

Head Teacher's Update:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful families for supporting our work with your amazing children this academic year. It makes a huge difference when we work in partnership.

This term we have hosted some HT's, DHT's, SENDco's and Learning Coaches from XP Trust in school and we received some fantastic feedback including:

- You have an amazing set up at Hillcrest and students are very lucky to be allocated a place. It was clear to see how much your staff care about the students and how happy the students are attending Hillcrest.
- From walking around the school visiting classes and meeting the staff and children, you can feel support and care everywhere. You clearly prioritise relationships and it was lovely to witness positive interactions between all. The children clearly feel happy and safe in your care.

It is thanks to the amazing team at Hillcrest that we can get great feedback. Next academic year we will continue to try and get even better for our young people. It really is a privilege being able to do this job.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer. School reopens for Year 7 on the 2nd September and the rest of the school on the 3rd September.

KS3 – Class LM

Solidarity Farm

Class EM have really enjoyed our Summer Term together! During the first half term we went on a class visit to Solidarity Farm. We had a tour of the farm, met some of the animals and learned how to care for them, went on a tractor trailer ride around the cattle fields and enjoyed some time in their forest school.

NUFC Foundation

We enjoyed working with the NUFC Foundation to develop our employability skills such as team work, listening, problem solving and resilience. We also learnt more about different career options.

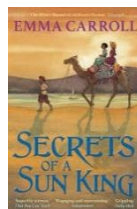
Plessey Woods

During second half term we studied life cycles in Science and were lucky enough to be able to go on a visit to Plessey Woods where we were able to see tadpoles at various different stages of their lifecycle.



Secrets of a Sun King

Our class novel, Secrets of a Sun King, which linked to our Humanities topic on Ancient Egypt, really kept us on the edge of seats and desperate to read the next chapter to find out if the curse could be lifted from Lillian's Grandad! We produced some fantastic pieces of writing using this book as inspiration.



Makaton

We have really enjoyed working with Mrs Eggett to achieve our Makaton Level One and Level Two awards. We have thoroughly enjoyed our summer term and have experienced lots of new things!



KS3 – Class MP

Maturity and Resilience

The summer has been a fantastic final term of the year. I have been really proud of the progress that I have seen in the class's maturity and resilience. Some highlights in Maths and English were seeing everybody engaged in class discussions and debates together and applying some practical Maths knowledge for the preparation of raising money for our class trip. We have also enjoyed lots of fun Thrive activities such as making slime, den building and spending time down in Discover.



Romans

For the first half term, our topic was the Romans, where we looked at gladiators, the colosseum, Boudicca and the Roman Empire. As well, we completed some great art projects alongside this.



In the second half term, we looked at Animals Across the World, where we focused on our Geographical knowledge of continents, countries and oceans and where some animals live. This also included the adaptations they have made to survive in those places and the class created their own creatures with adaptations too.

It has been a pleasure to work with everybody in Class MP this year and I know they will go on to do amazing things next year. Enjoy the summer!

KS3 – Class GM

Lots of Learning

This summer term we have been learning all about the concept of time, from measuring the time of day using the sun and shadows to the introduction of analogue clocks with the Victorian railways and how Greenwich Meantime was introduced. We have looked at different time zones around the world and converted from analogue time to digital. The students have done great work with this often tricky concept!

World War 2

In English and Humanities we have been investigating World War 2, the key events and people, who was on the Allies and who was on the Axis, why it began and how it ended. We have learned about key figures during the war and the role women had to play such as fashion designer Coco Chanel and the underground French Resistance movement.

Art and Design

As always, we have linked these topics to cross curriculum subjects such as Art and Design and the students have produced some amazing work to go on our 'display corridor'. My personal favourite was the use of pastels and chalks to produce sketches of Stonehenge with shadows forming during the Summer Solstice.

We have enjoyed playing the new instruments such as Trombones and the Brazilian Samba Drum set.

The students have enjoyed our visits to the local parks, learning life skills in the community at local shops and supermarkets, enjoying the new 'sensory garden' in Cramlington and weekly sessions in our Discover area.

The students have had a great summer term and should be very proud of all the work they have produced and the friendships they have maintained and expanded.



KS3 – Class CB

A Special Thank you

As we come to the end of a fantastic school year, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our pupils and parents for making it so special. It has been a joy to watch the children grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Exciting Topics

This term, we've explored a wide range of exciting topics. From expanding our vocabulary with our Word of the Day to reading *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, the pupils have shown great curiosity and thoughtfulness. We proudly earned our Makaton award, learned about animals and their habitats, and explored how our community supports people with disabilities.



Women's Rugby World Cup

A highlight for some of us was the trip to Kingston Park, where we took part in a rugby session celebrating the Women's Rugby World Cup.



I'm incredibly proud of the class and how much they've matured. It's been a truly memorable year!

KS3 – Class NM

What a Term!

In Class NM this term we have done lots of exciting things! We finished off our Animal Care ASDAN with a trip to Ouseburn farm, where we got to see all of the lovely animals... we particularly enjoyed the cheeky goats going for a walk! We also had the fantastic opportunity to interview Natalie Lagstrom from Watermill Wolfdogs, a canine behaviourist and TV dog trainer! It was amazing to get the opportunity to ask her lots of questions about working in the TV and film industry, being a dog behaviourist and working with wolfdogs in particular.



We enjoyed making our very own volcanos, emergency rafts and "pulsing hearts" in Science... although it wasn't always easy! We've thought carefully about real life applications of our Maths skills and have spent time working on life skills such as budgeting and timetables. We've loved spending time together socially, playing social games and witnessing such beautiful empathy and compassion between the students. Well done Class NM!



KS4 – Class SK

A Brilliant Year

What a year this has been. We have had an absolutely brilliant year with too many achievements to count. The students have worked so hard this year to complete exams and should all be so proud of themselves.

Trips

All the students have matured socially and emotionally and we have had some great times together- our day at the beach was definitely one to remember! The trip to Chillingham Road was another great day exploring other cultures, along with sampling lots of different foods and having a social cuppa!



We have done lots of volunteering, including litter picking and raising money for charity.

As a staff team we are very proud of every achievement, however big or small they may seem and we wish them all well as they move through the school. Enjoy the holidays and thank you all for your support over the year

KS4 – Class- RB

Fantastic Term

The students have been an absolute pleasure to teach. After finishing their exams, we have been doing more functional Maths in order to prepare our students for real life situations. We have been learning about Crime and Punishment in English and the students have been amazing in lessons being able to recall all the information they have learned and putting themselves in the shoes of young Victorian prisoners.

Science

In Science, we have been learning about Extreme Earth. The students have explored different natural disasters and their impact on us as humans and the earth itself. We recreated volcanoes outside using a variety of ingredients. The students loved seeing their volcanoes erupt and the mess they created.



ASDAN

Our second ASDAN Short Course this term has been Activities and Peer Mentoring, as a class we decided to do a module in Art and the second module in Craft. The



students explored a variety of different artists including, Andy Warhol and Archibald Giuseppe. The students used the artists techniques and created their own similar pieces of art. In craft they made some beautiful glass jar fairy houses using clay. Despite having to start over again due the clay drying too quickly and cracking, they turned out amazing. We were so proud of how much effort and dedication the students displayed when completing them.



The students have worked so hard and achieved so many fantastic things this over this academic year. They have been a delight to teach and we have made some wonderful memories together. I hope they all have a well-deserved and well rested summer holiday and look forward to everything the next year at Hillcrest will bring.

KS4 – Class JP

Amazing Progress

It has been a wonderful year in Class JP! We have grown so much together and this last term has shown us how far we have come.

School Garden

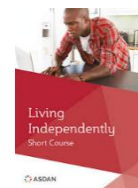
Our biggest project this year has been the development of the school garden. It had grown tired and disused; it was in desperate need of some TLC! We have ripped out old and broken parts of the garden, painted the shed and grown some beautiful flowers to bring it all together. Two of our students also took it upon themselves to build a bench to encourage others to use the area at break times.

This final term is always tough but as usual Class JP have taken it in their stride. Every single day they show us how much they have matured; they knock down every challenge in their path with their heads held high. Class JP have smashed it this year!

KS4 – Class DM

ASDAN

This term Class DM has worked very hard to complete their Independent Living and Food Wise courses successfully in ASDAN.



In DofE they have worked on their chosen skills to complete the course. They ran a Christmas card sale with their own designed card and ran a tuck shop in school to help raise money for our class outings and trips.

We are very proud of the effort and hard work of the students in class DM, especially the many exams they have completed this year. We have also enjoyed our bowling trip, cinema trips, lunch at Wetherspoons and lots more!

KS4 - Class MW

What a Pleasure!

What an absolutely fantastic end to the academic year we have had. I would also like to share what an amazing academic year it has been all-round in Class MW - the pupils have been an absolute pleasure to teach!

Developing Skills

We have really focused on preparing the class for life beyond Hillcrest, whether that be completing accreditations, transition activities or continuing to develop our life skills. We have been so lucky to have had such brilliant sessions to enhance this, including: NUFC Foundation Workshop, X Games Cyber Security Workshop and college taster days. The pupils' engagement and enthusiasm has been faultless throughout and it is evident that each and every one of them has benefitted.



Highlights

Some particular highlights definitely have to be our class trips to Cramlington Fair and Blyth Beach as well as our recycled materials art project. Seeing the pupils be so independent and playful was lovely to see and their outstanding levels of creativity are evident in their pallet display boards.

I am really looking forward to ending the year on a high with our Leavers' Celebration - the class so thoroughly deserves it! I wish every pupil the best of luck as they progress on to their next stages in September and hope that everybody has a safe and fun-filled summer!



KS4 – The Bridge

Preparation for Adulthood

This term, The Bridge has had a productive and engaging term with a strong focus on functional skills and preparation for adulthood. We've transformed our garden area, giving students the opportunity to develop teamwork, planning, and practical outdoor skills.



ASDAN

A key achievement has been the successful completion of the ASDAN Personal Development Programme at Bronze level which is a fantastic milestone for all involved. Our focus is now completing the ASDAN Life skills Challenge, with cross curricular learning through topics like World War II and the roles of women. We've also focused on essential everyday skills such as shopping, cooking, and personal health.



Enterprise

Our enterprise efforts continue to support money management and work-related learning. This term we brought back our popular breakfast sandwich mornings and are due to hold a 'Name the Teddy Bear' sale.

Finally, we are preparing our leavers for the next steps in their journey, ensuring they feel equipped and confident as they transition to college life. Well done to all students for their hard work and positive attitude this term.



KS3 - Discover

Significant Improvements

We have made significant improvements to our outdoor space, including building a shelter in the play area and repurposing a shed into a wood store. We've created an allotment area and a compost heap to support sustainability, alongside ongoing woodland management efforts.

Additionally, we've developed a wellness area featuring an egg chair swing for relaxation and constructed a replica WW1 trench to enhance historical learning.

Please find below some amazing photos taken by students in Discover.



Free School Meal Holiday Voucher

Please see the below information regarding the holiday vouchers that are funded by the UK Government/funded by DWP Household Support Fund.

"Please ensure this voucher is used for its intended purpose only. The voucher must not be sold, passed on or used for any other purpose. If you are not able to use it, or do not require the vouchers for food/clothing please contact the school and arrange for its return. Northumberland County Council reserve the right to carry out checks to ensure the vouchers are used for their intended purpose, and by accepting this voucher you agree to these checks being undertaken. If anyone is found to misuse the voucher Northumberland County Council may take action to recover the money, in full, from you as well as taking any other action they deem appropriate".

Cure Usher

We raised an amazing **£210** with our cookie sale for staff and students.

This was to support Mr Dobson's family as his grandson has recently been diagnosed with Usher Syndrome. A huge thanks to Mrs Harrison for organising this and thank you to all of the staff and students for all of their generous donations. Please find below the link if you would like to donate directly.

Thank you for your continued support.

<https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2025.enthuse.com/pf/lauren-scott-fd603>



Richard Burn Award

The Richard Burn Award was set up by a parent many years ago after her son tragically died in an accident at home whilst attending Hillcrest School.

Each year staff are asked to vote for 3 pupils who have achieved during the year. This does not just mean academically, it can be an improvement socially, emotionally, behaviour or attitude etc. The pupil with the most votes was awarded £30 and the runner ups £15. The Governors also set up an award and the pupil with the 3rd most votes were awarded £15.

A huge congratulations to Dean who was first place, Layton second and Fynley third. This was well deserved and the boys should be proud of themselves as we all are.



Leavers

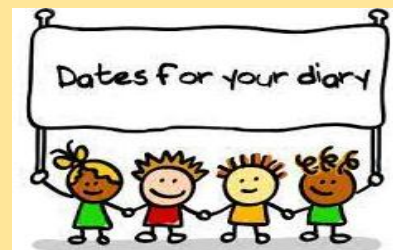
We will be extremely sad saying goodbye to our leavers but wish them all the best for their next adventure. They will be a huge miss.



Holidays

Everyone at Hillcrest wishes all of our students and their families a safe and happy summer and we hope that you all enjoy the holiday. Enjoy your time off and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

Please note that school will close at 1:45 on the 18th July so staff can complete room moves.



18/07/2025- School Closes

01/09/2025- Teacher Training Day

02/09/2025-New Starters

03/09/2025 Whole School Return

24/10/2025- Half Term

03/11/2025- School Returns

01/12/2025- Teacher Training Day

19/12/2025- Christmas Break

05/01/2026- School Returns

13/02/2026-Half Term

23/02/2026- School Returns

02/04/2026- Easter Break

20/04/2026- School Returns

04/05/2025- May Day

22/05/2025- Half Term

01/06/2026- School Returns

15/06/2026- Teacher Training Day

17/07/2026-School Closes



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.



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