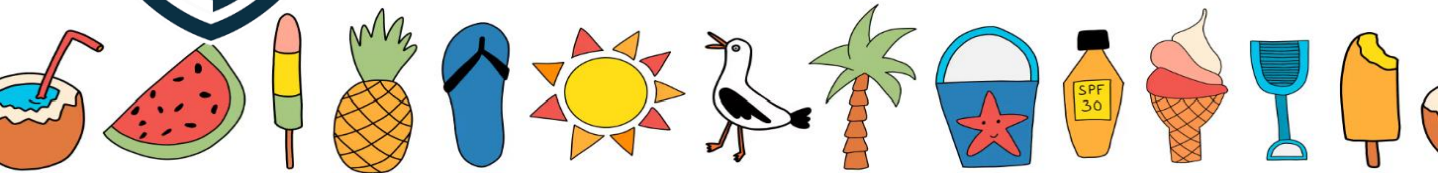




The Hermitage Herald

Issue 11: July/August 2025



Hello!

Welcome to July's edition of Hermitage Herald – It was a short month in school for us, but as always, we packed in a lot of activities and celebrations! Here's this month's round-up of all the fabulous things over our last month of the academic year - enjoy!

A-Level and Applied General Results – August 14th 2025

This year we saw another set of continually improving A level results at Hermitage Academy Sixth Form. The latest outcomes reflect improvements across all headline measures, highlighting the dedication, ambition, and talent of our students and staff.

Our 'value added' score has significantly increased, confirming that students at Hermitage Academy Sixth Form consistently perform well against national averages. This positive score demonstrates that students not only meet expectations, they exceed them. Over three quarters of students achieved A*-C grades, showcasing the strength and consistency of our academic provision.

Applied General courses achieved an average grade of a Distinction, Tech Level courses achieved an average grade of Distinction and 66.7% of students achieved AAB or higher.

These results are a testament to the vibrant learning culture at our sixth form, where students are supported to reach their full potential and beyond. Thanks to their hard work, we now have students going on to study at Russell Group universities, including St Andrews and Durham.



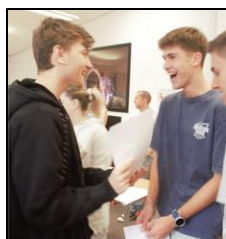
GCSE Results – August 21st 2025

We are thrilled to announce that our GCSE results have continued to go from strength to strength, achieving above the Durham and North East averages for all key accountability measures this year. This excellent set of results reflects the incredible effort and commitment of our students and staff.

This year, we've seen yet again a further rise in our overall performance, with a notable improvement in our Attainment 8 score - a measure that reflects the overall achievement of all students. This demonstrates that students continue to achieve more across a broad range of subjects.

We are immensely proud that 84% of our students achieved the coveted grade 4 or above in English - one of the most important benchmarks for future study and employment. Even more impressively, 21% of all grades were awarded at the highest possible grades of 7-9. This is a truly remarkable achievement and a powerful testament to the exceptional progress students make at Hermitage Academy.

A huge congratulations to all students in our 2025 cohort. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to families for their continued support, and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead, with many of our students staying on to join Hermitage Sixth Form.



Sports Day and the Hermitage Festival – July 17th 2025

It is tradition at Hermitage Academy, to end the school year with our annual sports day. This year did not disappoint, with the addition of the Hermitage Festival and Colour Run; a bumper full-day programme packed with sports, stalls, sweets and soaking the teachers!

In the morning, each year group carouselled the sports courses, trying their hand at a range of team and individual disciplines to earn points for their respective houses. Students could choose to take part in the sports or to be a sports leader, motivating their team-mates or recording scores.

The day allowed our students to show their true colours and compete on behalf of their houses: Integrity, Evolution, Synergy and Ambition. The houses went head-to-head in a range of sports, such as benchball, football, track and field athletics and of course, the sack race!

We also had our festival alongside the sports day, where students could try their hand at traditional fair games, purchase sweets and ice creams and the 'soak a teacher' stand was, as you can imagine, very popular!



Colour Run 2025

To round off an amazing year, the last event of the school calendar was the 'Colour Run'. We started this tradition last year, inviting students to run a course through clouds of coloured paint to add something a little different to just a jog around the field!

It was a lovely (if messy, but incredibly fun) way to celebrate the end of a great year at school!

Many staff and students joined in, and the students voted for the support staff to lead them into the run with a super-charged warm up routine!



Activities Day July 17th 2025

In the penultimate day of the Summer term, students in Years 7-10 enjoyed 'Activities Day' where they could choose from a range of activities either in school or elsewhere, to celebrate the end of a very successful year. The range of trips and visits on offer were extensive, from a day out at Whitby, York Dungeons, the Centre for Life and Beamish, to sports related activities such as kayaking, watersports, swimming and golf. The Year 10 students all enjoyed a trip to Flamingo Land. Some students chose to stay closer to home, with activities in school such as art, baking, multisports, game design, music and mindfulness. The students had a great day, not only doing something in the school day a little out of the ordinary or out of their comfort zone, but they also had the chance to work with and spend the day with students from different year groups, forging new friendships and learning new skills.



Welcome Guides for Years 7-11

Towards the end of the summer term, we sent out our new 'Welcome Guide' out to all Hermitage parents. They are year-group specific and contain all the information you should need to ensure a smooth start to the new academic year.

Please follow this link to access the welcome pack for your child's year group:
<https://www.hermitageacademy.co.uk/useful-info/parent-resources-travel-and-general-information>

House Bounce – July 15th 2025



To encourage healthy competition at Hermitage Academy, our house system has really driven students this academic year and encouraged them to work hard in all aspects of school life to win points for themselves and their house. Our summer term winning house, Evolution, had the opportunity to take part in an inflatable assault course in the last week! Students who had been exceptional in terms of their positive contribution to school were also invited to bounce, such as our reading champions and the cast of Aladdin.



House Points		
		Half-Term
1.		7,123
2.		6,999
3.		6,754
4.		6,715

Hermitage Awards Evening 2025

To round off the year in style, we held our annual awards evening in the final week of term. This is an opportunity for Heads of Achievement, Heads of Departments and Senior Leaders to recognise and reward the exceptional achievements of some of our students in school. Nominees were invited to attend a special ceremony, with entertainment from our very talented Performing Arts department, as they wowed us with a selection of songs from the recent 'Aladdin' production. Nominated students were awarded with certificates and trophies in recognition of their outstanding work this academic year.



Aladdin Jr

The end of the school year just isn't the same without a show-stopping production courtesy of our Performing Arts department!

This year's school production was Aladdin, and preparations for this stretched back to early in the school year.

Our staff and students involved have worked tirelessly to learn lines, perfect songs and practise dance routines, ready for the end of the term, and every single person involved in the entire production made the show one to remember!

Disney's Aladdin Jr. tells the story of Aladdin, a clever street urchin from the city of Agrabah, who uses a magical lamp and a Genie to transform into Prince Ali to win the heart of Princess Jasmine, who longs for freedom. The evil Grand Vizier, Jafar, also seeks the lamp's power, but Aladdin ultimately uses his final wish to free the Genie and then reveals his true identity to defeat Jafar, allowing Jasmine to marry for love and rule Agrabah.

Not only did the students perform in the actual production, there were also performances held for our Year 5 students from our feeder Primary schools, as well as a special appearance at our end of year Awards Evening.



Key Stage 3 Cookery Club

Year 7, 8 and 9 students have enjoyed the newly-founded Cookery Club, led by Miss Craggs. The students have made delicious chilled cheesecakes - the perfect indulgent treat for warm weather! These fun clubs have allowed students to practise their skills, such as using the hob as well as demonstrating fabulous creativity in their cheesecake designs which ranged from Oreo cookie, Biscoff and Crunchie, to fresh strawberries and caramel swirls! And to end the academic year in style, the students made delicious ice-cream with a range of inventive additions including marshmallow, strawberry and meringue, chocolate and caramel.

Miss Craggs mentioned that the students have impressed her with their kindness, teamwork and cooking progress. They all received a student recipe book to take home to nurture their growing talent and interest. "It has been lovely to see students growing in confidence and independence each week as they built skills and experience with a wider range of equipment and appliances. The teamwork and organisation skills they have acquired will give them an excellent head start in the new school year when we will be making a wide range of savoury and sweet recipes in Food Technology lessons."



Poetry Competition Winners!

Well done to Amy-Leigh, Alexis and Pearl who wowed Mrs Hodgson-Whittle with their Powerful Poetry! Congratulations!



NELT Debate Competition

Three of our students travelled to Teesdale School for the annual NELT debate competition.

Chloe, Jayden and Emily showed commitment, dedication and resilience in preparing for their topic. They were a credit to themselves and the school!



Watch out Lord Sugar!

Our Year 10 business students signed off their studies for the year with a presentation of self-produced business plans. They have impressed teachers by showcasing their knowledge and understanding gained throughout the year, establishing themselves as budding entrepreneurs, ready for their all-important Year 11!



Spelling Bee Champions!

Well done to 7H1 otherwise known as 'The Wanna Bees', who were victorious in our annual spelling bee on the last Tuesday of term.

Well done to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part!



Farewell to Year 13

We recently said farewell to our fabulous Year 13 sixth formers!

Students joined us for a leavers' assembly, afternoon tea and trip down memory lane over their 7-year Hermitage journey. Students received awards from their academic subjects, nominated each other for 'most likely to' awards, as well as character awards from the Sixth Form Team. We are sad to see such wonderful students go but wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We are incredibly proud of you all and cannot wait to hear about your next steps in the future!



Year 9 Inter-Faith Day

Our Year 9 students took part in an inter-faith and world views session during our 'Celebrating Religion and Diversity Day'.

In the lead up to the event, our students learned about British Values and living in a multi-faith society. Students reflected on the importance of religious diversity and learned about what it means to have respect and show respect to others, realising its importance in our society.

We were delighted to host nine speakers in school that provided an insight into their faith or worldview and kindly answered questions from our students. The range of speakers included Wendy Gray (Buddhist), Shireen Khattak (Muslim), Kirtida Richardson (Hindu), Jaswinder Singh (Sikh), Sue White (Anglican, Christian), Rev. Anne Kilvington (Methodist, Christian) Lieutenant Ali Brookes, (Salvation Army, Christian) Carol Spencer (Baha'i) and Susan Walker (Humanist).

Mr Welch, Trust Subject Director for RE said: "This is a valuable learning opportunity to encounter faith members and those with other world views to try and gain an insight and understanding of the impact of faith and world views in their lives as well as gain a greater understanding of how this is expressed. Part of the fundamental British Values are 'mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith'. At Hermitage Academy we seek to prepare our students to be more aware of the community and surroundings in which they live as well as become global citizens accepting and celebrating diversity."

Year 10 and 11 Taster Days at Hermitage Sixth Form

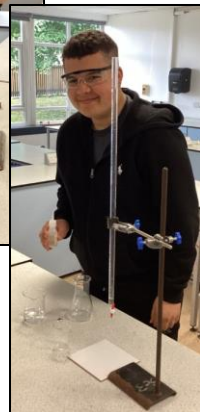
This week, we held a transition day for Year 11 students who will be joining our sixth form in September. They attended lessons and tried some of the amazing enrichment activities we have on offer.

Hermitage Sixth Form is the perfect place to study for your A levels and Applied General qualifications. We're a small sixth form that delivers a bespoke education and focusses on academic excellence. Not only that, but we also provide a strong enrichment programme which nurtures our students' talents and passions.

But don't just take our word for it, here's what some of our students have to say:

"Being individually prioritised means you are set up for the best possible chances for success."

"Hermitage Sixth Form puts so much effort into character building with its enrichment activities."



Reach for the Stars!

We always encourage hands-on learning at Hermitage, and Mr Martin's Year 7 class experienced a great Science lesson outside in the last week of term.

Supported by Matthew in Year 8, who actually led the lesson, he showed the Year 7 class how Physics and Chemistry work when building and launching rockets. Matthew explained clearly how things work and showed excellent leadership skills. A teacher in the making, or maybe a world-class rocket scientist?



Sports round-up – July 2025

As usual, lots of sporting achievements to be proud of, both in school and out of school – here is our monthly round-up:

- A selection of KS3 girls participated in a Football Festival held at South Shields FC. The girls were involved in different Football workshops run by Sunderland Academy, Newcastle Academy and South Shields FC to develop their football skills and knowledge of the sport. The girls worked fantastically as a team, showing great sportsmanship throughout the day and bringing back a medal!



- It's been another great regatta for our Year 7 rowers! Emily, Erin, Mila and Alice came second in the J13 Quad at the 'Talkin Tarn' Regatta in July, racing as part of Chester-le-Street ARC. Emily also reached the final and came second in the J13 Double!



- Our Year 7 rugby team secured a fantastic win over local rivals, Park View in the closing weeks of the summer term. A brilliant team performance from start to finish, showing determination, teamwork, and real pride in representing our school. A special shoutout to Alex, who was named Players' Player after scoring a try five times!



- Izzy and Ellie (Year 8) and Holly (Year 10) all competed at English Schools at the end of July. It was extremely hot and they all did so well in their events.
- Ellie also competed in the Scottish championships over the summer break and came home with a silver medal.

Point North Challenge

A group of staff and students are completing the '38.7 mile in July' challenge. Point North is a local charity that works across the North East, fighting poverty and making sure we 'all have a brighter tomorrow'. Every mile helps to provide food, uniforms, bedding, holiday clubs, lessons and more.

The students have made a fantastic start already and you may have spotted them over the holidays in the local area in their purple t-shirts!



School Games Bronze Award

We are proud to announce that we've been awarded the School Games Bronze Award for our outstanding commitment to school sport and physical activity! This year has been nothing short of phenomenal, with over 90 fixtures across a wide range of sports including:

- NELT Athletics Champions
- U15B Handball – National Finalists & County Champions
- Year 7 Boys – Football League Champions
- Year 7 Girls– Area Futsal Champions
- Year 7 Girls – Football League Runners-Up
- Year 8/9 Girls – Football League Champions
- Year 9 Girls – Futsal Champions
- Year 8 Girls – Area Athletics Champions
- Year 7/8 Boys & Girls – Sports Hall Athletics Regional Champions
- Rugby introduced for both boys and girls for the first time!
- Years 7, 9 and 10 boys rugby, who went unbeaten this season!

We're incredibly proud of our students and staff for their dedication, teamwork, and passion.

We are now poised to pick up the Silver Award in future!




- Izzy represented County Durham at the Combined Events Inter-counties Final. Only four girls are selected per age-category and she had to compete in Hurdles, Shot, Long Jump, High Jump and 800m on an extremely hot day. Izzy also competed in the 800m at English Schools Athletics Finals in Birmingham. She qualified through winning Districts and County competitions and came a well-deserved 2nd at Inter-counties. This year alone Izzy has represented County Durham at National Cross-Country Finals, National Athletics Finals and the Intercounty Combined Events.

- A group of Year 9 students attended the 'Get Girls Active Festival' run by County Durham Sport and the Durham School Games organisers. The students had a fantastic day engaging in a variety of different sports including ultimate frisbee, soft archery, and a trampolining.




Positive Points - July

These students have collected the most positive points in July – a great end to the school year. Well done and keep up the great work!



7	Pearl P-H
8	Lily W
9	Freya B
10	Thomas C and Caitlyn A
12	Parker F



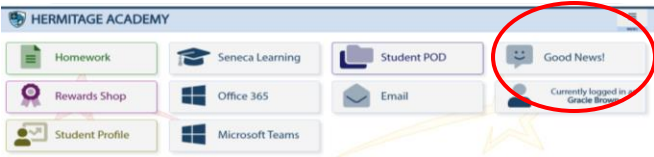
Year 5 and 6 Open Evening – September 10th 2025

This year's Open Evening for prospective Year 5 and 6 students is coming up on the 10th September. The evening will guide students around our school to sample the delights our staff and subjects can offer. The school is open between 5pm and 7pm – we hope to see you there if you are a Year 5 and/or Year 6 parent!



The Hermitage Good News Button!

Please remember our Good News button! The Good News icon is available whenever your child logs onto Easi. Please use this to let us know about anything great happening with your child. It could be good news about sporting achievements, or anything wonderful that your child is doing outside of school. Do let us know – we love to celebrate great things and your child could feature in our next edition of the Herald!



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!



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Dates for your Diary - September 2025

September	What's on?
10 th	Year 5 and 6 Open evening
17 th /18 th	Year 9 and 10 Army skills event
19 th	DoE Silver Practice
24 th	Year 12 Transition afternoon Year 7 School Photographs Y8 SEND Afternoon 1-3pm
25 th	Art Exhibition
26 th	European Day of Languages
30 th	Parent information event – How to use School Cloud

North East SCITT

Our teacher training taster sessions are back! If you are thinking about a career in teaching, join us for a taster session to see if teaching is for you!

When? **Friday 26th September and Friday 10th October 2025, 9:30am – 1:30pm**

Where? **At the Academy of Shotton Hall, Peterlee**

On the day you will:

- Observe lessons
- Chat with students and current teachers
- Learn more about our outstanding course
- Find out about financial support of up to £31,000
- Enjoy a delicious school dinner on us!

Take the first step towards a rewarding career!

Book now: <https://link.nelt.co.uk/10J0o>

