



Corbridge Middle School

January 2022 Newsletter





Corbridge Middle School

A Message from Mr Johnston

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to write to you with our first newsletter of 2022 and to convey how determined we all are to make this a fantastic year for every child at Corbridge Middle School. The pandemic has presented some challenging circumstances but we are committed to working together to ensure the children continue to be inspired to learn and enjoy school.

We currently have a very small number of children in all year groups requiring access to remote learning and following their period of self isolation it's lovely to see them return to school. We were also really pleased to welcome our staff back following the Christmas holiday and combined with the measures we have in place learning in school has been mostly uninterrupted.

Looking ahead, we are really pleased to offer more opportunities for enrichment and planning is underway for visits, sporting fixtures and residential opportunities for this academic year. Planning these in uncertain times has been a challenge which has resulted in less notice than we normally would like to provide you with. However, please do get in touch if we can help/support you or your child in any way.

The school's governing body along with NCC recently conducted Headteacher recruitment activities and interviews with shortlisted candidates and they will be writing to everyone very soon with an update!

I hope that we can continue to work together to ensure that, whatever the circumstances, the children continue to learn, have some fun and feel cared for. Our values continue to underpin all that we do: Care, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

So, on behalf of all of us at Corbridge Middle School I do wish you a Happy New Year. Let's really try to make 2022 a year that the children will warmly look back on and remember valuably.

Interim Headteacher



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Letter from OFSTED

At the end of the Autumn term, the school received a lovely letter from Amanda Spielman - Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.



Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Mrs Kennedy

I am writing to say how pleased I am to see that Corbridge Middle School was one of the first to move to an overall judgement of outstanding since we returned to routine inspection in September.

This is a tremendous achievement by you and your team. Not only does the inspection framework set a high bar for being judged outstanding, but you have achieved this in the context of all the disruption caused by COVID-19. I hope that you and your whole school community are very proud.

I also want to thank you for everything that you are doing to support your staff and pupils through what continue to be very challenging times. I wish you every success in the months and years ahead.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector



Corbridge Middle School

Parents and Carers of Neurodiverse Families Group

Our new group for parents and carers of neurodiverse (autistic, dyspraxic, dyslexic, ADHD, etc) families will be meeting a couple of times this term. Everyone is welcome whether or not their child has a diagnosis

Thursday 3rd February at 9am - Support for neurodiverse pupils at Queen Elizabeth High School: Richard Zabrocki, SENCO at QEHS will join us to discuss transition high school for neurodiverse children and their families.

Friday 4th March at 11am - Reflections on a neurodiverse family: One of our mums, who is neurodivergent herself, has kindly volunteered to come along and share her experiences of life and family and then answer any questions over a cuppa.

Please email Penny Hawley (pennyhawley@hotmail.com) to let us know if you're planning to come or if you would like to know more.





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PSHE Spring Half Term Curriculum

In PSHE this half term the curriculum for each year group is:

- Year 5 pupils will cover the topic - Dreams and Goals. Themes include:
- Money for dreams
- Jobs by people I know
- Salaries
- Motivation
- Dreams and goals of young people in a culture different to our own

Year 6 pupils also cover the topic Dreams and Goals. Themes include:

- Personal learning strengths
- Problems in the world that concern them
- Suffering/difficult situations
- How to make the world a better place

Year 7 pupils will cover the topic Identity and Communities. Themes include:

- Positive sense of self
- Types of families
- Roles in families
- Challenging prejudice
- Roles and responsibilities in society

Year 8 pupils will cover the topic Identity and Communities. Themes include:

- Stereotyping, prejudice, bigotry, bullying and discrimination
- Community life
- Role of meditation
- Public institutions
- Leading agencies which support young people



Corbridge Middle School

Music Tuition at CMS

We are now pleased to be in a position where we can offer music tuition to Year 5 and Year 6 new starters! Instrumental tuition takes place during school time, with lesson times rotating on a weekly basis. We have a range of teachers and instruments available, with some music staff employed by Music Partnership North and others who are self employed.

Information about lessons from Music Partnership North can be found <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Music-Service/Tuition.aspx>
Lessons will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, though I can confirm there are spaces to start immediately with MPN for violin and popular singing. A waiting list will be generated for any woodwind instruments to begin in the summer term, (flute, clarinet, sax).

Our self employed tutors have space, and if you would be interested in any of these instruments then please contact the tutor directly for more information:

Liz Milner - piano - lizmilner100@googlemail.com

Dave Hignett - brass (trumpet, cornet, horn, trombone etc) - bigdavros@gmail.com

Abi Tickell - cello - Abigail.strike@hotmail.com

If you have any general questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Fisher.





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Technology Display

We are proud to display, in our main school entrance, many varied examples of the quality work produced by the children in their Technology lessons. The display includes mobile telephone stands, key holders, wind chimes, e-textiles (using LEDs, conductive thread, batteries and buttons), 3D printed keyrings, Crumble controller buggies, e-toys and a Makey Makey interactive control project.

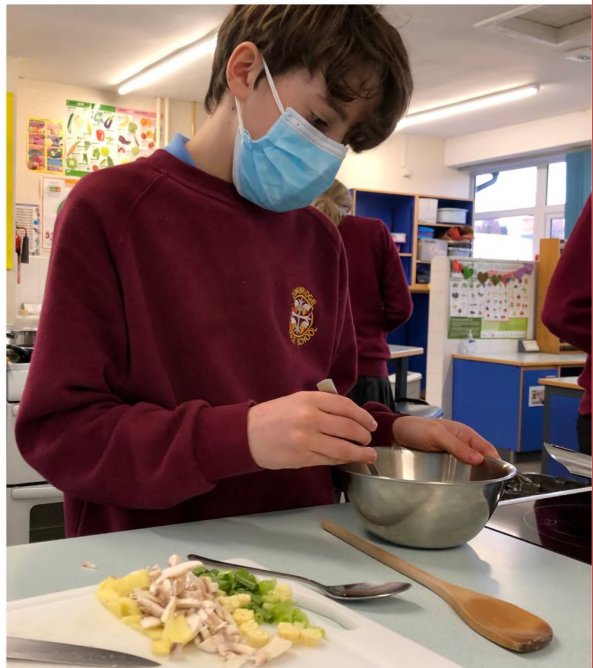
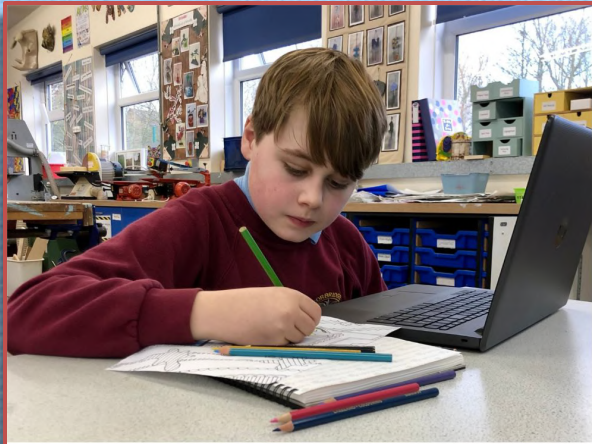




Corbridge Middle School

New Enrichment Programme

Our new Enrichment Programme, introduced this term, is now in full swing. These photographs show just some of the activities our KS3 pupils have been actively engaging in and enjoying this week including Japanese Culture, Reusable Fashion, Asian Cooking, Cricket, Photography and more!





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Y5 Science Enrichment

Well done to all the Year 5 children who chose to complete the Science Enrichment last term. Mrs Pound, Mrs Browne and Mrs Jones were extremely impressed with the standard of entries.

Congratulations go to James, Freya and Harriet, our silver and bronze winners. This impressive model of the rainforest won the gold prize.





Corbridge Middle School

Daily Mile Track

While the sun was shining today we took the opportunity to launch our new 'Daily Mile' track with 8V. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to exercise in the sunshine.





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Hockey Club

Well done to the children who turn up every Monday to participate in, and enjoy playing, indoor Hockey.

It is rewarding to see how committed these children are to regular exercise and competitive sport. Hopefully when the weather improves we will get outside again and play on our full size pitches.

We have super links with Tynedale Junior Hockey Club so please don't hesitate to ask if your child is interested in pursuing hockey to the next level.





Corbridge Middle School

Dear Parents & Carers,

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that Corbridge Middle School have shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with National Online Safety providing resources for all parents and carers.

The resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Myleene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

- Online Relationships
- Fake Profiles & Social Bots
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Sexting
- Live Streaming
- Online Identity
- Screen Addiction
- Online Challenges
- Overspending
- Social Media Platforms

To create your account go to <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/corbridge-middle-school> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type. You can access National Online Safety online via any device including via our brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at

<https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre>.



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents



DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former covert internet investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.





Corbridge Middle School

Y6 Cooking Up A Storm

Year 6 started the Spring term by making a delicious Tomato and Basil Tart. Pupils safely used the oven and focused on the presentation of their dish.



Music Groups in School

The following music groups are now taking place in school and are free for anyone who wishes to take part.

- Guitar group - Monday 12:30 - anyone welcome, we have a small selection of guitars to borrow if you just want to come and have a go! All year groups welcome.
- Boys choir - Thursday 3:05 - Aimed at boys in Y7 and 8. No previous experience necessary.
- Ceilidh Band - Currently full.

Instrument Amnesty - if you have any unwanted but usable instruments lying around at home that you would be willing to donate we would love to take them! Particularly keyboards and guitars, but anything would be really fantastic!



Clubs Timetable

Spring 2022

Time	Club & Room	Staff
Monday		
12.30	Guitar Club - All years - L10	Mr Newbrook
12.05	Hockey club - Yr 6,7 and 8	Mrs Parkin
12.35	Knitting Yr 5 - L4	Mrs Browne
12.35	Library - All Yrs - U1	Mrs Ramsay
12.35	Friendship Club Yr 5 - L6	Mrs Liddle
12.05	Singing Club Years 5 and 6 - U6	Mrs Reid
Tuesday		
12.05	Ceilidh Band - L10	Mrs Stephenson
12.35	Library - All Yrs - U1	Mrs Ramsay
12.35	Creative Club Yrs 5 and 6 - L9	Mrs Blake-Darcy
12.05 - 12.35	Puzzle club All Yrs - Sudoku, work search , Osbourne puzzle books, Aquila magazine and any you might want to bring! - L3	Mrs Clarke
12.35 - 13.05	Games club Yrs 7 and 8 - L5	Mr Norris
Wednesday		
12.35	Library - All Yrs - U1	Mrs Ramsay
12.35	Friendship Club Y6 - L6	Mrs Liddle
12.05	Needle/stitching work Y5 - Learning how to do different stitches to complete a project - L1	Mrs Pound
12.05	Football Club Yrs 5 and 6	Mr McKee



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Clubs Timetable

Spring 2022

Time	Club & Room	Staff
Thursday		
12.05 - 12.35	Homework club/quiet space for reading or working, All Yrs- L8	Miss Bell/Mrs Hamer
12.20 - 1.05	Open-door for quiet time, finishing off work and general drawing, All Yrs- L9	Mrs Walker-Thomas
12.30 - 1.05	Weather and Climate Club Y7 - L1	Dr. Batchelder & Mr Swinney in Lab
12.35	Library - All Yrs - U1	Mrs Ramsay
12.35 - 13.05	Games Club Yrs - 5 and 6 - L5	Mr Norris
15.05 - 15.30	Boys Choir - Yrs 7 and 8 - U2	Mr Reed
Friday		
12.35	Library - All Yrs - U1	Mrs Ramsay
12.05 - 12.35	Computer Club Y5 (initially) - U3 (from 1 October)	Mr Johnston
12.35 - 13.05	Chess Club - All Yrs - L5	Mr Norris/Mr Swinney



Corbridge Middle School

Important Dates Spring 2022

Date	Event	Aimed at
26/01/22	Newcastle Castle Trip	7FP
27/01/22	Newcastle Castle Trip	7C
28/01/22	Deadline for London trip deposit	Year 8
01/02/22	HPV Vaccine	Year 8
02/03/22	Lego League	KS3 Lego Team
03/02/22	Newcastle Castle Trip	7WT
08/02/22	Safer Internet Day	Whole School
18/02/22	School Closes for Spring Half Term	All

