



The Hillcrest News

Summer 2021 Edition

Head Teacher's Update:

I would never have predicted a year ago that we would end the academic year still feeling the impact of Covid. The last few weeks have been a real challenge as we have had so many staff off. I am sorry that there has been disruption in the last 2 weeks because of this, but I'm sure you agree the health and safety of our learners is paramount.

We have taken the decision because of the rapidly rising Covid rates in our area, to keep our existing risk assessment when we come back in September. This will be reviewed the first week back and will be directly linked to whatever the situation is then. Wherever possible if you could complete LFD tests before students return to school this will assist us. I would much rather be overly cautious to start with until we can assess what the situation is, as the safety of our community must come first.

Like last year, as transition was impacted by Covid, we are doing a staggered start to the Autumn Term:

- Monday 6/9/21 – Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 7/9/21 – New Starts Only
- Wednesday 8/9/21 – All Students

On behalf of the staff team I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience throughout the year.

After a break, I am looking forward to welcoming all of our lovely students back.

Have a wonderful break and stay safe

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KS3 – Class HS

Out and about.

Class HS have had an excellent year and have come together to make some good friendships. Their social skills have progressed so much and this was seen during our trip to the local Seven Oaks Park and St Nicholas' church.

Students took turns on the playground equipment and were polite and sociable towards other people in the park. Having tired ourselves out we made our way to St Nicholas' church where one of the ministry trainees, Danny told us all about the different robes the minister wears. Class HS listened respectfully and carefully and asked mature and thoughtful questions. It was a real highlight to be with them out and about in the community after the restrictions Covid 19 has created. They are such a credit and should be proud of themselves.



Courtroom Drama

We have been studying Crime and Punishment in Class HS this half term. As part of this we role-played 'Courtroom HS'. All of us took on roles and enjoyed prosecuting some mischievous students for eating all the sausage rolls as well as Mrs Mead for crimes against Japanese fashion!



Some students showed a great talent for legal drama using accurate vocabulary and superb acting skills. Everyone took part and completely ignored Judge Sample when she asked for 'Order in Court!' One of the students commented that it was, 'The best afternoon ever.'

KS3 – Class DM

Fun, Friendship & Parachutes!

This term has been great for Class DM! We have worked hard on our friendships and had so many fun social times together, playing whole class football, tag and board games. We have had so much fun doing this and it is lovely to see the amazing friendships within the classroom every day. One of our favourite group activities was making egg parachutes to safely drop an egg from the school roof! We could only do this with the help of 'Mr Colin' our Site Manager who went onto the roof to join in our session and drop the parachutes!



Around the World

We have done two awesome topics this term. Our favourite day during our topic of around the world was our class celebration of the Mexican Day of the Dead. We all wore sombreros, did some amazing art and had so much fun! We also really enjoyed learning about Grace Darling in history during our light topic and found it very interesting that she was local to us. We have done lots of outdoor learning this term and it has been great.



Overall, Class DM have had an amazing term and should all be incredibly proud of themselves!

KS3 – Class SM

Staying Safe

This term Class SM have thoroughly enjoyed learning about 'The Community'. We had some amazing discussions about safety and how to appropriately behave. We loved learning about the different sounds we might hear e.g. fire alarm, police sirens etc.



Social Sports!

Class SM also enjoyed their Fitness PE sessions. We played tug of war, measured how far we could jump and timed how quick we were at completing tasks. Class SM even managed a trip to the park! All students are very excited about their new classes next year but are also looking forward to the summer holidays.



KS3 – Class MS

Studying Animals (and time with Morag)

Class MS have had another busy half term studying Animals. We have created some amazing animal fact files and explored different habitats. We had a trip to Seven Oaks Park which was great fun and it was fantastic to finally be able to resume

school trips. The students have loved spending time with Morag (our therapy dog) again this term and it has been lovely to see their interactions with her.

Blyth Beach

Class MS visited Blyth beach in the last week of term. Despite the weather we had a fabulous time and we found a crab leg! We built sandcastles and explored the sand and water.



Celebrating Pride!

Our Thrive project focused on Pride Month and the students had some very mature conversations about topics associated with Pride Month and LGBTQ+.

Hard Work, Teamwork and Transitions

Students have worked hard on their poetry work in English and have produced some fantastic limericks, kennings and riddles. We had a D&T day where we tasted and evaluated existing smoothies and designed our own flavours and packaging. There has been some great teamwork in PE as we have developed our skills in Rounders. It has been fun to play a game as a whole class.

KS3 – Class RB

Covid Pandemic doesn't stop Class RB



We have had a fantastic year in class RB this year! Despite the pandemic we have still been able to fully

embrace our time at Hillcrest and make the most of every minute. We have covered many exciting topics, including Earth and Space, Animals and Transport as well as others.

Terrific Team Work!

It has been lovely to see our students settling into school and making friends along the way. Our students have shown resilience, strength and team work in all areas of school life and we are super proud of them all. Every one of our students has become more independent this year, preparing their own breakfast, seeing to their self-care needs and cleaning up after themselves.

Highlights and Kindness

Highlights for this year include muddy fun in our garden during the winter, fantastic skill building and team work in rounders this term, imagining we were astronauts during our Space topic, investigating animals and their habitats.



We have enjoyed making our wonderful craft creations using a variety of materials and of course one of our students raising over £106 for The Meningitis Research Foundation.



There have been endless acts of kindness within the group, celebrating every birthday, playing

tag together as a whole group at breaks, words of encouragement and support during team building exercises, and many more. It has been a pleasure working with our young people. As the end of the year approaches it is lovely to reflect and look back at all the wonderful things we have experienced and I know next year will be just as good for our young people, we wish them every success!

KS4 – Class FW

Tudor Times and New Wives

This half term Class FW have enjoyed learning about the Tudors in our Topic lessons. We learned about Henry VIII and made some new wives for him, we also enjoyed learning about different punishments used during Tudor times. We also tried some traditional Tudor foods such as Yeomen's Pudding.



Sport to Space

We have also enjoyed working as a team to play rounders and having a Euro penalty shoot out, which was won by Scotland.

Our class have produced some brilliant Art work this term and are working on some Space inspired pieces based on Holst's Planets suite.



The class have had a fantastic year and the team wish them all a wonderful Summer and best of luck in their new groups in September.

KS4 – Class SK

Talent and Maturity

The first thing we need to say about class SK is how proud we are of them. Despite the turbulence of the year they have worked hard and achieved brilliant things. They have handled the changes and emotions of the last twelve months with maturity and understanding towards others. They are a talented bunch, whether it be Maths, Art, English, Cooking... the list goes on! We have had some fabulous times together as a class and we wish them all well as they move on through the school.



We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support over the last year. It really has been appreciated. We hope you all have a lovely holiday.

KS4 – Class LF

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Class LF have had a busy half term!

It has been lovely to welcome students back into the class and it has been a very positive transition.



All the students have had a great time taken part in The Duke of Edinburgh and raising money for Newcastle Cat and Dog Shelter.

Students have been learning how to act appropriately in the community and showing the teaching staff road safety. Students have been building on friendships and using excellent communication skills with each other while walking. Students have enjoyed being out the classroom and learning in a different style.

Students say what they enjoy about Duke of Edinburgh the most is; the walk, being out the classroom,

enjoying being in the fresh air, being out walking around the community and talking to friends.



Onto the Next Chapter

Class LF would like to wish all the leavers all the best in their future plans and hope they all enjoy the next chapter which is getting ready to open for them.



KS4 – Class JB

Leavers

Well what a year for Class JB! We are so proud of our leavers this term. We are thrilled that we have such a mix of different destinations for our Year 11 students. Some have chosen to remain at Hillcrest in the Sixth Form, whilst we also have students who will be attending Newcastle, TyneMet and Ashington Colleges. They have worked extremely hard to apply and secure places, none of which has been straightforward in Covid times, and we are delighted that they have been successful in their efforts. We wish them the very best of luck and remind them that we love to hear about their achievements after Hillcrest.

Preparation for Adulthood

In order to give our students the best possible preparation for post 16 education we have continued our focus on becoming more independent. Students have had the opportunity to learn about cooking on a budget and have all prepared a simple budget meal to take home. They have also gained ASDAN

accreditation in Independent Living Skills which has included learning about money management, physical and mental health and wellbeing and practical cookery skills. We hope these will be useful as our class begins to look at life after leaving school and college. In addition to this Class JB have also completed external qualifications in English and Maths. Everybody worked extremely hard and should be very proud of themselves.



Staying Safe and Well

As well as continuing with our PHSE curriculum we were lucky enough to host speakers from Northumbria Police who came to talk to us about the importance of staying safe on the internet. Students were able to answer some tough questions and were extremely knowledgeable, earning the praise of the visiting Police Officers.



Health and wellbeing was a focus of our first half term culminating in our Health and wellbeing week. Students took part in a variety of lessons and events finishing the week with our healthy breakfast workshop. Everybody was keen to try a variety of different things and we even have a couple of new muesli fans!

Having Fun

In amongst all our learning we feel fun is an important part of school life. We continued to work hard whilst balancing this effort with lots of fun activities. We are a regular fixture around school with our daily walk, our epic quizzes have continued and gone from strength to strength and our Aldi breakfasts have been legendary!



It has been a pleasure to teach the students of Class JB and see them maturing into the young people they are today. I wish each and every one of them the best of luck for the future. Well done Class JB!!

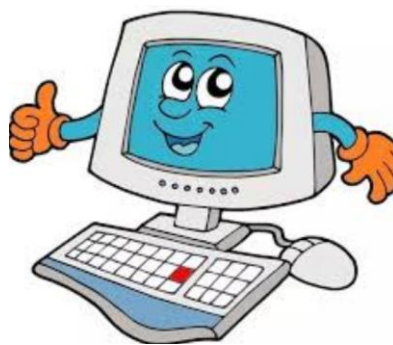
KS4 – Class DK School's Out

It's the end of the school year!



Well done for making it this far as it has been a tough journey like one we've not seen before.

Not only have we adapted well to a brand new classroom, new staff and new pupils. We have also shown resilience when our routines changed, with some pupils being in the class while others were home schooling, and learning new ways to do work on computers. You have all done fantastic.



I have really enjoyed my time with you all this year, even when you've all thrown a custard pie in my face for quiz week, hit me with water balloons and flour, and you have all been the teacher and have written some hard maths questions for the rest of the class. Except from Mr X, whoever that may be.



You have all come so far, learnt so much and have grown. The teachers in this class are proud of you all.

Have a good rest over the summer holidays, you deserve it.



KS5 – Class JP Highlights of 6th Form

Despite all the hardships people have faced this year, 6th form has been a peaceful haven. It has been a joy to come to school and spend time with wonderful people. We always have a laugh and the students should be so proud of their perseverance and achievements. Here are some highlights from the students

"I enjoyed going to the Rising Sun (haha). I enjoyed spray painting the shed with Mr Knight. I enjoyed raising money for the Cat and Dog shelter" – K

"I have enjoyed making a PowerPoint on Greenday, I like doing the art projects. I loved cooking on Friday" – G

"I enjoyed my teachers doing funny things, I liked making new friends. I enjoyed dancing to my favourite song. It's been great in 6th form, I really enjoyed it" – N

"I liked it when Shrek 2 was on the board" – N

"I really enjoyed playing games like downfall and connect 4" – P

Here is some photography the students did this term:



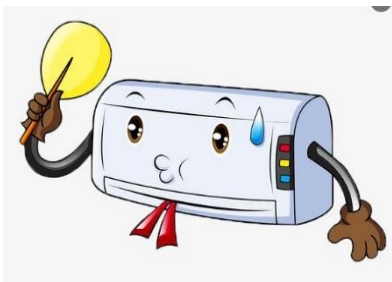
“Crazy teacher eats student, 2021 coloured – Photos by K”



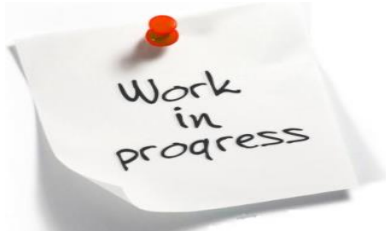
Hillcrest School School Improvements

More work has been completed in school with the installation of air conditioning in the classrooms which has brought cool relief to staff and students over the warmer days.

We have further developed our



outdoor areas with the installation of an outdoor gym and the building of an outdoor building in our forest school area.



To be continued...

Staff Updates

During the summer term we had 3 new Teaching Assistant’s join us. Welcome to the Hillcrest Team to Miss Lockey, Miss Watson and Miss Fisher.

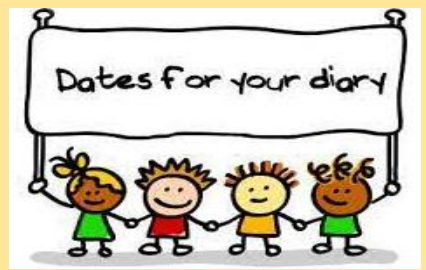
When school returns in September we have a new class teacher also joining us. We look forward to welcoming Miss Burt to our team who will be teaching our key stage 3 students.

Student Success

Each year we hold a school vote where all staff get to vote for students who have achieved over the academic year. The criteria for the award is broad and can include being hardworking, showing good progress, outstanding achievement etc. The awards are known as the Richard Burn End of Year Award in honour of a previous student. An additional award is also made on behalf of the governing body.

This year selecting the students has been difficult as they have all done so well during these strange covid times, however, once the votes were cast we counted these up and awarded prizes as follows:
1st prize - £30 Amazon Voucher
2nd prize - £15 Amazon Voucher
3rd prize - £10 Amazon Voucher

Well done to those students who were awarded the prizes.



- 15/7/21 – Year 11 & 12 Leavers Assembly (Last Day in School for Years 11 & 12)
- 16/07/21 – School closes (Last Day for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students)
- 06/09/21 – Teacher Training Day
- 07/09/21 – New Starters Day
- 08/09/21 – School Returns
- 22/10/21 – School Closes (Autumn Half Term)
- 01/11/21 – Teacher Training Day
- 02/11/21 – School Returns
- 17/12/21 – School Closes (Christmas)
- 04/01/22 – School Returns



Please remember to update us here at school if you move house, change telephone/mobile phone number or email address so we can contact you.



Hillcrest School
Tel: 01670 713632
Email: admin@hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk



SUMMER FUN WORDSEARCH

- Cookery
- Forest
- Morag
- Playground
- Students
- Swings
- Crunchie
- Fun
- MUGA
- School
- Studio
- Yurt
- Football
- Hillcrest
- Nominations
- Staff
- Summer
- Zones



Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

COLOUR IN FUN

