



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

WELCOME to our spring newsletter

"The great gift of Easter is hope." – Basil C Hume

As we come to the end of our second full term in school of the academic year, and a step towards some form of normality, it is fitting to thank you all for your continued support. Our students, as always, have excelled themselves both inside and outside of school. They continue to demonstrate great resilience and determination. The joint effort between school, parents and students enables us to grow from strength to strength - thank you.

During the past term it would be all too easy for us to forget the many additional events that our students have been involved in. 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 - enjoy!

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,

Thank you and best wishes.

Darren Stewart
Head of School

Dr Janice Gorlach
Executive Headteacher

Fantastic fundraising

This term saw Hermitage Academy become a sea of purple in aid of Purple Day for epilepsy awareness.

Our kind sixth formers organised the day's events to raise funds for SUDEP Action (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) in memory of a dear friend we lost in November.

So far, the group have raised over £1,000 and the total just keeps on growing!

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed and to our sixth form students for organising the day.



The Easter cake club

Warning: this will make you hungry...

Year 8 and 9 Cookery Club students developed their baking skills with some very impressive Easter themed chocolate fudge cupcakes with butter cream frosting this term. The club members have been exploring a wide range of cooking skills, from bread making and ravioli with fresh pasta to chocolate Swiss roll.

Students have been mastering lots of technical cooking skills and we were very impressed with the Easter cakes produced this term... and hope at least some of them made it home uneaten!



Were social!

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



@hermitage_acad



@hermitageacad

IMPORTANT DATES

for your diary

25 APR - Back to school

02 MAY - Bank holiday

26 MAY - Break up for half term

Please check our website for term dates and school closures.

Holocaust Memorial Day



Students across Key Stages 4 and 5 had the opportunity to hear survivor testimony given by Eva Clarke as part of Holocaust Memorial day this year.

Students participated in a live webcast where they had the opportunity to listen to what Eva had to say about her experiences.

She was born in Mauthausen concentration camp and emigrated to the UK in 1948 after the war was over. Eva and her mother Anka were the only survivors from her family, her father was killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Eva settled in Cardiff after moving to the UK, married in 1968 and has two sons.

She provided a moving testimony about the experiences of her parents before and during the Holocaust, as well as talking about how this experience has affected her own life.

Supporting Ukraine

This term saw students take part in a community day at Hermitage Academy where everyone took part in a non-uniform day to raise funds for The Red Cross and UNICEF in support of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

Students were very generous in their donations and really got behind the cause, which was an absolute pleasure to see.

At break time there was a bake sale which obviously got everyone smiling! Donations are still open but from the bake sale alone, we

raised over £1700 for the charities - which is absolutely amazing!

There was a lovely atmosphere while remembering the reason behind the day. One fabulous student in Year 7, Maddie, had baked a spectacular cake for the bake sale. It was far too good

to slice, so it went to auction at the end of the day. Departments across the school got pretty competitive and the final sale price (in the very last minute) was £185 as a joint bid between the office staff and science department. Thank you everyone.

Hello to Years 5 and 6

What a wonderful feeling it was to be able to open our doors once again and invite in some of our primary school children for a mini open evening this term!

Year 5 and 6 students joined us to get a feel for the school, have an opportunity to talk to different subject teachers, meet some of our fantastic students and of course, sample our cookies! The night had a real buzz and we were blown away by the popularity of the event. We can't wait for the future transition events we have planned to see all the students again and welcome our new Year 7s in September.



World Book Day 2022

Books were the talk of the school as we celebrated this year's World Book Day.

Staff and students were invited to come to school dressed as characters from their favourite book and, they did not disappoint. Classrooms were filled with characters from Harry Potter, Disney, Roald Dahl and more. There was even a full dinosaur costume - impressive!

Students also enjoyed other reading activities throughout the day: guess the bookshelf in form time; a read-a-thon;

book swapping and book themed competitions.

For the read-a-thon, students read the intriguing short story 'Man with the Yellow Face' by Anthony Horowitz and uncovered the next part of the narrative at the start of each lesson. Our students have loved taking part in read-a-thons in the past and look forward to exploring a twisting, turning plot one lesson at a time!

Easter bucket list

This Easter why not have a go at...

1. Baking Easter treats.
2. Going for a spring walk and taking photos of all the blooming flowers.
3. Setting up an Easter egg hunt for your friends and family.

Scientific success

We've welcomed some exciting guest speakers into school this term.

Back in February, we welcomed Dr Andy Burns-Consultant Oral and Facial Surgeon from Sunderland Hospital to our sixth form to talk about oral and maxillofacial surgery as a career. Students in Key Stage 4 and 5 listened intently as Dr Burns shared anecdotes of the amazing work he and his team do.

Students found out about life in hospitals and some of the interesting and unusual cases they deal with as well as the path to medical school and what is

required. Andy also introduced the group to some of his colleagues who are currently at, or have recently graduated from, medical school.

Our Year 12 students also received an enlightening talk this term from one of our past sixth form students, Dr Tom Curtis, who is in his first year practicing as a junior doctor in an Edinburgh hospital. Tom talked about what a day in the life of a junior doctor entails and the students really appreciated his

personal perspective of his route from sixth form to junior doctor.

During British Science Week this year, Year 12 celebrated the theme of 'growth' by visiting Pelton Community Primary School to work with Year 3 and 4 to carry out some investigations. Everyone had a great time looking into factors that affect microbe growth. We definitely have some budding primary school teachers in our midst!



Year 7 make me proud because...

"This term has brought with it new challenges which Year 7 have adjusted to with a high level of maturity. Changes to classes, teachers and in some cases timetables has taken some time to adjust, but I am incredibly proud of the way that Year 7 as a year group have settled in.

Many of our students continue to model exemplary behaviour, high levels of politeness and kindness towards each other.

As the year progresses, Year 7 have continued to build on the fantastic start they made last term, and it is with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to what the third and final term of their first year at Hermitage will bring. Wonderful personalities have continued to shine through. They have continued to excel in terms of Laurea stamps, achieving a staggering amount of certificates and lapel pins which are proudly worn - I look forward to celebrating more successes next term."

Mr Gibbins

Year 8 make me proud because...

"My year group make me proud as they have shown great resilience - this is the longest they have been in school face to face since Year 5! They are focussed, engaged and dedicated to their lessons. I am positive this resilience shown through winter, will also shine through as we move closer to summer.

We also have several students who are dedicated to school life beyond the classroom. I was particularly delighted to receive a photograph of some fantastic baking that Amelia, Thomas and Lucy had stayed back to create during Cookery Club. We also have some brilliant students dedicating their Tuesday's to Industrial Cadets Club, demonstrating a passion for collaboration and innovation. Well done to Jasmine, Jessica, Darcy, and Josh.

It is clear that one aspect underpins this dedication and that is friendships. Through school life it is evident that old friendships continue to grow, and new friendships form. Students continue to demonstrate kindness towards one another by supporting each other during social time and in lessons. I love being in lessons, - or teaching them - observing the support they give peers to complete tasks and contemplate new learning, often with a bit of humour to help! I can't wait to see what summer term brings for Year 8."

Miss Bratton

Year 9 make me proud because...

"This term it has been lovely to see students gaining confidence in their options subjects. When I visit the different departments it is clear that the students are taking great pride in their work whether this is an art sketchbook or a case study in business.

Year 9 have also had the opportunity to attend one of the first theatre trips since the pandemic began - *Animal Farm* at the Theatre Royal. The group were an absolute credit to the school, they were polite and respectful to the staff at the Theatre Royal and were able to talk with confidence about their views on the production.

I am also impressed by how the students have engaged with events in school such as World Book Day and our most recent non-uniform day to support the work of UNICEF and The Red Cross. All students contributed to

these charities, and many supported further by baking cakes and bringing in raffle prizes.

What has become most apparent this term is the students' growing maturity; this is demonstrated by an increasing awareness of their own responsibility towards themselves and others, being kind to each other and settling down to concentrate on their own individual goals.

Well done Year 9 - I have always been proud of you, but this year you are really showing what you can really achieve!"

Mrs Jamieson

Year 10 make me proud because...

"There is always something or someone that makes me proud of Year 10 every day. As the year group grow up into young adults, one of my favourite things is the sheer diversity of the individuals. We have world-wide competing gymnasts, national award-winning dancers, multi-talented actors and musicians, accomplished linguists, gifted artists and designers and dedicated sports stars in array of different disciplines - just to name a few of the hobbies and skills of the year group!

Enrichment is so important which alongside academic grades will really help students in Year 10 stand out from the crowds when applying for apprenticeships, jobs, college, and university.

Students have been taking part in careers interviews and this has helped several individuals become more focused on their future and the route they need to take to get where they want to be.

I am proud of the time and commitment students put into polishing their skills and hobbies in addition to their efforts and diligence with their schoolwork and look forward to see what is in store for the students next, especially as so many have signed up to take part in achieving their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Since beginning their GCSE option subjects, students have really matured as they enjoy studying subjects they have selected to continue or - in the case of media studies, health and social care and business studies - start completely new subjects altogether.

GCSEs are not easy, but Year 10 have thrived on the challenges they have faced and are not afraid to ask if they need a bit of extra support.

Keep up the amazing work Year 10 - in and out of the classroom - and show the world the incredible things you can do!"

Miss Hall



Year 11 make me proud because...

"I am incredibly proud of the year group as we come towards the final few weeks before their exams. It has been a tough GCSE journey for the students, adapting to learning online through a global pandemic. Students have dealt with this, and many other challenges, demonstrating resilience and determination. Throughout their studies they have consistently worked hard and attended intervention sessions to improve their performance. They have also continued their revision at home.

Year 11 continue to impress me daily, whether it is their creativity, innovation, analysis, or their ability to help and support each other through adversity. They have developed into well rounded individuals, who are best placed to continue their love of learning ensuring they become the best person they can be. I wish them all the best of luck for their exams, and I am confident that they will achieve some great results."

Mr Widdowson

Year 12 make me proud because...

"I am proud of Year 12 because of the fantastic resilience they have shown during the transition from GCSE to A-Level despite not having some of the usual opportunities and experiences of a 'non-covid world.'

Despite this period of uncertainty I am proud that Year 12 have developed positive working relationships with sixth form staff and shown themselves to be polite and courteous.

I am proud of Year 12 for attempting new challenges and pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones to gain new skills and experiences. They have been extremely proactive in seeking out additional extra-curricular opportunities - it will be amazing when it comes to writing up those personal statements!

The independent nature of the students has also shone through academically where students have approached the management of free periods and independent study with maturity and commitment. This maturity has been prominent in many students becoming mentors to younger students or getting involved in other school duties.

Keep up the good work Year 12, I look forward to seeing you develop into fantastic Year 13 students!"

Mr Rowles

Year 13 make me proud because...

"I am proud of Year 13 because of way they have handled their recent mock exams. Due to COVID-19 this was a relatively new experience for the students due to constraints they experienced both at GCSE and in Year 12.

I am also proud of students for attempting new challenges and pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones to gain new skills and experiences.

Their kindness as a group has also been particularly evident through the charitable work they have undertaken to help those affected by the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and causes closer to home in the form of purple day for National Epilepsy Awareness Week.

It's now not long until the summer exams, so keep up the hard work Year 13, it will be well worth it on results day."

Mr Rowles

