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Thank you.





“

**One of my children
declared the holiday
club 1000/10!**

”

Book Easter and summer holiday adventure camps at Dallam

For ages 5-14. Wrap around care available.

[Book your space now](#)

Don't let the children be the only ones staying active this spring, remember Dallam's sports centre has a great value gym for only £10 per month and lots of Pay and Play sports for only £5 per hour. [Click here for details.](#)

Get to know us

Each newsletter we invite a member of the Dallam team to tell us a bit more about themselves. This time we meet Mr Parker who joined us in January.



Mr Parker, Head of Creative Arts

Q1 – How long have you been teaching?

It only feels like I qualified as a teacher about two years ago, but remarkably, this is my fourteenth year(!). I knew I wanted to teach long before I left school myself, and went straight to university and then to complete a PGCE.

Q2 – What do you like doing when you're not lesson-planning and marking?

I enjoy going for walks and I really like running. Last October, I completed the London Marathon running for Lancaster Grand Theatre. I was quite proud of myself!

Q3 - Give us a favourite fact or quote about your subject?

After they had finished recording their song *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the managers of Queen said that the song would never be a hit; they thought no one would understand the track and, at six minutes, was too long to be played on the radio. A friend of the band, DJ Kenny Everett, stole an early copy of the record and played it continuously on his radio show for a weekend. The rest, as they say, is history...

Q4 - Did you have a job when you were a teenager? If so, what was it?

I worked for a 'Wacky Warehouse'-type company called Rumble Tumble. Each Saturday and Sunday I would organise and run birthday parties for children aged 1-12 years old. It was a great place with a huge ball pool and a vertical slide. Good times.

Q5 - What's your favourite book or film?

It's difficult to pinpoint one particular film, but amongst my favourites are any of the *Indiana Jones* films, *Home Alone*, and even some classic black and white films from days gone by. I quite enjoy a Norman Wisdom film or two!

Flexing maths skills



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

UKMT Challenge

8M1 and 8H1 took part in the *UKMT's 25th Anniversary Maths Challenge*.

The Challenge was designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Well done to everyone who took part, especially Martha Johnson, Blake Walmsley, Orla Myers and Oscar Barron who achieved the highest scores.

And now for your challenge...



As a bit of fun, our Year 7 and 8s are set a weekly maths puzzle. It is published every Monday morning and students have until the end of Friday to submit their answer via Teams. Encourage your Year 7 and 8 children to take part. Here's a puzzle for you try...

In the calculation below, K, L, M, N and P each denote a single digit.

Find K, L, M, N and P.

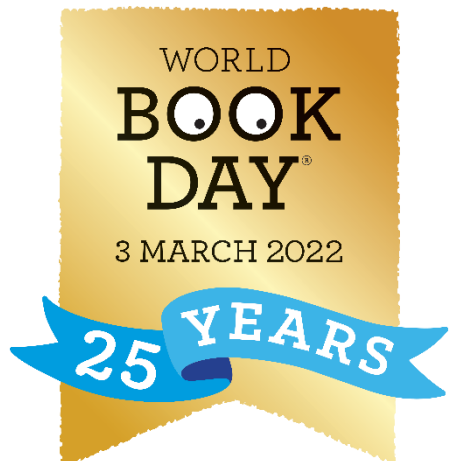
$$\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ \times \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$

Boosting reading potential

Half term fun

Extreme Reading Challenge

Over half term, we'd like our students to be captured reading in interesting and creative places. This is a whole-school competition and winners will be announced on World Book Day. Prizes to be won!



Happy Valentine's Day everyone

We're encouraging all students to have a blind date with a book from the library. A selection of books have been gift-wrapped for students to enjoy, but as with blind dates, they can't judge the book by its cover!

Upcoming events

12-15 Feb	Year 11 history trip to Berlin
14-18 Feb	Half term break, return to school 21 Feb (Week B)
3-14 March	Year 13 mock exams (in class)
4 March	A Level Drama and theatre students trip to Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester
4 March	Year 12 British Physics Olympiad
7 March	Tom Palmer, author visit for Year 9
8 March	GCSE Drama students trip to Manchester Opera House
10 March	Year 12 parents evening
11 March	Year 11 British Physics Olympiad
11-20 March	Years 7-9 British Science Week activities
14-28 March	Year 11 mock exams (at Heversham site)
24 March	Year 8 parents evening
1 April	End of spring term. School ends normal time – 3:15pm
4-20 April	Easter holidays
21 April	Start of summer term (Week B)

New extra-curricular clubs added!

Dallam now offers over 40 extra-curricular clubs for students to take advantage of. These clubs are free and are a great way to enhance their learning, make new friends as well as being something fun to do! [Take a look at our spring term clubs list](#) and encourage your child to try something.



We're now on YouTube

You'll find lots of news and events information for things happening at Dallam on our social channels. Please follow our channels and share our posts so more people can see how great our school is.