



HERMITAGE
ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

JULY
2023



SUMMER

A message from our headteacher...

I must say how incredibly proud I am of our whole school community. The continued energy, enthusiasm and talent that permeates Hermitage Academy is exceptional. As is life, we all continue to face different challenges, but our commitment to enabling students to 'experience excellence everyday' has never felt more relevant.

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 to grasp the year's opportunities, 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 and we are extremely grateful for the continued support of our wider school community. If there is anything at all we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you all have a restful and safe summer break With every good wish,

D Stewart

Darren Stewart, Head of School

In this issue...



All about Oliver!

This term our talented students took Oliver Jr the Musical to not one stage, but two!



What Would David Do?

This term we launched and crowned the first winners of our new eco initiative.



The next chapter

The end of term meant we said fond farewells to both Year 11 and 13.



Sporting success

This term our students stepped up and lead cricket sessions for younger children.

An incredible performance!

What a night! The term came to an amazing close as our students came together with children from across the North East Learning Trust for the fantastic NELT annual summer concert at the Sage Gateshead where they blew the audience away!

The atmosphere was electric as our students performed hit songs, Consider Yourself, Reviewing the Situation and Oom Pah Pah, from the much-loved musical Oliver. Our superstars' talent and enthusiasm shone throughout the evening, resulting in roaring applause and a standing ovation as they took to the stage together for their finals bows.

A huge congratulations to everyone who performed and a massive thank you to all those who organised and supported the incredible evening.



Culture Vultures

Once again, our students have been working hard on their Culture Vulture projects. This term the tasks focussed on history, geography, MFL and RE and our Year 7, 8 and 9 students did not disappoint with their entries.

Submissions included a range of topics including World War I and the Russian Revolution, tourist guides to India, menus in French and Spanish, aspects of equality and diversity and Christian stewardship.

In completing the tasks, they have also made great progress with their Laurea Enrichment Challenge too.

We are so proud of your hard work and effort!

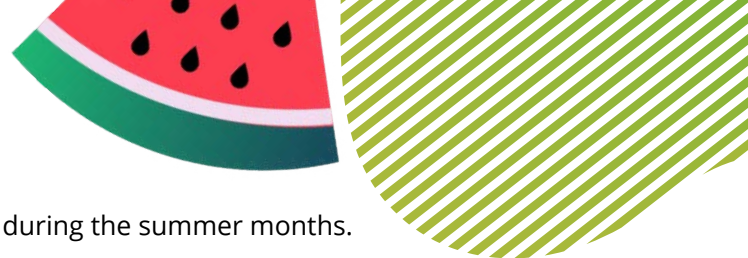


Parlez - vous Français?

In June, our Year 7 students were treated to a performance in French of "Parlez-vous Français?" by the Onatti theatre group. It told the story of Archie, an English student who finds himself in a French hospital following a skiing accident. Archie must cope using the French he has been learning in school and as you can imagine, there are lots of mishaps along the way!

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and had the opportunity to participate in the play by offering translation support. One of our brave students even came to the front to take on a small acting role.

At the end of the show, students had the opportunity to ask the actors about their careers in theatre and their cultural experiences of living in France. Our students asked pertinent questions that demonstrated their curiosity about other cultures and customs. Well done Year 7!



Summer careers

Let's take a look at some careers that really come into focus during the summer months.

Pilot

A newly qualified captain can earn between £54,000 and £75,000. For experienced captains, this can rise up to £140,000. Before you can fly a plane, you must gain an Airline Transport Pilot Licence by completing a modular or integrated course. You can find out more about training to become a pilot through [Flying Start](#).

Coastguard

The busiest time of year for coastguards is during summer. A Coastguard sends out weather and tidal reports, responds to emergency distress calls, offers navigational advice along certain stretches of sea, monitors radio and satellite communications and gives information about coastal and sea safety.

Rollercoaster designer

If you have a passion for maths, engineering and thrill rides, you might be interested in a job designing roller coasters. You'll need a degree in electrical, structural or mechanical engineering and could earn around £30,000 per year for this unique and exciting profession.

Main hall makeover

This term our main hall was given a makeover. The room is now filled with inspirational people and their motivational words of wisdom!



Consider yourself entertained

This term has been all about Oliver! While the show has been in the making for over a year, this term saw it come to fruition with two amazing performances.

Staff and students worked their socks off running rehearsals, sourcing and organising props and costumes, booking a venue, hiring set and designing lighting and sound. With the venue sorted - the Civic Centre in Stanley, the show was ready to hit the stage!

Over two nights, students from Years 7-13 put on a phenomenal show to a professional standard and we are so proud of everyone involved.

We hope that the new friendships and bonds between students continue to thrive after the show. Special mentions go to Year 13 students Amy Goodbrand and Ruth Kent, who were assistant directors and Lola Johnson who choreographed the dance sequences. We know they all have bright futures ahead of them!





Goodbye Year 11

This term we said a fond farewell to our Year 11s after they sat their final exam.

But before they left to spread their wings, it was time to dress to the nines and head to prom. Everyone looked amazing and danced the night away at the beautiful South Causey Inn.

Miss Hall, Year 11 Year Manager, would like to give Year 11 a final message:

"When I talk about Year 11, I am (almost!) lost for words! Their time at Hermitage Academy has been anything other than normal. They have been at our school through a global pandemic and three lockdowns, no less than four prime ministers, Britain officially leaving the European Union, the war in Ukraine, the death of a monarch and the coronation of a new one.

"Their years at school, from 2018-2023, will be part of the history books, and I am so proud that despite some turbulent times, they have shown how resilience and maturity throughout. They're the first year since 2019 to have gone through the normal GCSE process and I am so impressed with the determination and positive spirit they have shown.

"It has been amazing celebrating achievements with Year 11 at the celebration assembly and prom. Being a Head of Year can be challenging at times, but seeing students grow, and flourish as young adults has been an absolute pleasure.

"Good luck for your futures and here's to you all having happy and successful lives. Thank you for being an amazing year group."

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

21 JUL – Break up for summer

04 SEP – Back to school

27 OCT – Break up for half term

06 NOV – Back to school

15 DEC – Break up for Christmas



The next chapter for Year 13

Earlier this term we said goodbye to Year 13 as they prepare for life after A levels.

They had an emotional and heart-warming afternoon in June as we celebrated the end of exams and prepared to say goodbye and good luck for their next steps with their leavers' assembly.

They were treated to lunch in the common room before being invited to share their most memorable moments from sixth form.

They received some inspirational messages from form tutors and teachers, before being presented with subject and character awards and the final Head of Year awards from Mrs. Smith.

We are so proud of each and every one of them and look forward to celebrating at the ball and seeing them all on results day on 17th August.



Sixth form fundraising

Our sixth formers have been busy fundraising again this term with Year 12 students hosting a bake sale for Parkinsons UK, a charity close to many of their hearts.

The group worked extremely hard to organise, set up and carry out the successful sale which raised a fantastic £206.84.

A special mention goes to Kezia for leading the event and Evie, Jack, Grace, Esme and Liam for volunteering to help.

Well done everyone - a great effort for a brilliant cause.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Fairground fun...

Year 7 design technology students learned about forces and stresses this term which they combined with the designing skills they learned earlier in the year, to design and make their own fairground rides.

Students considered the stability of their structures as well as user enjoyment and aesthetics to create fabulous and beautifully crafted prototypes. We have been utterly blown away by their creativity, skill and amazing efforts and can't wait to see what they can do in Year 8 and beyond.



What Would David Do?

This term we launched our new eco initiative which aims to reward the greatest eco champions! This month we crowned our first set of winners, who now proudly wear their What Would David Do? eco friendly pins.

Let's take a look at what our winners have been up to...

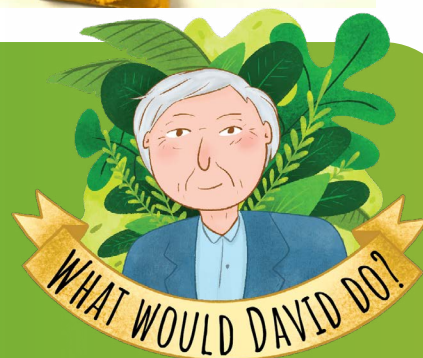
Year 7 Merrick is a keen gardener with an allotment where him and his family work to grow fruit and veg like tomatoes, pumpkins, rhubarb, strawberries

to name a few! Merrick showed his commitment to the cause by hand making wildflower seed bombs to hand out to his classmates.

Year 9 Jasmine is a 'reduce, reuse, recycle' warrior. Jasmine is super conscious about waste, making sure she recycles and reuses all sorts like plastic containers or clothes. This eco warrior grows her own produce and makes her own compost!

Year 12 Jessica is our student Environmental Leader and is smashing it! From reusable cotton pads to keeping her own chickens and growing veg, Jessica is always trying out new ways to be sustainable. Jessica volunteers weekly at REFUSE, Chester-le-Street, who intercept the food supply chain saving good food from going to landfill.

Don't forget, we'll be choosing more winners next term. If you'd like to find out more and apply for a badge and certificate, you can find more information at: nelt.co.uk/wwdd



Summer traditions in the UK and beyond



UK - Wimbledon

Wimbledon is the oldest and arguably the most famous tennis tournament to exist. The tournament made history in 1967 to be the first broadcast to be televised in colour! Did you know that Wimbledon is the only remaining 'grand slam' to be played on actual grass?

UK - Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Scotland's capital sees a huge influx of tourists during the summer for their world-class arts festival, stretching over the summer

months. Over 50,000 performances take place, from circus acts to comedians, there's something for everyone!

UK - Cheese rolling festival

Have you heard of the annual Gloucester Cheese Rolling event? People gather in their thousands to watch as competitors chase gigantic rolls of Gloucester cheese down some very bumpy hills!

Spain - La Tomatina

On the last Wednesday of every August, over 20,000 people gather

in Buñol, Spain, to celebrate La Tomatina. Hundreds of tomatoes are thrown at each other in the street just for the fun of it. The tradition began in 1945 and approximately 40 metric tonnes of tomatoes are used – that's a lot of tomatoes!

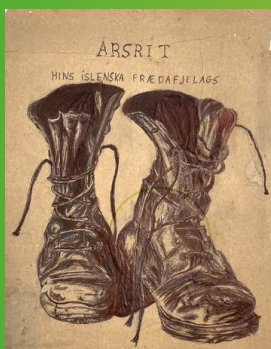
Japan - Aomori Nebuta Matsuri Festival

During August, vibrant lanterns showing gods and mythical characters are paraded through the streets of Japan as drummers and dancers bring the parade to life!



Artists' corner

Our Year 9 artists have been working hard on their Local Heritage project this term by exploring the work of artists such as Mark Powell and Norman Cornish. Students worked with a variety of media including pen & ink and monoprint to produce some fantastic outcomes! We're very impressed - keep it up!



Sports leaders

Last month a group of our fantastic students led two days of cricket skills workshops at Chester-le-Street Cricket Club and Brandon Cricket Club.

Over the two days the group coached over 500 primary school pupils and were a credit to our school, receiving fantastic feedback from the primary school staff.

Thank you to Durham and Chester-le-Street school sport partnership and Durham Cricket who ran the event.

