



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



WELCOME to our summer newsletter

'There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.' ... and there are months where centuries happen too! The last few months have been unusual to say the least. We have seen everything that we take for granted change so very much.

One aspect of lockdown that has remained steadfast is the resilience of our students and staff. Everyone has been on quite a journey with setting up the virtual school and then maintaining a quality educational experience for our students. Our thanks go to everyone involved in enabling students to continue learning. A vote of thanks must also go to you, our parents, who have been supportive, cooperative and patient. Thank you.

As the summer holidays arrive, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 students and some Year 11 students. We wish them well, as they move on to their future studies and careers. We will miss

them. Our Year 11 and 13 students really have had the strangest time of all. We are so proud of how they have coped with the abrupt and sudden halt to the examination series and all the preparation that comes before.

We can't wait for September, when we will at last be together and able to welcome our new Year 7 and 12 students and their families to our thriving school community. We hope that you all have a lovely summer time and that your loved ones stay safe and well.

As always, the content of this newsletter will celebrate the wide-ranging effort our students have put in to showcase their many, many talents.

Thank you and best wishes.

Darren Stewart
Head of School

Dr Janice Gorlach
Executive Headteacher

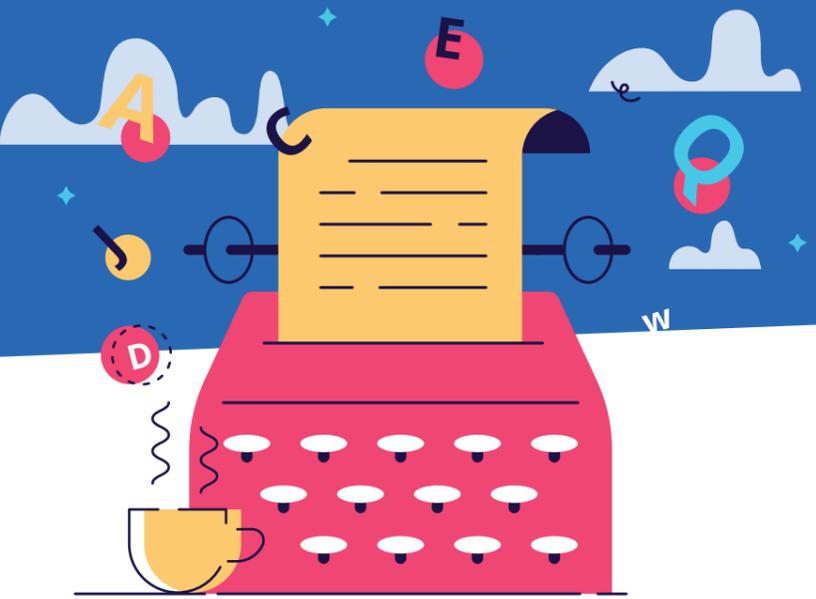
Teachers produce PPE for frontline workers

Alongside the other five secondary schools within the North East Learning Trust, members of staff here at Hermitage Academy produced PPE to support frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19.

Using an approved design from Kitronic, our technology department used the school's laser cutter to produce protective visors for frontline workers, producing a whopping 3,246 across all six schools in the Trust.

We were delighted to be able to play our part in the fight against the virus and we would like to thank the incredible frontline workers for their tireless efforts and dedication to keeping us safe.





Lucy's descriptive writing piece!

Year 9 student Lucy has used her time in lockdown to create a lovely piece of descriptive writing about a beach. Here is an extract of her work...

As the calm breeze blew into shore, the waves cascaded onto the beach, engulfing the sand and taking it out into the deep ocean. No sign of seagulls, only small birds tweeting and wildlife walking in the tall grass-filled sand dunes, which towered over the beach, forming a barrier from sea to land. Froth from the strong waves drifted into shore, layering over any pebbles or stones captured by the sand. The beach is a prison to the pebbles that flow in from the sea.

Along the beach, a tall lighthouse stood, high almost amongst and surrounding the darker clouds. The sun beamed down, then hid away again, as if it was playing hide and seek with the earth. The sky began to fill with clouds, covering the blue sky and blocking out the sun, small raindrops fell from the pure clouds, drenching the sand beneath.

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

Due to the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we cannot commit to any fixed school events at the moment. Parents' evenings and other planned events in school are postponed until further notice.

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

HELLO TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS!

Well, as if this time wasn't stressful enough for you all: then came lockdown! Here at Hermitage Academy we are very excited to meet you and we have a warm welcome awaiting you for your first days in 'big school'!

Until then, we have been busy creating as many virtual welcomes to make your transition that bit easier. Check out our website or Facebook page where you will find: a virtual tour of your new school, welcome messages from your sept tutors, photos and messages from all of your new teachers and lots of vital information on all you will need for your start at the Academy.

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

See you all soon!

Boredom busters!

Games night

Play a game with your friends on FaceTime or Zoom.

Movie night

Sweets, popcorn and a good movie, cuddled up on the couch with loved ones.

Fix your Feng Shui

Sick of seeing the same old thing? Switch it up! Pinterest has some lovely ideas.

Pamper night

Have a pamper night: cleanse your skin with a face mask, have a soothing massage or take a relaxing soak.

Green finger

Take advantage of the lovely weather and grow a plant companion.

Create a masterpiece

How about having a crack at the arts? Who knows, you might be a secret painter or poet.



Poetry corner

Hearing about it all, made us all fall
To the ground we went, it was all discontent
It's a serious time, an even more mysterious than crime
And as we clap at our doors for the NHS
We will come back to our feet, even after defeat.
This period will hopefully come to an end.
We will rise higher than ever getting it off our back,
But now's the time we need to get on track.
Thank you, NHS, for all the help and support,
I hope we've been a good cheering sport.
You've worked your hardest and been your best, but hopefully soon you will have your rest!

By Katie, Year 8



Lockdown Bake-Off showstoppers!

Students across Key Stage 3 and 4 have donned their aprons this term in an effort to bake a showstopper cake to represent their experiences during lockdown.

The standard of entries was exceptionally high making judging very difficult; not a soggy bottom in sight!

All students received a certificate of participation in recognition of their fabulous efforts, but 'star baker' went to Bethany Kent and Sophie Whitfield from Year 7.

Sophie decorated her 2-tier Victoria sponge cake, using buttercream and fondant icing to represent some of her lockdown activities.

Bethany's vanilla sponge was sandwiched with a delicious strawberry and buttercream filling and decorated with rainbow lettering and Skittles showing appreciation for the NHS. Bethany wanted to represent that even though we are apart during lockdown we are still there for each other.

Well done to Bethany, Sophie and everyone else who took part!

TRAPPED

by Erin Burke

How many likes?
How many followers?
Is that what really matters?

Liking this, liking that
Is that what you do?
People have to realise that
Everything online isn't real or true.

Keeping connections with friends and family
I suppose social media is good in that way.
But true or not, many people post something
On social media every day.

We're social!

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



Students create environmental project

Students in school have been working exceptionally hard to create an environmental project with the aim of cleaning up our wonderful woodlands and appreciating the work already being done within the local community.

Students created an educational awareness poster to protect Waldridge Fells and wrote letters of appreciation to a Red Rose Primary school student who has created his own litter picking club. The Year 4 pupil said: "I can't believe students from big school have written me a letter".

Following this, the students decided they wanted to do their bit by litter picking around the school site and creating mindfulness chalk drawings. The students invested a lot of time and effort and were passionate about the issues raised, making the project an extremely rewarding experience for all involved.



NELT virtual choir

The music department are very proud of all of the students who have continued to perform and develop their musicianship by recording solo performances at home during lockdown.

A special mention to Sarah Heeley, Year 12, Rhys Dixon, Year 11, and Sam Wallis, Year 8, who volunteered to share their performances on the school's social media platforms for students and parents to enjoy. A further well done to those in our 'Voices' group who recorded themselves as soloists. Their performances were compiled into a NELT Virtual Choir singing 'What A Wonderful World'.

You are all a credit to the school – well done!