



The Hermitage Herald

Issue 6: February 2025



Hello!

Welcome to February's edition of Hermitage Herald – As we welcome the lighter evenings and a nod towards warmer weather, here's a round-up of everything that's been happening in our school over the past month – enjoy!

Lego Masters at Hermitage

An amazing job from our budding Computer Scientists. A team of 9 KS3 students competed in the First Lego League tournament. The team had to code their robot 'Sub-Zero', to complete a range of difficult challenges in a 3-round qualifier. The competition then saw the team deliver the innovation project they have been working on over the last few months to a panel of judges, with a complex solution around how marine biologists can begin to remove microplastics from our oceans. They then competed in a straight knock out tournament with other schools from the Northeast where they got through to the semi-final round.

Over the course of the day everyone displayed the key core values the competition: Discovery, Inclusion, Innovation, Teamwork, Impact and Fun. The judges were so impressed in all areas, that the team were awarded the 'Nissan Award'.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE



The team's motto was highlighted by the judges upon receiving their trophy and sums up the team's philosophy. "If we don't move together. We don't move at all"



Love is in the air!



CULTURE VULTURES

In the last two weeks in February, students in key stage 3 were invited to participate in some

Valentines themed creative homework. We were blown away by the entries for our projects! A special mention goes to Merrick who completed every single Culture Vultures activity.

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.



Check out the range of masterclasses available for Year 11 students over the coming weeks:



MASTERCLASSES!

Subject	Title	Date	Time	Staff
Chemistry	Rates and Organic	06/03	17.30	Mr. Boyce
Maths	Constructions and Loci - using your compass	15/03	12.30	Miss. Trainor
History	Plains Indian Conflicts and Narrative Accounts in History	20/02	16.30	Mr. Archer 
English	ACC Motifs and Symbolism	13/02	17.00	Mrs. Jamieson
English	Macbeth Motifs and Symbolism	19/02	17.00	Mr. Oakes 
English	Language Analysis (Paper 2 focus)	20/02	17.00	Mrs. Bulmer
English	The Rise and Fall of the Protagonist Macbeth	02/03	10.30	Mrs. Maughan
Physics	Paper 2 - Calculations	10/03	17.00	Mr. Penny

CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR LINKS!

Sixth Form Round-up

- Year 12 and 13 Physics and Product design students had an exciting visit to the Bulmer and Kirkland HMRC £120 million build in Newcastle city centre. The trip consisted of an overview of the build, led by project manager Tommy Dixon, and a tour of the building where they were able to see various phases of the job including finished office space, M&E fit out, the facade retention of a grade II listed building. This allowed students to gain an understanding of Physics, engineering and design in the real world.



- In the last week of term our Year 12 Leading Students delivered assemblies to Years 7 - 10 which looked at digital detoxing. Our Leaders gave our younger students lots of insightful information and challenged them to spend less time on devices.



Aladdin Cast Reveal

Mrs Robson and Mrs McMullen are thrilled to announce the cast line-up for our up-coming production Aladdin.



Well done to all who auditioned and congratulations to those who made it through!

Star Club

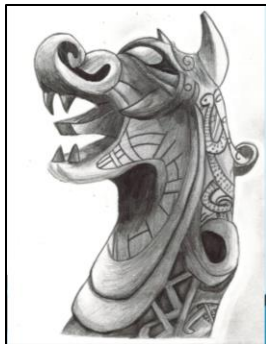
Mr Penny's star club have been learning about planets, stars and the universe since September. Their project climaxed with a visit to Kielder observatory yesterday. We were able to observe Jupiter, Venus, the Sun and the moon. The visit included a talk about rocks with some of the students even standing on Mars. The students had a great time and enjoyed talking to the astronomers.



Homework Heroes

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

- Another amazing Technology homework from Joe. This is his inspiration board for his flat-pack lighting project!
- Our creative students have been designing, making and even 3D printing their gothic-style buildings for their English homework. Well done Amber G, Benjamin C and Florence C.
- Lola in Year 7 created this outstanding model using the conventions of gothic architecture, for her English homework. A fantastic effort.
- Well done to Year 10 student Ella P who has gone above and beyond with her commitment to her revision homework for Geography.
- Harriet in Year 8 has produced this phenomenal Alice in Wonderland piece for her Art Homework
- Amazing efforts in the Art department, as the artists of the week are announced:
 - Year 7 - Emily
 - Year 8 - Sofia
 - Year 9 - Charlotte
 - Year 10 - Amelia
 - Year 11 - Amar



Reading Buddies

Students from Years 12, 10 and 9 are doing a fantastic job supporting our Year 7 readers as part of our Fluency for All programme. They've made amazing progress so far! Every Tuesday/Wednesday, they read together and there is such a lovely supportive and positive atmosphere. It's great to see students from different year groups work together and build bonds.



Positive Points

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

7	Sus-Ann B
8	Charlie G
9	Ife A/Oliver P
10	Charlotte M
11	Ella S-P
12	Teddy C
13	Oliver H



Hermitage Sports Round-up

- Last month we hosted a regional U13 handball tournament. We had two teams representing our school, and both showed incredible growth and resilience. They faced every challenge head on, stayed positive and never gave up – a real show of teamwork and resilience.
- Congratulations to our Year 8 indoor athletics teams. The boys and girls competed in the county finals with the girls finishing second by a very narrow margin and the boys finishing third overall. Eve I broke the county record for shot putt and Jessica T broke the county record for vertical jump!
- Well done to our Year 9 girls who competed in the county cup futsal final tournament. Well done for all of your efforts throughout each stage of the tournament.
- Our Year 8 Netball team competed in the Under 13s Durham Area and District Netball Tournament. The team had a successful afternoon winning 4 out of 7 games and scoring an impressive 29 goals.
- Well done to Year 8 Ellie who recently took part in the Northern Athletics Championships. Ellie finished in 6th position and qualified for both the hurdles final and the Nationals competition!
- Ellie also competed in the England Athletics Nationals this month. She came 2nd in her heat and 5th in the semifinal, setting a new personal best of 9.65. She is now ranked 18th in the UK for Under 15s and 3rd for Under 14s. A phenomenal achievement.
- A huge well done to Holly R, Izzy H, Faye C, Faye E and Isla FH who competed at the Inter Counties Cross Country Competition. It was a very competitive field and the girls ran very strong races. A special mention to Holly R who came 2nd overall in the intermediate race and took 1st place for Durham. Izzy H came 10th in the junior race and 3rd for Durham. Both girls have qualified for nationals. This is an amazing achievement!
- Our newly created girls cricket team took on the ECB Girls Under 13 Schools Indoor Cricket Competition, where they played 4 games, winning two of them and as a team, scoring over 300 runs. They all performed brilliantly and Chloe Y in Year 9 was an excellent leader to the girls, offering tactics and advice on how to be successful. The team was a credit to our school!
- Our Table Tennis Lunch time club got off to a really good start as 25 students had great fun competing against each other. We saw some superb performances and would love to welcome even more of you to the fun. If you fancy giving it a try, come along every Friday 12:30pm -1:00pm



Reading Rocks Round-up – 3rd-7th March

Reading Rocks is a week-long festival in school celebrating all things literary, encouraging us to see the benefits of reading for pleasure.

Please do talk to your child about the activities on offer here and encourage them to join in!

Check out the list of amazing activities available to students:



Day	What's happening?
Monday 3 rd	Book Fair Read-along Dine and Discuss (lunchtime)
Tuesday 4 th	Book Fair Dine and Discuss (lunchtime) Literary Treasure Hunt (in the Library)
Wednesday 5 th	Book Fair Dine and Discuss (lunchtime) Time Capsule Bookcase
Thursday 6 th (and also World Book Day)	Book Fair Dine and Discuss (lunchtime) Reading in unusual places quiz World Book Day Staff dress-up competition
Friday 7 th	Book Fair Dine and Discuss (lunchtime) Author Visit (for Key stage 3 students)

Assembly Round-up - February 2025

Week beginning:	Assembly focus
3 rd March	Reading Rocks
10 th March	Maths Week
17 th March	Science Week
24 th March	My Community
31 st March	Embracing our Uniqueness

North East Scitt – Teacher Training



Did you know that our Trust offers teacher training taster mornings?

- Observe lessons in a subject you'd like to teach
- Chat with the SCITT team about our outstanding course
- Learn about bursaries of up to £29,000
- Ask any questions you may have

Come along to our next session on **Wednesday 5th March**

Book your place now: <https://tinyurl.com/jhtbhr53>

Dates for your Diary - March 2025

March	What's on?
3 rd	National Careers Week
3 rd -7 th	Reading Rocks
7 th	Author visit (Key stage 3)
12 th	If you Care, Share (Sixth Form)
13 th	6 th Form Interviews – 3:30pm-6:00pm
19 th	Year 13 Parents' Evening
26 th	Year 9 Options Evening Purple Day for Epilepsy (Sixth Form)
28 th	Barclays Bank Budgeting Workshop – Year 7

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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