

Heworth Headlines



- A Message from the Headteacher -

Welcome to the December issue of Heworth Headlines. You will see as you browse through lots of good news stories about our wonderful young people and their personal achievements. We have been really proud of how students have settled back to school, even with the most recent changes that have included us wearing masks again around school.

As a school we have been highlighting the importance of literacy and in particular reading over the past term. We would really appreciate your support with this important aspect of learning. If you can encourage your child to continue to read regularly over the holiday this will help to ensure your child continues to make progress with their reading. Ms McDonald our literacy lead has worked with heads of department to develop a book list with titles that we think our young people will enjoy, if anyone is looking for last minute Christmas presents.

We have also enjoyed lovely success in the arts with our Baltic collaboration and the Christmas concert. We are also proud of our sporting achievements and the school teams have had some great wins against local schools recently. During our Diversity Day this term we focused on anti-racism and learning about positive role models from BAME communities as well as reviewing careers in a range of areas of employment.

The Student Voice have also been very active this term and have recently taken part in an anti-bullying conference to support our kindness week and anti-bullying week which has raised the importance again of our 'No Islands' value.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and it gives you the opportunity to catch up with all the Team HG news. Have a peaceful holiday and I look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year.



- Academic Mentoring -

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused serious disruption to the education of students across the country. Research has demonstrated that tutoring students for a significant number of sessions in a small group is the best way to support our students to address any gaps in their knowledge because of the pandemic.

We have been fortunate to be given funding to allow us to be part of the National Tutoring Programme and have welcomed to our staff five Academic Mentors: In English - Miss D Emilava and Ms B Dines, in Science - Mr D Lund, and in Maths - Mrs C Taylor and Mr O Onwumere.

These are experienced teachers trained to work with students in small groups and have been tutoring students from Y7 and Y8 in school for the past 6 weeks. They will continue to offer intensive support to students in the New Year, working primarily with students in Y9 and Y10. Students who have worked with the tutors have done some excellent work in their sessions and have shown great enthusiasm for learning.

- Mrs Froom



- Passport to Success -



Pupil Passport payslip rewards launch.

Class Charts is our tool enabling us to reward our students for positive behaviours and demonstrating behaviours that embody our shared values. Every Student - No excuses, Engaged in my learning, High expectations, No Islands.

Pupils in the school who have achieved a high number of positive praise points will be awarded at the end of every calendar month. They decide whether they would like an instant reward or save their reward for something bigger later in the year. Well done to all students who received an award in September, October and November. Keep up the good work!

- Mrs Anderson



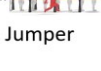
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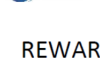
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Queue Jumper
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REWARD SAVER



BRITISH PASSPORT



**UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**



- Diversity Day -



Daniel H—A reason to cover Asian Culture:

"Not many people know about Asian Culture and we should also learn about racism against Asians"

Ethan M—A reason to cover Mental Health:

"It will help educate students about important topics"

Josh B—A reason to cover First Impressions:

"Because people take one look at mixed race people and think they don't belong here"

Billy C—What did you think of this Diversity Day?

"I thought it was very interesting"

Nali N—What did you think of this Diversity Day?

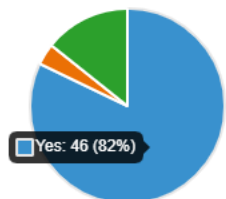
"It helped people understand"

On the 4th of November we held the second of our Diversity Days. Our last diversity day was based on educating students about the LGBTQ+ community and this time we focused on the contribution of the BAME community to our society. We asked our students for feedback on the day as a whole and asked them to give suggestions for other topics to cover in future diversity days.

Here are some of the results of the feedback questionnaire:

Did the format of learning about specific people help students understand discrimination or racism?

82% of students answered: Yes



There is another diversity day later this year – what should we cover?

future about the race racism antisexism Pride
Maybe about bullying disabilities
lgbt stuff Asian culture
different cultures people
Pride or Sexism
sexism- people
Homophobia
Racism across the world
Mental health lgbtq+ or sexism
sexism
bullying
people genders

- Mr Searles and Mr Hope



- Reading And Literacy: From Consilium -



At Heworth Grange School we aim to give students the best educational experience possible, so they can be successful in their academic journeys and in life beyond school. Good reading and literacy skills are crucially important in allowing students to be successful. These vital skills contribute to their development, provides them with greater opportunities in all aspects of their lives, and helps lay the foundations for lifelong learning and work. Therefore, it is imperative we help our students increase their confidence in reading and literacy in order for them to unlock the wider curriculum that comes with advanced literacy in all subjects.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the disruption caused to students, it has become ever more important for us to focus on student reading and literacy. This is why at Heworth Grange we have implemented several initiatives to support and enable students to read, write, and speak 'like an expert.'

This term, all our teachers have taken part in professional development for teaching reading and literacy, because these skills are just as vital in Maths, Science, History, etc., as they are in English. This is why we are one of the first schools in Consilium Academies to implement the 'read like an expert' and 'strategic readers' initiatives. This encourages students to read like a geographer, historian, or mathematician and take a subject-specific lens to reading. This enables them to enjoy a novel in English, decipher a maths problem, explain their thinking, debate their ideas, and read and write at a level that will help them develop their language skills further. By learning these skills across all subjects, in each area of the curriculum, we provide our young people with a fulfilling, diverse, and effective education.

However, this is not all we have been doing to help our students in reading and literacy. In fact, they have been helping each other, with students from Year 9 becoming 'literacy leaders' and partnering up with year 7s to support them with their reading, offering encouragement and advice

We have also started an accelerated reader programme, for all students throughout the school.

For Key Stage 3 students this means having a reading lesson every two weeks, where half the lesson is spent reading aloud, with the other half spent reading silently. This is to aid in fluency and confidence, allowing students to hear good reading as well as practice it themselves. Upon finishing their books, students take part in a quiz to reinforce comprehension and promote reflection, before moving on to something new.

For Key Stage 4 students, this means studying subject-specific reading, such as textbooks, before doing a comprehension exercise. This is to help our young people experience different types of literature and real world reading. While in English lessons, students are also conducting a reading each week before presenting a summary of it in class. This is to increase students' confidence in public speaking, improve communication skills, and help with comprehension.

At Heworth, we will continue to promote good reading and literacy, as we want to support the development of our students. We know this will positively impact their learning experiences and provide them with the key skills they need to succeed, both in the classroom, and beyond.

Head over to the Reading and Literacy page of our website to download some of the resources we are using to help and encourage our students.

[Heworth Grange School - Reading and Literacy](#)

- Mr Beswick, Consilium and Ms McDonald



- The Baltic Art Project Reveal -



Students from Year 7 and Year 10 recently had the opportunity to work with artist Theresa Easton on a collaborative installation artwork piece, highlighting our strong links with the community. The artwork is part of a wider project led by BALTIC and funded by local business and is intended to celebrate a return to our classrooms following the challenges of the coronavirus crisis. The work now proudly hangs above our student reception and in the corridors outside of Art.

- Miss Wanless

Students from Yr11 accompanied Ms Kilpatrick to BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art to celebrate the unveiling of the art work. They met a representative from HR and payroll company Cintra, who had funded our project, and got to see the work that had been done in other schools in Gateshead. The students returned to school feeling really proud of their work and were inspired by the other wonderful artwork we had seen. Many thanks to BALTIC for allowing us to be part of this brilliant project.

- Ms Kilpatrick



- Christmas Jumper Day -

'Making the world better with a sweater' in aid of Save the Children.



- Christmas Card Competition -

This year we launched our first Christmas card competition, which will become an annual tradition here at Heworth.

We were overwhelmed with the number of entries we received, and the quality of the work was impressive. Our students proved how fabulously talented they are. It was a hard task for our judges Mr Hulse and Mrs Mitchell, but after a lot of debate they chose 4 winning cards. Congratulations to our winners: Miyada and Mihri, Kevin, Melak and Ella and Zein. These designs will be sent out to our local primaries and other members of our community.

We are also delighted that one of our students, James Wales, was awarded third prize in the Consilium competition. It is such an incredible achievement to secure third place across all nine Consilium schools. Well done to James!

We are so proud of everyone that entered, and we cannot wait to see next year's work.

- Miss Wanless



- School Garden -

A group of students from Key Stage 3 met with Mr Stephenson and his team of architects to look at a piece of land outside of student support.

The students discussed what the garden would be used for and what they would like included in the new design. The students created their own designs with key features they wanted to see in the garden. The students discussed the need for tranquillity and an opportunity for students to use the garden as their safe space or to meet with people that could support them.

The designs have been taken away by Mr Stephenson and his team who will collate the ideas to transform the garden in the New Year. We are all looking forward to starting work in the garden soon.

- Mrs Mitchell



- Innovation Centre Update -

The students in the Innovation Centre have been working with a company called 'Slam Fresh' during their English lessons, where they have produced some amazing poetry work reflecting on their life. The students have been working hard in their science lessons, looking at the body, with a chance in the New Year to dissect a heart. They have been focusing on teamwork and resilience during their period 4 lessons with Mr Morris and the Newcastle United Foundation. They have really enjoyed taking part in gym sessions, looking to improve their fitness, and learning a new set of skills in basketball. During their CREW sessions the students have developed skills to be able to work together as a team, respect each other and have focused on regulating their emotions this term.

-Mrs Mitchell

Jonjoe's Poem:

Newcastle is crowded with lots of people.
All day and all night, the metros are chocka-
full of people who are rushing
like wild boar running through the woods.
The smell of fish and chips, chips and garlic, kebabs
mixed with salty sweat and blood and drink and tabs.

And the live boxing bag is no more.
They punched it too hard showing off to the lads.
And when the match is on they shout loud like Mrs. Trunchbull
And chanting 'Toon, Toon, black and white army'.

And they block the sewer with dropped kebabs, pizzas, and hotdogs
The rats rummage and tax bits of donner meat,
they love the rotten stench.
And the drain next to the stadium is overflowing with junk
It reeks and makes huge puddles
they say it smells of poo and decay,
even worse on a hot sunny day.



- Sport Facilities Update: From Consilium -



There has been several facilities, renovated, upgraded, and improved so far this term at Heworth Grange School. The good management of our site is an important element in ensuring we provide our students with the best education possible, as a great learning environment starts with a well maintained site.

The first of our upgrades came in the form of 1,000 items of new furniture such as desks and chairs. These new furniture items have allowed us to modernise and improve 15 of our classrooms, creating an even better equipped and resourced learning environment for our students.

Other upgrades have come to the gym in our sports hall. The gym itself has undergone a huge transformation with the installation of LED lighting, new flooring, as well as a good coat of paint, giving it a light, modern feel. There has also been a new drainage system installed, protecting the area from flooding. This has all come in the wake of Mr Beresford's efforts in securing a £9500 grant of government funding to improve gym and sports facilities for the local community. The grant has paid for a whole range of new gym equipment, as well as four portable basketball posts. This means our gym now comprises of two treadmills, 4 exercise bikes, two rowing machines, a multifunctional cable machine, a leg press, as well as a variety of free weights, kettle bells, sand bags and boxing equipment.

This new equipment has allowed our students to participate in a greater variety of activities during P.E lessons, but also significantly increased participation in after school clubs. There are now 40 students who regularly attend and enjoy our basketball club, as well as 35 students, who after an induction from P.E staff, now use our gym either before or after school. These facilities allow us to look after the wellbeing of our students as we encourage and enable them to be healthy, both physically and mentally. This in turn fosters a great environment for learning and success, both at Heworth Grange School and beyond.

Our site manager, Mr Watts said 'We are constantly looking at ways to improve the site. We believe first impressions leave a lasting impression, and we like to think if you come in to a clean and tidy site it helps you start the day with a clean and tidy mind, which can only benefit our students.'

These facility upgrades represent the first phase of improvements at Heworth Grange School, as more upgrades will be coming later in the academic year, as we continually strive to provide our students with the highest quality of education.

- Mr Beswick, Consilium



- Christmas Concert -

This year we have done our Christmas Concert slightly differently. Although it is not the same as doing a live show it has been so lovely to work with the students in the theatre again. Over 100 students volunteered to take part in our festive show this year from across all year groups. We have had so many fantastic acts from dancers to singers to full rock bands, some of which have only been together and practising for as little as 3 weeks! We even have a junior tech crew this year running the show from behind the scenes. We are so proud of all of the students involved, they have done an amazing job in this uncertain time and have produced something outstanding. It has been wonderful working on the stage again and seeing the theatre all lit up and watching the students enthusiastic about performing again. It really has brought that magical Christmas feeling back to Heworth Grange.

- Mrs Hudson



- PE Co-Curricular News -

Extra and co-curricular clubs have continued to increase in popularity this half-term with regular participation in Futsal, Girls Football, Netball, Gym club, Basketball, Table Tennis and Badminton. These clubs will continue in the new term and any student who wishes to participate can collect a letter from the P.E department.

We have managed to participate in a number of inter-school competitions with our year 9 football team reaching the county cup quarter finals, our year 8 & 9 basketball team having a 50% win rate in the Gateshead Schools competition and 5 representative teams taking part in the Gateshead Sports Hall athletics competition. The Gateshead school Netball Leagues have started in recent weeks for U16's, U15' and U13. All students who have participated have given a good account of themselves and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.


- Mr Beresford

- Quick Links -

To keep up to date visit: www.heworthgrange.org

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