



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

NEWSLETTER

**APR
2023**

SPRING

A message from our Headteacher...

As we come to the end of our second, very busy, term in school of the academic year, it is fitting to thank you all for your continued support.

Our students have benefited from and been able to participate in a wide range of activities, both inside and outside of school. The joint effort between school, parents and students enables us to grow from strength to strength. Thank you.

We value all the students' work and their tremendous effort to make a difference. We hope this newsletter will allow you to celebrate with us the wonderful talent within our school community.

Spring is definitely in the air, which means Easter is just around the corner. Easter welcomes a season of renewed inspiration, joy and optimism. We wish you all a restful, safe and happy Easter break.

With every good wish,

D Stewart

Darren Stewart
Head of School

In this issue:



Mini open evening

This term we welcomed Year 5 and 6 pupils back into school!



Breathtaking views!

During the February half term, students hit the slopes in the Italian Alps!



World Book Day 2023

This month we celebrated all things reading!



Mini open evening success!

We kicked off this month by hosting our Year 5 and 6 mini open evening where we invited our special visitors and their parents/carers into school to experience Hermitage Academy once more.

We were overwhelmed by the 350 visitor turnout and all the positive feedback we kindly received.

Our older students led Year 5 and 6 around our school and curriculum leaders were on hand to talk about their subjects and show off work from our current Year 7s. Mr Stewart delivered an insightful presentation all about our high standards and rewards, pastoral and curriculum offering.

We'd like to give a special mention to our students from Years 8 - 13 who entertained guests with their musical talents.

Now that secondary places for September 2023 have been offered, we look forward to beginning our transition process and welcoming our new students.



World Book Day

This term saw the return of the much-loved World Book Day where we celebrated the beauty of books and the enjoyment of reading with exciting events across school.

Our teachers dressed up as book characters and gave out golden tickets to curious students who asked brilliant questions about their costumes. Each lesson began with teachers introducing inspiring authors and sharing facts about their lives and careers before getting stuck into some activities. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our literacy treasure hunt, writing competitions and our 'never ending story' where classes read and built upon a story created by the class before them. We were delighted to see our students exercising their brilliant imaginations - we definitely have some budding writers in our midst.



Netball champs

Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team who won the Durham City and District Schools Netball Association Tournament this term! The girls played against 6 teams and did not lose a single game. Keep it up!



Careers fair

Here at Hermitage Academy, we are passionate about providing students with opportunities to help guide them in their next steps. This term we hosted our first in-house careers fair of 2023 for students in all year groups, including sixth form.

The event was a huge success as students had the opportunity to talk to a range of employers, post-16 and post-18 education providers and representatives from various industries.

Our visitors all commented on how impressed they were with our students and the questions they asked about their futures. We can't wait for our next careers fair in the summer term!

Easter careers

Let's take a look at some career paths that really flourish at Easter time...

Chocolate Research and Development Scientist

This career involves developing new chocolate prototypes and products as well as improving quality of existing products. But it's not just about the taste test, a chocolate scientist needs to provide technical reports and guidance too. Having qualifications in food chemistry and nutrition can lead to becoming a Chocolate Scientist.

Florist

Did you know that florists are busiest during the Easter period? A college course in floristry on average takes around two years to complete. You may also choose to open your own florist shop!

Allergist

During the spring, allergists see almost 30% of their patients for the whole year. After completing training, the average salary of an Allergist is £29,384 - £34,012. At the level of a Consultant, this can rise to £114,003!

Spring snaps

The weather is getting warmer and the days longer, so why not get outside during the holidays and challenge yourself to capture spring in some photographs?

You could use the frosty mornings or blooming flowers as your inspiration. We'd love to see what you produce!



Move over Lord Sugar...

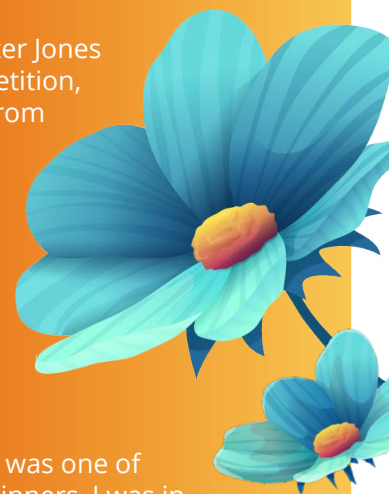
WOW! Erin is a winner of the Peter Jones Foundation Be the Future competition, making her the second winner from Hermitage Academy two years running!

Students were tasked with creating a new product or service to address a social or environmental issue. We are so proud of Erin for receiving such a prestigious award after all her hard work!

Erin said: "When I was told that I was one of the Be the Future competition winners, I was in complete and utter shock."

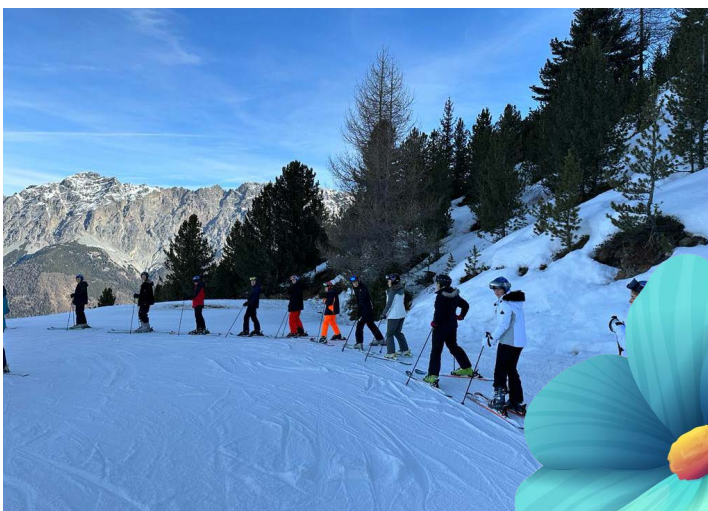
My social enterprise idea was an app named Conscious Carbon, that allows you to track your carbon footprint in the click of a button. The app had a monthly cost of £1.99, and half of the profits would go to charities such as reforestation organisations. The idea of the app was influenced by my family who are all vegan, as we believe in making the planet more sustainable and healthy. Therefore, I attempted to create a solution

where people could be involved in trying to reduce the number of carbon emissions released into the atmosphere in day-to-day life."



Hitting the slopes

During the spring half term, a group of students were on top of the world as they travelled to Bormio in the Italian Alps for a ski trip. From beginner to skier in a matter of days - all students learnt to ski and explored the slopes whilst taking in the breathtaking scenery.



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

31 MAR - Break up for Easter

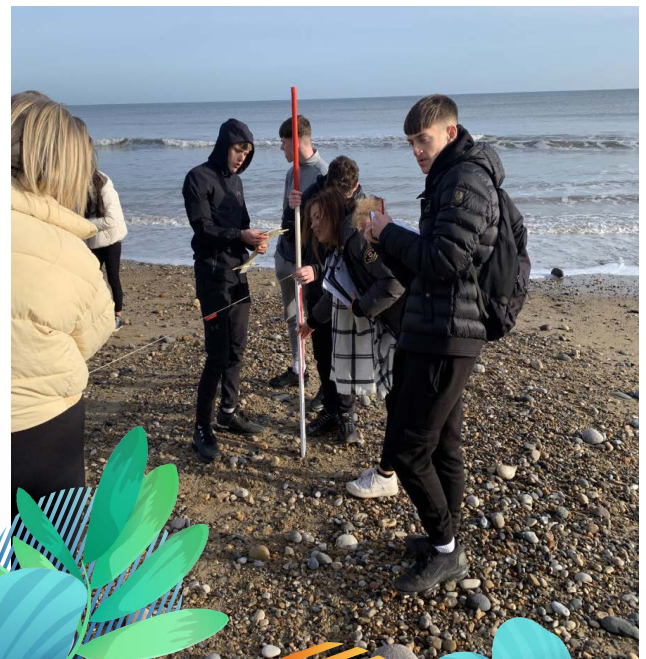
17 APR - Back to school

01 MAY - Bank holiday

08 MAY - Bank holiday

Curious geographers

Our curious Year 11 geographers put their knowledge into action in the great outdoors this term, working hard to complete their fieldwork as part of their GCSE course. Students worked brilliantly in teams to collect their primary data by measuring beach profiles and sediment size as well as completing field sketches. As part of their urban study the group also completed land assessments, pedestrian counts and environmental surveys. Great work everyone, we look forward to seeing whether your hypotheses are right.



Easter traditions around the globe!

In the UK, hot crossed buns are eaten to represent the crucifixion of Jesus. We also see supermarkets packed with Easter eggs - did you know in 2019, we spend a whopping £206 million on them!?

Some North Western European communities kick off Easter celebrations by enjoying a bonfire while people from Italy often gather for firework displays which dates back over 350 years!

People from Ethiopia often celebrate 'Fasika' which is similar to lent, where people avoid meat and animal products for 55 days in the lead up to Easter Sunday.

In the city of Antigua Guatemala people mark Easter by creating colourful carpets. In the city of Antigua, locals cover the streets in colourful carpets to prepare for the Good Friday procession through the city.

What is your favourite Easter tradition?

Try something new!

This term we celebrated students who attended the most extracurricular clubs. 19 students had consistently attended at least five school clubs so we treated them to a special lunch to award their engagement.

Avid club attender, Lana said: "Attending clubs helps me to build connections, communicate with lots of different people and to learn new things about my subjects. I particularly love Drama Club where you have lots of freedom!"

Megan added: "Going to clubs builds your confidence and makes you meet more friends."

Never been to a club? Why not challenge yourself and give something new a try next term? You can find out extracurricular timetables on our school website.

Faith in spring time

As a predominantly Christian country, the UK celebrates **Easter** during the spring time to mark the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion. Each year, Easter Sunday takes place on a different date - the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

Passover, a holiday in the Jewish calendar, also takes place in spring. Passover celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It is tradition to eat a special bread that does not contain yeast (unleavened bread) called matzo. You must have speed on your side when making matzo as the bread begins to rise after 18 minutes!

Ramadan is celebrated by those who follow Islam and this year it's from the end of March to the end of April. Those who celebrate Ramadan practice fasting, prayer, reflection and celebrating community. Food can only be eaten after sunset or just before dawn, meaning many families create plentiful feasts to enjoy after daylight hours.

STEM club fun

Our STEM club have been busy this term! One of their projects involved building habitats, using polymer clay to create figures that live in their creative worlds. After completing the worlds, the group enjoyed zombie apocalypse themed sessions where members of the club discussed how to avoid danger and identify scientific solutions to save the world.





WHAT WOULD DAVID DO?

Is your child an eco champion? We're launching a new eco-campaign in school to encourage all students to join our exclusive What Would David Do? (WWDD) club, where membership is reserved for our most eager energy experts, resolute recyclers and superior species savers.



←
MERCH!

Your child is in with a chance of bagging this year's must-have uniform embellishment if they can prove that they have worked hard to save energy, reduce waste and improve the environment around school and at home.

Students (even sixth formers!) across the North East Learning Trust will be sent one of our limited edition pins and certificates at the end of each term if they can prove that they are an eco champion.

Is there anything you can do at home to help them bag one of our recycled wooden David Attenborough pins?

HOW TO WIN A BADGE:

START AN ECO INITIATIVE

SHOW PROOF OF YOUR ENERGY SAVING

SHARE ECO IDEAS OR PROJECTS + MORE

How to apply:

Your child will need to download an application form and fill it in (including a signature from their teacher) before sending it to NELT Head Office. At the end of term our eco champions will be decided and their place in the WWDD club confirmed with the delivery of their certificate and pin.

Visit: nelt.co.uk/WWDD



North East
Learning Trust