



# **Parkside House School**

## **Careers Newsletter**

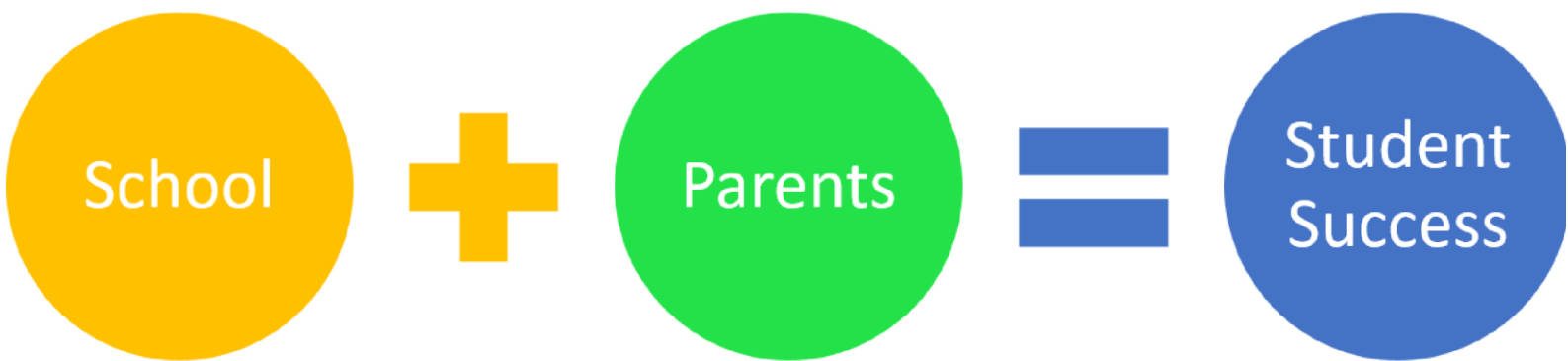
**1 July 2025**



## Careers Newsletter

As we wrap up another exciting term, we're delighted to share with you a round-up of the fantastic careers activities your children have been involved in over the past year. It's been a vibrant and inspiring time, filled with opportunities that have helped our students explore their interests, develop new skills, and gain valuable insights into the world of work.

From engaging employer talks and hands-on workshops to workplace visits and career-themed classroom projects, our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity. These experiences are designed not only to broaden their horizons but also to help them make informed decisions about their futures.



## Parental engagement

We know how important it is for families to be part of this journey, and we're proud to showcase the progress and achievements made this term. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child's aspirations and helping them dream big.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the fantastic things that have taken place—and we look forward to even more inspiring moments next year!





## Visit to Catapult – Port of Blyth

Catapult is the UK's leading technology innovation and research centre for offshore renewable energy (ORE). They play a key role in delivering the UK's Net Zero targets by accelerating the creation and growth of UK companies in the offshore renewable energy sector. Our school learners visited the site in the Port of Blyth in October where they were shown the 100m long turbine blade testing facility and the Nacelle (the part of a wind turbine that contains the drivetrain, which converts the mechanical energy of the rotor into electrical energy). They also saw the robots that maintain the turbines and the operating chair from which submersibles are controlled remotely.







## Visit to AkzoNobel

### Ashington

As part of our ongoing careers programme, a group of students had the exciting opportunity to visit AkzoNobel in Ashington—one of the world's leading manufacturers of paints and coatings, known for brands such as Dulux. During the visit, students were given a guided tour of the state-of-the-art factory, where they observed advanced manufacturing processes and even saw robots in action. The experience was brought to life with a presentation from AkzoNobel staff, who shared insights into the company's global operations, career pathways, and commitment to sustainability and innovation. It was an inspiring and informative visit that opened our students' eyes to the wide range of careers available in science, technology, and manufacturing.





# Mind Your Business

## Stockton-on-Tees

Our school learners recently welcomed Jason from MIND Your Business, an initiative that supports business owners in achieving success while prioritising mental health. Jason led an engaging session that introduced students to the world of self-employment, highlighting both its advantages and challenges. Using LEGObased activities, he encouraged creative thinking and teamwork while helping students explore entrepreneurial concepts in a fun and accessible way. The session offered valuable insights into what it means to run your own business and sparked thoughtful discussions about independence, responsibility, and resilience.

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personal wellbeing and  
business success?**

*you are not alone...*

Enhance your wellbeing and **business performance** as one, with this gamechanging course.



## DWP

Blyth



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Throughout the year, our students have benefited from a series of engaging sessions delivered by Claire from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP is a government department responsible for welfare, pensions, and employment services across the UK. Claire's visits have focused on key topics such as apprenticeships and effective social communication in the workplace— essential skills for future employment. Her sessions are always well-received by learners, thanks to her use of hands-on tasks and group-based exercises that make the content both accessible and enjoyable. These workshops help students build confidence and gain a clearer understanding of the world of work.





**MORTAL  
FOOLS**



## Aspirations Week!

### Our in-house Careers fair

To ensure all our learners feel supported and included, we've developed a unique approach to careers education through our bespoke event, Aspirations Week. Unlike traditional careers fairs held in large halls with numerous employers—which can be overwhelming for autistic students and those with hypersensitivity, ADHD, or SEMH needs—we invite guests from local businesses and training providers to deliver tailored sessions within our school environment. These visitors facilitate hands-on tasks and engaging activities that allow students to explore different job roles, career pathways, and opportunities available in the local area. First pioneered in 2024, the event has continued to grow, and this year's Aspirations Week was another great success, offering meaningful and accessible experiences for all our young people.





Department  
for Work &  
Pensions



Northumberland  
**SKILLS**



Northumberland  
County Council





## Transition visits

### Northumberland

As part of their upcoming transition to a new provision in September, we organised visits for small groups of our college learners to explore different education providers across the region that offer SEND programmes. During these visits, learners had the opportunity to tour the facilities and learn more about the courses and pathways available. We then worked closely with them and the Local Authority to support their applications to their chosen destinations.





**THANK  
YOU!**

As we reflect on a successful year of careers education, we are already looking forward to building on this momentum in the next academic year. Our aim is to provide even more meaningful experiences for our learners, including a wider range of employer visits and increased opportunities for work experience across all year groups. These real-world encounters are invaluable in helping students explore their interests and make informed decisions about their futures. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and engagement—it truly makes a difference.

You can expect more regular updates from us going forward, keeping you informed and involved every step of the way.

As ever, if you would like to discuss your child's career education or would like advice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

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