



RYE HILLS ACADEMY

WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Dear parents, carers and friends

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be Executive Headteacher here at Rye Hills Academy.

Since September there have been many positive changes with our top priority being to ensure students' experience of learning and school life improves quickly - this is the core of what we do at the North East Learning Trust. The pace of change and improvement will continue as we want every child to receive the very best educational experience possible.

Being part of the NELT family opens up a range of new opportunities including sharing of ideas and expertise. We have already seen massive improvements happening at the Academy and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

This term we have welcomed our new Year 7 students to the school, whilst our Year 11 have begun the 'home stretch' as they have taken mock exams and begin to prepare for their exams in the summer.

We have also celebrated the twelve days of Christmas with displays, carols, festive films, craft stalls, a disco and a traditional Christmas lunch!

There have been crimes against fashion as Christmas jumpers, ties and socks were donned to raise money for charity.

Our local care home has enjoyed receiving our Christmas cards - designed in house by our students - and Redcar Foodbank, Butterwick Hospice and SARA Animal Rescue have been delighted with your generous donations. Thank you to our staff and students who really got into the festive spirit!

Christmas is about family and is a time for making memories, and having fun. We also always remember those for whom it is a difficult time. All those connected to Rye Hills Academy are a crucial part of a wider family and we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope for good health and happiness for all in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Spoons

Executive Headteacher
and Deputy CEO, North East
Learning Trust

Rye Hills remembers

This year, our school marked Remembrance Day with our annual service, honouring those who bravely sacrificed their lives for us.

Year 11 attended the event as the rest of our school watched via live-stream.

Our brilliant scouts, guides and cadets all took part in the service and did a brilliant job. Our Head boy and girl each gave an emotional reading and laid a wreath in school before Rye Hills Academy was represented at the Redcar Remembrance Parade and Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday.



Redcar's dino!

Our resident 'Redcar dinosaur', Reuben, was interviewed by Dave Robson of Zetland FM and featured on BBC Radio Tees about the work he does in the community and for charity.

The Reubesaurus spends his free time attending charity events and offering doorstep visits to children armed with goodies bags. All goodie bag contents are generously donated by local businesses!



Christmas corner...

Did you know?

Brits munch on approximately 800 million mince pies every Christmas. But it's not just mince pies we love here in the UK. In an average year, UK shoppers spend £48,000,000 on Christmas puddings!

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

17 Dec Break up for Christmas

05 Jan Year 10 and Year 11 in for covid testing only

06 Jan Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 are in for covid testing only

06 Jan Year 10 and Year 11 back in school for lessons as normal

06 Jan Year 11 parents' evening

07 Jan All students back in school as normal

27 Jan Careers fair

18 Feb Break up for half term

28 Feb Back to school

We're social!

Did you know that our school regularly posts exciting updates on 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 youngsters 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 jokes

Why does Santa have three gardens at the North Pole?

So he can Ho, Ho, Ho!

'Knock Knock', 'Who's there?',

'Interrupting Santa', 'Interrupting San-'

'Ho ho ho!'

ELFIE SELFIE!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Elfie selfies!

As the term came to a close, we celebrated the success of our first term with a series of awards.

Students who had brilliant attendance and behaviour were given lots of recognition!

Talking of recognition, this term saw the launch of our weekly Rye Hills Recognition. You may have seen our winners featured on our social media accounts over the past months...

Attendance star!

Congratulations to Anna, winner of this term's attendance prize, who has bagged a £25 Amazon voucher!

Anna was one of many students with perfect, 100% attendance who were entered into a draw at the end of half term.



A round of applause for Olivia

Year 11 student, Olivia, has done a fantastic job this term, fundraising for Brain Tumour Reserch.

Olivia walked from Marske to Staithes with her Dad to raise the money, originally aiming to raise £200. Not only did she meet her target, but she exceeded it and achieved a whopping £780!



Student POD

This term we launched our virtual learning space, Student POD.

The website is exclusive to our students and full of helpful resources. Students can find a range of knowledge organisers and resources for each of their subjects.

Links to all apps can be found on Student POD so you can easily access them in lessons and at home.

You can gain access to Student POD in several ways - the easiest way to log in is to log into EASI and click on the Student POD link.

Parents are welcome to access their child's Student POD account by logging in using their child's log in details.

We'd also like to remind parents to activate their ParentPay accounts. Thank you to everyone who has done so, so far. We use the ParentPay portal to send out importance messages and updates. It is very important that all parents sign up.

If you would like help activating your account, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email at: enquiries@ryehillsacademy.co.uk

Christmas Quiz

- Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
- In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
- Which country did eggnog originate?
- How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
- What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out?
- In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
- In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
- In the movie Love Actually, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
- How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?

- Quiz answers:
- Germany
 - Four
 - Paris
 - Britain
 - 364
 - 1994
 - The Polar Express. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
 - Japan
 - Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
 - Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.

The return of extra-curricular clubs!

This term saw our students get involved in a huge range of club - we love to see students trying something new outside the classroom!

Come along to chess club each Thursday lunchtime in room 224 with Mr Marshall - everyone is welcome!

Our drama club have been busy creating short films, working on upcoming shows and performing Christmas songs to local care home residents (and in sign language too!).

Why not try a new club out in the new year?

We have plenty to choose from including: badminton, Astroturf, debate, 'BeeYou', football, languages, retro games and Sci-Fi (and much more!)



Christmas card winners

A huge well done to our overall winner Year 7, Lainey G, for designing this Christmas scene.

She gets a selection box, an Amazon Voucher and her design will be made into cards, sent to people on the Rye Hills contacts list and it will feature as a home screen on all computers in the academy.

Congratulations to our 2 runners up Anna W for her robin design in Year 8 and Kacey-Leigh B for her snowman design in Year 10 and well done to everyone who entered the competition.

Lights... camera... action!

Year 11 drama students continue to impress with their work, both in theory and in performance. They have now completed their Component 1, devised pieces and are ready to turn to some scripted performances.

Year 10 have started the course brilliantly and continue to make excellent progress.

Both classes will be going on a trip to the Darlington Hippodrome on 1st February, to see Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. Everyone is super excited to be attending a live performance again.

Many GCSE pupils attend the extra-curricular clubs on offer, as well as out of school performance groups. We really do have a talented drama students!

Launch of EASI – Easy Access to Systems and Information

EASI is an online place to check important day-to-day school information. It acts like an online planner and allows you to:

- Check what **homework** you have and when it's due (there is will be a link to all instructions in Microsoft Teams)
- see your **attendance percentage** - see how many **positive behaviour points** you have earned - see your **detentions** - open **emails** - **access Student Pod** & external learning websites (such as Quizlet/Seneca Learning)
- open all **Office 365** programs, such as PowerPoint, Word, Teams and OneDrive - **COMING SOON: Access the Rewards Points Shop**

The login link is at the top right of the school website. Parents/carers can access EASI using their child's login details. A full user guide was emailed earlier in the term but if you would like any help on how to use EASI, please contact your child's progress leader: Year 7 Mrs Sands, Year 8 & 9 Mr Norminton, and Year 10 & 11 Mr Stockwell.



**North East
SCITT**

Did you know that our school is a partner of North East SCITT - an organisation that trains new teachers in schools across the north east - including in ours!

Whether you're a new graduate, in your final year of university or considering a change of career (it's never too late you know!), North East SCITT's high-quality school-based initial teacher training courses can provide you with the best start to a new career in teaching. They are based in the North East Learning Trust's lead school, The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, but training happens in schools all across the region.

The quality of training they offer is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted for both their primary and secondary courses. Along with this they have a proven track record of amazing

results and high employment rates. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn to teach 'on-the-job'. Unlike traditional university courses, you are in the classroom from the outset, interacting with pupils and teachers and learning first hand the knowledge and skills you'll need to become an outstanding teacher.

You will practise in a broad range of schools, gaining experience in different areas including special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour management, English as an additional language, phonics, and maths mastery (for primary only).

You will also be allocated a subject mentor from a team of specialists with vast experience who will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject.

At the end of the 10 month course you'll be a qualified teacher with a PGCE from Durham University.

So if you're thinking of teaching - there is no better place than through our school partners North East SCITT - please get in touch - we know they would love to speak to you!

Subjects available:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary | Physical education |
| Computing | Religious education |
| Design and technology | Biology |
| Drama | Chemistry |
| English | Physics |
| History | Modern foreign languages |
| Geography | |
| Maths | |
| Music | |



Try a teacher training taster day...

If you're thinking about training to teach, you can 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. Find out more and book your place at:

www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster

Apply now for Sept 2022

New year, new career?

Become a teacher in 2022!

Outstanding teacher training in schools across the North East



Bursaries of up to £24k available to train in some subjects

Find out more at: www.northeastscitt.co.uk