



Hillcrest Newsletter Spring 2025



Head Teacher's Update:

A huge thank you to the Hillcrest community for making this Spring term so enjoyable. We have some AMAZING young people, incredible families, supportive governors and staff who work in a skilled way with our young people every single day. A lot to be thankful for.

Schools are the most exciting place to be because of the variety of activities that take place both inside and outside of school. All of which is shared with you here. This term I was able to be a Geordie Juliet with Mr Brady's class which is something I never had the pleasure to do in 29 years of working in schools.

We start every Monday morning in staff briefing sharing Magic Moments from the week before. This ensures that all staff get to hear about the great things that happen across school on a weekly basis and this really is a wonderful way to start the working week.

Next term there will be a parents evening on the 9th July 3:30-4:40 which will give families the opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher for the new academic year. We did this last year and found it was beneficial and aided a smoother transition for our new pupils.

Just a reminder about mobile phones. Pupils are expected to hand them in once they arrive in school. If pupils refuse, then we expect parents to come and collect phones from school. Thankfully this rarely happens but this rule does ensure that there is no social media issues throughout the school day.

Have a lovely break. I look forward to seeing our lovely young people on the 28th April.

KS3 – Class LM

The Flying Frogs

During Spring Term 1 we studied the book Tuesday by David Wiesner and produced some fantastic Newspaper articles based on the story. We imagined that we were journalists investigating the case of the flying frogs. We interviewed each other and typed up our reports. Our watercolour frog paintings finished our display off perfectly!



Makaton

We worked really hard with Mrs Eggett to learn Makaton and achieve our Makaton Level 1 Award. Our class enjoyed learning and practicing then we performed 'Sweet Caroline' with the Makaton signs to Mrs Mead, the Head Teacher.



Shakespeare

During Spring Term 2, we studied William Shakespeare and read Romeo and Juliet, looking at some of the Shakespearian words and phrases and what they meant. We had great fun reading with expression and practicing different voices to share Shakespearean insults!

Discover

We really enjoyed our music sessions in Discover! We have been learning songs so we can participate in 'The Big Gig', singing in rounds, playing rhythm games and experimenting with instruments.



School Visits

We had a lovely day out at Northumberlandia; we walked around the lady, played some games, had a picnic and built a Class EM den in the woods. We have enjoyed a visit to the Fire Station to learn about the careers and jobs available within the Fire Service and even got to use the hose pipes on the engines!



Science

In Science we have been learning all about electricity. Did you know that a lemon can power a circuit? We made our own circuit powered by lemons and added more and more lemons to make the buzzer even louder!



KS3 – Class MP

Crime and Punishment

This term we have been working really hard on our topics Crime and Punishment and The Environment.

In Spring 1, we focused on History and looked at Crime and Punishment during different eras. As a part of this, we were able to take a trip to the Great North Museum: Hancock. This was a great opportunity to look through the different historical exhibits as well as handling some of the Ancient Greek soldier equipment. We also solved the case of the stolen cookies by looking at clues and different sources to investigate.



The Environment

In Spring 2, we focused on The Environment for Geography. We have done some fieldwork which involved going down to Discover and doing some litter picking as well as looking at recycling and different land use in the North-East.

Fantastic Work

Some other highlights have been the amazing work on Macbeth that the class have completed for English. We have done a range of speaking and listening activities after reading parts of the book such as hot seating and a 'talk show' activity where the class interviewed each other as they played different characters. Additionally, there has been some fantastic written work completed such as summaries of the story, persuasive letters and reports written all themed around the book.

We have also had the opportunity to go on other trips such as Pets at Home and the cinema. Overall, this has been a great term and we are looking forward to the summer term!



KS3 – Class GM

Lots Of Learning

This half term the students have enjoyed learning all about Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's dream and all the different characters and plot twists.

In Maths, Class GM have been working hard learning all about times tables and inverse operations and the commutative law.

In Science we have learned about electricity and how to make our own circuits using electrical equipment and other resources such as moulding clay and lemons (instead of batteries).

In Art, we have linked the work to our topic regarding ancient Latin American civilisations such as Mayans, Aztecs and Incas and also discovering how these were later usurped by the Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors.

New Music

All of the students have enjoyed using the new instruments, learning tunes such as 'Ode to Joy' on the Keyboard, 'Smoke on the Water' on the Ukuleles and 'The wheels on the bus' on the xylophone!!



The students have also enjoyed two visits to the cinema, one visit to Pets at Home plus weekly visits to the

local park (for races on the zipwire!!).

As always, the students of class GM have worked really hard and have been kind and respectful to one another.

KS4- Class MW

A Fantastic Term!

We have had yet another fantastic term in Class MW. The students have continued to grow in confidence and their independence is progressing incredibly well.

Hands on Experiences

We have had the pleasure of welcoming some fantastic visitors, who ran insightful sessions to aid with our students' preparation for life after Hillcrest. We particularly enjoyed our session on interview preparation by Donna from the ASK Programme and our street first aid session with Ian from St John Ambulance. The hands-on experience that the students were able to gain was so valuable.



'Wor Flag' at Wembley!

A particular highlight for Class MW this term has to be Fynley winning the 'Wor Flags' competition with Newcastle Utd, whereby his flag design made it to Wembley for the Carabao Cup final!



Accreditations

The students have continued their hard work towards their accreditations, and should be proud of their resilience and the level of effort given towards these. We are nearly there! And we cannot wait to celebrate their achievements in the summer term.

Overall, the staff team continues to be ever so proud of each student in the class. We are very much looking forward to ending the year on a high with this wonderful bunch!

KS4- Class JP

Enjoying time together

The hard work continues in Class JP! The students have primarily focused on their English, Maths and Science exams but we have found time in between the busyness to enjoy our time together.

Fundraising

A massive highlight of this term has been the Hot Dog Sale that we hosted to raise money for Hop Haven CIC, a charity established recently by a family member of one of our students. The students carefully thought out every aspect of their sale and set themselves up for success. We even managed to get a photo together to remember the occasion by.



As we head into our final term, we are looking forward to finishing up our exams and spending some time as a class, working on key life skills and promoting independence in everything that we do. We are very proud of how much the class has achieved so far and look forward to what comes next!

KS3- Class NM

Working hard

In Class NM this term we have worked incredibly hard to get through the last of our exams for English, Maths, Science and to complete our ICT qualifications. We have really enjoyed some practical maths activities such as measuring items using sweets and building 3D shapes out of spaghetti and marshmallows.



We successfully completed a chromatography experiment in science, and have had some great walks to the local park during P.E. We have loved witnessing the amazing sportsmanship that is demonstrated within the class while playing social games, and the beautiful empathy and compassion that students show each other on a daily basis. Well done class NM!



KS3- Class CB

What a Term!

What a term it's been — packed with learning, laughter, and a few dramatic plot twists! In English, we've set sail on a literary adventure, diving into *Treasure Island* and falling head over heels (quite literally!) with *Romeo and Juliet*. From script reading to trying out different accents, we've brought characters to life. In maths, we've been all about shapes, stats, and sharpening our skills. From cracking data handling to measuring area and perimeter, we're definitely counting on success as we prepare for next year's exams.

We're *plotting* a bright future! Over in science, things have been positively *electric*! We've explored circuits and current, and sparked some real curiosity in the classroom. Music has been a string of fun — literally — as we've been learning to play "My Dog Has Fleas" on the ukulele. It's been a *note-worthy* experience, even if we hit a few *flat* notes along the way!

PE and Humanities

In P.E., we've hit a *home run* with rounders, served up fun with tennis, and tackled some energetic games of bulldog. A huge *shout-out* to those playing football for

Cramlington Juniors — you're *goal-diggers* in the best way! Humanities took us on a trip back in time to the Victorian era — no time machine needed! We've been discovering what life was like and exploring how the past shapes our present.

Adventures

Travel training has started for some pupils, and they've taken their first steps with confidence — we're *on the right track*! A massive well done to everyone involved. We've also had not one, but two cinema trips, enjoying *Kensuke's Kingdom* and *Kung Fu Panda 4*. Let's just say we're now masters of the big screen *and* the big kick! And finally, we've enjoyed some lovely walks to the nature reserve and even spotted the *giant spoon* in Cramlington — now that's what we call a *taste* of adventure! We're proud of all the hard work, creativity, and team spirit this term. Keep it up!

KS4- Class KG

Resilience

In class KG we have really focused on getting through exam prep and our ICT module. We have managed to complete them all and everyone in class KG has shown a huge amount of resilience and this has definitely paid off.



Fundraising

We have had a huge success with our fundraising in regards to our tuck shop, making over £100. The funds will be used for Class KG to go on trips. This was loved across the school as everyone was getting their sugar fix. We have also enjoyed trying out a new skill this term in DofE, this has given our pupils the chance to try out something new to see whether it is something they enjoy.



Class KG has had such a lovely term and we look forward to the next.

KS4- Class RB

Commitment to work

Class RB have had a fantastic Spring Term. The students have worked extremely hard on their exams in English, Maths and Science and have shown real commitment to their work.

Duke of Edinburgh

As part of our Duke of Edinburgh we have been fundraising for The Newcastle Dog and Cat Shelter. The students planned a milkshake and biscuit sale, baking their own shortbread biscuits as well as a non-uniform day and raised over £80. We are also doing an Easter Treat Sale on the last Friday of the half term to raise more money. We are so proud of how hard they've worked to help such a worthy cause.



ASDAN

We had one final task to complete this half term as part of our Animal Care and got to visit Ouseburn City Farm to complete it. We had a fantastic time and the students really enjoyed seeing and petting all the different animals. We saw goats, sheep, chickens, chinchillas, birds and lots more. The weather was lovely and we enjoyed our packed lunches outside once we had finished at the farm. The students were so well behaved and represented the school brilliantly.



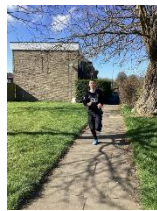
The students have worked so hard and achieved so many fantastic things this half term. We hope they

all have a well-deserved and well rested easter holiday and look forward to everything the summer term will bring.

KS4 – The Bridge

Incredible Resilience

Students have completed the majority of their exams and finished their ICT coursework – we are so proud of each and every single one of them. This term, they've also taken part in a 50-kilometer charity run, showing incredible resilience and teamwork to raise money for a cause close to their hearts, The Newcastle Dog & Cat Shelter.



In addition, students have completed advanced first aid training, covering emergency responses to stab wounds and drug overdoses – crucial and potentially life-saving skills.

The Bridge continues to support the local community, with ongoing volunteering at The Hope Centre. We cannot wait for the Summer Term to arrive!

KS4- Class SK

Success

It has been another busy term in class SK and we have achieved so much! The students have all worked so hard and have now finished their Maths, English and Science exams- all the staff are so proud! The maturity that these exams have been approached with it has been outstanding and their successes are thoroughly deserved.

Street First Aid

We were lucky enough to have a St John's ambulance volunteer come into school to deliver a 'Street First Aid' session where we learned what to do if we came across someone in the street needing help after being a victim of knife crime, or becoming ill due to vaping. We learned about how to get help, how to make a

tourniquet, how to put someone in the recovery position and how to give life saving compressions. I feel very confident that any one of us could help in an emergency situation now!



Functional Skills

We have started to work on our Functional skills and we will continue this into the summer term, as well as concentrating on our ASDAN and Duke of Edinburgh qualifications- we look forward to a busy Summer Term!

Discover

Spring in Forest School

Please see below some amazing photos taken by students in Discover throughout Spring in our Forest School.



Hillcrest School

Care Home Visits

This term we have loved our weekly visits to Hartford Court Carehome. There have been lovely friendships between students and residents that have continued to flourish. We are on a first name basis which is lovely to see. We have played bingo, told jokes, mindful colouring and crafts this term. We look forward to going back next Term.



Autism Awareness Day- 2nd April

As a school we acknowledged the importance of showing awareness and celebrating this day. This day is to show acceptance and promote awareness of our differences. The theme for the day was 'Light it up BLUE'. Many staff and students wore blue. Throughout this day students took part in lessons that explain autism and how we can be accepting and understanding of those with autism. It was a very wholesome day.



Attendance Matters

We expect the children to attend school regularly - every day if possible. Where we have attendance concerns, parents will be contacted and support offered. Your child's education is very important. Regular school attendance helps pupils fulfil their potential and gives them a better chance for the future.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Department
for Education

Absences Reminder

If your child is absent from school, please call the school office before 9am.

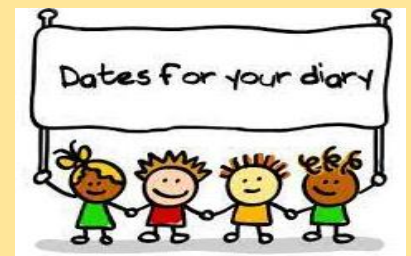
Dinner Money

Just a reminder that we have a new system for paying dinner money for our students. If you would prefer to pay online rather than sending cash or cheques into school, please contact the school office.

Holidays

Generous donations have given the school the opportunity to offer each student an Easter egg to enjoy.

Everyone at Hillcrest wishes all of our students and their families a Happy Easter and we hope that you all enjoy the holiday. Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all in the summer



11/04/2025 (School Closes) **Easter**
28/04/2025 School Returns
05/05/2025- May Day
23/05/2025 (School Closes) **Half Term**
02/06/2025- School Returns
09/06/2025- **Teacher Training Day**
18/07/2025- (School Closes) **Summer**
01/09/2025- School Returns



Please remember to update us here at school if you move house, change telephone/mobile phone number or email address so we can contact you.



Hillcrest School

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EASTER

WORD SEARCH



Y T L
Y P H S H Y
H S S A R G E
Y R Y I H I R H Y
H H D R E T S A E H Q
U N S P R I N G I R H
B N I A A L D L A S I R B
C T S L C H I C K A S I C
J E L L Y B E A N L A S F
R E W O L F B F N R L U A
R S T F E A M T E R R N J
U A E P P B A S K E T D U
T R N B B L L S B P F A O
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A T Y U E T K R
Y D N A C U
T B S M



BUNNY
EGGS
CHICK
JELLYBEAN

BASKET
SPRING
FLOWER
EASTER

GRASS
CANDY
HUNT
DYE

BONNET
SUNDAY
PEEPS
LAMB



