



**HERMITAGE  
ACADEMY**

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2022**



## WELCOME to our summer newsletter

As we come to the end of this academic year, there will be a mixture of emotions. For the first time since 2018 – 2019, all of our students (and staff) have been in school for the whole academic year! It is from this standpoint that our whole school community reflects on our successes and celebrations, but we do not forget the times which were difficult for our school community.

Our students have benefited from many experiences this year. For example, the Shakespeare School Festival, careers events involving local employers, our interfaith conference and diversity events and, of course, our Jubilee celebrations... plus many, many more.

Students are ready for the summer break. They need to use this time to refresh and recharge so that they come back in September ready for the year's challenges; in the correct uniform; with the equipment they

need for lessons, and a 'be ready to learn' mindset!

As a school we very much understand the pressures that families are under at the moment in juggling work, school and home life together. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of our wider school community and would ask that if there is anything at all we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

All that is left to say is thank you and we hope you all have a restful and safe summer break.

With every good wish,

*D Stewart*  
**Darren Stewart**  
Head of School

*J Gorlach*  
**Dr Janice Gorlach**  
Executive Headteacher

# Hello!

## to our new Year 7s!

**It's almost time for the move to 'big school' and we are so excited to meet you all.**

We have loved welcoming you into school recently for transition visits. We cannot wait to get to know you properly and for you to get to know us and our wonderful school.

Don't be nervous: everyone is lovely and you will be right at home from day one!

See you all soon!

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We certainly celebrated the Jubilee in style earlier this term...

We celebrated with a bake sale, bake-off competition and garden party.

There is nothing our students love more than a bake sale, and the one held back at the start of June was no different. A huge £230 was made from sales at break time which will go towards planting a tree in each NELT school and supporting the Trust charity, Young Lives vs Cancer.

A big thank you to everyone who donated a cake and to everyone who purchased something for the cause.

The competition was hot in

a NELT bake off where all schools were asked to create a 'show-stopper' cake to be judged by the public on Facebook. Although we did not win - we are super proud of our amazing cake.

A huge thank you to the staff who gave up a lot of time to make the amazing creation - Sheila, Mr Watkin, Mrs Pearce and Miss Marshall.

After school, staff were invited to a jubilee themed garden party in the mindful garden. Staff from all departments enjoyed meeting up for some cake, coffee and a catch up.

## IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

07 SEP - Back to school

21 OCT - Break up for half term

31 OCT - Back to school

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.

## Move over Alan Sugar!

20 students from Years 9-12 entered the Peter Jones - Be the Future competition this term.

Students had to create a new business idea to tackle one of the UN's sustainable goals. Students were very creative and we were impressed with their amazing ideas - we are hoping to be champions like last year!

Mrs Marshall and Mrs Turner would also like to say that they are so proud of all business students for completing their GCSE and A level exams at the end of this term.



We're social!



Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@hermitage\_acad



@hermitageacad

# Clubs corner

**Photoshop and Scratch Club** has been a big hit with our Year 7 students this term, with many coming along to create unique images or their own computer programmes.

Originally only focussing on Photoshop, the club soon changed to Photoshop and Scratch Club after Year 7 started to learn how to use Scratch in their ICT lessons and were excited to develop their skills further. Students can drop in and work on their own projects, with some making lovely cards for their family, while others create games on Scratch. The club will continue

to run after the summer. All new members welcome!

## Languages Department

This term students in Year 8 and Year 9 have been given a unique opportunity to learn Romanian with Mrs Petrescu who is a native speaker. The club takes place on a Wednesday lunchtime and has involved not only learning about the language, but also the culture and customs of the country including listening to some popular Romanian music! Many of our students have been surprised to see lots of similarities between the Spanish and Romanian languages.

## Maths challenges

**This term has seen students across all year groups participating in various competitions.**

These include in-school half termly challenges, countywide challenges with Newcastle University and Years 7 and 8 entering the UKMT maths challenge.

In particular we'd like to say well done to Matilda Best, Year 9, who was invited to a prize giving evening at Newcastle University following her excellent challenge submission, and well done to James Knox in Year 7 and Oliver Filor in Year 8, who both received silver awards and best in year awards from the UKMT challenge.

## Year 8 dive into the past

**Students in Year 8 have been studying WWI. As part of this they have been focusing on the experiences of local man Wilf Smith, who joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1914.**

He survived the war and died in 1998 aged 102. Students have been investigating the different reasons for him choosing to join the army in 1914, including to win the affections of a girl, as well as what he experienced when he was on the Western Front in France. Students have used the knowledge that they have gained to write letters home from the frontline to Wilf's friend Peter Skelton, telling him about the

things that Wilf experienced during the war. This has helped students understand the impact that the war had on our local area.



## Could you be a teacher?



**Our teacher training partner North East SCITT train the next generation that make a real difference to children's lives.**

**Applications for teacher training, beginning in September 2022 are open during the summer holidays for the last remaining places.**

To find out more, please visit their website [www.northeastscitt.co.uk](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk) where you can find out more information, including course structure and funding support.



# Interfaith day

**Back in May, all students in Year 9 had the opportunity to meet members of different faiths and world views during an interfaith conference.**

As part of Religious Education lessons, the Academy has committed to provide an opportunity for its students to encounter people of other faiths and worldviews; to experience as well as promote respect and tolerance, through the remit of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education.

Prior to this, students learnt about what Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Encounter means whilst reflecting on the importance of religious diversity and learning about what it means to have respect and show respect to others, realising its importance in our society.

We were delighted to host nine speakers in school that provided an insight and encounter in their faith or worldview. Our students had the opportunity to develop questions, critically think and analyse as well as put these thoughts to a panel discussion to allow faith members and those with other world views to respond.

The range of speakers included Wendy Gray (Buddhist), Mahshid Turner (Muslim), Deanna Van Der Velde (Jew), Kirtida Richardson (Hindu), Jaswinder Singh (Sikh), Sue White (Anglican, Christian), John Kidd (Methodist, Christian) Carol Spencer (Baha'i) and Susan Walker (Humanist).

Paul Welch, Trust Subject Director for RE noted "this is a

really valuable learning opportunity to encounter faith members and those with other world views to try and gain an insight and understanding of the impact of faith and world views in their lives as well as gain a greater understanding of how this is expressed."

Part of the fundamental British Values are 'mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith'. At the Hermitage Academy we seek to prepare our students to be more aware of the community and surroundings in which they live as well as become global citizens accepting and celebrating diversity.



## Scientific success!

**There's been plenty to celebrate this term in the science department. From STEM solutions to taking science outside of our school, here's a quick snapshot...**

We have had a few events in science this term. Miss Hannon's industrial cadets have been hard at work since February producing a STEM based solution for the problem of creating a zero-waste world. In June, their hard work was recognised when they were nominated for two awards; best STEM solution and determination. They visited Newcastle University for a full day to share their project (they created a website from scratch) and see other competitor's work. Unfortunately, this time they narrowly missed out and were runners up. We are all immensely proud of their efforts, well done to our industrial cadets.

Elsewhere, we have been to two primary schools this half term. Mr Jenkins and Miss Stevenson visited Bournmoor Primary School, undertaking some practical work on materials which culminated in them growing crystals. Mrs Smith and Mr Lloyd visited Ouston Primary School, giving Year 5 students the chance to use our electricity equipment to build and test series circuits. A wonderful time was had by all!



# The end of another school year!

Each of your Heads of Year wanted to give you a special message after a great academic year. We look forward to seeing you next year and for those who will begin their next chapters, we wish you the best of luck!

## Year 7

As we near the end of the first full year at Hermitage for our Year 7 students, I am incredibly proud of the young people that they have become. In what has been their first full year back in school following the disruption of lockdowns, the students have made the adjustment to secondary school, taking the many challenges in their stride. This year there has also been a welcome return to face to face parents evenings, assemblies and sporting fixtures to add enrichment to their experience.

I have been so proud of the resilience and determination that the students have demonstrated as well as their positive attitude towards school. As a year group they have achieved over 20,000 attitude to learning points which demonstrates

their hard work and commitment across the year.

There have been many successes for individuals and groups both within school and outside of school which have been made possible through the hard work and commitment that our Year 7s have shown. There have been challenges along the way, but together these have been overcome.

We look forward to the future with great excitement as this wonderful group of students continue their journey into Year 8 and beyond. Well done Year 7, have a great summer – you deserve it!



## Year 8

As the academic year draws to a close, I have been reflecting on what has been a brilliant year for Year 8. It has been a year of real development for so many in the year group. Development in resilience; kindness; friendships; maturity and experience. One reflection that will be particularly fond for myself and the Year 8s for years to come, will be looking back on the memories created with Evgenii Kudriavstev before he moves back to his home country. He has been an absolute pleasure to have in the Hermitage community. He embodies all traits that we value at Hermitage: respectful, kind, hard-working, polite. He, along with others in the year, have set the bar high in my expectations of what the young people of Hermitage can do and be. There has been an incredible total of over 11,000 positives across the curriculum for Year 8 (and it is not even the end of the year yet as I am writing this!) This is evidence of how they have applied themselves in lessons to get the most from their education. It has been so

lovely to see extracurricular activities resume and increase, allowing some of the Year 8s to represent the school across different subjects: Drama, PE, Science to name a few. To refer to the previous newsletter, I commended some students for their Industrial Cadets work. It has been a pleasure to now see these students progress and graduate with their Bronze Award at Newcastle University, networking with representatives from industry. It was both fun and inspiring, and gives reassurance for a very hopeful future. On the topic of futures, it has been lovely to have so many students engaging in discussions about their passions and interests. Some have had highly positive meetings regarding careers which shows an acute focus on what their future may look like. If this year is anything to go by, I have every confidence it will be a very bright future.



## Year 9

This year has been a year like no other – the main reason being, that this is the first year students have been taught on site for the whole academic year. It was wonderful to welcome back normal calendar events such as parents evenings, assemblies and sporting fixtures. The previous two years had seen the students having to show extreme resilience in order to maintain everyday school life and this has helped them embrace this year's opportunities with excitement and ambition.

We welcomed our first visitors including the music artist Bronnie, Iman - a Syrian refugee - and a range of faith leaders. These thought provoking

events have really widened students' knowledge of the world around them. Students have also settled incredibly well into their option subjects, With their teachers praising their smooth transition to GCSE content and tasks. Year 9 students also engaged in athletics competitions, the inter schools Futsal League, various school charity events, North East schools' Shakespeare Festival, Dance showcase at the Gala Theatre and Newcastle University's Maths Challenge.

Some students have also attained success outside of school, and learning about their commitment to their chosen discipline, whether that be sport, music, drama or many others, reassures me that this set of students are going to make up for any lost time in

the pandemic. What has impressed me most over the whole year, however, is how the students are becoming such wonderful young adults. With their curiosity, humour, and courage, they make me proud everyday and I am sure they will continue to do so next year and beyond.

In May we held our first multi faith day in school for a number of years. The Year 9 students completed eight workshops with faith leaders from across all major religious faiths. The key objective of the event was to enable students to listen, think and discuss what faith is and how it is demonstrated across the many beliefs.

Students engaged in the sessions with maturity and were inquisitive when they encountered aspects of each faith which intrigued them. The event enhanced students' appreciation of similarities across faiths and how tolerance and kindness are key values no matter your faith.

*Mrs Jamieson*

## Year 10

We have almost made to the end of our first 'normal' school year in three academic years!

Year 10 were just finishing Year 7 and I had just taken over as their head of year. Since then, they have survived a global pandemic, two lockdowns working independently and undertaking online lessons, selecting their GCSE options remotely, started their GCSE studies, adjusted to being back into the classroom full time and sitting multiple GCSE practice papers (a real paper for the Hospitality and Catering classes!).

There has been a real positive focus this half term for the year group! They have worked hard to achieve over 10,000 positive attitude to learning points. Year 10s have been given a positive reward card and have been earning privileges such as a queue jump pass, free stationary pack, snack at break and if they get all their rewards, they will be invited to a surprise event!

I am so proud of the resilience and perseverance shown by the year group, and deeply impressed with their hard work and mature approach to their learning. Watching the members of Year 10 grow into mature and conscientious young adults over the years is an absolute pleasure.

Year 10 - me and your teachers continue to be so proud of you and the resilience you have shown in the most

challenging of circumstances! Although the next year will be tough, we are here to guide you through it, and cannot wait to see what is in store for you next!

This half term, as the current Year 11 have been finishing their exams, the year group have really focused on "stepping up" as they become head of the main part of the school. They were treated to a special breakfast following an assembly lead by Mr Stewart and Mrs Turner talking about their next steps, including 6th Form.

Several students have applied to be part of the student leadership team and as you read these roles of Head and Deputy Head Boy, Head and Deputy Head Girl, Senior Prefects, School Ambassadors and Subject Champions will have been allocated!

Plans for lots of other exciting initiatives out of the classroom have been put into place this year too! Students have signed up to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and have been volunteering to take part in litter picking around school, several students are going to fundraise their trip to Borneo to work on a conservation project next summer, and in November, students in the year group are going on a trip to Berlin to enrich their cultural development.

*Mr Hall*

## Year 11

I must start with how proud I am of every student within the year group. They have shown such

resilience and fortitude to come through every challenge that has come their way. I did not think that as their Head of Year I would be producing assemblies from my garden, and I'm sure they would not have thought that they would ever have to say the phrase 'Sir you are on mute!' However we

came through it together and not even a global pandemic has stopped them from learning.

Year 11 have grasped all opportunities to develop themselves inside and outside the classroom. We have some amazing artists, actors, sports stars, journalists and poets and it has been amazing to see them grow. We aim to develop courageous, caring and determined well rounded citizens, and I believe that we have achieved this, and they



really are a credit to the school. This is a year group that I will never forget, and they will be missed, and I look forward to welcoming them back into our 6th form. For those students taking up other opportunities I wish them the best of luck on their journey to be the best person they can be.

We ended the examination period by holding a small celebration event, marking the end of 5 years at Hermitage Academy. Form tutors produced some heartfelt messages, as staff started their journey at the same time as their tutor group.

The following students were recognised as being their form's 'Most Valuable Student':

**11H - Amber Conway**

**11E - Zoe Middlemiss**

**11R - Esme Wood-Williams, Antonia Johnson**

**11M - Matthew Brain, Elizabeth Briley**

**11I - Lewis Allison**

**11T - Tia Birkbeck**

**11A - Hannah Gascoigne, Daisy Middlemass**

**11G - Caitlin Atkinson**

The student leadership team were also recognised for their contributions to the school community:

**Head Girl- Jessica Langley**

**Head Boy- Evan Brankin**

**Deputy Head Girls- Harriet Hindle, Antonia Johnson**

**Prefects: Eve Carr, Eve Downs, Daisy Middlemass, Kayley Gray, Kezia Briley, Charlie Mylchreest**

Well done to all those students that were recognised. In my assembly I commented that the characteristic that defines all the students is that they are caring and kind, two qualities I believe are truly important.

*Mr Wilson*

