



Hillcrest School

Summer Term Newsletter



On behalf of all of the staff at Hillcrest, I would like to thank you for all your support this academic year. Education should be a partnership with home and school. Next year, we will be having more opportunities for family learning, so that we can work even closer together to achieve the best possible outcomes for you child.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Hillcrest, who on a daily basis go above and beyond expectations. Staff have taken pupils on residential in their own time, worked extended days to give pupils new opportunities, baked cakes for birthdays and well frankly, just made our lovely young people feel special.....because they are! One of the comments we received on the recent Parental Questionnaire was, '*putting the children first.*' It is nice that this has been recognised.

**Have a lovely summer and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Tuesday
4th September.**

Mrs Mead
Headteacher

Class SK

What a year it has been! Team SK are so proud of everything our class has achieved this year. All our students have worked incredibly hard in their lessons but have also created new friendships and developed existing ones. The whole class have challenged themselves and persevered when things perhaps have not been as easy as we might have liked- this is so admirable! We have had some amazing trips out and its has been lovely to spend time together outside of the school environment. Our personal favourite has to be our end of year outing to Seahouses and Bamburgh- what a fantastic and memorable day it was! We have laughed every day in class SK and it has been a real privilege to have taught them all. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!



Class RA

On Monday 9th July Class RA went to Daleby House in Beadnell for an overnight stay. The students were really excited as it was our first residential trip together as a class. We arrived at dinner time and had some lunch, before deciding to walk into Seahouses. Despite telling the students it was a mile, and then discovering it was actually further, they were fantastic walking all the way there! We spent some time in the amusements and the boys bought some lovely gifts in the gift shop, before catching the bus back to Beadnell (Mrs Ashurst and Miss Ross were too scared to ask them to walk all the way back!) Once we got back, and rested our tired feet, we had a BBQ in the garden. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the different foods, some of them tried halloumi for the first time, which went down well! After a few games of hide and seek, we went down to Beadnell beach, it was amazing to see the beach and sun at night. Some of the comments from the students were lovely, one of them described it as "exhilarating". On our way back to the house we saw the Coastguard on the beach and we stopped to ask lots of questions, they even sounded the siren for us. Everyone had a shower and got ready for bed, we had some games time before they went off to bed at 10.00, even though it took until 11.30pm before some of them actually went to sleep!!

The staff were so proud of the boys and how well behaved they were, they thoroughly deserved to go and were an absolute pleasure to spend the two days with. What a special end to this year!

Here are some of the comments for the students:

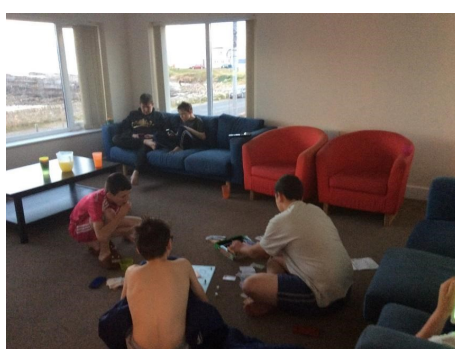
"My favourite part of Beadnell was spending time with my friends and the sand dunes at night, I felt happy." Bailey.

"I liked the arcades at Seahouses because I spent all my money on the claw, I also enjoyed spending time with my friends." Jack R.

"I liked the sand dunes, they were fun to jump off and the sand was fun to play with, I felt relaxed." Jack Devlin.

"I loved the BBQ at Beadnell and I tried halloumi cheese." Evan.

"I enjoyed the sand dunes when we were rolling down the hill and jumping off them. I enjoyed spending time with my friends." Jake.



Class LD

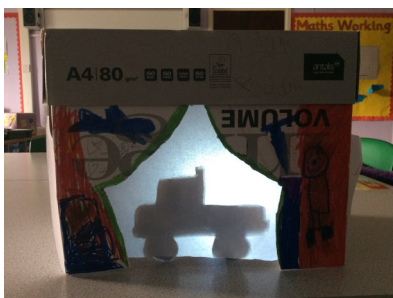


This term class LD have been studying the topic of Northumberland. As part of our topic work we have had some very exciting trips out of school . Cragside Hall, Wallington Hall, Northumberlandia and local parks were some of the places we visited . On one of our trips we painted rocks to put around Northumberland as part of the Facebook group `Northumberland Rocks`. We visited Bamburgh, Seahouses and Amble all in one day!



Class HS

Class HS have been investigating shadows: how they are made and how to change the size of them. They have worked together in teams to design and make shadow puppet theatres. The students then used the theatres to help them conduct a fair test and put on a performance for the others in the class. Class HS have worked really hard throughout the year and they have become a close-knit team enjoying helping each other and working together on a variety of tasks. Due to their great teamwork and good behaviour they have enjoyed various trips and this photo was taken on our most recent to Blyth beach. They have been a pleasure to teach and we would like to wish them all a brilliant summer break.



Class SF



Class SF have had an extremely eventful term. We have enjoyed trips to Sambuca's, the fair, Seahouses, Beadnell, The Tim Lamb Centre and Seaton Delaval Hall. We all loved making dens at Seaton Delaval Hall, fish and chips in Seahouses and screaming loudly on the rides. We have studied Ancient Greece where we have had fun making Greek biscuits, scratch art vases, tasting Greek food, using shadow puppets to retell the story of Pandora's box and Literacy through the film Hercules.



6th Form

This has been an exciting year for our 6th Form and it has been quite a journey that we have been on together. It is always a joy to see 6th Form students grow and flourish as they take their next steps towards adulthood. We will have 6 leavers who are going to be accessing exciting courses at college including:

Kirkley Hall - Inspire

Azure - Horticulture

Newcastle College - Health and Social Care and Art and Digital Design

A few of our 6th Formers have successfully achieved the full Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award - this was due to them completing a challenging expedition in spite of a hurricane! A memorable experience for all! We had an amazing trip to Daleby House in Beadnell with some of our new 6th Formers who are joining us in September. We had lovely weather and enjoyed walks, putting, amusements and of course tasty food!



The Intervention Team:

This term we had our first Families Gathering. This was an opportunity for parents and carers to meet and have a chat with the Intervention Team members about the type of support available to their child in school. Attendees were given the chance to sample some resources used in intervention sessions such as Lego Therapy and The Zones of Regulation (ZoR). We provided additional resources for parents and carers to use with their young people at home.

Attendees were also able to consult with the Intervention Team on areas of support that they would be interested in receiving from these gatherings in the future. We plan to provide ZoR training to families during the next Families Gathering, and to provide family friendly ZoR resource packs for use at home.

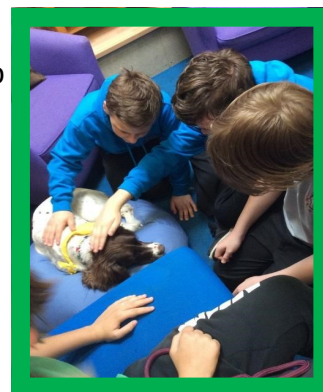
It was a very enjoyable afternoon, and we look forward to hosting the next one!



We were joined this term by Morag, the therapy dog. Her visits on Fridays have been a great success, and students have really enjoyed working with her.

While Morag is in school, she is supported by her handler, a student from 6th Form. Her handler has benefited from this responsibility, and has grown in confidence over the course of the term. She has done an outstanding job of meeting Morag's needs, and supporting other students to engage with Morag.

The students have responded well to having Morag at school. They have all shown great empathy, and remembered to be gentle and quiet while in her presence. Morag has definitely had a calming effect, and many students have benefited from their sessions with her. Often students who are in the blue zone (e.g. feeling tired) or in the yellow zone (e.g. feeling frustrated) at the start of a session will have moved to the green zone by the end, and state they are feeling happy or relaxed.



We hope everyone has a fantastic summer, and look forward to continuing our work in the new school year.



Class NB

This year in our class has been fun filled and certainly no day has been the same! From big model making to collaborative writing, to exploring locations distant and far to launching our first year of Forest School, it has certainly been non stop. It has been a pleasure to see students grow in confidence and try new things, becoming more independent and building on their moral compass. It has been a year of new challenges, achievements and exploration and as the students go into the next academic year, they look ready to learn and experience new things.

I have enjoyed my 1st year in Mr Belcher's class because I have been able to try new things. It has been great making lasting memories with my class. I really enjoyed Forest School and making new things as well as trying new foods from the camp fire cooking. I made new friends and we play football together. The staff and students at Hillcrest have always been there for me and helping me finding my way to a life and what do I want to do when I leave school. I will do my best to get a job when I leave school and think about my time at Hillcrest school and think about everyone who helped me to work

I have enjoyed lots of stuff at school like– Forest School trips library play working- towards. I also enjoyed Flamingo Land, swimming, computer, I-pad and games. I have enjoyed CLL, maths sometimes science and Lego. I've also liked action figures football, playing with my friends, cooking, IT, messing about and the park.





Class JP

Class JP had a fantastic school year! All the students should be proud of their hard work. We've had a lot of happy moments, these are some of our favourite...

"My favourite thing this year was Raspberry Pi in IT and all the art we have done in our Art History topic" - Luke.

"I liked the art museum trip because I like the old pictures" – Danielle

"I like the trips, especially the art museum" – Daniel

"The best thing was dissecting the eye ball" – Kyle

"I enjoyed the Halloween party and the trips. I also liked the treadmill challenge and learning about planets" – Adam

"When Nathan says funny things and also when Danielle, Nathan and I were playing cards and I had to pick up 100 cards!" – Leah

"The BBQ, I mean, who doesn't like a BBQ in the day time?" – Nathan

"I liked playing football" – Kiera

"I like science because I am interested in volcanoes" – Aiden

"I liked maths this year especially when we were doing fractions"

– Billy

"The best thing about this year was having fun" – Mia



Class SW

This term has been really rewarding in Class SW. As part of the Duke of Edinburgh award, the students raised money for the charity 'Young Minds'. The class set about several fundraising ideas and worked well together as a group, raising over £200 – which is a fantastic achievement. Then, in the second half of the term, they learned lots of skills to help navigate being out and about in the wild. Some even completed the expedition, which included an overnight stay in tents. Of course, this being Britain, they managed to be camping on a night when we had a storm! The students had obviously listened well to their instructions as their tents survived. The staff however ... well that's a different story!

When we returned after the half term, it was exam time for our year 11s and we were incredibly proud at how they put in so much work to achieve their very best. So when we went out as a class for the final time to Frankie and Benny's for our farewell meal, it was with very mixed emotions but a wonderful time to remember the past year together. The students were an absolute credit to us and yourselves, so I think we've already booked for next year!