



**RYE HILLS
ACADEMY**

NEWSLETTER

**JULY
2023**



SUMMER

A message from our headteacher...

As another year at Rye Hills Academy draws to a close, I would like to share some highlights from this term. It has been a very busy and exciting time as we continue to prepare our students for academic and personal success throughout their time at the academy and beyond.

I must begin by recognising the commitment, hard work and resilience of our Year 11 leavers throughout their formal examinations. The students approached the examination period with a level of maturity and determination which was nothing short of inspiring. It was just as pleasing and impressive to see our Year 10 students immediately follow in their footsteps with a remarkable 96% of the year group attending our morning revision sessions before their end of year examinations!

Our Year 11 leavers were also a credit at their prom and it was a lovely experience to share with them and their families - they arrived in style, looked amazing and were a pleasure to be around. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them all the success and happiness they deserve for the future.

Towards the end of term we organised and delivered incredible experiences for our students as part of Activities Week.

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Students rock the Sage

The end of term came to an amazing close as our talented students performed in the NELT summer concert.



The Big NELT debate

This term two Year 9 students represented our school in the Big NELT Debate, held at Teesdale School.



We're winners!

This term we were awarded the Silver Artsmark Award for our broad and engaging curriculum.



Celebrating in style

This term we celebrated the coronation of King Charles in style!

Students rock the Sage stage

WOW, what a night! The term ended with a bang when our students came together with students from across the North East Learning Trust last night for the fantastic NELT annual summer concert at the Sage Gateshead where they blew the audience away!

The atmosphere was electric as our students performed a medley of hit Queen songs from much-loved musical We Will Rock You. Our superstars' talent and enthusiasm shone throughout the evening, resulting in a roaring applause and standing ovation as they took to the stage together for their finals bows.

A huge congratulations to everyone who performed and a massive thank you to all those who organised and supported the incredible evening



Head's message continued...

Ranging from wheelchair basketball and dragon boating to skiing and a ninja warrior experience, there was something for everyone. The students were a credit to our school during the external and internal activities and it was lovely to see them enjoying themselves whilst being exposed to new experiences.

I would also like to share my immense pride and admiration for our students that performed at the Sage as part of NELT's summer concert. Being able to watch our young people own the moment and the stage at such an incredible venue after months of preparation and practice was an honour and a privilege. The evening was inspiring and our students were incredible ambassadors for our academy and community. I look forward to sharing many more memorable moments with our wonderful students next year!

Finally, I would like to thank all of our students, their families and the academy staff for their commitment to Rye Hills Academy throughout the academic year and I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer break.

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Hijab Zaheer
Head of School

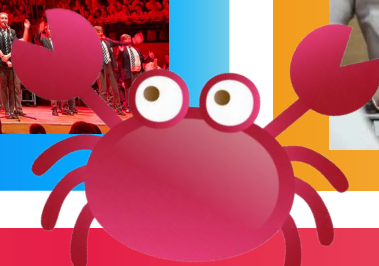


The big NELT debate

This term our students visited fellow North East Learning Trust school, Teesdale School, to take part in the big NELT debate.

Team Rye Hills, consisting of Year 9 students Nicole and Mia, took on students from The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee in a head to head debate. The girls did a fantastic job and were well prepared and confident.

Roll on next year's debate!



Artsmark Silver Award

We are thrilled to announce that Rye Hills Academy has been awarded the Artsmark Silver Award in recognition of our fantastic arts provision.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England.

In order to achieve our Artsmark Award, we had to develop our arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

We were supported by Culture Bridge North East in planning and developing our objectives, who worked alongside the school at various stages to support us with our Artsmark Award achievement.

The Artsmark assessor said:

"You are positively increasing the emphasis on arts and culture and engaging with the Arts is having tangible results on pupils, staff, and parental engagement.

"The school has worked hard

to deliver a consistent approach to arts throughout the curriculum, including the Culture Vulture programme which has shown a noticeable rise in uptake of arts subjects at Key Stage 4 and has also seen students produce some outstanding creative homework.

"The focus of this journey has been on developing cultural capital, literacy, and oracy.

"There is a credible arts offer at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, with both GCSE and BTEC options.

"Pupils access a consistent and relevant range of experiences in school and on visits outside the classroom, which leads to showcasing within school and the local community.

"The Rivers of the World programme, and the painting of the murals commissioned by the local council for the town are great examples of raising aspiration. Curriculum developments are supported by extra-curricular



Artsmark Silver Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

activity, some of which is led by pupils through an arts ambassador programme. Congratulations on your Artsmark Silver Award!"

On receiving the award, Miss Hewitson, Head of Art said:

"We're extremely proud of our Artsmark Silver Award. We are committed to championing a high-quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continuing our journey with Artsmark."

Dr Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

"I would like to congratulate Rye Hills Academy on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."

Summer traditions in the UK and around the world...

UK Wimbledon: is the oldest and arguably the most famous tennis tournament to exist. The tournament made history in 1967 to be the first broadcast to be televised in colour! Did you know that Wimbledon is the only remaining 'grand slam' to be played on actual grass?

UK Cheese rolling: Have you heard of the annual Gloucester Cheese Rolling event? People gather in their thousands to watch as competitors chase gigantic rolls of Gloucester cheese down some very bumpy hills!

Spain: La Tomatina: On the last Wednesday of every August, over 20,000 people gather in Buñol, Spain, to celebrate La Tomatina. Hundreds of tomatoes are thrown at each other in the street just for the fun of it. The tradition began in 1945 and approximately 40 metric tonnes of tomatoes are used – that's a lot of tomatoes!

Japan: Aomori Nebuta Matsuri Festival: During August, vibrant lanterns showing gods and mythical characters are paraded through the streets of Japan as drummers and dancers bring the parade to life!



Culture Vultures

Our Culture Vulture extra curricular tasks were back this term with a coronation theme.

We challenged students to choose and complete a range of tasks including researching coronations, writing a poem or letter imagining they were at the coronation, creating a crown and researching a commonwealth country.

We were extremely impressed with the detailed and creative outcomes. Keep your eyes peeled for a new Culture Vultures project in September!



Amazing athletics

Students headed to the Middlesbrough Sports Village in June for the highlight of the athletics calendar. There was an abundance of gold, silver and bronze finishes with personal bests also being smashed.

A special mention needs to go to Evie Middleton and Cody Hodgson who were victorious in both their events. Evie got a personal best in 100m and Cody achieved two with a winning time of 5 minutes two seconds in the 100m and a leap of 9 metres 29 cm in the triple jump.

We look forward to seeing what they will achieve next year!



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

20 JUL - Break up for summer

06 SEP - Back to school

27 OCT - Break up for half term

06 NOV - Back to school

24 NOV - INSET day (school closed to students)

He shoots, he scores!

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 teams that competed in our 5-a-side football tournament earlier this term, you all played brilliantly.

Congratulations to the team of Year 7s who took the trophy home after winning a very tense penalty shoot-out!



Summer careers

Let's take a look at some careers that really come into focus during the summer months.

Pilot: A newly qualified captain can earn between £54 and £75,000. For experienced captains, this can rise up to £140,000. Before you can fly a plane, you must gain an Airline Transport Pilot Licence by completing a modular or integrated course.

Coastguard: The busiest time of year for Coastguards is during summer. A Coastguard sends out weather and tidal reports, responds to emergency distress calls, offers navigational advice along certain stretches of sea, monitors radio and satellite communications and gives information about coastal and sea safety.

Rollercoaster designer: Did you know that having a degree in electrical, structural or mechanical engineering could lead you to a career in designing rollercoasters? The salary for this unique careers is around £30,000 per year.



Tasty work

Year 9 have been busy in the kitchen this term making international dishes for their practical food technology assessments.

The class researched different countries and their cuisines and worked in groups to prepare and cook a range of recipes including pizza, pasta, garlic bread, chow mien, curry and many more.

Celebrations fit for a King

Rye Hills Academy got right into the royal spirit earlier this term with a number of coronation themed competitions and activities!

Students started their day with a royal welcome to school before heading to the web for anagram competition and crown treasure hunt around school at break. There was literacy activity where students had to read informative posters around school and find some key facts - not to mention the lunch fit for a King!

