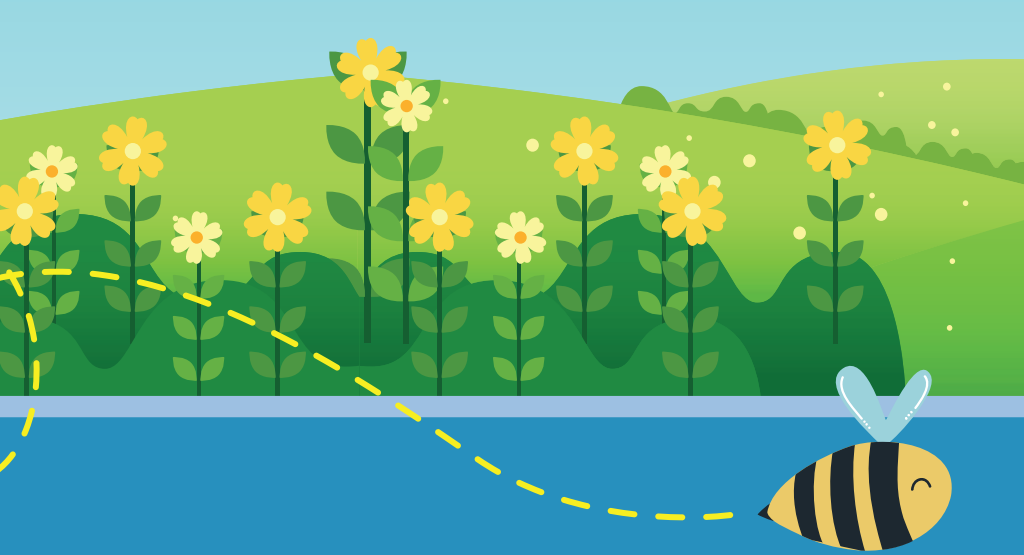




**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



WELCOME to our spring newsletter

"Concentrate on the road ahead, not on the road behind!"

As we come to the end of what has been a challenging term for everyone in our school community, it is fitting to thank you all for your continued support. Our students, once again, have excelled themselves demonstrating their resilience and determination. All of the staff must too be commended – they continue to be flexible and rise to the challenge of extraordinary circumstances. The joint effort between school, parents and students is continuing to allow 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.

Each week we have loved celebrating the achievements of our Monday Marvels, Great Eights and Wednesday Winners. If you have been keeping an eye on our social media channels, we are sure you will have been as amazed as we are at the efforts of our fantastic students.

We hope this newsletter will allow you to celebrate with us the wonderful talent within our school community. Enjoy!

With every good wish,

Thank you and best wishes.

Darren Stewart
Head of School

Dr Janice Gorlach
Executive Headteacher

World Book Day 2021

At the beginning of the month, Hermitage Academy celebrated World Book Day 2021.

We had plenty of activities going on to show that we all value the role that books play in our lives.

To start the day, tutors talked about World Book Day and shared 'paws for a story' challenges where students matched the teacher to the literary pet images.

Following on, during each lesson students watched a 'Masked Reader' video and guessed the teacher behind the mask. Lessons were taught virtually from a variety of amazing literary settings including 'Hogwarts' and 'The Shire'.

Key Stage 3 students collected clues to a famous author that they enjoyed throughout the day. Each lesson revealed a different piece of the jigsaw. The activities all went down a treat with our students and everybody cannot wait for next year's celebrations.



A message to you all...

Our staff members have a message for each year group, here's what they have to say...

Year 7

"I am so impressed with the resilience, focus and motivation shown by Year 7 this term. The high standards and excellent work shown online has led to the year group receiving a whopping 1800 Laurea stamps and praise points on class charts."

- Mrs Hardy

Year 8

"Whilst this lockdown seemed an altogether different time; less painting, baking, zooming etc. I think our Year 8s clearly demonstrated how they can adapt so maturely and quickly. It was truly lovely to see how effortlessly they engaged with online learning once more - this time following a full school timetable!"

- Mrs Jamieson

Year 9

"The focus in Year 9 this term has been to celebrate their achievements. Well done to all Year 9 students who have worked so hard! Many of our outstanding students have been nominated as

'Wednesday Winners'. We cannot wait to see who our upcoming winners will be!"

-Miss Hall

Year 10

"The start of the Year 10's GCSE journey has been tough, as unprecedented circumstances moved learning online, however I am delighted by the resilience and attitude shown by the year group throughout. It's important to reflect and remember that we were in this together and we have come out of this stronger, having learned lessons and skills that can now carry forward."

-Mr Widdowson

Year 11

"I am so proud of the way that we, as a year group and a community, have pulled together to support each other. I look forward to the next few months as we push forward towards the finish line. As ever, we are here to support you when you need it. The future looks bright for us all!"

- Mr Gibbins

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

Please note, after an error on our website. In the next academic year, school will be closed on Friday 18 February 2022 NOT Monday 28 February 2022.

Please check our website for term dates and school closures.

UKMT

In February, a number of students from Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.



The challenge consisted of some very tricky problems that required high levels of problem-solving skills.

Congratulations to the following students who all gained either gold, silver or bronze awards: Sarah Brazell, Ryan Atkinson, Grace Cassidy, Erin Dodd, Millie Douglass, Alex Garland, Antonia Johnson, Niamh Kemp, Ishpriya Nahal, Alana Ord, Millie Preston, Emma Price, Molly Ruggles, Katie Storey, Hannah Thomas, Chloe Tiffen, Grace Tucker, Erin Waugh and Megan Wilkinson.

The maths department are all extremely proud of their efforts and would like to give a special mention to Sarah Brazell, who gained the top score in Year 9 and Erin Dodd, who achieved the best score in school!

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

Institute of Sporting Futures ISF

During lockdown we have launched our ISF qualification for budding sports coaches in Key Stage 5. If you are interested in applying for September 2021, please get in touch with a member of our PE department.

The course allows students to work on their craft and get hands-on work experience with local sports providers. Endorsed by Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, the course offers a fast-track route into a career in sports coaching. Learners study at Hermitage Academy the theoretical lessons before heading out into the sporting industry.



Holocaust Memorial Day

This term, a group of Year 12 and 13 history students honoured Holocaust Memorial Day by taking part in a live webcast where they got to hear Holocaust survivor testimony.

Natasha Kaplinsky OBE interviewed Eve Kugler BEM about her experiences.

Students got to hear about how she was fortunate enough to be placed on transport to America, leaving her parents and a sister behind in Europe, all of whom managed to survive and were reunited again in America after the war was over.

Eve talked about the problems she had fitting in to her new life as a child alone in a new country, not even being able to speak the language. She also talked about how she felt it was important to share her story with others so that lessons could be learnt from the past to ensure something like the Holocaust does not happen again.



Fantastic photography

Year 10 Photography students produced some outstanding artificial mountains this term.

We spoke about what was real and unreal in the lessons online and how photography could be used to explore this concept. Here is a gallery of outcomes produced by the talented group. Mr French was delighted to receive these pieces based on the work of American fine art

photographer, Brendan Austin. He was really impressed with the lengths students went to to craft their artificial landscapes and thought it was fitting to celebrate them in a gallery.

Well done to all students involved.

Celebrating students!

From Monday Marvels and Great Eights to our Wednesday Winners. We all want to say a HUGE well done to you all!



Mindful garden

We are delighted to announce that we have been allocated funds to develop a 'Mindful Garden' next to our Laurea Centre in school.

This initiative has been driven by our School Counsellor, Sheila Carruthers, and funded by local councillors Paul Sexton and Alan Bainbridge through their neighbourhood budget.

The garden will give us the opportunity to hold 1-1 and small group counselling and mindfulness sessions within the garden.

There will be two bespoke garden benches, providing a calm and reflective space for children requiring 'time out' from lessons due to emotional distress. It will also provide a calming environment for those students who struggle to connect socially with their peers at break and lunch times. There will be three raised flower/vegetable beds and a potting shed for students to learn about growing and cultivating flowers and vegetables.

Councillor Paul Sexton said: "The work you and the whole team do for pupils is wonderful at the best of times. However, in the midst of a pandemic, where our normally socially engaged & inquisitive children are having their routines and support mechanisms interrupted, they need you more now than ever. The mindful garden is a fantastic initiative and we're delighted to be of support, given the amazing work you do. Hopefully, this will benefit many for years to come."