



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022



WELCOME to our summer newsletter

As if by magic, another academic year is drawing to a close. This a time to pause and reflect on the excellent first year Rye Hills has had as part of the NELT family of schools and to celebrate our progress towards outstanding with our students and colleagues.

We are very proud of our Year 11 students who have shown great resilience, dedication and determination and we enjoyed celebrating with them at their Prom at Gisborough Hall earlier this month.

Activities week has been a roaring success – new experiences; lots of fun and laughter; and memories of special school days were made. And at the time of writing our plans for Sports Day (weather permitting) will make this another memorable event.

We have much to celebrate this year from sporting success; our half term honours and homework heroes; painting the Racecourse tunnel and much to look forward to with our new reading rewards programme and the return of our annual musical spectacular!

It is also the time of year when we welcome our new Year 6 students. It's one of the highlights of the year to welcome new students who are a little bit shy and nervous, but full of excitement. We are looking forward to watching them flourish.

We also say a fond farewell to some members of staff, thank them for their dedication and wish them well for the future.

Here's to a long summer holiday, filled with sunshine!

Clare Ellis

Head of School

Hello Year 6

We recently held transition days for Year 6 (very soon to be brand new Year 7s!).

Students took part in a range of activities that included some excellent and thoughtful work in their beliefs and values lesson where they shared their hopes for the future. They also took part in science experiments, made mirrors in design technology and made pasta salads in their cooking lessons. There was a murder mystery in maths which got the students all heated up over who they thought was the murderer! Lunchtime funtime consisted of giant Connect 4, swing ball, skipping and hula hooping with some great skills on display!

We hope you are all looking forward to September where our Year 7 buddies (pictured below) will be on hand to help any students who have any concerns.



Junior maths challenge

In April of this year, 74 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the nationwide Junior Mathematics Challenge.

Students were set a 60-minute, multiple choice challenge, which tested both their mathematical reasoning and their ability to solve some very interesting problems, some of which even challenged the maths teachers! All students who took part received a certificate with three students achieving gold, seven achieving silver and 17 bronze.

Three of our students did so well that they progressed onto the Junior Kangaroo round of the Maths Challenge which took place back in June. We are still awaiting those results. A massive well done to all students who took part.

Cricket news

Year 7 and 8 students recently competed in the Redcar and Cleveland Cricket Competition at Guisborough Cricket Club.

The boys competed well against some very talented teams and played some fantastic strokes and boundaries. They also took a number of good wickets throughout the day.

The team displayed an excellent attitude throughout and were well coached by Year 10 student Thomas Newton who has been helping the boys at cricket practice each week.

IMPORTANT DATES
for your diary

05 SEP - Back to school
21 OCT - Break up for half term
31 OCT - Back to school
25 NOV - INSET day

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



Like father like son

Mr Featherstone's dad, Martyn Featherstone, has recently been awarded an MBE for services to further education.

Mr Featherstone went with his father as his guest to meet Prince Charles at Windsor Castle! He is retiring after 38 years of teaching design at The Northern School of Art in Middlesbrough, but as Martyn Featherstone retires from teaching, his son Mr Featherstone, our D&T technician, is beginning his design teaching career here at Rye Hills Academy!

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



Goodbye Year 11

At the end of June we said goodbye to our Year 11s in an emotional but very positive final celebration.

After the last GCSE exam we met for the traditional signing of books and shirts. Even Mr Bertram's shirt was signed – although we're not sure he was aware at the time! Prom tickets were given out and leavers' hoodies were collected as students prepared for the last words of advice from their Progress Leaders and Year Manager.

After a photo montage of five years of comedy mug shots, Mrs Lappin spoke first and commended everyone for their resilience and determination in the face of a challenging few years. She told Year 11: "You have managed to negotiate learning from a laptop like champions and achieving fantastic grades." She also thanked them for becoming, "compassionate, caring and well-rounded humans."

Mr Stockwell was next and asked our outgoing young adults to be their own person and to make their own choices and not be negatively influenced by others. The message was to "get to know everyone: even if they are different... especially if they are different."

Miss Phillips told Year 11 they had developed into considerate, empathetic young adults and in an emotional speech, thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome in her first year and wished them well in everything that they set out to do.

Before the video of staff's final messages, Mr Carney urged Year 11 to travel, to look beyond the boundaries of Redcar and to represent our school and our philosophies to the rest of the world, coming back with new insights and ideas to help to develop our community.

It was a lovely send off with staff applauding our students along the corridor and out of the door into the outside world.

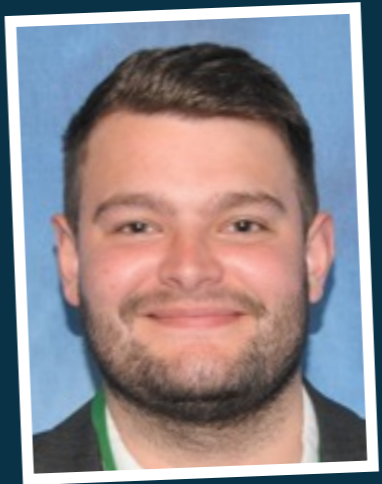
There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Best of luck, Class of 2022. Best wishes from everyone at Rye Hills!



Year Manager changes

We would like to welcome Mr Janicki who will be the new Year 9 Year Manager. Mr Janicki will be replacing Ms Brooks who will be leaving us at the end of term.

Whilst we are sad to see Ms Brooks leave after 18 years at Rye Hills Academy, Mr Janicki has been able to work alongside her during this last term working with the students and speaking to many of our parents/carers. He will have some very big boots to fill, however we hope you will join us in wishing him well.



Diversity week

At Rye Hills Academy we celebrated diversity week as part of Pride month in June.

During the week there was a key information session every morning during form time about the importance of Pride, including 'quote of the day', big questions, true stories, purposeful discussions, and empathetic reflections.

There was an anagram challenge with key terms regarding diversity, a poster and poem competition to celebrate the importance of diversity with prizes for correct answers, effort, and amazing work.

On the Friday, students were invited to wear colourful

socks/ties/hair accessories for a small donation of 50p, and there was a bake sale at break and lunchtime with proceeds going to a charity who assist LGBTQ+ youth who lack support.

There were thought points and conversations about diversity in lessons, and much more around the academy including the decoration of the building... and staff!

At Rye Hills, we are an inclusive academy and stand by the fact that is important people can be themselves without judgement.

5-a-side

Nine teams recently took to the astro turf to compete in the Road to the World Cup Tournament.

After a much-anticipated draw, two groups were formed - one with four teams and the other with five. All teams made a fantastic effort to make it out of the group stage. The top two teams for each group going on to the play the semi-finals and final. The semi-finals were played with fierce intensity, with the smallest of margins separating the teams and allowing two to progress to the final. The final likewise was intense and nothing could split the two teams after extra time so a penalty shootout was needed. Three dramatic saves from both goalkeepers were finally broken when Cassius Upton smashed it home to take the victory and win the tournament for his team.

Credit to all teams for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout.



We have a book vending machine!



Earlier this term we welcomed Lesley Kettlewell and Dennis Weller from the Sir William Turner Foundation to launch a book vending machine, which was funded the foundation.

The Foundation makes annual grants to schools in Redcar to support educational activities. The grant we received has enabled us to purchase the book vending machine and fill it with a wide range of books.



The machine is the first of a series of reading initiatives being launched. In the new academic year will be launching the Rye Hills Readers programme, which will encourage more students to read for pleasure. Students will complete a reading log and will be rewarded by receiving a token for the vending machine to choose a book to keep. We will also be running lots of reading events and competitions where students will have the chance to win a token.

Dennis Weller from the foundation said: "We are delighted to see the reading project come to fruition. It is the first time we have funded a book vending machine and it has been brilliant to see the reaction from the students who have been enthused by the project."

Well done to Khaled Laheeb in Year 7 (above) who won a competition to be the first person to receive a token and dispense his book!

Legally Blonde Jr

'Omgod you guys!' It's been nearly three years since our 'practically perfect' performance of Mary Poppins.

This year we need to 'bend and snap' to attention and make our way to Harvard Law with no objections for our new school musical... Legally Blonde Jr. Watch out for news on auditions and show times in the new term.



Coming soon - Book Club

Starting in September there are some great reads in lunchtime Book Club - take a look at what's coming up...

Years 7-8

Could the monstrous Malamander be lurking amongst the rocks and wrecks of Eerie on Sea? Is this why nobody visits the idyllic beach during the winter? As darkness falls and the wind howls around the caves could the people of Eerie on Sea be right? Is the Malamander lurking somewhere, seeking out its next victim?

Are you brave enough to visit the beach? If so join book club in 1D1 and let's find this sea creature together!



Miss Howlett
Lunchtime - September
*snacks provided
Room 1D1

Years 9-10

After the tragic death of his mother, a young scientist vows to seek a solution to suffering in the hope of prolonging life. Amongst the plundered graveyards and treacherous November elements, we bear witness to his journey of creation, all the while wondering what the consequences of his attempt to replace God will be. Will this creation be the answer? Will he solve the suffering that plagues the world?

Enter room 103 and delve into this dark, Gothic tale to explore the big questions about the role of science in our society, how our perceptions can influence behaviour and the power of man in this world.



Rye Hills Values

Rye Hills Values is a new approach to rewards within the Academy where all students can be recognised for demonstrating values which are important to life now and beyond school. The official launch will be September.

Points are achieved based on demonstration of the values attributed to the categories -mind, body, heart, and soul. The aim is to try and collect examples of all 20 values in booklets, such as empathy, diversity, respect, and kindness.

Points can be achieved at any time and awards will be given at various times. Values can be collected each year to show consistency in displaying them in school.

These are values for which recognition is deserved and pride should be felt in achieving them, going beyond the academic certificates you leave school with.

These are the soft skills that make you a well-rounded person, successful in all walks of life.

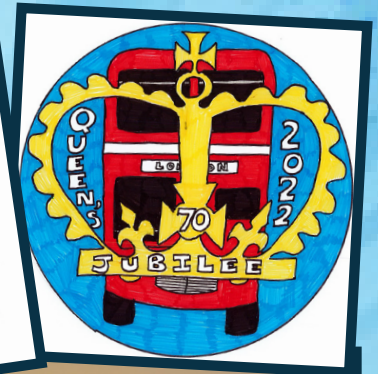
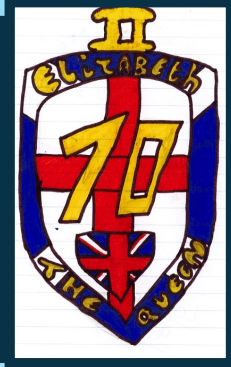
Just like a puzzle, it takes time for the pieces to come together to become the best version of ourselves.



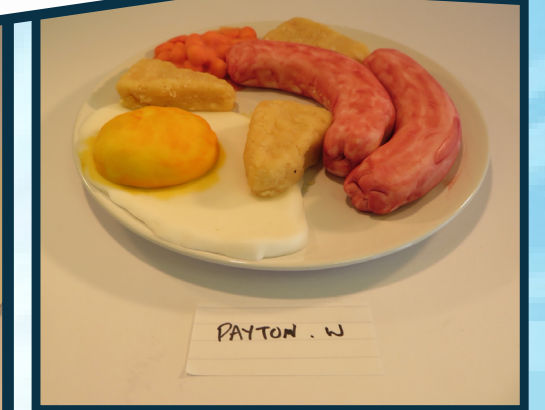
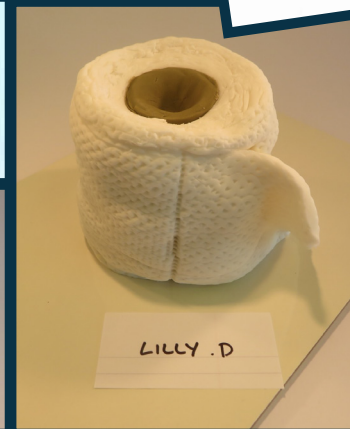
Best of Culture Vultures

Take a look at some of the best work examples from our Rye Hills culture vulture initiative this term...

Jubilee badges



IS IT CAKE?!



Beliefs and values

