



The Hermitage Herald

Issue 3: November 2024

Hello!



Welcome to November's edition of Hermitage Herald – designed to keep you up to date with everything that's been happening in our school.

Here are the highlights of such a busy month here at Hermitage Academy – enjoy!

Charity work at Hermitage

As a school we embrace and celebrate the opportunity to raise money for great causes. BBC Children in Need, which fell on the 15th November, allowed students to raise money whilst taking part in fun activities within school over three days. Throughout the day the students took part in a burpee challenge, a dodgeball tournament, designing new bandanas for Pudsey and the 'Beat the clock' Maths challenge. We raised £452.95 for this fantastic cause!



In addition, two of our Year 12 students, Logan and Leah, recently became 'Dementia Friends' as part of their Health and Social Care coursework.

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is an initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition.



Student Leadership team

This year the students have already been involved in a range of events such as supporting school clubs, helping at Year 6 open evening and taking a lead in the school remembrance service. The team set their own agenda for the year and as they move forward, they will focus on student voice, community and charity. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish next.

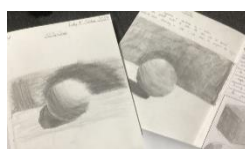
Remembrance Day

Every November at Hermitage Academy, we remember those who fought in conflict. This year, our Wellbeing Garden was a fitting venue to conduct the ceremony. The planning of the service was led by student leader, Thomas who also played the Last Post and Reveille during the ceremony. Ms Whillis, who serves with Army Cadets, led our students in the parade and service with Dominic (y13) as our standard bearer. Wreaths were laid by Mrs Maughan, Head of School and Student Leaders. Elliott (Y9) and Head boy Oliver recited the epitaphs. The whole school community observed the two minutes' silence at 11am.



Return of 'Fantastic Fridays'

This month has seen the return of our 'Fantastic Fridays' – a chance for students to show off their amazing talents and to celebrate the great work they are doing in class.



The Great Hermitage Book Swap

On Friday 22nd November, our book swap took place in the English block. For every book you donate, you can swap it for another or you can earn 10 EASI points! The next swap will take place in the new year!



Homework Heroes

At Hermitage Academy we see the value of homework, and we think it an incredibly important part of school life; it allows you to consolidate what you have learnt in class, it develops important skills such as time management, confidence and self-discipline and it can allow teachers to check for any gaps in learning.

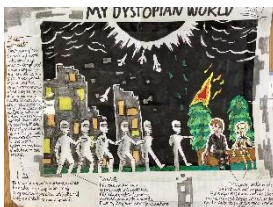
This month, the Science department set the challenge of researching scientist Gerty Cori, and Mrs Thompson's class created some fantastic information sheets!

Well done to our amazing Year 9s who have produced some fantastic homework looking at Utopian and Dystopian worlds in English. The students have exceeded Mrs Davidson's expectations with their effort and attention to detail. They have all been awarded 10 'High Quality Homework' points!

Mr Ward shared examples of excellent Geography work, created in addition to the set homework. Our students really do love the challenge of going above and beyond in their studies.

And Reuben H in Year 8 created this amazing diorama of the Blood Brothers set, that students in Year 8 have been studying in English this half term.

A reminder to parents and students that we have the very popular Homework Hub every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime, and every Tuesday and Friday after school (3pm-4pm). Our Heads of Achievements run the Hub, so there is always someone to hand to support with the completion of homework. All year groups are welcome!



In the classroom:

In Food Technology, Year 9 have been making scones. Mrs Christie has said that the standard this term has been excellent! Special mention goes to star bakers Isabel R, Jacob H and Charlie E!



Attendance Rewards:

Students from 7H1 enjoyed a breakfast as a reward for their amazing attendance - the whole form contributed to 98% attendance for the Autumn Term. Well done and let's see which form is our winner over the coming weeks!



Year 10 Debate Team:

On Wednesday 27th November, our debate team travelled to Yarm School to take part in the Regional heats. Their motion was to propose how facial recognition is a necessary addition to society, and the girls (Charlotte M, Sophie P and Lauren W) put up a great argument. Unfortunately, they did not make it through to the next round but have gained some valuable experience in the art of rhetoric and debate. Well done!



Hilda is 102!

Last week some of our Year 9 & 10 students visited local legend Hilda, who resides in a care home nearby to school. This was a special occasion as we celebrated Hilda's 102nd birthday with her, presenting her with a huge birthday card for a huge birthday milestone.

Our students chatted with Hilda and asked her some questions including "what is the secret to a long and happy life?" to which Hilda proudly replied "You've just got to be happy!"

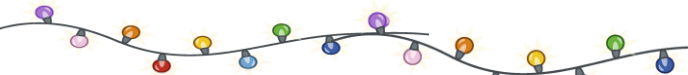


Hermitage Sports Round-up

- Team Hermitage secured 3rd place at the Tees Valley Dodgeball Championships this month
- The Futsal league is in full swing, where both girls and boy's team represented the school. Well done to the Y9 Futsal boys who are through to the next round.
- Congratulations to all our students who took part in the Durham School Cross Country Competition yesterday! A number of our students made it through to the Cross Country County Championship final.
- Year 7 and 8 netball teams are proving to be a force to be reckoned with as they continue to win games against school teams from across the county.

We are looking to work with local businesses in our community to sponsor new team strips for our student athletes! Your logo will feature on our team's uniforms, giving your business great visibility while supporting our sports teams.

We're excited about the opportunity to partner with you and help our athletes look and perform their best. If you're interested in being part of our journey, we'd love to hear from you! enquires@hermitageacademy.co.uk



Annual Christmas Concert

Join us at St Mary & St Cuthbert's Parish Church on Tuesday 17th December at 7pm for our annual Christmas concert.

Grab your ticket for £2 from the Music Department before they sell out. There is no charge for under 10's but they need a ticket for entry.

Dates for your Diary - December

December	What's on?
6th Dec	Sixth form Christmas bake sale
17th Dec	Christmas Concert at St Mary & St Cuthbert's Parish Church - 7pm start
18th Dec	Year 12 Parents' Evening: 3:30-6pm
19th Dec	Parent Information Evening – Support your child with Reading: 4pm-4:45pm in the Main Hall – open to parents of Years 7-9.
20th Dec	Year 7 church service School closes at 3pm for the Christmas break
6th Jan	School reopens for Spring Term



Positive Points

These students have collected the most positive points in November – Well done and keep up the great work!



7	Pearl P-H
8	Alfie U
9	Aymeric A
10	Sophie P
11	Ella S-P
12	Kelsie G
13	Dominic B

House news

We really do encourage healthy competition here at Hermitage Academy; collecting positive house points across the school day contributes towards the house points totals.

November's winning house was Integrity, winning comfortably with over 500 points in the lead. As we move into December there is everything to play for...who will win the house prize at the end of term?

1.		8,209
2.		7,681
3.		7,675
4.		7,529

Keep in touch

If you have anything to share about your child, or anything that may be happening in the community that you think we would like to hear about and could feature in our newsletter, please do get in touch.

Also, please let us know what you think of our newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!



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