



Hillcrest School

Summer Newsletter 2015

Year 11 Work Experience 2015

We have been able to offer our year 11 students a range of work experience opportunities this year including joinery, gardening, retail, sport, and car mechanics. This gives them the opportunity to discover what life in the workplace is like, and demonstrate the skills they have learned in school. It increases their independence and self-esteem. The feedback we had from the providers and the students was extremely positive, and with an increased number of opportunities planned for 2016 we aim to give our students a very positive, enjoyable experience of life in the workplace.

Anti-bullying and Cyber-bullying workshops

This term saw pupils signing up to attend workshops ran in The Links. The workshops showed good turn outs and pupils attended Anti-bullying and Cyber-bullying sessions. Pupils engaged in group discussion's and focused on different types of bullying, spotting the signs of bullying and advice on what to do if they come across any form of bullying. Staff encouraged bullying awareness using a range of activities as well as the 'Think you Know' website resources. Workshops were ran with an aim to give pupils the skills to tackle and prevent bullying while raising awareness of its existence through education and discussion. As we approach the summer holidays where pupils will have more free time on their hands could we please ask parents and carers to be extra vigilant of their child's access to social media sites and routinely monitor the use of these. Please see below some useful websites links that can provide advice and support for parents and carers regarding these important issues.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
http://safe.met.police.uk/internet_safety/get_the_facts.html

Beadnell Residential Trip

On 6th July through to 8th July, students in Year 9 visited Beadnell and Seahouses for their residential trip. This involved phenomenal trips out to the Farne Islands where they saw seals "in the real live world" (according to one student) and interacted with the Puffins, Terns and Guillemots. The trip formed a basis for their PBL week and a great deal of fun, first times and independence was had by all, involving breakfast setting, making packed lunches, having a BBQ and even hoovering which became a firm favourite!

A big Thanks to the following in organisations who kindly donated items and their time to our Project Base Learning.

- ❖ Asda
- ❖ Sainsburys
- ❖ AS-NU in Seaton Delaval
- ❖ Coffee as you like it
- ❖ Ringtons

Diary Dates

17th July – School finishes for Summer Holidays
1st September – Teacher Training Day
2nd September – Years 7 – 11 Children return to school
3rd September – Sixth Form Return to School

Message from Headteacher

What a great end to the year. Our Project Based Learning Exhibition was a huge success followed by a Sports Afternoon which was organised by Mrs Harrison and the 6th Form. It was wonderful to see lots of students enjoying the afternoon. I think we have the potential to start a Girls-5-A-Side.

This summer sees the retirement of Mrs Pullan and Mrs Lagun who have worked at the school for many years. We wish them well and hope they enjoy a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Over the summer we have major building work: a classroom is being partitioned, a new fence and at last a large section of our Adventure Playground. We have also ordered the 6th Form Lodge now we have got planning permission.

We have new staff, Mrs Storey and Mr Flynn, joining us to teach Key Stage 3 and Mrs Hayes will also be joining us to teach Technology. To strengthen the Leadership Team we have Mr Phillips joining us from the Pupil Referral Unit for a term.

I am really looking forward to September so we can continue to improve the educational offer for our lovely students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the last year. I also wish to thank all of the staff for their hard work over the year too.

Have a great summer.

Mrs Mead

Governors' Message

Dear Parents

As we near the end of another school year, I would, as Chair of Governors, like to express my thanks to the Head, Staff and Parents for the support and hard work they have given to the school over the last year.

A lot has happened over the last school year, staff have left and been replaced, the school has achieved Charter Mark Status for Governance, Investors' in People (re-assessment) and steps are currently being taken to having further building work completed to provide additional accommodation, particularly for the Post 16 students.

The Governors have been working hard to support the Head and Senior Leadership Team to respond to the recent Ofsted Inspection and this is ongoing.

Governors visit the school on regular occasions to support school events and to fulfil a supportive monitoring role as part of their specific responsibilities.

I intimated in the school's Christmas Newsletter that having served for 20 years, as a member and Chair of the Governing Body that I would be retiring later this year and recently I have decided to retire at the end of the current Governance year which will be at the end of October 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity of formally thanking Mr Colin Gibson, Mrs Mead's predecessor, the current Governing Body and the staff in school who I have worked with over the last 20 years.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing the Head, staff, students and parents a nice summer holiday ready for what the new term holds in September.

With best wishes

John Joynson