



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

**RYE HILLS**  
ACADEMY

December 2022

## Dear parents, carers & friends

We have certainly been celebrating the 'most wonderful time of the year' here at Rye Hills with our 12 Days of Christmas a huge success! Students thoroughly enjoyed their movie night, Christmas disco and of course, their Christmas dinner.

Lots of students were asked to join our top table and we have celebrated their hard work in lessons through our 'Christmas Cracker' sessions. It filled me with pride to see some of the lovely work our students are producing and to talk to them about what they are learning.

Christmas kindness features heavily in our build up to Christmas. Students have been writing cards to members of the local community; the Christmas Kindness tokens the students received support charities close to our hearts: Redcar RNLI, Eva Women's Aid and Footsteps in the Community. We have also been overwhelmed by the donations to the local food bank - your generosity and that of your children is what makes Rye Hills Academy a very special place.

If you missed our production of Legally Blonde you missed a real treat. Our students sang, danced and performed their hearts out.

It was wonderful to see and brought a big smile to everyone's faces. Special thanks to Miss Granville and Mr Coomber for all of their hard work in bringing the story to life.

Christmas is a time of great joy for many but it can also be a time of sadness and loneliness for others. We have set up a bereavement group to support our students who have lost a loved one, and in the future we are looking to create a memorial garden when students can use this space for peaceful reflection.

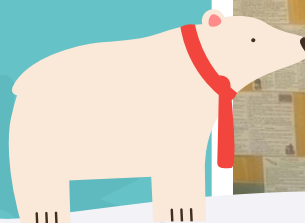
Thank you as always for your ongoing support this term. It's been a long and busy one and students and staff have worked extremely hard to get the academic year off to a flying start.

All that is left is for me and everyone at Rye Hills Academy is to wish you a very merry Christmas and here's to a healthy and happy 2023!

Yours sincerely,

*Clare Ellis*

**Clare Ellis**  
Head of School



## A claim to fame

**Miss Davidson, Head of History, was delighted when she heard about Year 7 student, Erin B's, claim to fame.**

Erin's Grandad has been tracing their family tree and discovered that their ancestor was one of the men who signed the death warrant of King Charles I after the English Civil War.

Erin brought in the evidence to show her class (see below). Miss Davison said: "What an amazing story! This discovery links very nicely to what we have been teaching in Year 8 - students study the English Civil War and the execution of King Charles I. It was really difficult to get people to agree to sign the death warrant because people believed Kings were divinely appointed by God. Erin's ancestor was one of the extremely brave men who agreed to do it after the King had taken the country to war, where brother fought against brother - a fascinating time in our history."

Thank you for sharing your wonderful story, Erin!



# Student success

**Our talented students have had lots to celebrate this term...**

**Year 7 student Niala** who plays netball for Cleveland Classics was selected to represent South Durham and Cleveland this term - a fantastic achievement!



Talented **Year 7 Jack K** passed his Royal Schools of Music violin Grade 5 exam and, along with his teacher, performed a complex piece in his first concert - a fantastic achievement!



**Amelia J** was selected for the South Durham County Netball Team this term. Amelia will also be representing the Cleveland Classics Netball Club.



Our netball team also had success when they competed in the Redcar District Tournament this term, playing a great match!



## IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

<b>16 Dec</b>	Break up for Christmas
<b>03 JAN</b>	Back to school
<b>17 FEB</b>	Break up for half term
<b>12 FEB</b>	Back to school
<b>31 MAR</b>	Break up for Easter

Check our website for updates at [www.ryehillsacademy.co.uk](http://www.ryehillsacademy.co.uk)

## We're social

**Did you know that our school regularly posts on social media sites, Facebook and Twitter?**

Our social media pages are a great way to connect to our online Rye Hills Academy community. You can find photos, videos and important updates on our pages and see what your little ones are up to in the classroom. If you don't follow our pages already, please give us a like or a follow to stay in the loop!



@ryehillsacademy



@ryehillsacademy

# Christmas corner

## Did you know?

The biggest display of lights ever made is in Australia. It has 1,194,380 LEDs covering 3,865 square metres. David Richards has used his home to raise \$20,000 for charity since 2011.



# Christmas crackers

In the lead up to Christmas, students were chosen to give Ms Ellis and Mrs Scott a visit to showcase and celebrate their 'cracking' work!

Each Thursday, students who showed off their brilliant work were rewarded with Rye Hills Recognition stationery, a chocolate treat and a postcard home.



# Dine and discuss

We were thrilled to host another successful dine and discuss session in November.

Students read a short article before being prompted with questions to have a topical discussion. In school across every subject, we are encouraging students to 'sound like an expert' by using their speaking and listening skills and key vocabulary - another way for our students to earn rewards.

# Rye Hills Reading!

Our new reading challenge was off to a flying start this term.

We've challenged our students to read six books between November and February - if they are successful, not only do they receive reward points for every book, but they get to choose a book from our vending machine.

Congratulations to reading superstars Tia and Alfie, who have already read six books.



# Legally Blonde the musical

After all the rehearsals and excitement over the last few months, the end of term saw our Legally Blonde the musical JR performance finally hit the stage.

Before performing on the big stage, our talented actors put on fantastic performances for primary school children.

The show ran for three nights and went off without a hitch. Well done to everyone involved, we are so impressed with your performances and hard work.

Watch this space for future productions...



# Christmas recipe

Why not make snowy crackle chocolate biscuits during the Christmas holidays? Don't forget to ask permission from an adult first - maybe you could even bake together!?

## What you'll need:

- 200g dark chocolate, chopped
- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 300g soft light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 150g plain flour
- 60g cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2-3 tbsp milk
- 100g icing sugar



## Method

**STEP 1** - Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water (make sure the base doesn't touch the water), or in a microwave in short bursts. Set aside to cool.

**STEP 2** - Beat the butter and sugar together, then beat in the eggs, flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and chocolate. Pour in the milk to make a soft dough, but don't overmix it! Cover and chill for 1 hr.

**STEP 3** - Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line one or two baking sheets with parchment. Put the icing sugar in a bowl. Scoop heaped tablespoons of dough and roll each ball in your hands before dropping it into the icing sugar and rolling it around. Put on baking sheets and repeat, spacing the balls apart.

**STEP 4** - Bake for about 12-15 mins until the biscuits feel firm when touched. The biscuits should puff up and cracks should open up, too. Leave to cool on the trays, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely. They will keep up to a week in an airtight container.



# Crazy about reading

We've had a lot going on this term when it come to reading.

Our reading challenge has proven to be popular with many students eager to fill up their reading booklet and choose a new book from the book vending machine.

Our Book Club also began this term where the group are currently reading *Malamander* by Thomas Taylor. They have also been set a challenge to create a piece of luggage over the holidays that best sums up their character. There's still time to join book club in the new year just pop along to 105 and speak to Mrs Howlett.

Our 12 days of Christmas also gave an opportunity for students to win some new reads. Each form group nominated two kind students to win a Christmas book!



## Full of energy

Year 9 students attended the Big Energy Show at Redcar and Cleveland College at the beginning of the month.

Students were all really engaged in learning the science behind energy, and the opportunities that are on the horizon for Teesside, providing them with an insight into potential future careers.

It was wonderful to see the interaction of the audience and their enthusiasm, especially those who volunteered to get involved in the activities.







North East  
SCITT

# Train to be a teacher in 2023

Primary and secondary  
courses available in a  
range of subjects.

Tax-free bursaries of  
up to £26k available in  
some subjects.

Train in schools across  
the North East from  
day one.

A nine month course  
with qualified teaching  
status on completion.

Train in partnership  
with Newcastle  
University.

Train with experienced  
teachers from day one.



Find out more at: [www.northeastscitt.co.uk](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk)

## Making the move to teaching is easier than you think...

Did you know you can train to be a teacher in our school? Training to teach in our school with North East SCITT takes less time and is more affordable than many people realise. Our nine-month courses begin every September meaning you could be starting out on a new career before you know it. Many people worry they don't have what

it takes to make the move into teaching, but with training and support from our team of experienced, outstanding teachers who are right beside you from day one, we always prove them wrong. If you have a good degree and the desire to learn new skills and make a difference, then we'd love to talk to you.

## Thinking about training to teach?

Come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like with North East SCITT.

19 <sup>th</sup>	January	2023
8 <sup>th</sup>	February	2023
10 <sup>th</sup>	March	2023
18 <sup>th</sup>	April	2023
19 <sup>th</sup>	May	2023
8 <sup>th</sup>	June	2023
27 <sup>th</sup>	June	2023

Virtual taster days also available. Please check our website for more details.



Newcastle  
University