



The Hermitage Herald

Issue 7: March 2025



Hello!

Welcome to March's edition of Hermitage Herald – The clocks have gone forward an hour and we can enjoy the lighter evenings and (hopefully) some warmer weather. Here's this month's round-up of all the fabulous things happening in our school - enjoy!

Wellbeing at Hermitage Academy

We have a range of support systems in place to allow all students to feel safe and achieve to their best potential.

Emotional Resilience Nurse

The EHRT work with children, young people and families who may require low-level short-term support with newly emerging emotional health issues. They provide a range of strategies and interventions to support children and young people to manage their emotions.

Youth Practitioner

The Youth Practitioners work with young people both one to one and in groups delivering positive activities that develop self-esteem, confidence and resilience, supporting them to develop healthy relationships and build life skills.

School Nurses

They can provide confidential one-to-one support around:

- Anger
- Sleep
- Body Image
- General Health
- Healthy relationships
- Emotional wellbeing
- Low self esteem
- Alcohol, smoking, vaping

Piece of Mind

The Piece of Mind Team (Mental Health Support Team) works to support education settings offering support for young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The Family Hub supports families in the area, offering workshops and courses, as well as advice on a range of topics. Find out more by emailing

programmes.familyhubs@durham.gov.uk or contact on 03000 261 111



Forest School

Forest School works with our transitional students in Years 7 and 8 and offers a way to capitalise on the therapeutic benefits of the forest/ outdoor environment.

Forest School develops confidence and self-esteem, Emotional Regulation, resilience and motivation through hands on experiences in a natural setting, such as bushcraft, woodland crafts, archery and games to meet the social and emotional needs of each child.

Here are a few words from our participants this term:

"I feel much more confident"

"Forest School helped me speak to people that I would not normally speak to"

"I liked Caroline, I liked the activities, the hot chocolate was amazing".

"It helped me have better social skills"

Art Therapy

We are currently running a pilot Art Therapy group for Year 8 with the help and support of Miss Anderson in our Art Department.

The group meet once a fortnight to design a booklet to help support students who are feeling anxious.



Revisewise and Student POD

With Year 11 exams close by, Student Pod has a wealth of resources and material to support students.



Year group pages have been updated to provide guidance and tips on how to prepare and revise. Visit the website and click on 'POD' in the top right-hand corner of the page.



Check out the range of masterclasses available for Year 11 and 13 students over the Easter break:

SAVE THE DATE Calling all Year 13 students!				
14/04	15/04	16/04	17/04	18/04
Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm
History 10am-12pm	Geography NEA 10am-12pm			
21/04	22/04	23/04	24/04	25/04
		Music Performing Component 1 9am-12pm	Maths 10am-12pm	Business 10am-12pm

SAVE THE DATE Calling all Year 11 students!				
14/04	15/04	16/04	17/04	18/04
Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm	Art & Photography 9am-12pm
Business 10am-12pm	History 10am-12pm	Spanish Foundation 10-11am	Spanish Higher 11am-12pm	RE 10am-12pm
21/04	22/04	23/04	24/04	25/04
PE 10am-12pm	Geography 9-11:30am	English 9-11am	Maths 10am-12pm	
French Foundation 9-11am	Chemistry Triple only 10-12pm	Science 10-12pm	French Higher 9-11am	

Year 9 Options Evening

We welcomed parents back into school this month, with their Year 9 children, to engage in our options evening, a time to chat to subject areas about the

THE ROAD AHEAD



different courses on offer at GCSE. Miss Bratton, who organised the event for current Year 9 students, commented that there was such a positive atmosphere, with an excellent attendance of 91%.

Positive Points - March

7	Sus-Ann B
8	Charlie G
9	Emily F
10	Lexi D
11	William W
12	Olivia B
13	Rubee LD

These students have collected the most positive points in March – Well done and keep up the great work!



English Homework Heroes



Well done to Thomas, Florence and Amber, who continue to impress our English department with their creativity. The brief was to create a fact-file on William Shakespeare. Amazing work!

Science Department news

The Science Department wanted to share with you all what's been happening in class this month, as well as showcasing some 'out of this world' homework!

As part of British science week last week, students in Y7-Y10 spent a lesson designing an organism which would be best adapted to a particular climate. The photos of the winners are below with their posters and prizes. Well done to Lottie and Izzy in Year 7; Mays in Year 8; Tegan and Isabel in Year 9 and Amelia in Year 10.



As part of the light waves topic 8x1 performed an eye dissection of a lamb's eye. The whole class were amazing throughout, following instructions perfectly.

Students studying the solar system in science chose to produce fantastic models as part of their homework tasks.



Well done to Evan, Ruby, Evie, Charlie, Kayden, Lucy and Harry in 7X2.



Year 9 have been investigating static electricity in science. The group looked at the transfer of electrons on balloons, rods and cloths and then experienced the Van de Graaff generator.



Comic Relief 2025

The 21st March saw the annual fundraising for Comic Relief, and as usual we stepped up to do some crazy things in the name of fundraising. We had our very popular and successful student bake off and bake sale. The entries looked amazing and tasted even better!

Throughout the week students took part in a range of different fun events which saw us raise £362.80! A special mention to our student leaders who helped to organise and run the events and to our winners: Grace, Sophie and Daniel. We are very proud of their work and everyone's efforts to raise a brilliant total.



Air and Sea Cadets

Karl has been awarded his basic air rifle badge and his older brother Adam has passed his basic marine engineering course with flying colours, as well as winning first place in the piping competition. They went on to compete in Scotland and came 2nd in the competition but his drill team came first and are now planning for the National competitions.



Sporting Round-up

Since our first edition in September, we have seen the Herald grow and grow, month on month, and the sports section is no exception. We are dedicating this month over a page of great news about the many amazing things happening in our PE department, as well as students celebrating success as they represent themselves and our school in their extra-curricular pursuits.

- Our U15 boys' handball team who won the county finals! Fantastic effort and resilience shown throughout. A very tense final game against Durham Johnstone which finished 8-8, and then extra time took it to 9-9. Hermitage eventually won on penalties. We now progress to northern finals!
- To prepare the boys for the northern finals, we welcomed Marlen from Newcastle Vikings Handball Club. This gave our U15 handball team the opportunity to develop their tactics and techniques for the regional finals on the 28th April. Watch this space for details of how they get on next month!
- Well done to George in Year 8 who, following enjoying the rugby sessions during PE lessons, joined a local club and this weekend toured the Lake District playing North-West teams. George picked up Man of the Match for one of his games - he scored 5 tries over the weekend.
- Sus-Ann in Year 7 recently took part in a Acro dance competition in Newcastle and placed 4th.
- Year 7 student, Tommy D, recently competed in the Chopwell Funduro mountain biking competition.

Let's go Eagles, Let's Go!

Our basketball team visited the Vertu arena to watch Newcastle Eagles vs Sheffield Sharks.

An excellent win for the Eagles too!



Hermitage Sports Round-up (Continued)

- Izzy (Y8) and Holly (Y10) both represented our school and County Durham at the English Schools National Cross Country Finals in Sussex last weekend. Both girls will once again represent the North East (inc Tees Valley) at the London Mini Marathon on 26th April, (a British Championship race) and were both selected for the North East team at the Intercounties Cross Country in Nottingham. The girls, so far, have been selected for three national competitions in mid distance / cross country. An amazing achievement.
- Year 8 Ellie who recently took part in the Scottish Athletics Championships. Ellie performed brilliantly and achieved gold in the girls U15 60m hurdles with a new personal best of 9.42s.
- We welcomed players from Sunderland AFC women in school to deliver a workshop to our KS3 football teams. Players discussed their Football careers with our students and led a superb training session for the girls!
- Our year 8/9 girls football team won both of their matches this month, beating North Durham Academy 8-0, St Leonard's 4-0 and most recently St Robert's 2-0, with goals from Evie and Chloe. Poppy who showed great sportsmanship in the game by volunteering to play for the other team to make up numbers.
- The girls' football team also competed in a 6-a-side tournament, going on to win the tournament overall!
- Our Year 7 girls took part in the 'Biggest EVER Football Session' led by Durham & Chester-le-Street School Sport Partnership in their PE lessons. This project has been created to promote female participation in football.
- The Year 7 football team took part in a recent tournament and won two games and drew one. They demonstrated great teamwork and resilience in some challenging games!
- We unveiled our new Under 16 Girls' Hermitage Academy football strip. Thank you to Howlett Boarding Kennels & Instaclean Solutions Limited for helping to inspire girls to play football.
- Well done to our U15 Girls' handball team who showed great teamwork when playing their first competitive handball match. The girls won one of the two games and showed superb resilience throughout.
- A group of our students attended a county dodgeball competition this month. They narrowly missed the 3rd spot but won the Sportsmanship Award, meaning they were respectful of the rules and towards the other students, staff and competition hosts.
- The boys' and girls' athletics teams competed in the county finals with the girls finishing second by a very narrow margin and the boys finishing third overall. Eve broke the county record for shot putt and Jessica broke the county record for vertical jump!
- Our year 10 girls were involved in a Cricket Leadership Course with Durham Cricket Foundation. The girls will go on to leading a Cricket festival to different primary schools. This is a great opportunity to do some valuable work in the community.



Reading Rocks

We celebrated Reading Rocks week at the beginning of this half term and we were blown away by the enthusiasm and love for reading that students showed. From creative writing competitions to lunchtime book fairs, our students revelled in the chance to celebrate all things bookish. The week came to a close with KS3 students hearing a talk by a professional author, Dan Smith. Some students even got to meet him and ask his advice about becoming a writer!

Mrs Hodgson-Whittle would like to thank everyone who helped make it a success, students and staff. Roll on next year!



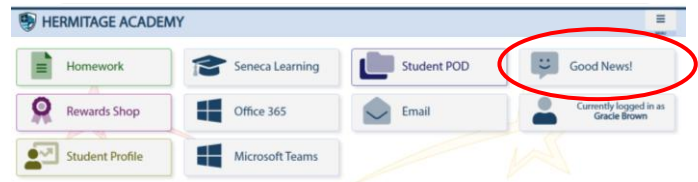
Assembly Round-up – April 2025

Week beginning:	Assembly focus
31 st March/1 st April	Celebrating our Uniqueness
7 th April	Inspiring others
28 th April	Healthy Lifestyles (delivered by the Student Leadership team)

NEW! The Hermitage Good News Button!

We have a new addition to our student dashboard!

Please use this to let us know about anything great happening with your child. It could be good news about sporting achievements, or anything wonderful that your child is doing outside of school. Do let us know – your child could feature in our next edition of the Herald!



Other ways to Keep in touch

If you have anything to share about your child, or anything that may be happening in the community that you think we would like to hear about and could feature in our newsletter, please do get in touch.

Also, please let us know what you think of our newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!

 0191 388 7161

 enquiries@hermitageacademy.co.uk

North East Scitt – Teacher Training



Our Trust's teacher training provider, **North East SCITT**, is hosting a taster day for aspiring teachers at **The Academy at Shotton Hall** in Peterlee! Experience school life, observe lessons, and ask all your questions! Friday 2nd May, 9.30am until 1.30pm

Book here: www.northeastscitt.co.uk/020525

Dates for your Diary - March 2025

April	What's on?
2nd	Street First Aid workshops
4th	GCSE PE Moderation Book Swap
7 th	Year 7 Celebration assembly Grace Donnelly – Womens' football careers talk
9th	Year 8 Parents' evening (online and face-to-face appointments available via School Cloud)
10 th	NELT Athletics competition
11th	Teeside University talk – Year 12