



Spring has sprung



We are drawing to the end of the spring term and what a busy term we have had.

There have been lots of exciting activities in school including this year's Dance Festival which takes place 5th April. Science Week and Healthy Schools Project has been very successful with all pupils and students taking part in a range of investigations creating products for personal hygiene.



We would like to invite you to our Easter assembly on Friday 7th April at 10.00 am. Yvonne Greener, priest in charge St. Helen Low Fell and Associate Minister St. Chad Bensham and Teams will be leading our service. Coffee and hot cross buns will be available in the school hall from 9.30.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you.

Dawn Winter - Head of School

Red Nose Day

On Friday 24th March school council held 'Red Nose Day' at Dryden School. To raise as much money as possible, everyone dressed up in red clothes and some of us even took part in a 'Bad Hair Day' where the crazier the hair, the better- even the staff got involved! A prize was given for the wackiest hair, which without a doubt had to go to Alex Chatto from Class 4 with many red noses in her plaits!

The students all looked fantastic and the final total raised was £178.40.

This will all go to Comic Relief which funds projects to help people in the UK and Worldwide to have a better quality of life.



Post 16 café take a well deserved break!

Post 16 café have swapped their aprons for warm clothing and a harness to reach the dizzy heights of the climbing wall.

On a Wednesday morning each of us take turns to climb up the huge wall, with Lee as 2nd Rope man; he watches each of us to see how we are doing and decides who will be climber of the week.

Nathan, Emily, Chris, Lewis and Katie all reached the summit with great joy and sometimes a few tears. Lewis is now practicing traversing across the wall. Anna confessed to finding it hard but each week she is getting closer to moving towards the wall, she is taking little steps at a time. We have one cheeky monkey who gets up the wall in no time at all.



Health check - Head Lice

Head lice can be difficult to spot.

They're very small whitish or grey-brown insects that range from the size of a pinhead to the size of a sesame seed.

The only way to be sure some one has head lice is to find a live louse by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb.

This is called detection combing. Treatments are available to buy from pharmacies, supermarkets and online. You don't usually need to see your GP.

The main treatments are lotions or sprays that kill head lice. Removing head lice with a specially designed comb – this is suitable for everyone and relatively inexpensive, but needs to be repeated several times.

A pharmacist can advise you about the treatments available if you're not sure which is best for you or your child.

Make sure you carefully follow the instructions that come with the treatment.

Source:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Headlice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>





Student Celebration Evening



On Monday 6th of March we held our first Student Celebration Evening which was well attended by parents/carers and pupils.

The aim of the evening was to celebrate the individual progress that our pupils make in different lessons and to discuss any concerns that parents/carers may have.

Tea and coffee was available and being served by two fantastic volunteers from sixth form who greeted everyone with a smile. A free prize draw was also on offer to any parents/carers who attended the evening and the winners were drawn the next day during assembly; the lucky winners were two parents from the Autism centre winning Easter hampers. We hope to build on the success of the evening next year and include more opportunities to see pupils work from different subjects.



Lights, Camera, Action

11B have been enthusiastic in their filming venture. Several weeks ago as part of Thrive and the PHSE curriculum, we began a project focussing on career development skills and emotional development in the workplace in readiness for their work experience week.

The project, known as 'The Bedson 11' is filming about a job related experience that aims to get a serious message across using humour. Alongside this the students have been monitoring and assessing their own work-related and emotional skills and working on areas for development as well as building on their strengths to build confidence and self-esteem. The film is due to be released in late April/early May – but until then any more details are being kept secret. The class would like to thank Mr Smith, teaching assistant to 11B, for his time. He has put a lot of his own time and knowledge of film making into making this possible.

Apprenticeship Success from Jamie Humble

I would like to take this time to inform everyone about my apprenticeship and what I will be doing at Hill Top. On Monday 3rd July 2017 I become a member of staff. My days as a student are no more! I start working at Hill Top for four and half days. On the other day I will be attending LearningSkills in Gateshead for 2 hours to do my English and Maths. On Tuesday 14th March 2017 Mrs Thompson, signed the contract so I can start my apprenticeship. I am the first student in Hill Top to do an apprenticeship in school. The reason that we are starting apprenticeships in school is that we are having a lot of different students from different colleges, so we thought why not start in school and see how it goes from there!

Jamie Humble - 6th Form Year 13



FareShare & The Magic Breakfast Club

Building on the success of our breakfast club; which serves fresh bagels and juice every day, we have joined up with Fareshare and our local Tesco Express who offer donations of bread and fruit twice a week. By working with Fareshare we have been able to improve our range of breakfasts to include toast, fresh fruit and even some times crumpets. We continue to strive to offer a healthy breakfast to all pupils at Hill Top School and appreciate all donations we receive for this service.

World Book Day



World Book Day this year was celebrated in style with two exciting competitions **Which Character** and **Which Book** giving students a chance to draw and write about characters from a favourite book.

The prize was a legendary silver pen which, by the number of entries we had even from staff it seemed that everyone in Hill Top wanted to win. With all the entries in, the judges eventually decided that they had to award SEVEN silver pens because the standard of entries was so high.

Favourite books and characters included tales of Harry Potter, 'The BFG', and 'The Day of the Triffids' as well as old favourites like 'Oliver Twist' and Charlie from Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Well done to everyone who entered or came in book related costume it was a pleasure to read all about the books you like and to see who you would like to be.

Looking forward to next year already!



Architect Ambassadors Project

This is an exciting opportunity for Hill Top School to work with a local Architect and the Baltic Arts gallery to develop and deliver a arts project. The aim of the project is to allow pupils to develop a greater understanding of architecture and how it affects our everyday life.

Hill Top School has been joined with architect Kate Wilson from Doon Architecture in Hexham and are planning to produce a series of installations in school focusing on 'sensory'.

Kate Wilson will be working with a group of Year 9 pupils in the summer term to design and develop spaces which will make us more aware of senses and hopefully change how feel through touch, sight, smell and hear.

This is another exiting opportunity for pupils to develop their arts skills and knowledge.

