



Winter Newsletter 2020

What a term but we made it. ! I have to start by saying that without the dedication of the staff team, working through challenges presented by COVID we would not have succeeded. The staff team here at Hillcrest really are superb. They are so dedicated to our young people and despite COVID we have had great things happen at Hillcrest this term. It has been wonderful to be all back together again.

I would also like to thank the parents and carers for being so supportive of us at this time. It is difficult for us all, but by working together we can achieve amazing things!

I hope the newsletter and the Termly Highlights give you a flavour of life at Hillcrest over the last term.

Andrea Mead
Head Teacher

Christmas Gifts – Students



Hillcrest School have received donations from Mission Christmas and Cramlington Medical Group which means that your child has been gifted a Christmas present. All students received a present which staff picked from the selection that was available based on their knowledge of your child. In addition to the Christmas gift, the Hillcrest School Fund have contributed to Christmas lunch for all students and provided a selection box. We hope that students are happy with the gift and selection box that they received. We do know that they enjoyed the Christmas lunch this week as did the staff.

See the website for the 'Thank You' to both of these organisations.

Christmas Gifts Available

The Hope Centre in Cramlington have contacted schools in Cramlington to say they have a large selection of gifts available for children and adults of all ages thanks to the generosity of local people and companies in Cramlington. If you know a family that is in need, please contact the Hope Centre on 01670 737 808 and they may be able to assist. They would need to know the name of the referrer, family name, age and gender of gift receiver. If items are available a time slot would be confirmed to collect items from the Hope Centre.

hopecentre
growing community




Class Updates

Class HS

In September seven students from different schools came together to become Class HS. They have made new friends and settled into Hillcrest routines demonstrating what we expect at Hillcrest - looking out for each other, kind words and good listening. We have enjoyed developing relationships both in class and around the school. Recently they have worked together to produce a scene for our knitted nativity characters. Students showed great creativity when planning and building the cattle shed, manger, star, sky and background. They worked together showing excellent teamwork and communication skills. Here is the finished product.



Class MS

In Class MS this half term, our topic has been 'Magic.' We have been writing stories about potions and developed our writing using onomatopoeia. We have been investigating properties of rocks and conducting experiments to look at the density of them. As part of our PSHE work, we have been learning about money and how to pay for things safely. We have also done some work on Autism and communication. We have been learning Makaton signing and we have learned a Christmas song in Makaton which we have performed! You can watch it on our school website. We have worked hard in our Thrive sessions to plan and make dioramas of chill out rooms and beach scenes inside a shoe box.



This took weeks of planning the materials, making mood boards and finally creating all the things to go inside the boxes. The students have taken great pride in creating them and they look fab! Next half term, our topic will be Space and the Planets and we will be learning about the moon landings.

Class DM

This term Class DM have produced some outstanding work. Our favourite topic so far has been learning about World War 1 and 2. We have written some spy newspaper articles, created some silhouette art and even made clay bomb shelters! Not only this, but we have started to form some amazing friendships within the classroom that is bringing the class together as a whole. We are so proud of how hard Class DM have worked during these tricky times. Here is a little look at some of the fantastic artwork we have produced...



Class SK

First of all we would like to thank you for your support over this last term. It has been such a challenging time for everyone and your support really is valued. Your children have done you proud during some very difficult and often confusing circumstances.



Despite having these difficulties to overcome, Class SK have still managed to have a great term. We have all gotten to know each really well and have had some great social times. Cookery has been a great success - thanks to Mrs Harrison for making it possible and Forest School, as always, has been very popular thanks to Mrs Leaver who braves some terrible weather!

Our topic of 'War' was well received and we were very proud of how respectfully the subject of Remembrance was handled. We got lots of compliments about our display on the school fence! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.



Class DK

What a fantastic term! We have made our mark in the new classroom and have been working on getting to know each other really well. Some of our highlights include:

'Playing Gameshows'- Jack

'Jackie's Lunches' – Casey

'Cooking' – Corie

'British History'- Dylan

'Writing stories about Seagulls'- Louis

'Gardening' - Michael

'Learning about Japan' – Phoenix

'PE with Mrs Burn's Class - Leon

'ICT lessons' - Mikey '

Amazing work guys! I look forward to January.



Class LF

What a busy but great term we've had in class LF!

We are very proud of how the students have all formed friendships with one another and settled back into school despite these extraordinary times. As a result, we have seen some great examples of team work, particularly in PE.

In English, our gothic horror topic has kept students engaged and we have seen some fantastic work produced. In Maths, students have been working on developing their money and problem solving skills to support them with functionality. The students have worked so hard and achieved so much since September and we are very proud of them and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next term!



Class JP

We have had a busy half term in 6th Form. We have enjoyed painting the greenhouse and have tidied up the 6th form garden. For ASDAN/PDP we have learned about food from different cultures and countries and tried making sushi (it stank!). Northumberland Police came to talk to us about knife crime and we made posters about anti knife crime. We learned that if you carry a knife it can ruin your life. For Duke of Edinburgh we looked into Bike Safety. We learned to always wear a helmet because if you don't, your head could crack like an egg. We loved riding the bikes in PE. We were really good at reading and writing Gothic Horror stories. They were fun but sometimes scary, especially the Sandman. It was fun playing quizzes and gameshows, especially Kahoot. Even though we are all fiercely competitive, we managed to stay friends after. Our best memory is this year's Covid 19 Friendly Halloween party. There were lots of cool Halloween costumes, it was a great day.



We are sad to see Mrs Green leave at the end of this term, she makes the best cups of tea!

Class JB

Class JB have been starting to think about our future! We have continued to work hard towards gaining our qualifications in English, Maths and ASDAN and have taken part in lots of practical activities. We were also lucky enough to be able to participate in a virtual careers event, which showcased all the opportunities available to us in the local area. The online tours of the Colleges were so professional and nearly as good as the real thing! This was really useful and gave us lots of ideas about what we can do in the future. Our PHSE lessons are giving us lots of opportunities to talk about our plans and everybody in Year 11 has had an individual Careers interview.



We are looking forward to next term and hope we can see some of the Colleges in real life, as soon as it is safe to do so!

Class FW

This term class FW got involved in supporting Children in Need; they took part in the annual duck race sweepstake, a non-uniform day and designed a Children in Need T-shirt that was entered in to our school competition. Staff judged the competition and class FW received first prize for their amazing effort! Well done to you all for your contributions to this important cause.



In November, Class FW also took part in Anti-Bullying week 2020. The theme this year was 'United against Bullying'. During the week, the class engaged in a Knife crime seminar that was delivered by Operation Encompass, Northumbria policing team. Additionally, the class had lessons about positive and negative relationships and the benefits of positive relationships. All students viewed the official Anti-Bullying 2020 video and this prompted some great discussions around the issues of bullying, what they can do if they witness or are a victim of any form of bullying.



Class SM

Class SM have had a fantastic start to this year despite everything that is going on. Class SM have become true Scientists. We have really enjoyed choosing experiments and testing them out. We have had explosions, smashed eggs, lots of smells and spider races. Class SM have also worked really hard in CLL to create an information booklet about something each individual is interested about. You should see the beautiful covers and pictured is our Egg-static science experiment.



Class RB

We have had a wonderful first term at Hillcrest in Class RB. Our new starters have settled in brilliantly and we have some lovely new friendships in class. Our first topic, 'All About Me' allowed us to delve into our similarities and differences and look at why we are all amazing. The students loved using a variety of art techniques to create a self-portrait, the pasta and lentils proved particularly messy! We have just finished our WW2 topic where we looked in detail at Anne Frank, the students wrote some lovely letters of support to her and also thought carefully about how they would feel in her shoes. We also looked at the rationing that took place, the students struggled to comprehend how everyone survived on such little amounts of food, especially the lack of sweets!



Staffing Update



Mr Phillips was successfully appointed as the permanent Headteacher of Barndale School in Alnwick. We shall miss him, but wish him all the very best at his new school. Mr Phillips was passionate about the young people at Hillcrest and I know he misses our children very much.

Miss Miller has been appointed as our permanent Deputy Headteacher. Miss Miller has worked at Hillcrest for almost 5 years and is excited to take on this role.

Mrs Green is leaving us at Christmas to take a career break and Mrs Graham has secured her first teaching post. We wish them all the very best.

Miss Blom and Miss Sutherland have been appointed on a permanent basis to replace our leaving staff. Welcome to the Hillcrest family!

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and look forward to welcoming back **ALL** our young people on **Tuesday 5th January** (we have a Teacher Training Day on 4th January).

