



Hillcrest Newsletter

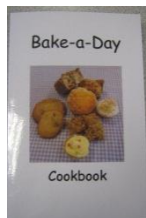
March 2014

Project Based Learning Week

Project based learning is about choosing an idea or a problem and working on this. It should include 8 key elements:

- Focus on significant content
- Develop 21st Century Skills
- Engage students in In-depth Inquiry
- Organise tasks around a driving question
- Establish a need to know
- Encourage a voice and choice
- Incorporate revision and reflection
- Include a public audience

Students need to ask 'Driving Questions' to move their projects forward and working as a team include the 3cs – Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration. This may sound very ambitious but looking at the displays and items our students produced clearly shows that this is how they have worked. Very impressive, especially as this is a first for Hillcrest!



Yr7



Yr8



Yr9



Yr10



Yr11



6th Form

Projects included decorated tiles for a display in our school foyer, a recipe pack and a bus leaflet for Arriva.

It was so wonderful to see so many parents, carers, grandparents and friends of Hillcrest come to our Exhibition afternoon. Year 10 even got into the News Post Leader!!



Roots and Shoots

The students in year seven have been given the opportunity to attend and work with staff from Alnwick Garden and the NHS. They have been given their own plot of land to plant vegetables, which will be done over a number of visits. The students had a picnic lunch and enjoyed the facilities of the gardens. They particularly enjoyed getting very wet in the fountains. A good time was had by all!

School Website

At last we have an up-to-date website, although we are still developing it. Why not have a look at it and let us know what you think. Is there something you would like to see added? We will be holding a competition in school next term to design a new heading for the Home page. All ideas welcome.

Work Experience

Once again Hillcrest students did really well on work experience and made us extremely proud. Placements included: Sainsbury's, Wilkinson's, Shoe Zone, Blyth Leisure Centre and a Nursery.

We received excellent feedback from the employers. Highlights include:

'A really polite person and they would welcome him back'.

'Very polite and well mannered'

'Great performance, excellent attendance and time keeping'.

'Very helpful, polite young man'.

Well done year 11!



Hillcrest Newsletter

March 2014

NEED HELP WITH INTERNET SAFETY?

As information technology moves forward at an ever increasing pace, parents and carers sometimes feel overwhelmed by 'What is out there', on line.

If you need help there are a number of organisations that can help.

Childline Is a free 24/7 helpline for young people – tel 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Beat Bullying Mentors If you're 11-17 and struggling to cope with bullying go to www.beatbullying.org for real-time support from specialist counsellors and trained Beat Bullying mentors.

Get Connected A free confidential help for young people under 25, open 1pm – 11pm every day tel 0808 808 4994 or chat online at www.getconnected.org.uk

Family Lives Charity providing help and support in all aspects of family life. They have a 24/7 free Parentline on tel 0808 800 2222 or visit www.familylives.org.uk

Kidscape A leading anti-bullying charity, which provides a helpline for parents of children who have been bullied. From 10am to 8pm on tel 0845 1205 204 or www.kidscape.org.uk/helpline/index.asp

The end of term sees the departure of Mr Hyslop and Mr Douglas.

Mr Hyslop is now a qualified teacher and is keen to get a full time PE post, so is going off to do supply teaching to get some more experience. In the short time he has been at Hillcrest he has made a huge difference and really developed his skills as a teacher. We shall miss him, but wish him well in his search for a full time PE post.

Mr Douglas, our Drama expert, is moving onto another teaching post as his contract was until a new Deputy Head Teacher was found. We will miss Mr Douglas and his positive attitude, but hope to see him back at Hillcrest at some point in the future.

The Summer Term brings two new staff members. Mrs Stobbart is our new Deputy Head Teacher and Mrs Williams is an additional teacher who is initially going to be teaching predominantly Maths. Both Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Williams are really excited to be coming to work at Hillcrest because of the fantastic students we have. We are delighted to have them as part of the Hillcrest Team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term. By working together we get the best for your children. Have a great Easter.

Mrs Mead