

Hillcrest School



6th Form Prospectus



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East Farm
Cramlington
NE23 1DY

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Website: **www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk**

Headteacher: **Mrs. Andrea Mead**
Chair of Governors: **Mrs. Joyce Reid**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Andrea Mead
DSL Deputies: Mark Phillips & Alison Miller

Welcome to Hillcrest School 6th Form

Our Vision

Hillcrest School is set in the village of Cramlington in Northumberland. The 6th Form provision is located in a self-contained lodge to promote independence and to meet the needs of young people with many different needs, including social, emotional and behavioural needs. This is achieved through our broad and varied curriculum, work experience opportunities, independent careers guidance and interventions supported by our Intervention Team.

Students attend Hillcrest 6th Form from the age of 16 to 18. Our aim is to prepare our students for life beyond Hillcrest School. The 6th Form journey helps to prepare our students for adulthood by giving them the skills and confidence that they will need for the future. During their time in 6th Form, students are given various opportunities to realise their full potential and prepare them for the future.



Our Ethos

- To promote opportunities for developing independence
- To develop skills for adulthood
- To develop resilience
- To create a friendly, welcoming and all inclusive environment
- To treat everyone equally with respect and care
- To enable students to realise their full potential

Mission Statement

“Aiming High: dream, believe, achieve”

We believe in, and strive to create, a community of learners where everyone feels valued in a welcoming, supportive and safe environment, based on unconditional positive regard.

When students leave Hillcrest School, they should be more resilient, confident, responsible, independent, respectful and life-long learners.



Hillcrest Big 6 Key Drivers

Social Development & Communication

Emotional Health & Well-being

Academic Achievement

Functionality

Aspirational Futures

Resilience

Hillcrest Expects...



Good Listening



Kind Words



Care of Hillcrest



Look after each other

**Running
Slow**

**Good
To
Go**

**Slow
Down**

**Stop!
Out of
Control**

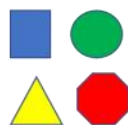
Zones of Regulation

Zones of Regulation is a vehicle in which we support all learners in recognising their behaviours and help them develop strategies to support them back to a comfortable, regulated state. This allows us to discuss 'zones' with pupils rather than behaviours to ensure our learners feel they are communicating in a way that the adults can understand.

When a student is deregulated



- What is in place?
- What opportunities are there to discuss triggers?



Identify zones

Body and face clues
- heart, muscles, breathing, temperature, rapid talking, volume of voice/tone, vocalisations etc



Discuss Zones/Reflection

- Thoughts
- Feelings/Emotions
- Behaviours



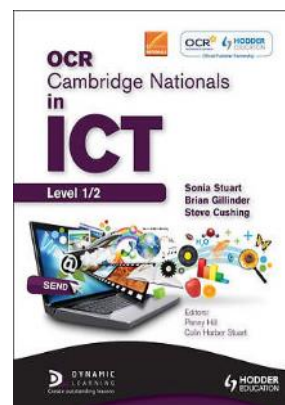
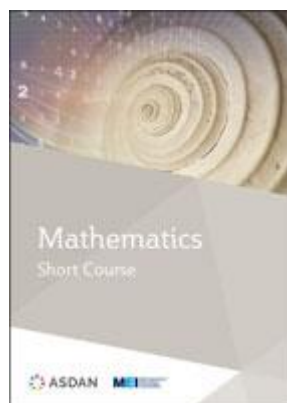
Toolbox/ Solution focussed strategies

- Sensory
- Calming
- Thinking



Ready to transition more regulated

6th Form Curriculum



Homework

As a school we have asked the views from parents, over the years, about the value of homework. The views have often been varied but alongside research it has shown to have little impact on improving outcomes. At Hillcrest, class teams will encourage learners to research, use our e-learning platforms and complete set tasks and in some cases reading, when appropriate. We would never penalise or put undue pressure on at home or with parents/carers as this can be unproductive.

School Day

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| School Office Open | 8.30am |
| Learners Start | 8.50am |
| Focus | 9.00am |
| Session 1 | 9.30am |
| Session 2 | 10.20am |
| Break | 11.10am |
| Session 3 | 11.25am |
| Lunch | 12.15pm |
| Session 4 | 1.00pm |
| Session 5 | 2.00pm |
| Learners Leave | 2.50pm |
| EHCP Meetings | Wednesday 3.15pm – onwards |



Duke of Edinburgh

We have a 5 year plan for delivering The Duke of Edinburgh's Award from Year 11 through to Year 14. We work very closely with colleagues from the Award who support us in the planning and delivery of the programme. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the 4 areas of the award - volunteering, skill, physical and expedition. We are very proud to be a registered centre for the delivery of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Trinity Arts Award

The Arts Award inspires young people to grow and develop their arts and leadership skills: it's creative, valuable and accessible. Students will be able to work towards Explore and Bronze Award.



Work Experience

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to serve the school community whilst developing a wide range of skills including functional Mathematics and English to help prepare them for life beyond Hillcrest. We aim to develop teamwork, negotiation, future planning, tolerance, experience and preparation for employment. We are always looking at ways to develop and expand and would love to be able to work with our local community to in the future.

Cafe @ The Lodge - Students are involved in a community café which aims to serve the school staff and students. Currently we provide a weekly lunchtime soup and salad service for staff. We have also invited a number of schools to our café which has been a great success. Roles include preparing food, taking orders, mobile services, taking payments.

Maintenance @ The Lodge - Students are involved in maintaining and developing the lodge and bungalow area as well as other space in the school such as the cookery room. Roles include planting, cleaning outside areas, cleaning windows, painting inside and outside areas, developing garden areas including laying lawns, cutting grass.

Students have also benefited from external work experience opportunities including placements at Homes for Northumberland, The Wildlife Sanctuary, a care home for the elderly and Blyth Sports Centre. This is an area that we are keen to further develop.



ASDAN English and Maths Short Courses

Students will study a functional English and Mathematics curriculum from Entry Level 1 to Level 2. This will be delivered through ASDAN modules with the focus on functional skills to help to prepare them for adulthood. This curriculum also helps to support the transitions into work, college and independent living.

ASDAN Personal Development Programme

ASDAN's established Personal Development Programmes (Bronze, Silver and Gold) offer imaginative ways of developing, recording and certificating a wide range of young people's personal qualities, abilities and achievements, as well as introducing them to new activities and challenges. All the programmes link to nationally recognised qualifications.

The programmes allow students to develop and recognise a range of skills that will be invaluable when they start work and begin living independent lives: Teamwork, Learning, Coping with problems, Use of Maths, Use of English and Use of IT.



Foodwise and Gardening

These short courses will be linked with the work experience opportunities that students will participate in - Cafe @the lodge and Maintenance @ the lodge. Students will choose the short course that interests them and will complete a number of modules and challenges that gain credits which feed into the Personal Development Programmes and any future ASDAN programmes.

ASDAN PSHE

The Short Course is split into seven modules:

- keeping healthy
- social relationships
- careers and your future
- wellbeing
- intimate relationships
- becoming a parent
- economic responsibility





Careers and Pathways

We have a Careers Lead in school who works closely with students to develop opportunities for the future. Pathways are identified early on in their Hillcrest journey and we regularly review and develop them based on experience, aspirations and interests. Students experience regular roadshows and visit local careers events to ensure that they have a broad and balanced experience so that they can make the best choices for their future.

We have an independent careers advisor, Anne Clarke, who meets regularly with students and works closely with staff to identify pathways and opportunities.

We have close links colleges and other external providers including TyneMet College, Northumberland College and Azure. These links give some of our students the opportunity to access a wide range of courses and resources. They also provide opportunities for our students to meet other young people and develop confidence in new environments. We invite external providers in to meet our students and they attend parent evenings to give parents the opportunity to find out about options. We also visit external providers on a regular basis.



Independent travel

Independent travel is a lifelong skill that we aim to develop in 6th Form. Students are supported through a travel training programme with the ultimate aim of them becoming confident and independent travellers. For some students, the aim is for them to experience a range of travel opportunities with a level of support.



Lunchtime Arrangements

6th Form students have their lunch in the bungalow. They plan meals on a budget and are responsible for shopping for the ingredients in the local community. They work as a team to prepare their lunch. On a Friday, some students choose to independently access the local shops for lunch.

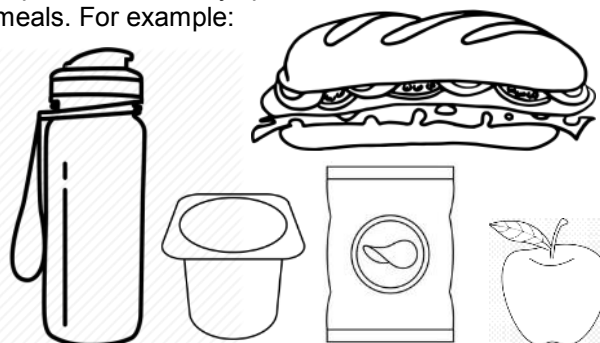
Key Skills reinforced:

- ♦ Managing a budget
- ♦ Healthy eating
- ♦ Cooking
- ♦ Social skills and manners
- ♦ Household management
- ♦ Living skills
- ♦ Independent living skills



Packed Lunch

We know that some learners prefer a packed lunch and they can still eat this in the main dining hall. It is important that any packed lunches are balanced meals. For example:



Uniform

All coloured Hillcrest tops are available from reception.

- * Green hoody/zipped hoody
- * Green polo top
- * Black trousers
- * Dark shoes

PE Uniform

- * Comfortable sports clothing
- * Trainers

Prohibited Items

Hillcrest needs to be a safe place to learn for all our students. It is really important that your child does not bring in items to school that puts themselves or others at risk. These include: alcohol, smoking devices, lighters/matches, sharp implements, energy drinks, fizzy drinks, drugs or drug paraphernalia and mobile devices. (We do allow learners to come into school with mobile devices but these must be handed over for safe keeping for the duration of the school day)

If pupils are found in possession of prohibited items then the school will confiscate these, unlawful items will be reported and handed to the police. Other items will be held until parents/carers are able to collect these from school.

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E-Safety

With most children/teenagers accessing the internet on a daily basis it is important that we can keep them safe in the same way as we do in the physical world.

Internet safety is a whole school responsibility – staff, pupils and parents

Young people may expose themselves to danger, both knowingly and unknowingly, when using the Internet and other technologies. Additionally young people could become involved in activities which are inappropriate or possibly illegal. We therefore recognise our responsibility to educate our pupils, teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the Internet and related technologies.

In school we have safeguarding procedures and protocol that is expected of all staff and students. Furthermore we have a specific filtering tool that maintains our highest trust in what can be accessed through the school.

We urge parents to be vigilant and monitor their children's use of the internet.



Links

UK Safer Internet Centre
Internet Matters
NSPCC
Think u know
Webwise

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>
<https://www.internetmatters.org>
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise>

Our school e-safety coordinator is: Mrs. Su Waites

SMSC

SMSC is embedded into our 6th Form curriculum. As a group we explore and challenge beliefs both formally and informally.

Spiritual

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

We have a daily group reflection time. We explore spirituality through our curriculum such as Arts Award and Functional English. Students learn a great deal about themselves through Employability as well as through our café and horticulture projects.

Moral

Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

We have regular discussions about issues from around the world. As a group we promote tolerance including race, religion and sexuality.

Social

Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

All students participate in work experience opportunities. We work as a team to provide a café and car washing service for the school community - these enterprises promote many social and moral skills including teamwork, respect and tolerance. We promote British values through the focus on working together as a team towards one goal. Students are taught that they need to work hard, be cooperative and respect one another in order to run a successful café and car washing business. We promote a 6th Form Consequence and Reward system - Positive Attitudes @ The Lodge - promoting respect and a positive attitude towards work.

Cultural

Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

Through our reflection and discussion time, students explore different cultures. As a group we work together to promote equality and respect individuality.

Working in Partnership

Partnerships with parents

We have regular contact with parents through phone calls and face to face meetings. It is imperative that relationships between school and home are developed and maintained with the student at the centre.

Partnerships with other professionals

We have a holistic approach and have developed positive working relationships with multi-agency colleagues including Social Services and CYPS. We also work closely with the school's Intervention Team consisting of a Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Emotional Literacy Lead and Autism Lead. We have a Service Level Agreement with the Learning and Skills Guidance Team who provide independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance for our students.



Partnerships with other schools and colleges

We have developed positive relationships with colleges including TyneMet College, Northumberland College and Newcastle College. Our community café offers the opportunity to develop relationships with local and feeder schools as well as other 6th Forms. We have positive links with other 6th Form provisions in our region through Post 16 SEND transition meetings.



Intervention Team

One of the things that makes the Hillcrest family special is our very own multi-professional team. The team consists of:

- ◆ Speech and language Therapist-supporting speech, language and communication
- ◆ Occupational Therapist –supporting independent regulation and self help skills
- ◆ Emotional Literacy Support Assistant-supporting learners through mental health challenges
- ◆ Autism specialist teacher-extensive experience with autistic learners in the classroom
- ◆ Autism specialist support assistant-developing strategies and successful implementation of these in the classroom

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Sex Education

Sex Education is taught throughout the school in accordance with the National Curriculum. The curriculum is specific depending on the key stage and maturity of the pupils and addresses appropriate relationships, common misconceptions and accurate information, safe sex and the law around sex.

Staff receive training, advice and resources through the NHS and agreed schemes and tailor this to the needs of our pupils.

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Equality & Diversity

Hillcrest strongly promotes equality and diversity amongst staff and students. As such we have strong links with community groups who come into school to run workshops for students and training for staff. We also use our daily 'Focus' sessions to ensure all our learners grow in confidence and feel valued as well as valuing others within their immediate communities and internationally.

Equality & Diversity

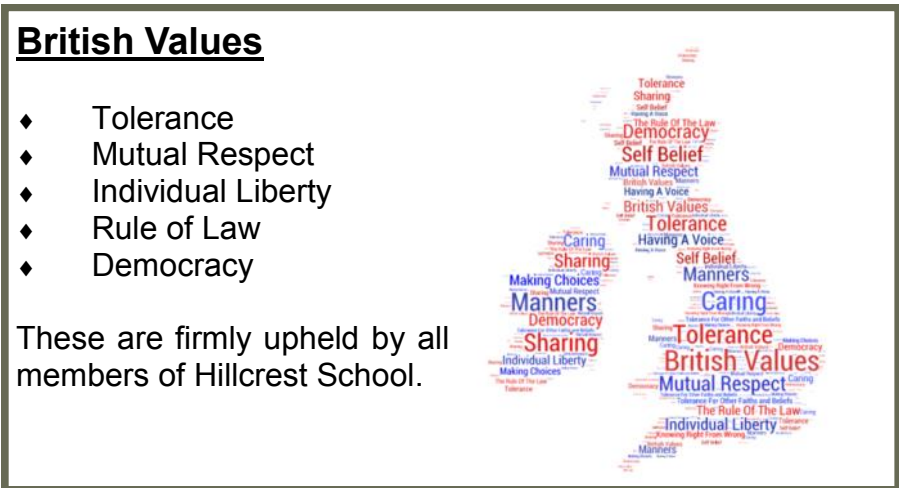
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Sarah is able to see students and families regarding child health matters. This is by appointment only.

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[illegible]

- [illegible]

[illegible]

EHCP Meeting Reminder

EHCP meeting date _____ time _____.

(please don't forget to bring your parent views form)

Your Child's Progress

We have two parents evenings in the academic year-normally at the start and end of the year. You will also receive an academic progress report at the end of the school year.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Under the 2016 policy from the Department for Education schools have a duty of care in ensuring the safety of all children. Any concerns would be discussed with parents/carers directly unless it was felt a child was at any risk of harm.

Our designated safeguarding leads are:

Andrea Mead (Headteacher)

Mark Phillips (Deputy Headteacher) Alison Miller (Assistant Headteacher)

Parents/carers can contact the school if they have any concern regarding any child.

Your views

We very much value our open door policy and friendly relationships with the families of our pupils, we encourage parents to talk with us informally to raise matters of concern with either the relevant member of staff or the Head Teacher. This enables us to be aware of any problems and work together to find a solution.

Complaints are usually resolved at this stage; however there is a written Complaints Policy available; details of which are available from the school office.



GDPR

As with all establishments data protection is really important. We have an assigned, trained officer and regular updates from Northumberland County Council to ensure we are compliant. Specific information can be found on the school website or by requesting a parent leaflet.

Further Education Journey

Year 11

Hillcrest
6th Form

Apprenticeship

Internship

Social Care
Package

Employment

College

Career Plan
Independence

