



**RYE HILLS
ACADEMY**

NEWSLETTER

**DEC
2023**

WINTER

A message from our headteacher...

This term has been busy as always, with students engaging in a wide range of educational and extracurricular activities. Our 12 Days of Christmas has been a resounding success with everyone getting into the festive spirit including writing cards to every one of the residents at our local care home, St Peters.

As we break for the end-of-term holiday, I would like to express my thanks to our dedicated staff for their commitment, and to you, our parents and carers, for your ongoing support and collaboration. It is this joint effort that creates a nurturing and productive environment for our students here at Rye Hills Academy.

I encourage our students to enjoy this well-deserved break, spending time with family and friends, and recharging for the term ahead. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for an exciting 2024!

H Zaheer

Mr Zaheer, Head of School

In this issue...



12 days of Christmas

Everyone got into the festive spirit with our jam packed 12 days of Christmas timetable.



Rewards galore!

This term we launched lots of new reward schemes - they're big hits!



Presidential elections

This term we were delighted to host our first ever Presidential elections and inauguration.



Fab fundraising

This term we marked Children in Need with a fantastic fundraiser for a great cause.

Headteacher's Awards

This term we launched our weekly Headteacher's Award and it has been a total hit!

Each Friday, star students are chosen by our senior leaders and awarded a certificate and goodie bag to take home (plus a photo with Mr Zaheer!).

We've had lots of deserving winners so far and we can't wait to see who wins in the new year.



The 12 days of Christmas

In the lead up to Christmas, staff and students at Rye Hills got into the festive mood with our 12 days of Christmas timetable.

We had a range of activities on offer from fundraisers and community events to Christmas door decorating and a festive disco.

The 12 days got off to a sparkly start as a wonderful group of Year 11 volunteers helped to decorate our tree during lunchtime. It looked absolutely beautiful!

We had endless fun activities going on including 'pin the nose on Rudolph' where all students who accurately placed the nose on Rudolph, were given a chocolate treat.

Christmas is about more than just having fun, so our students gave back to their community this term too. Our students wrote out 70 Christmas cards, one for each of the residents in our local care home, St Peter's. Our student president hand-delivered the cards along with some chocolates for the carers, while the residents enjoyed singing along to the Christmas carols performed by our choir. It's a heart-warming annual tradition that forms part of our Christmas in the community project.

We would also like to thank our students and their families for their generous donations to our food bank appeal. All donations will help support local families in need this Christmas.



Rewards galore

In addition to our Headteacher's Award launch this term, we continued our reward programmes and have even introduced some more initiatives to reward our students who go above and beyond.

This term our Celebration Station has been a hive of activity each week as students show off their brilliant achievements. Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page to see which students are being celebrated each week.



Watch this space...

2024 is going to be an exciting year for trips at Rye Hills. In February our school council are off to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. In April, the geography department is taking a group of Year 10 and 11 students to Iceland, where they'll be staying in Reykjavik and visiting waterfalls, lagoons and geysers. July will see the return of the trip to Barcelona, and in November the French Christmas market trip will be back! As well as residential visits there will also be opportunities to see shows in local theatres, including Peter Pan Goes Wrong and Macbeth.

Lest we forget

To mark Remembrance Day, we held a poignant service organised by Mr Featherstone. Mr Zaheer opened the ceremony with a touching story about his Grandad who served in the military in Pakistan and how this impacted his whole life.

We held a 2-minute silence across the whole academy to remember all those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Students laid a wreath and read the poems, 'In Flanders Fields' and 'I am not a Badge of Honour'.

The service concluded with our students from uniformed youth organisations proudly parading from the hall, led by Sergeant Playforth.

Students were invited to remember civilians from our community who lost their lives in air raids during WWII via our Remembrance Day window displays.



Did you know?

In Germany, every year on 5th December, German children leave a boot or a shoe outside their bedroom door. When they wake up, if they've been good, they'll find their shoe filled with sweets! If not, they'll open their door to find a branch...

Children in Need

This term we took part in a range of activities to fund raise for Children in Need. We guessed the number of sweets in the jar, baked and ate treats at our bake sale and worked out in the BBC Pudsey Bearpee Challenge, which went down a storm! The challenge was to complete 1000 burpees across appeal week but we smashed it in two days! Congratulations to Joe W in Year 10 who managed the most burpees in one minute - a whopping 31!

Our bake sale was an absolute sell-out and we'd like to thank everyone who baked and brought in cakes.

A final big thank you must go to our Year 10 form reps who did a fantastic job of supervising the events and counted up our brilliant total of £265!



Christmas careers

Let's take a look at two careers that come into their own during the winter months...

Ski instructor

It's certainly a white Christmas when you work in the mountains during the winter months. Working abroad is a fantastic way to broaden knowledge of different cultures, languages and make friends. You'll need a BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) Level 2 or 3 to get started as an instructor.

Events manager

December is the busiest time for events managers. The role can earn you up to £45,000 per year and as a whole, you'll need an undergraduate degree in events management or any other planning subject. The role is very varied and can see planners juggling everything from small functions with a handful of guests to festivals for thousands of people.

STEM visit

This term, twenty of our engineering students were invited to Middlesbrough College to take part in a range of STEM related engineering and construction workshops, giving them a taste of the careers available in industry.

As part of the event, students had the chance to explore and use the college's industry-standard facilities and enjoy hands-on workshops.

Workshops were hosted by Middlesbrough College's experienced staff who all have recent industry experience including civil engineering, surveying and planning, and electrical.



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

22 DEC - Break up for Christmas

08 JAN - Back to school

09 FEB - Break up for half term

19 FEB - Back to school

22 MAR - Break up for Easter



Cross country

Congratulations to our cross country stars who qualified for the next round of the Redcar Schools Cross Country this term and will go on to represent our school in January.

In the Under 12 Boys' category, Hayden H came 1st, Isaac M came 3rd and Preston W came 10th.

In the Under 14 Boys' category, Cody H came 1st and Olly C came 3rd.

In the Under 14 Girls' category, Emmie K came 5th and Niala R came 7th.

All of our students performed very well and represented our school brilliantly!





Culture Vultures

Our Culture Vulture competitions are always a booming success, but this term's was another level of brilliance. The entries for the four categories were outstanding. A massive well done to our four winners who received a shopping voucher, a selection box and house points for their efforts.

Category 1: Food/Baking - Emily M in Year 7 for her fantastic cake.

Category 2: Arts and Crafts - Olivia D in Year 7 for her fabulous and unique creation.

Category 3: Written pieces, stories, poems - Lucy B in Year 9 for her beautiful and very touching story.

Category 4: Animation - Penny W in Year 9 for her amazing Christmas animation.



Presidential inauguration

We ended the first half-term of the year with a bang as Mr Charlton hosted our very first presidential inauguration ceremony where we appointed our Vice President, Beck H, and President, Isabel C.

Congratulations to all four candidates on a very successful campaign. The group worked so hard demonstrating maturity and leadership along the way.

For the ceremony, we were joined by some special guests including: local MP Jacob Young, school governors Margaret Robson and David Scott, and the Headteachers of Wheatlands and John Batty Primary schools, Samantha Pyle and Martin Kitchen. We were also delighted to welcome in the parents of our four Year 10 candidates.



An artistic visit

This term 50 of our Year 10 artists spent a day at the Northern School of Art in Middlesbrough. They all successfully completed a workshop in either fine art, photography or fashion and textiles and experienced life at a specialist arts institution. All of our students worked alongside industry professionals to inform their knowledge and understanding of art and design, as well as gain an insight into relevant creative careers.

It was a lovely day and the tutors were very complimentary of our students' behaviour and talent. Well done Year 10!

