



## Hillcrest School

### Summer Newsletter July 2019

It is an honour and privilege to lead such a vibrant and wonderful school. We have amazing young people and dedicated staff who care hugely about the pupils in school.

What a great year it has been. I hope the newsletter gives you a flavour of the diverse curriculum opportunities Hillcrest pupils have had. Work has started on our long awaited MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), our Yurt is completed and the Bungalow Garden was opened this week by the Civic Head of Northumberland.

Thank you all for your continued support. It was great to see so many of you support Hillfest Fair. We raised a huge £960. This money will be used to buy sensory equipment to support our young people.

At the end of the term we say goodbye to Mr Belcher, who is going to teach abroad. We shall miss him enormously as he has spent the last 5 years being an amazing teacher here.

Have a great summer. I look forward to welcoming back our brilliant students on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

*Mrs Mead*  
*Head Teacher*

### 6th Form

What a brilliant term we have had in 6<sup>th</sup> Form. The highlight was our overnight stay in Beadnell. It was great to spend time together having lots of laughs and giggles. The café has been a great success and we managed to make 24 staff lunches – a new record! We have been doing a lot of work to prepare us for our next steps – 6 students will be leaving us and we wish them success and happiness in the next stage of their journey.





## Class SF

SF class have had a lovely summer term. We have enjoyed watching our plants grow, from seeds to flowers, where we have looked after them each day and observed how they have changed. We have enjoyed so much outdoor learning. We absolutely love the new yurt and we get so excited each time we go in. We have enjoyed making stories from natural items, making bridges from sticks and making wool worry stick dolls to help us with transition time.

Our transport topic has been fun. Some highlights include raft building, zip wire travel, balloon rockets, making a calming mix for the badly-behaved bus and train station role play. We developed our money skills, reading of timetables and 24-hour time for our role play sessions, as well as looking at social stories and the steps we would take to travel.

Recently we went to see Toy Story 4 and we loved making our own Forky's back in school. We are ending our year with a class sports day afternoon with classics such as the egg and spoon race and the three legged race, as well as a pizza party afternoon. We have enjoyed this year so much and we cannot wait to see what the next year brings.



## Class SK

What a fabulous year we have had in Class SK! We have come such a long way since September and have made many happy memories. The students have all worked exceptionally hard and have achieved so much. We have had lots of trips out where we have learned a lot and had a great time. All the staff in Team SK wish all of our class every success as they move on through the school and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next year. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. Happy holidays!





## Class NB

It has been a fun term to close the year within Form NB. As a whole year aim of working with family values, focusing on acceptance and independence; the students have really tried at points to aim for high standards and become more aware of one another. This has included presentation pieces, independent choices for topic work exploring how different everyday items work, planning, preparing and cooking class meals and developing interests in areas such as Golf, craft and the world around them. We have had some great debates over different beliefs particularly looking at the Jewish and the horrors surrounding their experiences during World War 2 and discovering living history through our Science work on Rocks and Fossils. Part of our initiative for independent writing is highlighted in the form of the following article written by the class about one of our trips to explore a castle (and play a few games of medieval hide and seek!) It was written by a class process of researchers, journalists and editors.

The following piece was written and edited by 2 of our students...

### Trip to Aydon Castle

We got to the entrance and we went in and we played tag. And we climbed and hid and got wrong because we weren't allowed to climb up on the castle. We walked around and we seen (sic) the big hall then we went to the stairs at the night time. And it was a dirty rotting smell. And we seen (sic) the dungeon's when people go there, they would disappear in front of the King and Queen and then we walked around the castle. We went back to the bus and went back to school.

## Class DM

In our final term together, Class DM have worked exceptionally well and had lots of fun. We have been looking at transport and designed some amazing futuristic cars. In science, we made a zip wire to transport an egg safely and not all of them worked – we had lots of laughs when the egg cracked! One of our most enjoyable activities this term was making dens in the classroom and spending time in them listening to stories and watching documentaries. We have had some great trips out this term, but our favourite was Kiki's Kabin, where we had lots of fun playing with each other and forming positive relationships.

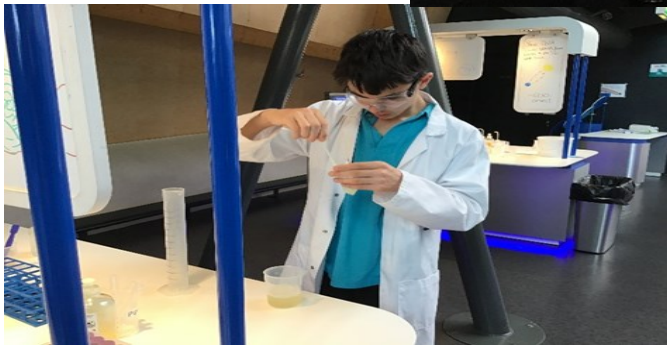






## Class JP

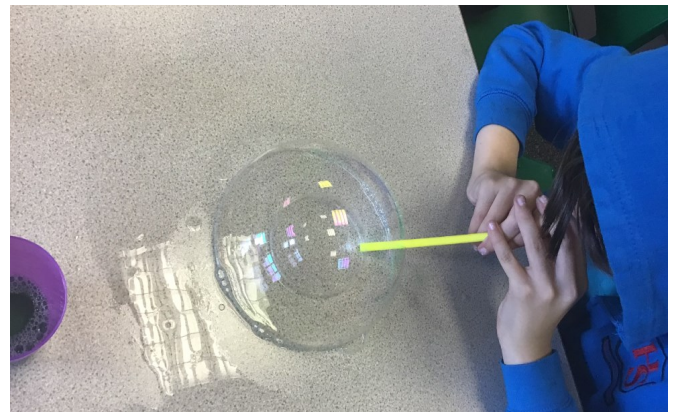
We've had a great year in Class JP. We are really proud of how all the students have formed friendships with each other. Class JP love playing games, especially basketball, football, charades, card games and battleship. The highlight for this half term was definitely going to the Centre for Life. The best part was exploring the games exhibit. We got to play on games from way back in the 80's, leading up to the modern games of today. We also loved looking at the science exhibits. We really felt like mad scientists! Class JP wishes everyone a safe and relaxing summer break.



## Class HS

As part of their Crime and Punishment topic Class HS staged a 'Class Court'. Judge Sample encouraged the jury to listen carefully to both the defence and the prosecution. Many of the students were found guilty and sentenced to time in the class jail or class community service. They enjoyed being witnesses for one another and trying to pick holes in each others' alibis. Having learnt about Roman, Greek and Victorian forms of punishment, one of the students commented that she was pleased she was not found guilty of a crime in those days!

During Thrive sessions Class HS have enjoyed lots of sensory play, particularly seeing who could produce the largest bubble.

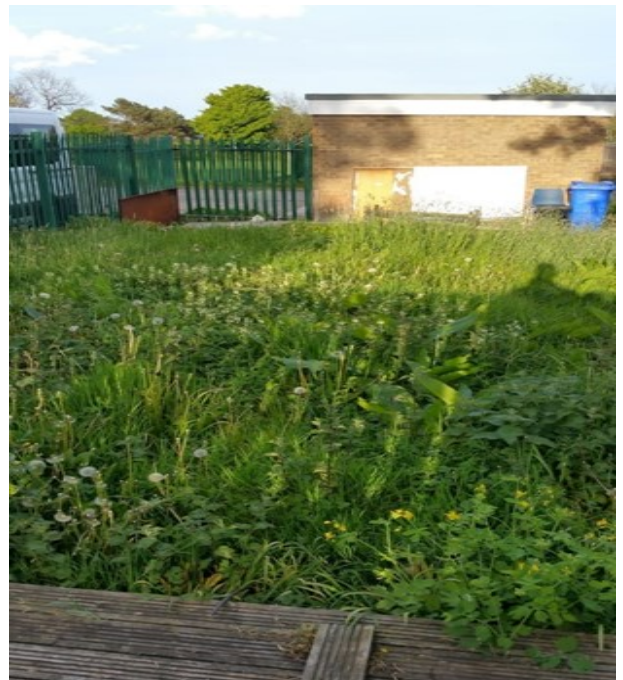






## Class RA

What an exciting year it has been for class RA, as a staff team we are hugely proud of our young people and all their fantastic achievements. Across the course of this year Class RA have been completing a City and Guilds Horticultural Qualification alongside Kirkley Hall College. They have transformed our bungalow garden and made it a beautiful area for everyone at Hillcrest to enjoy. The commitment and dedication the students have shown has been overwhelming, even during freezing cold winter days they still worked extremely hard to ensure the project was completed on time. We are so excited by the wonderful space our students have created and we can't wait for both us and the rest of the school to enjoy their time in it!!







## Class SW trip to '31 The Quay' in North Shields

We went to visit a professional kitchen and the chef showed us how to roll out croissants and explained how to make them.

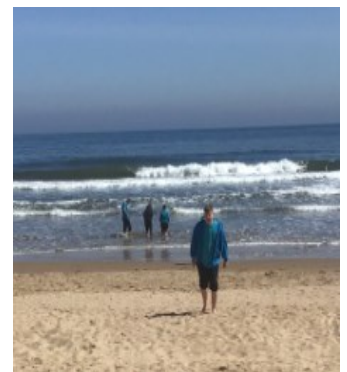
We tasted them and they were delicious.

This was part of our Foodwise ASDAN work.



## Class LD

As a reward for all of their hard work this year Class LD enjoyed a trip to the crazy golf at Tynemouth, followed by fish and chips on the beach and a trip to the amusements. Class LD have worked hard this year raising money for charities as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as completing all of their exams. Our class all agreed that our recent trip to Tynemouth beach has been a highlight for us. We had a fantastic day that we won't forget. Well done for all of your hard work this year!





## Thank You

Hillcrest School have recently received funding to purchase a new sewing machine. The donation was received from Anne our Careers Advisor. The students wanted to say a huge Thank You to Anne and make something as part of the Thank You. Below is a photo of some of the students pictured with Anne presenting her with the rabbit that they made.



## Governors Summer Message

We find ourselves at the end of another busy and extremely successful academic year. We have welcomed two new members to our board, both of whom have hit the ground running and have already made visits to school to scrutinise their particular areas of responsibility. We have had governors attend school to look at: Behaviour and Safeguarding; Leadership and Management; the curriculum for all key stages, and our health and safety governor has been carrying out regular visits throughout the year. We have also spoken with and received feedback from staff and students in regards to their health and well being. The school overall continues to grow from strength to strength. The children are safe, happy and extremely well cared for. The teaching staff are fully committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages every young person in the school to make progress both academically and socially. The values and ethos of the school is evident in every corner of the schools daily practices. Safeguarding and routine processes are extremely robust and children are listened to.

The governing body continue to develop our skills and recruit people in the business community who enhance our offer, as well as adding strength in driving the school towards true excellence in all that we can and do offer our students and our community in general. We very much look forward to the adventures that the next academic year will bring. Please have a safe and happy summer break and we will be there to welcome your children back in September to start their next adventure with Hillcrest.

Happy Holidays

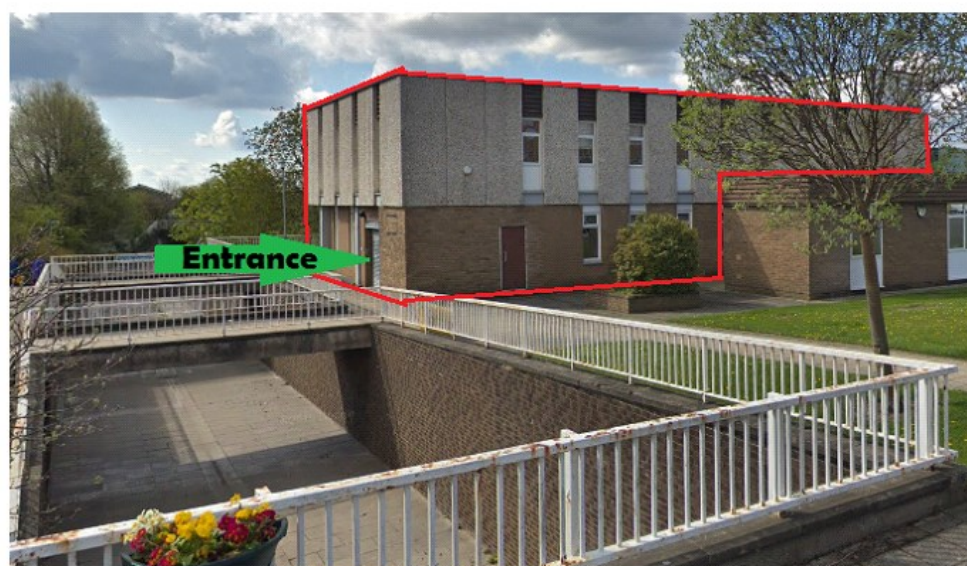
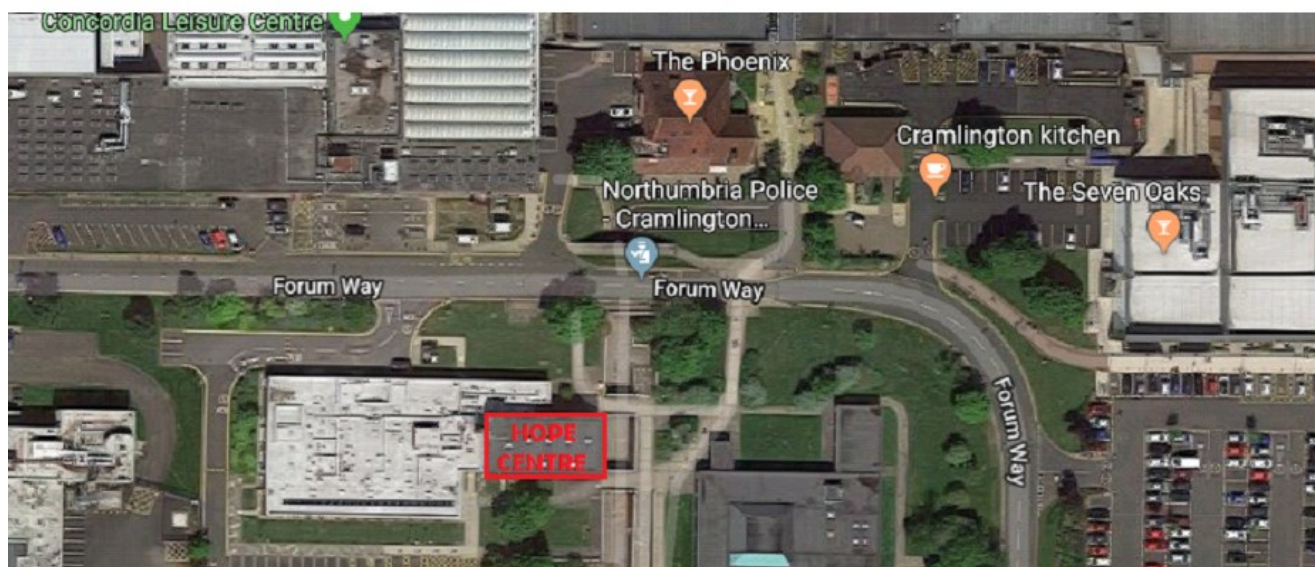
Joyce Reid  
Chair of Governors  
Hillcrest School





# Summer Lunch Scheme

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and for the duration of the school, summer holidays, the Cramlington Churches in cooperation with the HOPE Centre  
(Forum Way, to the rear of Concordia, next to the GP surgeries)



will provide packed lunches for pupils who normally receive free school meals.

These will be available each week-day from 1200  
For further information call  
Hope Centre on **01670373808**