



# The Hermitage Herald

**Issue 1: September 2024**

## Hello!

Welcome to our first Hermitage Herald newsletter – designed to keep you up to date with everything that's been happening in our school and to remind you of future events that may be of interest to you.

In this issue, we jump back to the end of term as well as reporting September's news!

### Activities Day 2024

On the penultimate day of the Summer term, students in years 7-10 enjoyed 'Activities Day' where they could choose from a range of activities either in school or elsewhere, to celebrate the end of a very successful year. The range of trips and visits on offer were extensive, from a day out at Whitby, Edinburgh Zoo, and a trip for all Year 10 students to FlamingoLand. Some students chose to stay closer to home, with activities in school ranging from nail art and 'Play in a Day' to bakery and Multi Sports. The students had a great day, not only doing something in the school day a little out of the ordinary or out of their comfort zone, but they also had the chance to work with and spend the day with students from different year groups, forging new friendships and learning new skills.



### Sports Day/Colour Run 2024

We ended the school year with a fantastic sports day and colour run. The day allowed our students to show their true colours and compete on behalf of their houses: Integrity, Evolution, Synergy and Ambition. The houses went head-to-head in a range of sports, such as benchball, football, track and field athletics and of course, the sack race! The afternoon concluded with our very first 'Colour Run' – running through paint stations to add something a little different to just a jog around the field!

Alongside the festivities we had sweet stalls, arts and craft activities and a 'soak the teacher' stall, which was very popular when Mr Hutchinson stepped up!

### A-Level and GCSE Results 2024

In August, we celebrated the hard work and success of our students as they collected their eagerly awaited A-Level and GCSE results. At A-Level, 40% of the grades were A\*-B and an average grade of Distinction was achieved by those studying applied subjects. Many students were able to secure places at their first-choice destinations for university or employment.

At GCSE, we achieved Hermitage Academy's highest progress score to date and also saw a significant increase in the top grades awarded – over 60 grade 9s in total. The improved results follow a successful Ofsted inspection, which saw our school graded as 'Good' in all areas – a significant two grade uplift. Over 18% of all students also received grade 7 or above, beating regional averages for Durham and the North East.

## Year 5 and 6 Open Evening 2024

Pass go and collect £200, try not to fall into jail!  
This year's Open evening for prospective Year 5 and 6 students was Monopoly themed, with Hermitage's very own Mr Monopoly, guiding students around our school to sample the delights our staff and subjects can offer. There were spooky Gothic scenes in English, volcano eruptions in Geography, sample menus in the Dining Hall and various explosions in Science.

The closing date to apply for a secondary school place is Thursday 31 October 2024. You can apply online at [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



## Positive Points

As a school we always celebrate success and our positive points system, based around RAMP, promotes positive qualities and allows students to be their best selves every day.

RAMP stands for:

- Respect
- Appearance
- Manners
- Punctuality

Students can be awarded points that fall into these categories, such as going above and beyond in class, kindness and manners, perseverance, high quality homework and self belief.

These students have collected the most positive points in September – Well done!

7	James Pearson
8	Lainey Cutmore
9	Emily Frankland
10	Millie Downs
11	Dylan Harrison
12	Kelsie Gedling
13	Dan Oxley

## House news

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

Both staff and students are allocated a house, meaning that everyone in Hermitage Academy feels part of a team and works hard to contribute to their house 'family'. The winning house at the end of every half term receives a prize.

Here are the totals as they stand:

	Half-Term	Term	Year
1. 	9,393	9,393	9,393
2. 	9,268	9,268	9,268
3. 	8,887	8,887	8,887
4. 	8,825	8,825	8,825

## Upcoming Dates for your Diary - October

October	Event
10 <sup>th</sup>	World Mental Health Day
15 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Bake Sale
16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Transition afternoon
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tutor Parents Evening (Years 7-13)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Disco (Key Stage 3)

## Keep in touch

We would love to hear from you if you have anything to share about your child. We always want to hear about sporting achievements, hobbies and interests that your child has outside of school, or even if you have something you think one of our staff should know, please do get in touch:



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