



# The Hillcrest News

## Summer 2023 Edition

### Head Teacher's Update:

What a fantastic last term we have had with so much happening including a wonderful Sports Day and a visit from the Rabbit Foot Club, an amazing band. I am so proud of our young people for all they have achieved over the year and what a privilege it has been to be part of their journeys.

#### A HUGE THANK YOU to our:

- wonderful young people who attended Hillcrest - it is a joy working with them each and every day
- most amazing office team, who do so much more than school admin. They get fully involved in life at Hillcrest
- supportive Governing Body who help us to make Hillcrest even better
- fabulous staff for going above and beyond

The final thanks go to you, our parents/carers for being supportive of all we do at Hillcrest.

#### First Week Back

Monday 4th September - Staff Training  
 Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 and new starters  
 Wednesday 6th - whole school back.

Have a wonderful summer - I look forward to starting again in September.



### KS3- Class HS

#### Class Court!

We have had a brilliant term in Class HS, studying Crime and Punishment and Our Extreme Earth. During these topics we have had a 'Class Court' where students took turns being the defendant, prosecutor, defence and jury. 'Judge Gemima' was ruthless when considering the verdict and handing out punishments and most of the class managed to convict one another for their various crimes!

#### Model Buildings

In our Extreme Earth topic students made and erupted amazing volcanoes. They made a model tsunami in a sand tray to see the impact it would have on their model buildings.



We have also enjoyed visits from the Fire Service and the RNLI where students were allowed to put on protective uniforms and squirt water.



The students have worked hard and had a really successful end to their first year at Hillcrest! Well done to all of you!

### KS3- Class DM

#### A Wonderful Term

Class DM have had such fun during the Summer Term! What an absolute wonderful time we have had throughout this entire year. It has been so amazing working together and developing our friendships and relationships.

#### Explorers and Riotous Royalty

This term we have covered two topics: Explorers and Riotous Royalty. Class DM loved both of these topics and thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities that came with this. During our Royalty topic, the class made some incredible timelines of royalty through British history and learned about some of the different Kings and Queens. The class thoroughly enjoyed the book 'Dead Losses' and learning about what made a good monarch. In our Explorers topic, we loved getting outside more and doing our own exploring. We made some wonderful maps of the school and made some amazing triaramas of places we would like to explore when we are older.

#### Outdoor fun

Finally, we have loved getting outside lots and completing some fun art activities down in Forest School, using the school bikes and having fun time together as a class! Overall, this term has been great fun and we have had an incredible year together!



### **KS3- Class SK**

#### **What a great year!**

As we reflect upon the year and it's coming to an end, it gives us great pride to look back and see what class SK has achieved this year.

#### **Social Skills and Learning**

One of our favourite topics this year has been learning about castles around the UK. We have enjoyed social time as a class where we play board games, Lego and have become skilled card players, we love to see our competitive side! Thanks to Mr Douglas, our class could now survive weeks in the wilderness with nothing but rope and tarpaulin. Watch out Bear Grylls!

We are very much looking forward to seeing what next year brings for class SK. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the year and we hope you have a fantastic holiday.

### **KS4/5- The Bridge**

#### **Learning Journeys**

It's the end of the school year!

I would like to congratulate everyone in Class DK for their fantastic work and learning journeys they have gone on this year. You have all done well.

#### **Amazing Progress**

The Bridge class this year has been social games and fun, to work experience and some tricky exams. The garden outside our classroom looks amazing. The Bridge café was enjoyed by many and pupils enjoyed making their own meals each Tuesday. The Hope Centre will miss their weekly volunteers and the class team will miss all of the good times in the classroom.

You have all come so far, learnt so much and have grown and we wish you all the best for the future. The teachers in this class are proud of you all. Good luck and keep on learning.



### **KS3- Class GM**

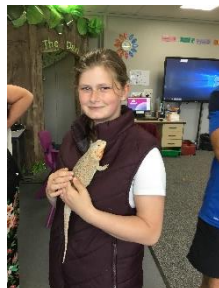
#### **Important Female Figures**

We have had a fantastic term in Class GM learning all about "Important Female figures", including Coco Chanel, Frida Kahlo, Zaha Hadid, Ada Lovelace, Mary Shelley and Marie Curie.

The students have all learned that these pioneering women changed the course of history in Art, Literature, Science and Design and helped to open up opportunities for women in the future.

#### **Working hard**

As ever, the students have enjoyed their cookery lessons, the biscotti cake proving a popular choice and the shortbread shared to staff also went down well. In Maths, the students have delved deeper into subtraction and commutative addition and looked at the various ways maths is used in daily lives (including professional football) and in PE the students enjoyed playing football rounders. We also enjoyed a visit from a bearded dragon.



As always, the students have worked really hard and they should be very proud of their achievements.

### **KS3- Class MS**

#### **Animals**

We have had a busy time in Class MS this half term. Our topic has been Animals and we have enjoyed learning about lots of habitats and different types of animals. We have worked on a project set up by the PDSA called 'Petwise' where we have learned about the role of a vet and taking care of different animals.

We had a visit from Mrs Storey's friend Nichola who brought in Dexter the bearded dragon. We learned about how to take care of

Dexter, what he eats and we got to feed and bath him. Some of us even held Dexter.

#### **Visitors in School**

In May, we had a visit from the Fire Service where we learned about the role of fire fighters and what to do in an emergency. It was great fun and we got to see the fire engine and have a turn using the equipment.

In July, Robin from the RNLI came to visit us and talk to us about the role of the RNLI. We looked at potential dangers in pictures and what to do in an emergency. He talked to us about the dangers of a hoax call and all about 'float to live.' We discussed the role of the coastguard and which emergency numbers to call if we spot an emergency in the water.

### **KS3- Class LM**

#### **Amazing Term**

Class EM have really enjoyed our Summer Term together! We have enjoyed reading 'The Explorer' Novel and learning about the Americans in Humanities. We designed and made our own Dream Catchers in Technology. We enjoyed a visit from a local fire engine and even got the chance to use the hosepipe!



#### **Titanic**

During the second half term, we read 'Titanic: Death on the Water' linked with our history topic on the study of the Titanic. We made our own shoebox dioramas of the different rooms in the Titanic. We wrote our own stories putting ourselves in the position of one of the characters on the Titanic.

#### **Making Models**

We have really enjoyed making models from boxes and waste cardboard in our 'Trash to Treasure' project. We made various models such as Minecraft characters and Mechagodzilla! These were quite impressive.



### **KS3- Class BL**

#### **Titanic**

We have had an amazing end to the year here at Hillcrest. We finished off with the amazing but tragic story of the Titanic. We made a 3D mural of the ship and also created dioramas of some of the rooms on board.

The writing we have produced has been SO good it was shown to the school governors. We are super proud of our progress and we are really beginning to gain confidence.

We have had visits from the Fire Service, The RNLI, Police workshops and to top it all off a fantastic Ceilidh band called Rabbit Foot Club. The band put a spring in our step and took us on a musical journey around the world.

We've read two brilliant texts this term. "The Explorer" and "Titanic - Death on the Water" - can't wait for next year.

### **KS4- Class CB**

#### **WOW**

I am thrilled to share some exciting highlights from this term in Class CB. It has been an enjoyable term filled with numerous "wow" moments for our students. First and foremost, congratulations are in order for the class as they have successfully completed their exams/accreditation. Their hard work and dedication throughout the year are certain to pay off, and I couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

#### **Developing Social Skills**

Furthermore, our students have exhibited outstanding social skills, demonstrating their growth and development in this important aspect of their education. Their ability to communicate and interact effectively is truly commendable.

### **Educational Visits**

I have also had the pleasure of organising wonderful educational visits to some fantastic locations. The class thoroughly enjoyed their trips to Kirkley Hall, Blyth beach, Seaton Delaval Hall and the big Spoon. These visits have provided valuable learning experiences outside the classroom, broadening their horizons and fostering a love for exploration and discovery. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your involvement and encouragement have played a crucial role in the success and well-being of our students.

As we bid farewell to this class, the class team would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for their future endeavours. It has been a pleasure to teach and guide them and we will miss them dearly as they move on to their next teacher.

Once again, thank you for being a part of our school community. I look forward to hearing about their continued growth and success in the upcoming academic year.

### **KS4- Class MW**

#### **Incredible Term**

Class MW has had an incredible Summer Term. We have had everything from fire engines to Forest School! Now that students have officially completed exams, they have turned their attention and efforts towards their ASDAN coursework. They have shown resilience and determination to complete this work to the best of their ability.

#### **Volunteering & ASDAN**

Students have also been involved in volunteering and raising money for our class trips and charity through a 'milkshake sale' - they have all shown such a high level of independence and transferable skills. The class were responsible for both the budgeting and planning of the event, which has enabled them to apply their Maths skills and ASDAN work to real-life situations. The sale would not have been

possible without the generous donation of ice-cream from Franco, of Ciccarelli Italian Gelato, Blyth. We are so grateful for his kindness!



The staff team are especially proud of the progress that the students have made within their art lessons, where we have been lucky enough to have had a graffiti artist visitor to work with the class. During this, they have created some amazing displays for the school which emphasise some very important messages.

We have ended the school year with a sports day which the class helped to arrange. We hope all students have a great summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back in September, ready for a brand new year.



### **KS4- Class SM**

#### **EXAMS ARE COMPLETE!**

We are so excited to have our exams over and done with and due to this we are now focused on functional learning. We have spent time in the community, learning and perfecting skills and have focused on independent living. Our trip to the beach was absolutely amazing and enjoyed by all. We sadly say goodbye to some of our pupils and would like to wish them the best of luck!



## KS3 - Science

### Keen Learners

We have had another fantastic term in science! It has been great to observe the progress that our Key Stage 3 students have made across the course of this year. The students have blown me away with how inquisitive they are and how keen they have been to embrace all of the different topics we have covered.

### Plants

This first summer half term we have been learning about Plants. Within this topic the students have learned about all the different parts of a plant and the function of these parts. Their ability to retain the information they have learned and then use this in their next lesson has greatly improved this half term. The students have explored the different needs of a plant and what happens if these needs aren't met. Every student planted their own sunflower seed, it was a pleasure to see how well they cared for them and made sure they had all the things they needed to thrive and grow. I'm not sure how many of them have survived now they've been taken home though!

### Living Creatures and Habitats

This half term students have been learning about living things and their habitats. A large amount of them appear to have a real interest in animals and could even share their own interesting facts with me during lessons! We've learned about the life cycle of different animals, their different habitats, how they adapt to survive and thrive in the habitats they live in as well as how they reproduce and give birth to their young.



It has been a pleasure teaching science to all our key stage 3 students this year, they have fully embraced all elements of the subject and given everything a go, even if it has sometimes been a little messy. The practical activities and experiments have definitely been a favourite for most of our learners. I look forward to doing it all again in September!

### School Improvements

#### Maypole Shelter

Later than originally planned due to delivery problems but we are finally getting our maypole shelter installed over the summer holidays. This was something that our school council requested and we are sure the students will enjoy this new feature to our outside space.



#### New Swings

Our playing field swings are being replaced over the holidays which are a well used resource for students.

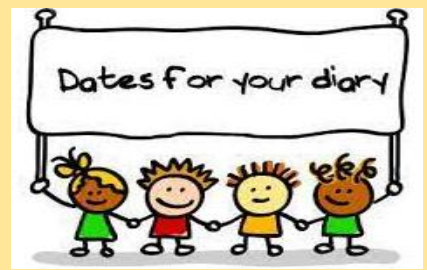
#### Forest School

Our Forest School is undergoing a makeover and whilst we are on holiday we have a team of around 30 Sky TV employees volunteering for a day to help us develop the site. Our Forest School team have amazing plans and we can't wait to see the transformation as it unfolds.



#### Exam Results

KS4/5 Exam results will be shared week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> September.



21/07/23 School Closes (Summer)  
05/09/23 Year 7 + New Starters  
06/09/23 Whole School Return  
27/10/23 School Closes (Half Term)  
06/11/23 School Returns  
04/12/23 (Teacher Training Day)  
22/12/23 School Closes (Christmas)  
08/01/24 School Returns  
16/02/24 School Closes (Half Term)  
26/02/24 School Returns  
28/03/24 School Closes (Half Term)  
15/04/24 School Returns  
06/05/24 May Day  
24/05/24 School Closes (Half Term)  
03/06/24 School Returns  
17/06/24 (Teacher Training Day)  
19/07/24 School Closes (Summer)  
02/09/24 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.



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