



The Hermitage Herald

Issue 4: December 2024

Happy New Year!

Welcome to December's edition of Hermitage Herald – designed to keep you up to date with everything that's been happening in our school over the past month – enjoy!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Autumn term is always the longest, and possibly one of the busiest terms in the academic year. As we approach December, we embrace the spirit of Christmas and enjoy a variety of festivities.

This year was no exception, with even more activities and events than last year.

- Hot chocolate was on the breaktime snack menu, and the whole school enjoyed their Christmas lunch on the 17th December, with a choice of a traditional Christmas dinner, or a festive sandwich for those who preferred a lighter lunch. Crackers were pulled and hats were worn – it was a lovely end to the term!
- We had a festive themed 'Ready Steady Cook' – an inter-house baking competition, with Ambition victorious!
- The students also designed Christmas cards and wrote letters to residents of the local care home. Our Voices Group, led by Mrs McMullen, recorded a series of songs and carols for the residents, after a flu and covid outbreak meant that the children could not attend in person.



- Other activities included a Christmas movie night, where 'Elf' was the chosen film, and of course, our famous 'Design a Christmas Door' – a fiercely competitive day of making a Christmas themed door from recycled materials.
- The Sixth Form continued their tireless charity work, and after a bake sale in school, there was enough raised to provide an afternoon tea at the local care home and also to buy toys and gifts to donate to the Cash for Kids charity. We also delivered 102.4kg (128 meals) of food donations to our local foodbank.
- Year 7 enjoyed a local walk on the last day of term, from school to St Mary's and St Cuthbert's Church, to attend a special service. The hour-long service told of the Christmas story, with some carols and activities mixed in.

Acting through Song Showcase

On Friday 6th December, students from Year 7 to 13 took part in a Musical Theatre showcase called 'A Night of Stage and Screen.' Students had been working hard from September to create a showcase of their favourite musical theatre numbers including songs from 'Les Misérables', 'Hamilton' and 'Wicked' before ending with a toe tapping finale of 'Mama Mia' songs. The students had worked very hard on choosing, rehearsing and choreographing their performance which was a big hit with family, friends and teachers alike!



Aladdin 2025

Ring bells!

Bang the drums!

We are excited to announce that Our School Production is going to be **Disney's Aladdin JR.**

You are going to love this exciting stage adaptation of the legendary tale of the lovable thief with the heart of gold! Join Aladdin, Jasmine, and the fast-talking, wisecracking Genie as they discover mystical caves, take magic carpet rides, and outwit the evil sorcerer, Jafar. Adapted especially for young performers, this musical includes favourite Alan Menken songs such as "Friend Like Me," "A Whole New World," and "Prince Ali," as well as wonderful new songs added for the Broadway production. With new, colourful characters and nonstop adventure, **Aladdin JR.** is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages!

More information about Auditions will be shared in Year team assemblies In January or see Mrs McMullen and Mrs Robson for further details.

Culture Cultures

Every term in years 7-9, we offer the opportunity for students to engage in enrichment projects beyond the curriculum, providing tasks and activities to broaden their knowledge of the wider world. We were blown away by the tremendous effort that they have put in! Here are some pictures of the incredible work completed:



The Christmas Carol Concert 2024

As a school, we are proud of our strong links with our local community, and at Christmas these links are as important as ever.

We are delighted to work with our local church, St Mary and Cuthbert's, and the church is the beautiful backdrop, every December for our Christmas Carol concert.

The concert is a chance for parents, the public and students past and present, to celebrate the talent that our school has to offer, from a range of modern and traditional songs from the Voices choir and soloists, flautists, guitarists and pianists, to our very talented strings ensemble, featuring an appearance from Primary school students who we also work very closely with.

The evening was a celebration of music, song and exceptional talent.



A Christmas Carol

The English department embraced the spirit of Christmas in organising a trip to see 'A Christmas Carol' at the Northern Stage. The novella is one of our set texts for GCSE English Literature, so it was a fitting reason and the perfect time of the year to visit! Charlotte M and Darcy W-P have written this review of the visit:

Overall, the play was enjoyable to watch and useful in aiding GCSE study. Overall, we thought it was a highly enjoyable play, which successfully reached a more modern audience.

In our opinions, the play was definitely worth watching, it supported our English revision and consolidated the plot. Our favourite parts were getting to watch how the company presented Scrooge's change and how they characterized each ghost. We give the performance 5 stars out of 5!



Hermitage Sports Round-up

- Our Year 7 futsal team won 3 games and lost 1 in a recent tournament. They narrowly missed out on qualification by goal difference. Goal of the tournament went to Finn L for a top corner volley!
- Our Year 8 team also did very well – they put in a brilliant performance in their tournament at the start of December – well done!
- Well done to our Year 7 and 8 sports hall athletics teams. There were some outstanding performances with great team spirit. Special mention to the year 8 girl and boy team who qualified for the next round!
- Well done to Year 8 Ted who has made it to the Under 13 regional cricket team .
- Well done to Year 9 Finn who recently came first place in the regional tumbling competition. Finn is working hard for a chance to compete in English nationals next year, good luck!



Students in Year 7 and Year 8 have experienced a block of rugby from the Newcastle Rugby Foundation. The programme aims to provide an opportunity for students to learn about rugby, improve their skills and develop a passion for the game. During the coaching, Stephen from Falcons Community has been able to quickly build a rapport with our pupils and has engaged them throughout the sessions he has delivered. This is the first time a lot of our students have picked up a rugby ball, so it has been great to see them engage and learn a new sport.

We are looking to work with local businesses in our community to sponsor new team strips for our student athletes! Your logo will feature on our team's uniforms, giving your business great visibility while supporting our sports teams.

We're excited about the opportunity to partner with you and help our athletes look and perform their best. If you're interested in being part of our journey, we'd love to hear from you! enquires@hermitageacademy.co.uk

Positive Points

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



7	Indy H
8	Charlie G
9	Reuben A
10	Sophie P
11	Dylan H
12	Kelsie G
13	Rubee L-D

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.

December's winning house was Synergy, with a 250-point lead over Evolution in second place. As we move into a new calendar year there is everything to play for...who will win the house prize at the end of term?

Half-Term	
1.	SYNERGY 15,227
2.	EVOLUTION 14,971
3.	HERMITAGE 14,935
4.	HERMITAGE 14,120

Dates for your Diary - January 2025

January	What's on?
8 th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
15 th January	Year 11 Careers – mock interview workshops
16 th January	Careers fair – all year groups

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



enquires@hermitageacademy.co.uk