



The Hermitage Herald

April 2026

Hello!

Welcome to April's edition of The Hermitage Herald – where we look back at what's happened over the month. There is always lots going on here in our wonderful school - enjoy!

Reading Rocks 2026

This year, we have focused on highlighting the importance and benefits of reading. Students of all year groups were invited to get involved and it was a great success.

The week kicked off with a short story by Mark Twain being experienced by all students at the start of each lesson. Students couldn't wait for the twist!

On Tuesday there was the opportunity to take part in a literary treasure hunt. Book covers linked to subjects were hidden around school and students worked together to find them all.

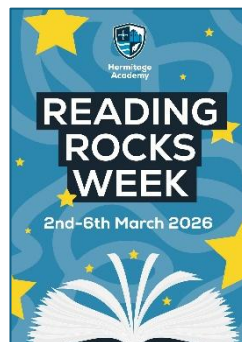
Wednesday was a real highlight as we had the author Malcom Duffy talk to years 7-9 about writing as a career. He shared his inspiration, his backgrounds and tips for budding writers. All students were given the chance to ask him questions, and he was very impressed with our enthusiasm and curiosity for writing.

For World Book Day, staff members were invited to dress to impress as part of the staff costume competition. We had the most departments ever taking part and there were some great discussions about reading and favourite books. Tutor groups were also tasked with identifying the teacher reading in an unusual place.

Friday culminated in students judging the costume competition and the winners were English with a whopping 14 votes!

Throughout the week, we ran a Scholastic book fair and students were able to buy some of the latest titles. There truly is no better feeling than picking a new book.

Overall, students and staff really embraced the spirit of Reading Rocks and Mrs Hodgson-Whittle would like to thank everyone - students and staff - who got involved.



Hermitage Academy Welcomes the Education Endowment Foundation

On Wednesday 4th March, Hermitage Academy was delighted to welcome a team from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), led by Corinne Settle alongside well-known education author and expert Alex Quigley. Their visit formed part of a national programme exploring how high-performing schools successfully translate educational research into everyday classroom practice.



Education
Endowment
Foundation

The EEF team were particularly interested in how research-informed approaches benefit our most disadvantaged pupils, and how professional development is embedded across subjects and year groups.

Throughout the morning, the eight-person team visited a wide range of lessons and they met staff and students across departments, gaining a first-hand insight into the routines, relationships and high expectations across school.

Corinne Settle, Content and Engagement Specialist at the EEF, shared an incredibly positive reflection on the visit: “For our team, it was a genuinely uplifting experience. Spending time with such passionate leaders and teachers was a privilege, and visiting lessons was a particular highlight—in fact, we didn’t want to leave them.

We are taking away the strong sense of positivity that runs through your team and the clarity with which evidence and classroom practice are brought together. It was impressive to see how this is supported by the Trust while encouraging teacher autonomy. Thank you again for your generosity and openness.”

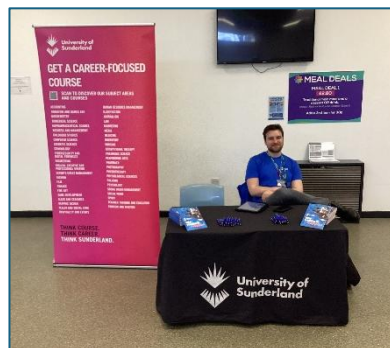
The visit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the hard work of both staff and students, and to celebrate the commitment across our community to delivering high-quality, evidence-informed education.

The Road Ahead for Year 9

On Wednesday 25th March, we welcomed parents and carers of Year 9 students into school for their GCSE pathways information evening and careers fair.

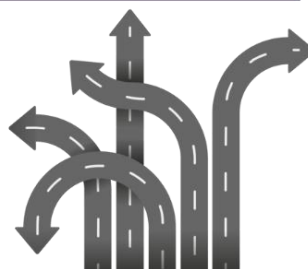
Subject leaders were on-hand over the evening to ‘sell’ their subjects and offer advice to students about to embark on the next chapter of their academic journeys.

Mr. Boyce and Mrs. Howard presented the options process to parents, and we also had representatives from sixth form providers and employers at our careers fair, making the evening jam-packed with information and opportunities.



HERMITAGE
ACADEMY

THE ROAD AHEAD



What's been happening in School?

Continuing the reading theme, we are thrilled to share that a number of our students are going to have their work published! Students were tasked with writing a 100 word short story around the theme of Stranger Sagas and the following have been chosen to have their stories published!



Congratulations to Charley-Grace, Henrietta, Taylor, Lola, Harrison, Alyssa, Wyatt, Prait & Kasey-Brooke.

We can't wait to read their wonderful stories in print!

Our Performing Arts department was busy this month as we saw a spoonful of amazing auditions for our upcoming production of Mary Poppins Jr! The auditions were simply 'supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'! From soaring vocals to chimney-sweep moves, every performer brought a touch of magic to the room.

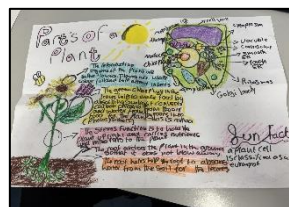
We also revealed our cast for the performance, and work starts to get the show looking 'spit spot'. Tickets will be available to purchase through parent pay after Easter.



10 students from year 7 and 8 attended the Northeast Lego League regional finals at Nissan. The team showed exemplary teamwork, taking their robot from having no code to achieving an impressive 120 points in its archaeological challenge. They prepared a presentation to show off their innovation project, 'seal it' which allows archaeologists to easily locate, seal and excavate any items of interest. The judges were particularly impressed with their resilience and problem-solving skills. The team were an absolute credit to the school and themselves.



British Science week was this month, and we explored this in school with an informative assembly around the theme of 'curiosity' and a follow-up poster competition open to all year groups. Here are a selection of the some of the entries:



7X2 have been creating propaganda posters for homework, to coincide with their war poetry studies.



¡Mil gracias por su participación!

We celebrated Hispanic week, held in our MFL department. It was a tight race but 7H1 stole the win, with their fabulous poster!



What's been happening in school?

This month saw the launch of the Key Stage 3 Hermitage Debate Club. We argued whether or not zoos should be banned. If anyone is interested in joining, we meet on a lunchtime on a Friday Week 2 in EN4.



We took 68 students (a mix of Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11 drama pupils), to experience the play 'Blood Brothers'.

To see it performed on the stage adds an extra layer of understanding and enjoyment to an already well-loved text in school. The show was outstanding and students showed their appreciation (and emotion) with a standing ovation at the end - INCREDIBLE is an understatement.

After the performance, we received two emails from members of the public, saying how respectful our students were with their impeccable manners.

To celebrate St Patrick's Day, we issued every member of staff one 'Pot of Gold' to hand out to a child deserving of some treasure. The pot of gold is worth five house points.

Fabulous Bethany in 7x1 got the pot of gold ticket in drama today for her wonderful performance of Mrs. Davies from First Day. Well done to all who received!

We also raised money for Comic Relief this month, with a range of fun activities planned for students and staff. We raffled a hamper, held a football tournament for students and of course, we had the obligatory bake sale!

We also invited students to join us in our Easter movie night with an Easter theme – 'Hop'. Students were invited to dress for comfort and even bring a blanket or bean bag along with their popcorn!




Synergy were the winners of our termly house points challenge, which meant that Synergy members could enjoy a fun quiz in the hall, based around the popular TV show, 'The 1% Club'.

The students pitted their wits against each other, for a chance to win Easter eggs and a Greggs voucher. Well done to all winners, whose collective points across the term sealed their win!

What's happening in our Hub and in the Community?

We have a strong pastoral offer here at Hermitage Academy, and as well as support for students within school, we can also offer information, guidance and support for families too.



Waves
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent and carer support group in County Durham and Darlington

Do you care for a child or young person with emotional or mental health difficulties?

Join Waves, our parent and carer support group, in County Durham and Darlington

Led by a friendly parent peer practitioner and supported by a CAMHS staff member, the group will listen, support and give advice and guidance based on their own lived experiences.

There's no need to book.

If you have any questions, email the team at TEWV.waves@nhs.net

2026 locations and dates:

<p>Acley Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4PE 6pm - 8pm</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>21st January</td><td>15th July</td></tr> <tr><td>18th February</td><td>19th August</td></tr> <tr><td>18th March</td><td>16th September</td></tr> <tr><td>15th April</td><td>21st October</td></tr> <tr><td>20th May</td><td>18th November</td></tr> <tr><td>17th June</td><td>16th December</td></tr> </table>	21st January	15th July	18th February	19th August	18th March	16th September	15th April	21st October	20th May	18th November	17th June	16th December	<p>Lanchester Road Hospital, Durham, DH1 5RD 10am - 12noon</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>7th January</td><td>1st July</td></tr> <tr><td>4th February</td><td>5th August</td></tr> <tr><td>4th March</td><td>2nd September</td></tr> <tr><td>1st April</td><td>7th October</td></tr> <tr><td>6th May</td><td>4th November</td></tr> <tr><td>3rd June</td><td>2nd December</td></tr> </table>	7th January	1st July	4th February	5th August	4th March	2nd September	1st April	7th October	6th May	4th November	3rd June	2nd December
21st January	15th July																								
18th February	19th August																								
18th March	16th September																								
15th April	21st October																								
20th May	18th November																								
17th June	16th December																								
7th January	1st July																								
4th February	5th August																								
4th March	2nd September																								
1st April	7th October																								
6th May	4th November																								
3rd June	2nd December																								
<p>SENDIASS, Lee House, Lee Terrace, Easington Village, Peterlee, SR8 3AB 10am - 12noon</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>20th January</td><td>21st July</td></tr> <tr><td>17th February</td><td>18th August</td></tr> <tr><td>17th March</td><td>15th September</td></tr> <tr><td>21st April</td><td>20th October</td></tr> <tr><td>19th May</td><td>17th November</td></tr> <tr><td>16th June</td><td>15th December</td></tr> </table>	20th January	21st July	17th February	18th August	17th March	15th September	21st April	20th October	19th May	17th November	16th June	15th December	<p>Mulberry Centre, Rowan Building, Darlington Memorial Hospital, DL3 6HX 10am - 12noon</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>6th January</td><td>7th July</td></tr> <tr><td>3rd February</td><td>4th August</td></tr> <tr><td>3rd March</td><td>1st September</td></tr> <tr><td>7th April</td><td>6th October</td></tr> <tr><td>5th May</td><td>3rd November</td></tr> <tr><td>2nd June</td><td>1st December</td></tr> </table>	6th January	7th July	3rd February	4th August	3rd March	1st September	7th April	6th October	5th May	3rd November	2nd June	1st December
20th January	21st July																								
17th February	18th August																								
17th March	15th September																								
21st April	20th October																								
19th May	17th November																								
16th June	15th December																								
6th January	7th July																								
3rd February	4th August																								
3rd March	1st September																								
7th April	6th October																								
5th May	3rd November																								
2nd June	1st December																								

Waves is a parent and carer support group, which specialises in support if you care for a child with emotional or mental health difficulties. With locations across the county, the poster outlines the dates where the groups will meet and there is no need to book, just turn up!

Additionally, our Family Hub in Chester-le-Street have a number of workshops to help you better understand your children and their needs. Please see below and on the next page for a breakdown of all the courses and workshops on offer.

Spring has arrived, and the Mindful Garden is bursting back into life. Bright tulips are opening across the beds, adding shades of yellow as they gaze up to the sun! Early herbs are sprouting too, and the first bees have already begun to explore the new blooms.

The Mindful Garden reminds us that even small signs of spring can bring calm, colour and inspiration.



Best Start Family Hubs support all families from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities. The team includes people from the council, NHS, community organisations and more. They can support you with everything to do with family life; they are here to make a positive difference for all families.

For more details, contact [Best Start Family Hub Chester-le-Street - Durham County Council](#) or telephone: 03000 261 111

What's on?	Where?	Type of course
<p>Educational Psychology drop-in Talk to the Educational Psychology team about any concerns you may have about your child such as learning, communication and language, social and emotional-wellbeing, practical skills or being independent. Educational Psychology drop-in sessions for parents and carers</p>	<p>Monday from 9.30am to 11.30am on: 20 April 2026 15 June 2026 17 August 2026</p>	<p>Drop-in</p>

What's on?	Where?	Type of course
<p>Sleep Workshop Sleep strategies and support for mams, dads and carers of children aged 18 months to 19 years including children with SEND/additional needs. Book a place on a Best Start Family Hub event</p>	<p>Monday from 10.00am to 12noon on: 15 June 2026</p>	<p>1 session</p>
<p>Durham SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) drop-in For parents/carers of families with special educational needs and/or disabilities, drop in to ask SENDIASS for impartial information or advice Durham SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) drop-in sessions</p>	<p>Monday from 1.00pm to 3.00pm on: 6 April 2026 11 May 2026 1 June 2026 6 July 2026 3 August 2026 7 September 2026</p>	<p>Drop-in</p>
<p>Fearless For mams, dads and carers of children aged 6-14 years, to help you understand your child's anxious feelings Booking required - please call 03000 261 111 to book a place.</p>	<p>Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am on: 12 May 2026</p>	<p>6 sessions</p>
<p>CAMHS Drop-in For mams, dads and carers of children aged 5-19 years old. Come along and speak to a CAMHS worker about your child's needs. These sessions may be useful if your child is struggling with low confidence and self-esteem, low mood or worrying and anxious feelings.</p>	<p>Wednesday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on: 13 May 2026 8 July 2026 9 September 2026</p>	<p>Drop-in</p>
<p>12 - 18 Workshop - Coping with Teenagers Emotions Learn how to cope with difficult situations and how teenagers can become emotional. Meet other mams, dads and carers and discuss how you can help your teenager to control their emotions. Booking required - please call 03000 261 111 to book a place</p>	<p>Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon on: 11 June 2026</p>	<p>2 hours</p>
<p>12 - 18 Workshop - Reducing Family Conflict Meet other mams, dads and carers to talk about being a parent and managing family conflict. Understand why teenagers are argumentative or aggressive and learn strategies to help you cope. Booking required - please call 03000 261 111 to book a place.</p>	<p>Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon on: 18 June 2026</p>	<p>2 hours</p>
<p>12 - 18 Workshop - Getting Teenagers to Co-operate Meet other mams, dads and carers and share some ideas and experiences about managing difficult behaviour and think about goals for change. Booking required - please call 03000 261 111 to book a place.</p>	<p>Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon on: 25 June 2026</p>	<p>2 hours</p>
<p>12 - 18 Workshop - Building Teenagers' Survival Skills Meet other mams, dads and carers to discuss some of the reasons teenagers take part in risky activities and how we can help them to enjoy themselves without putting their health and wellbeing at risk. Booking required - please call 03000 261 111 to book a place.</p>	<p>Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon on: 2 July 2026</p>	<p>2 hours</p>

Year 11 and 13 – Exam Countdown



Years 11 and 13 have completed their Spring mock exams, and there are now only two months until the start of the terminal examination season. The final stretch before the exams is a really important time to highlight strengths and also areas for development.

We hope that students will use the Easter break to revise and refresh. A reminder that Student Pod has a wealth of resources and material to support students.



Year group pages have been updated to provide guidance and tips on how to prepare and revise. Visit the website and click on 'POD' in the top right-hand corner of the page.



Please also see an updated timetable for the Easter revision sessions in school as well as intervention taking place in the run-up to the exams in May.

Y11 Easter revision					
Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 6th-10th April	Easter Monday		Y11R and 11O HIGHER 9:00am-11:00am	ENGLISH 9:00am-11:00am	BUSINESS 9:30am-11:30am
WEEK 2 13th-17th April	ART & PHOTOGRAPHY 9:00am-3:00pm SCIENCE 11G and 11Y HIGHER 9:00am-10:30am FOUNDATION 10:30am-12:00pm	ART & PHOTOGRAPHY 9:00am-3:00pm GEOGRAPHY (For Triple Science Students) 9.30am - 12.30pm MUSIC 9:30am-3:00pm RE 10:00am- 1:00pm	ART & PHOTOGRAPHY 9:00am-3:00pm GEOGRAPHY (All students except Triple Science Students) 9.30am - 12.30pm CHEMISTRY (Triple only) 10:00am-12:00pm RE 10:00am – 1:00pm	ART & PHOTOGRAPHY 9:00am-3:00pm MUSIC 9:30am-3:00pm MFL FOUNDATION 10:00-11:00am MFL HIGHER 11:00am-12:00pm HISTORY 1:00pm- 3:00pm	ART & PHOTOGRAPHY 9:00am-3:00pm MUSIC 9:00am-12:00pm PE 10:00am-12:00pm

Y11 Intervention					
WEEK A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM			Business Maths	Sports Studies	
Lunch	ISC Science Music English- Beat the exam Maths	ISC Higher Spanish Drama Geography	ISC English- Poetry pitstops	ISC GCSE PE	ISC Music
After School		Humanities		English	
WEEK B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM			Business Maths	Sports Studies	
Lunch	ISC Science English- Beat the exam Maths	ISC Higher Spanish Drama Geography	ISC English-Poetry pitstops	ISC Music GCSE PE	ISC Music
After School		Science		Maths	

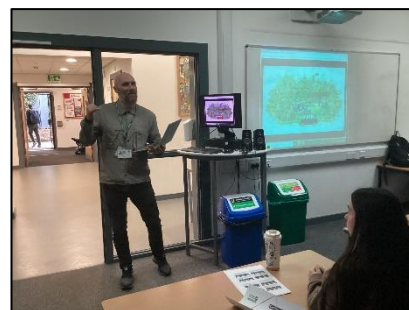
Sixth Form Round-up

It was lovely to see current students helping to promote the Sixth Form at our recent Year 9 Options Event. The stall was busy all evening with many Year 9 students asking questions about their next steps beyond school.

The cookery session with year 12 was highly successful. Students were fully engaged throughout, demonstrated strong teamwork and practical skills, and produced flapjack of an excellent standard. Their positive attitude and maturity contributed to a very productive and enjoyable session.



We were delighted to welcome Adam from the Cabinet Office, who delivered an insightful talk to our Sixth Form about the wide range of careers paths available within the Civil Service.



Last half term, Mrs Marshall met with all Year 12 and Year 13 students and completed welfare checks. In these sessions, student voice was collected about our 'World Ready' programme, wanting to ensure they cater to students' needs. Student safeguarding is a priority for us, and we want to equip all students with knowledge on how to stay safe when they leave us at the end of Year 13. The first topic students wanted to know more about was Clare's Law.



Clare's Law allows the police to release information about any previous history of violence or abuse a person might have. It means we can provide information that helps protect people at risk and prevent further crimes. The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her abusive ex-boyfriend in 2009. It was formally rolled out in England and Wales in 2014, following the campaign led by Clare's father Michael Brown.



For more information:
<https://clares-law.com>



There's still time to apply to our amazing Sixth Form!

Calling all Year 11 students! There's still time to apply to our fantastic Sixth Form, for a September 2026 start...just use the QR code here and apply today, to be part of this vibrant and close-knit community!

This term in Enrichment:

- Cooking on a budget
- Debating
- Enrichment project
- Virtual work experience
- Driver safety awareness workshop

Sporting Round-up

Well done to our Under 16 girls' football team, who competed in the semi-final of the County Cup. The team played brilliantly in a very competitive game, showing phenomenal teamwork and skill throughout.



Huge congratulations to our Hermitage Year 8 Football Team after a hard-fought

2-1 win over NDA and St Leonard's! A special mention to Danveer N for a superb debut and to Finn L, who scored all four goals across the matches.

The team also picked up a massive 4-0 win this month! Special mention to Jay E, who won 'Player of the Match' for his outstanding leadership on the pitch and for providing two impressive assists throughout the game.



Well done to our Under 14s football team who remain unbeaten for this season so far!

The team are showing excellent resilience, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout each game and are making phenomenal progress towards winning the league.

Congratulations to our Year 9 football team for their recent performances (and throughout the year). These wonderful students are currently unbeaten in the league this year and are making great progress to winning the league! Not only this, but they play football while showing great teamwork for one another, excellent sportsmanship and brilliant grit and resilience when things get tough, they are a credit to our school!



Well done to our Year 7 netball team, who picked up a huge win earlier in the month against Fram! Special mention to Grace who won player of the match.



Congratulations to Evie in Year 8, who won 1st place and secured her yellow belt in a Judo competition recently!



Ellie in Year 9 won a silver medal at the Scottish Championships. She was hurdling in the under 16 category - a step up to an older age group.

Roman in Year 7 has been competing at the Northumberland and Durham Counties Swimming Championships with great success. He won 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. He is now ranked in the Top 20 in the country for his age group. An amazing achievement!



Our rowers have been busy preparing for the upcoming regatta season. Year 10 and 11 students John, Millie, Sam, Elliot and Megan all took part in trials to be part of the Northern rowing team.

It's an invitation-only event, which, if successful, allows the rowers to partake in the British championships in Nottingham in April. It is an amazing achievement just being asked to compete – well done to all rowers!

Congratulations also to John, who had been selected to join the GB J16 camp this month. A fantastic achievement!

Grown-ups vs Tech

In line with Safer Internet Day, which was on 12th February 2026 the North East Learning Trust launched a challenge to encourage parents and carers to take on tech and keep their children safer online. The challenges were set every Saturday, starting February 14th and running through until March 21st giving grown-ups the opportunity to learn more about their child's online world and take a practical step to keep them out of harm's way.



Last month we showcased what the first three weeks of the challenge looked like; this edition we look at weeks 4, 5 and 6.

Week	Challenge	Details				
4	Spotting red flags online.	<p>A red flag is anything a child sees, reads or is asked to do online that feels worrying, inappropriate, secretive or unsafe.</p> <p>Being aware can help your child to protect themselves from dangers like phishing, scams and hackers. We've put together a guide together to get you started which you can view here: https://loom.ly/WWswvbs</p> <p>Don't forget, you can always access the NELT online safety hub which is full of expert advice and guidance to help manage your child's online safety online: https://loom.ly/SfYiG6I</p>				
5	To learn about some apps and platforms that are popular with children and teens, that you may not have heard of.	<p>Telegram - Telegram is a private messaging app with 'secret' chats, which means that messages, photos and videos can be set to 'disappear'. This makes it hard for parents to investigate potential issues like grooming or bullying.</p> <p>NGL (Not Gonna Lie) - This popular anonymous messaging app is often used with Instagram stories, and allows users to receive anonymous questions, confessions, and feedback from their followers. The anonymity of NGL means that children are at a higher risk of experiencing cyber-bullying.</p> <p>Twitch - This is a live streaming platform where many young people watch live content and interact with other viewers. While the platform can be used completely innocently, the main risk is that your child can be exposed to inappropriate stream content and unfiltered chats.</p> <p>You can always find more support and information on apps via the NELT online safety hub here: https://loom.ly/SfYiG6I</p>				
6	To download a parental control app.	<p>They're a great way to exercise screen time boundaries, approve app downloads, filter and monitor content, and some can even alert you if your child takes any of their devices out of a 'safe' location.</p> <p>Qustudio - you can get free with NELT here: https://link.nelt.co.uk/Hqt3q</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="365 1659 1318 1711"> <tr> <td>Mobcip</td> <td>Bark</td> <td>FamiSafe</td> <td>Eyezy</td> </tr> </table> <p>We actively encourage you to explore the options out there and find the best method for you and your family.</p>	Mobcip	Bark	FamiSafe	Eyezy
Mobcip	Bark	FamiSafe	Eyezy			

Have you been following along with Grown ups vs Tech? Have you found it useful? Would you like to see more content like this? Let us know in the comments! Don't forget, you can access our NELT online safety hub, full of useful information and support 24/7. <https://loom.ly/SfYiG6I>



Hermitage Good News!

Lots of good news this month! Please do share with us any exciting news, things you have been involved in, or anything that you are proud of – we'd love to hear about it!

Henry in Year 8 said, "I took part in the North of England Brass Band Championships at the weekend. My band, Craghead Colliery Brass Band, performed in the Gala Theatre in Durham and it went really well. We just missed out on a place in the National Finals (4th out of 12 isn't too bad!) but it was a great experience!"

Tyler in Year 9 wanted to share with us his sketch of Durham Cathedral – we think it's brilliant!

Skarlett in Year 7 told us about a dress she crocheted. It took 4 yarns of wool and it took her 6 months to make! The dress has been sold and sent on to someone who loves it as much as we do! What an amazing achievement!

Alice in Year 7 got in touch to say she passed her grade 2 saxophone exam with distinction. Alice also played at the Glasshouse in the Durham Music Service concert.

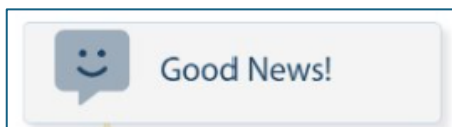
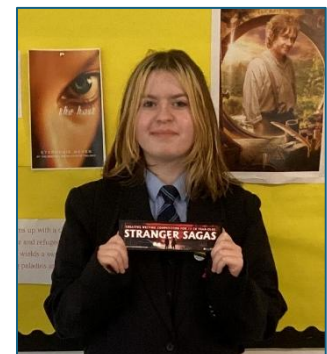
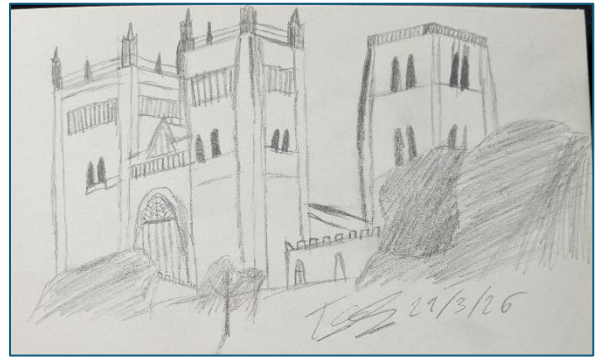
Jack in Year 7 wanted to share with us that he has almost got enough points to earn a bronze badge. Keep it going Jack – you can do it!

Toby in Year 7 shared that he is super-proud of receiving a medal for participating in the first Lego League challenge.

Kasey-Brooke is so proud of her story writing, she shared this with us on the Good News button: "My Stranger Sagas story is being published!" We are so proud of you Kasey-Brooke!

Willow in Year 8 represented County Durham at the regional finals of the Sports Hall Athletics competition in Catterick. Unfortunately, it wasn't County Durham's day, but Willow thinks individually she is improving all the time. Willow was part of the Chester le Street team, that as a group made it through to the County finals in Catterick.

Year 9 student Adam continues to pick up the awards! This time Adam and his drill team won 1st place in the area competition and are now going to Nationals.



Positive Points and Praise

Totals	Top Categories
<p>24,287 Actions</p> <p>866 Students</p>	<p>3,203 Above and beyond - 13.19%</p> <p>3,188 Award - 13.13%</p>

These students have collected the most positive points across March.

In total over the month of March, students in years 7-11 collected a whopping 24,287 points in total, with the category 'Above and Beyond' being where the most points were awarded.

At school we love recognising students' hard work and positive attitudes. Alongside awarding house points, we also celebrate achievements with special postcards, for

Year	Top Points
7	Darcy A
8	Sam M
9	George S
10	Alyssa H
11	Ella H
12	Lauren M
13	Kelsie G

sounding like an expert, going above and beyond, completing excellent homework, and much more. We take time in assembly to showcase the fantastic things our students are doing.

We encourage you to share in these celebrations at home too—there are surely plenty of fridges across Chester-le-Street proudly displaying our postcards!

Dates for your Diary - April 2026

April	What's on?
1 st	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Hybrid event)
2 nd	Kielder Observatory visit
WB 27 th	GCSE Spanish speaking exams (all week)
27 th	Oddballs assembly (boys)
29 th	Year 10 Parents' evening

Other ways to 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!



0191 388 7161



enquiries@hermitageacademy.co.uk

Forest School

Caroline at Forest School wanted to share this picture of some Year 8 students, who enjoyed an Easter-themed sack race after



working hard on their bushcraft skills during their outdoor practical sessions. Happy Easter to all our students and families!

Assemblies – March 2026

We carry on the theme to the end of this term with 'Cultural Capital' and we move onto the theme of 'Embracing Differences' when we return after the Easter break. Please do ask your child about their assemblies – there is always a wealth of information that children take away and supportive discussions at home will further their understanding and awareness of these important topics.

Starting this month, every week parents will receive a link for you to access further information or support in line with the topics presented in assemblies.

It's called 'Carrying on the Conversation' and we hope it will strengthen the links between home and school on the important topics for young people today.



Week beginning:	Assembly focus
30 th March	Autism Awareness
20 th April	Activities Week Launch
27 th April	Cultural Differences: Student Experiences (+ Oddballs – boys' assembly)