



Hillcrest Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Head Teacher's Update:

At Hillcrest we are community who strive every day to the best we can be. We use Class Charts to capture the Characteristics we want to grow and encourage in our learners. These are:

Characteristic	Total Class Charts Captures
Showing Kindness	2251
Not giving up	2779
Amazing work	7858
Good manners	3209
Trying my best	5037
Looking after our school	2097
Team Work	2120
Sportsmanship	1667
Courage	1015

An example of showing kindness.....Peer mentoring

Last term 10 children were trained and this term 11 are in the process to be able to support their peers. To become a mentor, pupils have to do a 6-hour course and at the end they will also get an AQA Unit Award when they complete it.

One peer mentor asked a staff member what the person who he was working with liked. When he found out, he made a whole power point without being asked about this interest and planned a whole session. How beautiful and thoughtful is this?

Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate you working in partnership with us.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

KS3 - Class LM

Building Relationships

Class EM have really enjoyed our first term together building up positive relationships and getting to know each other.

During the first half term we read 'Escape from Pompeii' in our English lessons and had great fun writing our own disaster stories. In Humanities, we studied 'Extreme Earth' and learned all about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Raising Money and Sonic the Hedgehog!

We enjoyed getting to know each other through playing social games and spending time together in Discover.

To raise money towards our school trips, we sold hot dogs on Bonfire Night and raised £9.50. We also rescued a small hedgehog that was found on the school field, giving it water and shelter. He was named Sonic.



WW2

During the second half term, we read 'Letters from the Lighthouse' as our class novel which we were really gripped by. This was a story about refugees during the Second World War and their fight to help save other refugees. This linked nicely with our Humanities topic of World War 2. We learned about the causes of WW2 and the effects that this had on the people of that time, especially the children.

We built Anderson Shelters in Design Technology using old boxes and junk modelling materials. We had to think carefully about the structure of our shelters and how we could attach the pieces together.



During our skills builder sessions, we have been visiting Cramlington and practising our speaking and listening skills in the local shops and cafes.

KS3- Class MP

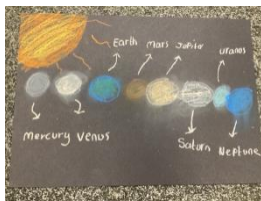
Working Together

This term we have been spending lots of time getting to know each other and our new routines, as well as looking at teamwork and being kind to each other. In the first half-term, we looked at 'Inventors and their Inventions' for our History topic and in the second half-term, we looked at 'All Around the World' for Geography. Some of the highlights have been going on our cinema trip, spending time in Discover, holding a class awards ceremony and completing fantastic group projects.



For English, there has been some amazing persuasive letters written to Mrs Mead, as well as seeing lots of progress with reading and writing throughout our Fresh Start Phonics programme. Additionally, for Maths, everyone showed lots of perseverance when we did problems in context for all 4 operations. Lastly, for science we have looked at space, light and

living things and everyone produced some great planets posters.



Overall, it has been a fantastic first term together and I can't wait to see what comes after the New Year. Merry Christmas!

KS3 – Class GM

Modes of Transport

This term we have enjoyed learning all about different modes of transport and why people rely on these. The students have been enjoying looking at interesting modes of transport from around the world.



Maths

In Maths we have been looking at Geometry, position and direction, angles and symmetry and the students have enjoyed various practical experiments to accompany this learning.



Class Trips and Discover

We have been very lucky to visit Cramlington Vue Cinema on two occasions to watch 'Asterix' and 'Wish' and have continued our weekly sessions in the Hillcrest Discover area, where we have been flying kites, creating dens and digging for treasure!

Amazing Efforts

In PE, the students have shown great hand eye coordination and gross motor skills in throwing and catching skills on the MUGA and competitive games of football at break times. As always, the students have engaged well with their lessons and have taken pride in their work, particularly with their

amazing work related to Space and the Solar System.



KS3 – Class CB

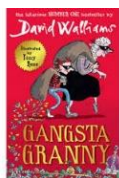
What a term!

What an amazing term we have had! Our students practised their independence and communication skills during the trip to Seaton Delaval Hall, where they embraced the rich history of the estate. We treated ourselves to an all-you-can-eat breakfast! Our visit to the cinema was equally delightful and provided a fantastic opportunity for engaging discussions.



Great effort

In class, we explored three intriguing books: "Gangsta Granny," "Embassy of the Dead," and "A Christmas Carol," which sparked wonderful conversations. The effort displayed in maths showcased our children's growing maturity, while PSHE lessons on puberty were handled with sensitivity. In PE, we enjoyed a variety of games like benchball, basketball, and hockey. In science, we delved into the fascinating workings of the human body! What a brilliant term!



KS3– Class NM

Working Hard

This term in class NM we have worked incredibly hard and have achieved some amazing things. We are so proud of the students and how hard they have worked towards their exams and qualifications, despite sometimes finding it a bit tricky! We have witnessed some lovely friendships

blossom and have seen students support each other beautifully.



Magic Moments

Some of our magic moments have been making atom biscuits with icing and M&Ms, spending time in Discover, learning how to DJ in ASDAN, participating in the DofE skills sessions and exploring our class book, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. It's also been amazing to be able to share our class Wii with other classes and invite friends in to join us.

KS3 – Discover

Lots of fun

This term, Class DK has been busy with lots of exciting activities! We've loved getting creative by making models out of clay for Halloween. We had a great time organising and hosting a fire party, where we cooked and enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, marshmallows, and milkshakes with other classes in the school.



Forest School

At forest school, we built some fantastic dens and enjoyed the great outdoors. We also had a valuable lesson about knife crime, learning from the police how to stay safe. In between all that, we've played countless games of Uno — it's been a fun and memorable term for everyone in Class DK.



KS4- Class SK

Exams

Class SK have had a very busy first term. The whole class have worked so hard on our exams and have done themselves really proud. They have approached them with maturity and resilience and have all done really well.

Great ambassadors!

We have been out in the community visiting Pets at Home as part of our ASDAN course and had a great time, as well as being great ambassadors for the school.



Careers Fair

One of the highlights of the term was the careers fair that took place in school where our students overcame any nerves to ask questions about colleges and courses that might interest them in the future. We are already looking forward to having a great Spring term!

Thank you all for your ongoing support. Merry Christmas from all of Team SK.



KS4 – Class RB

A fantastic start!

We have had a fantastic start to this academic year in Class RB. The students have settled in brilliantly and have already started to complete some of their exams and have shown real commitment to their learning.

Dog and Cat Shelter

We had two visitors in from The Dog and Cat Shelter to talk to us about how the shelter is running and how they receive funding to support them and the animals they look after. This was part of our ASDAN module for our Animal Care Short Course. The students were

amazing and were so engaged, asking lots of questions and listening well.



Remembrance Day

We created a beautiful Remembrance Day poppy wreath to commemorate all the people affected by war. We walked down to the local cenotaph and laid the wreath there for all the local residents to see. We were very proud of all the students for their effort and thoughtfulness.



We have had a fantastic Autumn term in class RB and we look forward to welcoming all the students back in January!

KS4 – Class JP

Entry Level English

We have had an excellent start to our year in Class JP. Heading into KS4 is never easy but our students made it look easy! Starting our Entry Level English studies with Dystopia was a huge success. We built our understanding of Dystopian Fiction then got stuck straight in with making a dystopian city! We then continued the unit, studying maze runner as our text and using it to continuously build our knowledge.



Sports Stars

A highlight of this term has to be the number of rising sports stars that we have in class. We have sampled lots of different sports as

well as getting stuck in to a regular game of football.

The students in Class JP have been phenomenal all term and shown us exactly why they are ready for the challenges ahead of them!

KS4 - Class KG

Super busy!

Class KG has been super busy this term. We have been developing our physical skills by learning new sports, going on community walks and riding the bikes. We have really been working on building our relationships with class peers and staff, this has been done by Thrive activities, games and quizzes.



Exams

Class KG has worked exceptionally hard on their exams. Our young people have put so much work into their exams and it is paying off. They have been very mature and handled them very well! They have done us proud. These exams have been in Maths, English and Science. We have attended a few college trips which pupils have really benefited from and enjoyed. These trips have allowed our pupils to get an insight and give them ideas on how college may be. We are really thinking about the possibilities after year 11 and Hillcrest.

KS4- Class MW

What a term!

Class MW have had a brilliant first term back. All students have got stuck in with their accreditations and we are super proud of everything they have achieved so far. Some students are blowing us away with how independent they are becoming too, travelling independently using public transport.

College Visits

Each student has begun to really consider their options for post-16 education. We have had some fantastic visits to colleges as well as attended some interesting and insightful events. A real stand-out moment was a few pupils coping ever so well at the National Apprenticeship Show at the Vertu Arena, Newcastle. Despite the sheer volume of people in attendance, the students were calm, mature and well engaged.



Another highlight from this term has been the showcase of creativity in different sessions. Students have taken part in so much: from designing artwork on our library building, to creating new games to play in the Discover area, to learning new songs to play on guitar. We have such a talented bunch!

KS4- Class SM

Great Success & Opportunities

This term in Sixth Form, we've been incredibly busy and have achieved some fantastic milestones! Our mini business is up and running, and we've had great success with our coffee mornings and Tombola events. We've also had the opportunity to visit various colleges, giving us valuable insight into our next steps.



Supporting our community

A highlight of our term has been walking a mile a day for 20 days to raise funds to provide Christmas dinners for those in need within our local community—a cause we're proud to support.



Food Hygiene

Additionally, our Sixth Form students have successfully completed their food hygiene course, which now enables us to prepare meals in our lodge. It's been a term full of hard work, learning, and community spirit!

Hillcrest School

School Improvements

Our school library has had an amazing transformation all thanks to our talented students and Mr Knight. Students from each class designed their own artwork and helped create the transformation on the building.



Mission Christmas

We have been fortunate to once again receive Mission Christmas gifts for our students. Students will receive a gift along with a selection box donated from school.



Christmas Dinner Day

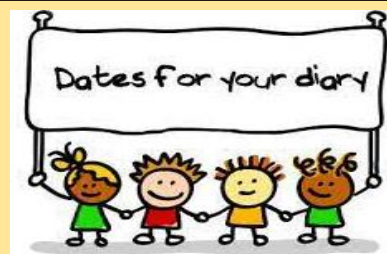
Thank you to Jackie for all of her hard work producing a delicious Christmas dinner for both staff and students. This takes a lot of organising and preparation!

Absences Reminder

If your child is absent from school, please call the school office before 9am.

Holidays

Everyone at Hillcrest wishes all of our students and their families a happy new year and that you all enjoy the holiday. We can't wait to see everyone back in January.



20/12/2024- School Closes (Christmas)
06/01/2025- School Returns
27/01/2025 - Teacher Training Day
21/02/2025- School Closes (Half Term)
03/03/2025- (School Returns)
11/04/2025- School Closes (Easter)
28/04/2025- School Returns
05/05/2025- May Day
23/05/2025- School Closes (Half Term)
02/06/2025-School Returns
09/06/2025 -Teacher Training Day
18/07/2025- School Closes (Summer)
01/09/2025- 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

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