



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



WELCOME to our summer newsletter

As I have unfortunately had to write on so many occasions this year, the pandemic has caused many issues, economically, socially and educationally, but our staff, students, parents and the local community have worked together to be resilient in adversity.

For Rye Hills, this year has not just been about the pandemic but also about a change of sponsor Trust. In June, we transferred seamlessly to North East Learning Trust, in a process that has caused as little disruption as possible to our students in what has already been such a challenging period.

There have been exciting times since half term with a new logo, a new behaviour system and staff being introduced to the changes in teaching and learning that will start in lessons in September.

In their introductory assemblies, students listened very attentively and responded positively to the changes outlined to them.

I continue to be so proud of the resilient manner in which our students have dealt with many changes and adapted so quickly.

We want to celebrate the wonderful achievements and efforts that have taken place during this term within school which you will see in this edition of the newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support during these difficult times. We look forward to the autumn term and all the opportunities it will bring being part of the new Trust. I'm sure we all hope that the pandemic will start to have less of an impact on the students' education as the next academic year progresses. I wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Mrs Waugh

Head of School

Hello Year 6

We are so happy that you will be joining us from September as our new Year 7s and we cannot wait to meet you and get to know you all.

We have lots of plans in place to help you get to know the school and our staff and for us to get to know you before you join us as brand new Year 7s in September!

In the coming weeks we will be filling the transition area of our school website and social media channels with important, handy information before the move to 'big school'.

In the meantime, you can check out our Transition Mini-site [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

The Year 7 Team



A special mention!

The engagement with Year 10 intervention has been incredible and our teachers have been really impressed with high standard of work and the level of effort in all areas. Our students have shown real resilience and determination to succeed.

Laura L and Rosie C have both had impeccable intervention attendance and are working particularly hard. Their teachers have commented that their intervention sessions have improved their confidence and as a result, both are achieving higher grades! Well done girls – what an amazing achievement!

Budding artists!

Take a look at some of the fantastic work produced by our budding artists...



IMPORTANT DATES

for your diary

TUES 02 SEP - Back to school (check emails for updates for potential staggered dates and times)

FRI 22 OCT - Break up for half term

MON 01 NOV - Back to school

Keep up to date with all key dates on our website.

Policies

Please note that as part of sponsorship by the North East Learning Trust there will be a number of new policies taking effect from September. These will be included on our brand new website which is coming soon!

Baker's chatcast...

Year 11 student Baker, has set up a YouTube Channel called 'Baker's Chatcast' which features him interviewing football stars and musicians such as Jamie Redknapp, John Hartson and Ian Matthews.

Check out his channel [here](#).



The Quest

The Quest is an independent research project that a group of bright Year 9 students have been taking part in.

The project has introduced students to the joys of research and academia to encourage further study after Rye Hills Academy.

Our 'questers' have been attending after school sessions linked to

higher education skills and have independently researched a topic of their choice. Students completed a 2000-word essay including referencing and have been busy presenting their research topic to a staff panel this week.

It has been great getting to see what our students are interested in outside of school and we are so proud of all the hard work that the group have put in.

Rye Hills' micro-climate

This term, Year 7 geography classes have had the opportunity to investigate the micro-climate around the school buildings.

Students were asked to find the best site for new picnic tables to be used by students at break and lunchtimes.

Students measured the air temperature, cloud cover, wind speed and direction, ground surface and the height of the buildings around them.

Although results varied depending on the day the data was collected, the most popular location was in web 3 as it was more sheltered and warmer than other sites. Students agreed that the worst place was on the field - it was far too breezy with a cool wind blowing in from the sea!



Rewards at Rye Hills

Our students have had an amazing year earning positive points and reward badges. Despite the difficulties of the past year, students have surpassed previous records!

Congratulations to our top point earners. There were two winners from Year 7 who were the highest point earners in the whole academy and only separated by one point!

Students have enjoyed the flash-mob-style 'Haribo handouts', where students were given a treat at random times. Our 'Secret Students'

were also awarded in this style, after earning a prize for everyone in their tutor group.

We are really looking forward to the future when we can reinstate other events to reward bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges. In the meantime, keep being great!

We're social!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@RyeHillsAcademy



@RyeHillsAcademy



DofE silver success

Not even a global pandemic can stop our students from achieving their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award...

We currently have 19 Year 10 students on the road to completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Guisborough Youth Centre. The students successfully completed their Bronze Award in Year 9, which gave them the confidence to sign up to the Silver Award.

Although the weekly training sessions had to be postponed due to the pandemic, the students continued to work at home on all elements of their award.

The students have been trained in all aspects of camp craft skills in preparation for their qualifying expedition this month, taking place around the beautiful North York Moors. The group will have the opportunity to put their new skills into practice from putting up tents and cooking outdoors to map-reading!

To gain the full award the students also have to complete three other sections: skill, physical and voluntary. This proved difficult through the pandemic but they persevered and adapted to the situation. Some took up cooking and baking for their skill section, some cycled around the local park for their physical section and many supported food banks, elderly relatives or younger siblings at home with their online learning for their voluntary section.

None of this could have happened without the amazing Elaine Buckby (Awards and Activities Coordinator for Redcar and

Cleveland) and her fantastic team, including Glenn Hughes, Kelv Whitwell, Angela Pierre and Calvin Booker. Without this continued support and the volunteers who give up their weekends to help our students, none of this would be possible. So, on behalf of Rye Hills, I would like to say a huge thank you to Elaine and her team.

For more information about how to sign up to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme, please speak to Mrs Haslam. There will be more information for Year 9 students wanting to start their Bronze Award in September.

Here's what our students have to say about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award...

"It's a great opportunity to go camping and get outdoors with your friends."

"It makes you more resourceful because you learn how to cook a meal outdoors – I didn't even know how to light a match before I started!"

"You get to engage with new people and exercise at the same time!"



Music corner

Do you fancy learning piano, drums or guitar?

Good news! Extra-curricular activities take place every Tuesday after school in room 201. Come along to follow in the footsteps of your favourite musicians and who knows, maybe you could be the next James Arthur!

We're starting a band!

Starting from September 2021, Rye Hills music concerts are going to be on a much grander scale - more news of this to come...

The music department are looking for dedicated musicians to form a band that will perform at a range of events throughout the year, from Year 6 opening evenings, school concerts and Year 11 leaving assemblies. Rehearsals will begin in September, but if you are interested, see Mr Coomber.



Can you solve the puzzle?

Rachel wants to buy postcards to send to her five friends. Each postcard costs 40p. First class stamps cost 63p and second class stamps cost 54p.

Rachel has £5 to spend altogether. She tries to send as many as she can by first class with the rest going by second class.

How much money will Rachel have left?

Answer: Rachel has 3p left

Amazing assessments

We saw some fantastic non-exam assessment pieces created in GCSE media studies this year.

The Year 11s were a talented bunch and we were very sad to see them leave – especially when they were creating magazine covers like these gems!

After studying existing publications and given free-reign with the genre and target audience, Mia, Izzy and Baker excelled themselves with these pieces. The careful consideration of framing, staging, symbolic codes and narrative – combined, of course with truly artistic flair is something that we'll really miss. We look forward to seeing the work of the next generation of media students in Key Stage 4.

The media department want to wish all the best to our outgoing Year 11s on the next stage of their journeys!



Nine ways to be more active this summer

1. Start small

Try breaking down your exercise into short sessions throughout the day and build up from there. Why not try a 10-minute workout? You can do it from the comfort of your own living room.

2. Be realistic about your goals

Set yourself realistic goals that are specific and achievable.

For example, set a goal to do a short walk outside every day (remembering to keep 2 metres from anyone who's not part of your household!)

3. Make exercise part of your day

Plan a time to do some physical activity that fits in with the rest of your day and try keeping an activity diary to help monitor your progress and success. If you miss a day, don't worry - just make sure you start again the next day.

4. Keep moving

Remember, everyday activities count, so look out for opportunities to be active during the day while you're indoors.

5. You don't have to go it alone

Involve friends and family by Face Timing or calling them during your exercise routine to make activities more fun, sociable and enjoyable.

6. Make sure you get plenty of variety

Make a list of enjoyable activities you can do indoors (e.g. dancing and yoga) and place them in a jar. Pick a different activity to do each week from the jar. By varying your activities, you are less likely to get bored and lose interest.

7. Set reminders where you can see them

Prompt yourself to be more physically active by keeping reminders around the house. Put post-it notes on the fridge door or by the kettle - you could even set daily reminders on your phone.

8. Keep an eye on your progress

You can use a pedometer to count the number of steps you walk each day, even if it's just around the house. It's easy to use and can be fun to set daily goals for yourself.

9. Reward yourself

Recognise when you achieve your goals by thinking of small things that you could reward yourself with.

Well done



Our MFL department would like to share some words with our students...

Year 7 - A huge well done to our Year 7s who have completed their first proper speaking test this term. We know it's nerve-wracking but we are so proud of how well prepared you were and your resilience at giving it a good go.

Year 10 - Well done everyone on a great effort after a tough year. Let's hope we can continue the tradition of top 20% of schools nationally for MFL results!

Our new logo!



By now you will have seen our brand new logo! Here's a little context...

The star represents each and every one of our students who are all stars! The sea represents our location and the fact that Redcar was once a busy fishing town. The rye represents the history of our school. Rye Hills was chosen as our school name back in 1975 as the school is situated in the area of Rye Hills Farm. The farm still exists today - just on the left hand side, after the railway line as you enter Marske.

Our new logo encompasses our past as we move towards a bright future with our students at the heart of everything we do.