

# Corbridge Middle School

## Newsletter July 2021

### What a year!

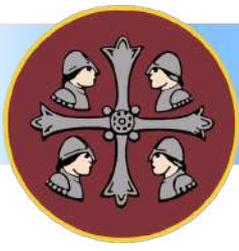
Despite the challenges that have faced all of us during this academic year there have been so many fantastic achievements for individuals, for groups, teams and the school as a whole. I have never been more proud to be Headteacher at Corbridge Middle School. The staff, pupils, parents, governors and friends have all rallied round to support each other. We have all had to learn new skills, adapt quickly to new routines and we have managed it, with a lot of laughs and successes along the way.

So it is time to say goodbye to our lovely Year 8 pupils and to wish them every success for the future. I hope they are proud of all that they have achieved and of the responsible and successful young people they have become.

To help us to continue to do the best that we can for all the pupils, I would really welcome your feedback. If you have not already done so, please complete the Parental Questionnaire. It shouldn't take long and will really help. Thank you.

Thank you so much for all your continued support. Have a lovely summer and I am really looking forward to welcoming you all into school as often as possible next year!





# Corbridge Middle School

## It's time to say goodbye...



*Mrs Ballantyne*



*Mrs Harvey*

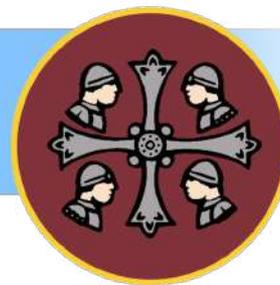
For over 30 years Mrs Ballantyne has been our Catering Manager and has been cooking school dinners at Corbridge Middle School. That is a lot of dinners! Even if it was only 100 a day that would be well over 600,000! As well as all the ordering of ingredients, the preparation and cooking the food and the clearing up, I know how much Liz does quietly, without fuss or ceremony, to support individual children and their families. Never was this more apparent than during the times of school closure. So on behalf of all our students, past and present, THANK YOU very much for all your years of hard work at Corbridge Middle School. Enjoy all the extra time that you will have to spend with your family and we wish you a very happy retirement.

The school office will never be quite the same again. Mrs Harvey's gentle Scottish accent is very recognisable to many of you, but after many years at Corbridge Middle School our Office Manager has decided to hang up that phone and start her well-deserved retirement. The school office is the first point of contact for parents and visitors. It is where the pupils - and staff - come if they are feeling poorly or need help with anything at all. Mrs Harvey's patience, loyalty, kindness and professionalism has supported individuals, the school and the wider community and she will be missed. THANK YOU and enjoy the peace and quiet!

Although we will be very sorry to see her go, we are delighted that Miss Pearson has decided to fulfill her dream by training to be a teacher. She has been a fantastic Cover Supervisor; not an easy role at all! Miss Pearson is always cheerful, creative and resourceful, great qualities to take into teaching, and her cakes are legendary too!. We will miss her but wish her every success in the future.

We have been lucky to have Mr Frazer working with us since Christmas. What a challenging start to his time with us; one day in school and then we were in lockdown! He very quickly got to know the children and he will be very much missed, particularly by his fellow-Pokemon enthusiasts!

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## Welcome to Corbridge Middle School to:

Mrs Dando - Office Manager  
Mrs Blake Darcy - Higher Level Teaching Assistant  
Mrs Reid - Teaching Assistant

Mr Purves - Catering Manager  
Mrs Child - Teacher and Year 6 form tutor  
Mrs Thornton - Teaching Assistant

Congratulations to Mrs Ramsay who will be our new Cover Supervisor from September.

We are also pleased to welcome Ellie Dolby for her School Direct teaching placement.

## Uniform

During this school year, we have tried to be as flexible as possible with regard to school uniform. With the windows open all through the colder weather to aid ventilation, it has been important that the children have felt warm and comfortable. However, we really believe in encouraging our children to take pride in their appearance and to be smart. This helps with our school value of respect and, in order for our school to be truly inclusive, uniform should be exactly that - uniform - so that no-one stands out. Our pupils' individuality and uniqueness can and will be encouraged in many other ways!

A few reminders:

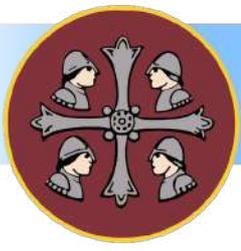
- Earrings must be removed during P.E. lessons and sporting activities so PLEASE do not have your child's ears pierced just before the start of term.
- Hair should be a 'natural' colour
- Skirts or trousers should be dark grey, not black.
- Skirts should be traditional and formal in style and not too short.
- Socks should be black, grey or white.
- Tights should be grey or black please. No leggings!
- Plain black polishable shoes. Trainers are not allowed.



Uniform and PE kit orders can be made online at: [studentuniform.co.uk](https://www.studentuniform.co.uk).

## Donations Very Welcome

We do our best to encourage sustainability and so if you have any school uniform that you no longer need we would greatly appreciate it if you could send it into school and we will run a 'Sustainability Stall' in September.



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## Big Success At The Races

On the 8th of July, 10 members of 6W took the GreenPower Goblin to the Sunderland Greyhound Race track for the NE Goblin annual race. We had 7 drivers and 3 support members of the team.

The weather was atrocious and it poured heavily all day, making driving more difficult. But the rain didn't dampen our spirits and we smiled all the way through the 12 races.

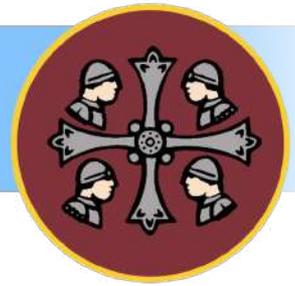
Each race involved a slalom section and a drag race to finish. There were penalties for hitting the cones, so it was all about going as fast as possible whilst handling the car safely.

At the end of the day the chequered flag was waved, and the scores from the 10 cars were totted up. Then the announcement came....

Corbridge Middle School were overall winners! We came 1st in the drag race and 3rd in the slalom!

Olin won the car in a competition to design a sustainable mode of transport for the future. The car is called the SDG Machine and was decorated with several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to raise awareness of the Global Goals.





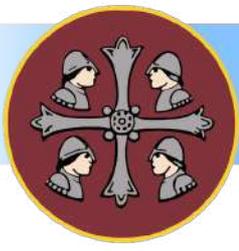
## RIBA Reading Architecture Project

During the Summer term, a group of Year 6 pupils took part in a competition to read and review books on the subject of Architecture. Pupils used Sketchup or Art materials to design their own house, dependent on the surrounding environment. They also explored different architectural styles around the globe, listening to traditional music from the different locations. Corbridge Middle School was one of only eight schools in England to be selected by the Royal Institute of British Architecture to take part. Pupils enjoyed discussing the books, deciding which book was their favourite and we submitted our reviews and overall winner to RIBA last week. Today, we received a thank you and certificates for each pupil from RIBA.

"Thank you so much for submitting your reviews to RIBA for our Reading Architecture project. Your responses and opinions were well articulated throughout, and we learnt a lot about what you liked and disliked in each book, which is exactly what we wanted! Thank you once again for taking part and creating such useful materials for us".

Judging of all entries will take place over the summer with winners to be announced in October. Good luck, Corbridge Middle!





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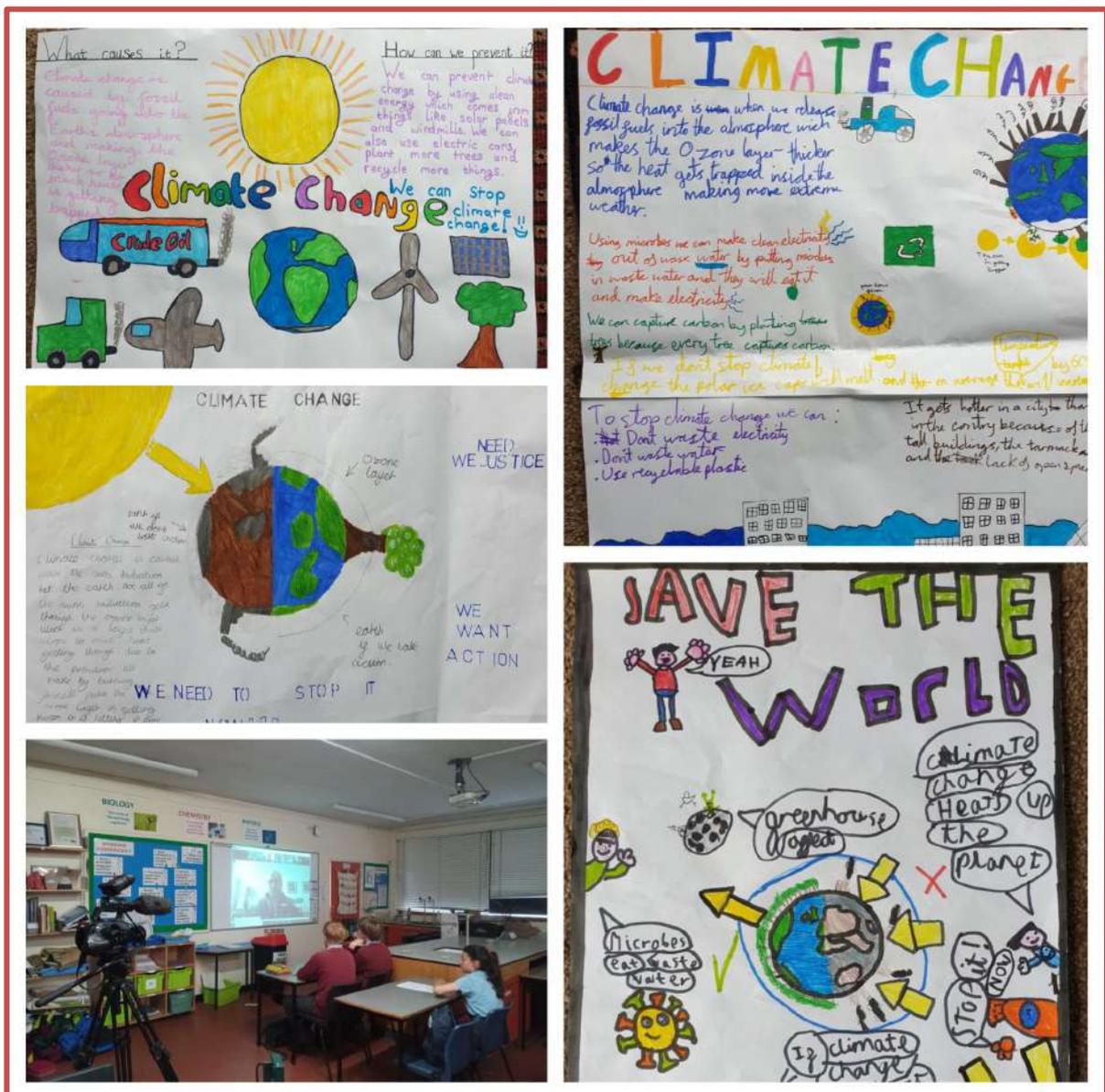
## Cap-A-Pie Workshops

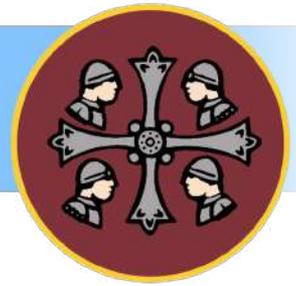
Year 5 have been working with the fabulous theatre group 'Cap-a-Pie,' on a series of creative workshops on Climate Change.

The pupils watched a series of short drama videos on the causes and effects of climate change. They also considered how we can reduce the level of the crisis by thinking about how we travel, what we eat and how much we buy.

They had lots of questions, so each class had an online session with the staff at Cap-a-Pie and Ali Ford or Jon Lee, engineering researchers from Newcastle University.

The pupils then completed posters on what they have learned. We are sending them to our MP, Guy Opperman, to ask the Government to take climate action.





## Art at the Museum

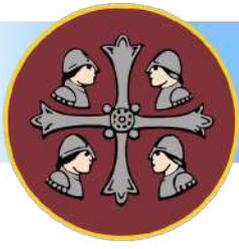
This term, 7MB visited the Great North Museum to see their artwork displayed on the walls of the upper gallery in the 'Where Did All The Animals Go?' (WDATAG) exhibition.

They got to meet artist Jane Lee McCracken in person and enjoyed telling her what they liked about the project and how they felt about the endangered animals they studied, which were from Madagascar.

The class also joined an online conference with Will Travers, founder of the Born Free Foundation, as they are partners with Jane on the WDATAG project. We heard from Will and Phoebe in Kenya, about how the Foundation's work is protecting many endangered and vulnerable species.

The project links to Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15), Life on Land and encompasses Global Learning as we're making links with other schools around the world.





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## Bikeability Sessions

It was great to see Bikeability return to school over the last half term.

Bikeability is a cycling programme, which helps pupils gain practical cycling skills and an understanding of how to cycle on today's roads.

Underpinned by the National Standard for cycle training, a government-recognised set of principles, Bikeability is currently being offered to our Year 5 pupils and is delivered by professional instructors.

We had a great uptake from all of the Y5 classes!





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## Heart Biomechanics Competition

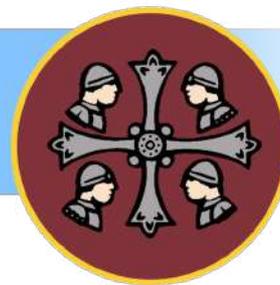
This term, we were delighted to be informed that five of our Year 7s were announced as runners-up in a national competition on Heart Mechanics.

There were over 250 entries and our pupils were in the top 5 teams.

They had to design a new Olympic sport, a meal fit for an Olympic and build a model heart.

Although they didn't win the top prize, they were sent a goodie bag each by BayerLab. The project linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), Good Health and Wellbeing.





## British Science Week

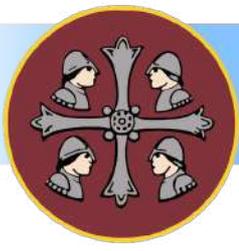
The academics from Newcastle University Water Hub have said they had a fantastic time with class 7C, during the enrichment project this term.

The multinational team shared their love of the planet, their expertise in varying fields (soils, water, fashion, storytelling), and learned alongside the class.

To have the sessions ending with a 'chat' with James Honeybourne was incredible and 7C certainly did the school proud. The pupils showed their deep understanding of the topics they had covered and a huge amount of enthusiasm, when talking about the change they were making.

There is a fabulous short video of the class's activities, as citizen scientists and environmental activists, that has been made of the project, which is well worth watching:





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## Y6 Geography Competition

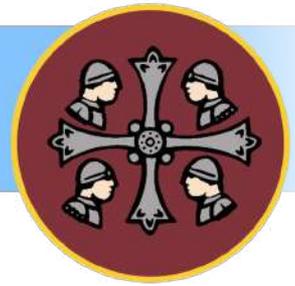
Well done to the winner of our Y6 Geography Competition! The task was to design a 'SUDS House' as part of our Rivers topic.

The prize was presented by Simone from Tyne Rivers Trust, who helped us understand more about 'slow down the rainfall.'

We were very impressed with Tom's entry (being held by his peers). He based his idea on the Sill, National Landscape Discovery Centre; he used some cress seeds to simulate the 'green' roof of the Sill.



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## Y6 Mock SATs

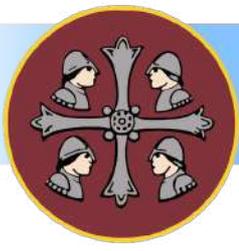
As a reward for all of their hard work over the course of this term's mock SATs tests, an ice cream van was welcomed into school as a treat for the Y6 pupils.



## Blue Planet

Earlier in the term, 7C had the privilege to speak with BBC Blue planet producer James Honeyborne. As part of our Enrichment project with the WaterHub at Newcastle University, the pupils had the opportunity to share their learning about becoming climate heroes with James and ask him questions. He was very impressed by our pupils' work, passion to make a difference and confidence.





# Corbridge Middle School

## Celebrating Success

This term, Will played for the South Northumberland U13s Cricket team and his side won the Vitality U13s County Cup! Well done, Will!



Some of our year 8 pupils have formed Corbridge Hoops basketball team. We are delighted that our pupils have committed themselves to working with Sam, a coach from the Eagles' Centre. As a result of their determination, they now train together both in school and at the Vertu Eagles' Centre and have already played very successfully in their first match.

The PE department were also delighted to hear that one of our Year 8 pupils' was awarded Tynedale Junior Hockey Club, Under 14 Player of the Year award.

