



The Hermitage Herald

Issue 5: January 2025

New Year, Fresh Start!

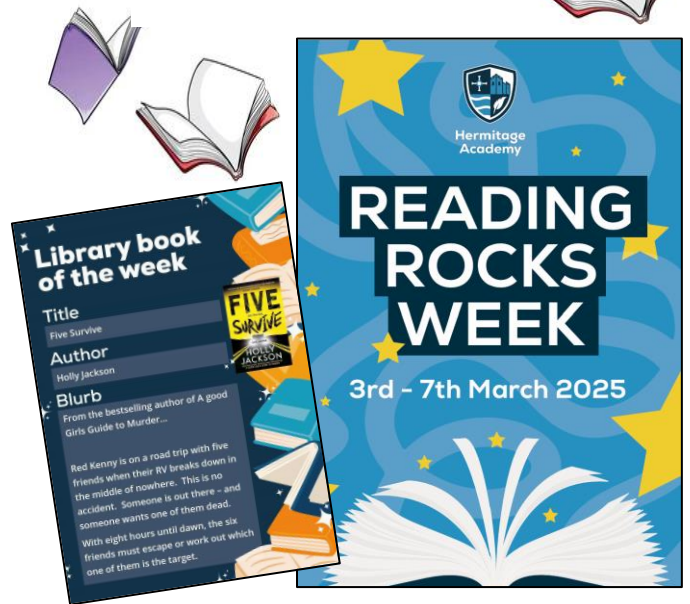
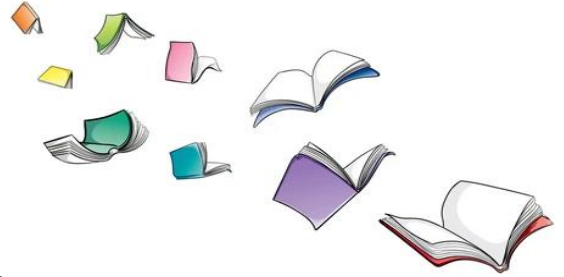
Welcome to January's edition of Hermitage Herald – As we move into a new calendar year, here's a round-up of everything that's been happening in our school over the past month – enjoy!

Today a reader, Tomorrow a Leader...

At Hermitage Academy, we recognise that reading is an integral part of everyday life. We read constantly, although we sometimes don't realise that we are doing it, and so having the best foundations for reading is essential for a happy and successful time in school and beyond in adulthood. We undertake a lot of disciplinary reading in school (reading textbooks, navigating information within a text) but we also champion reading for pleasure, as we are absolutely, totally and completely passionate about bringing the joy and the value of reading to all of our students.

Mrs Hodgson-Whittle and the English department will be inviting staff and students to celebrate **Reading Rocks**, where a week of activities and events based around reading is planned for the week after February half-term. The week will end with a visit for Key Stage 3 students from author Dan Smith, and there will be an opportunity to purchase one of his books for signing on the day.

World Book Day also falls within that week and it's always great to see the staff dress up as their favourite characters. There will be a prize for the best costumed department (this will be decided by the students).



In addition, the English Department have ordered a fabulous new selection of reading books for the classroom to get students chomping at the bit with reading. Year 7, 8 and 9 students have a dedicated reading lesson as part of their English offer, which allows students to read for pleasure within the classroom, which hopefully will inspire them to read outside of the classroom too!

Last week, we held another 'Hermitage Great Book Swap' where students could swap a book they no longer needed, or for those without a book to swap, they could buy a book for 10 Easi points.

And remember, keep an eye on our social media feeds (Facebook and X) for updates on our 'Book of the Week' from the Library.



Revisewise and Student POD

With mock exams and in-class assessments on the horizon, StudentPod 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.



Careers Round-up

Last week, we had a very successful Careers Fair at Hermitage Academy. Students were engaged in the quiz and enjoyed meeting the wide variety of employers and educational establishments who took time out of their busy schedules to visit.



We also welcomed the NHS careers roadshow into school. Year 8 students attended an interactive presentation looking at the NHS not just being about doctors and nurses, but the variety of future career routes available.



And a big thank you to Rachel from 'ResilientMe' who delivered an interactive workshop for our Year 10 called the Circus of Life.

The workshop discussed well-being, self image and overcoming barriers, and in the session students were able to enhance their thinking skills and develop resilience tactics.



We know that it is never too early to talk about careers and future aspirations, so we make these discussions a regular part of the curriculum for years 7-13. For any students wishing to chat about careers, please see Mrs Wake or your Head of Achievement.

Homework Heroes

Well done to the following students who have impressed us this month:

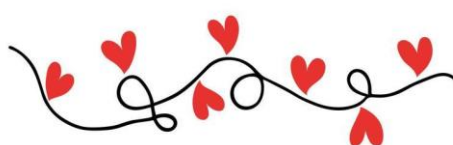
- Superb Science homework from Hayden K for his amazing model of the solar system...with a working light!
- Exceptional English work from Year 8 students Freddie A and Chloe R, who have created Romeo and Juliet inspired masks
- Amazing artwork from Ruby L in Year 10 and Amar M in Year 11 using only coloured pencils to recreate these sweet wrappers
- Fantastic Food Tech homework from Joe A in Year 9, who took his afternoon tea research homework to the next level, creating a 3d interactive research table complete with champagne flute! Such fabulous effort and creativity!



Culture Vultures – Love edition

All students in KS3 are invited to participate in some creative homework tasks during the first two weeks of February.

We would love every student to complete at least one option, but you can do more! All the information including the tasks can be found on EASI and on your child's email account. You can also find it on POD. Love is everywhere! Our culture vultures celebration will be on **Monday 17th February during extended form time.**



Fantastic Friday

Students came to our Celebration Station and shared an array of different successes with us, including Romeo and Juliet class work, sporting achievements and collecting over 250 house points!

This is a popular part of the week, where students are proud to show off their achievements, taking 'show and tell' to another level!



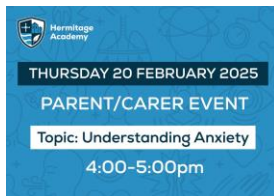
Information for Parents: Parent Information sessions/ Year 9 Parents' Evening

We have a range of informative sessions for parents and carers coming up over the Spring term. The next session, 'Understanding Anxiety', will be on Thursday 20th February, between 4:00-5:00pm.

If you have an anxious child and wish to attend the event, you can sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FHCXYyM2zj>

Year 9 parents' evening will be on Wednesday 5th February. Virtual appointments run from 15:30 to 16:50 and face-to-face appointments run from 17.00 to 18:00. All appointments can be booked via the School Cloud link which has been sent out to parents/carers. Watch this space for further information on the Year 9 Options evening, helping your child to navigate their way through the choices on offer for GCSE study.



Sixth Form Round-up

The Sixth form is a busy and vibrant place to study, and this month has been no different, as students enjoy an array of activities to support their studies but also give them essential skills for life beyond our school.

- Our A-Level Chemists enjoyed testing for positive and negative ions displaying their practical science skills.



- Our Year 12 sixth formers recently completed their First Aid course with St John's Ambulance and received some incredibly positive feedback from the instructor! He said all students showed great maturity and willingness to participate in CPR demonstrations and using a tourniquet. They all passed with flying colours and will soon receive their certificates.

David Attenborough Club

Our popular eco-initiative is back and is open to all students!

The club is an opportunity for any students interested in all things environmental and who

want to make a difference when it comes to saving the planet. Anyone interested in taking part in our competition can put forward their ideas and be in with a chance of winning the coveted, limited edition 'What Would David Do?' pin badge. Applications forms can be found here: <https://loom.ly/4xy9CgQ>



Hermitage Sports Round-up

- Our Year 9 girls competed in a Futsal tournament where they finished first and qualified for the next round. They then went on to win the futsal final tournament, by beating Fram 4-0 and Park View 6-2. The girls have now qualified to represent the district in the Northern round!
- Our Under 13 boys' basketball team put in a great performance against Durham Johnston and Fram. There were some incredible baskets and teamwork displayed throughout.
- Our Girls' U13 handball team showed great resilience playing their first competitive handball match! The game finished 4-4 and extra time took it to 5-5. Unfortunately, we lost on penalties but what a first game!
- Well done to staff Mr Archer (History) and Miss Storey (PE) who ran the Brass Monkey half-marathon in York on the 19th January. Mr Archer finished the 13.1 mile course in 1:23:33 and Miss Storey in 1:23:44! I'm not sure I could run a bath that quick! Mr Archer pictured below with flying feet!
- Thank you to Everyone Active, who have sponsored our football kits for this season. If you'd like to be a sponsor, please get in touch at enquiries@hermitageacademy.co.uk
- Check out the extra-curricular clubs available on a lunch time and after school. If you've not tried any of these clubs yet, what's stopping you? Check them out here: <https://www.hermitageacademy.co.uk/useful-info/extra-curricular-clubs>



Positive Points

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



7	Grace T
8	Charlie G
9	Emily F
10	Adam L
11	Evie M/Layla C
12	Jayden K
13	Dan O

House news

We really do encourage healthy competition here at Hermitage Academy; collecting positive house points across the school day contributes towards the house points totals.

January's winning house was Integrity, with a slim 58-point lead over Ambition in second place. As always, there is everything to play for...who will win the house prize at the end of term?

Half-Term		
1.		7,613
2.		7,555
3.		7,519
4.		7,513

Dates for your Diary - February 2025

February	What's on?
5 th Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
6 th Feb	Time To Talk Day
WB 10 th Feb	National Apprenticeship Week
12 th Feb	'Smash it in Sixth Form workshop for Y12
20 th Feb	Understanding Anxiety 4-5pm

Assembly Round-up - February 2025

Week beginning:	Assembly focus
3 rd Feb	Mental Health Week
10 th Feb	Device Detox
17 th Feb	Careers week

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!



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