

# NEWSLETTER

## Headteachers Message

As we end for the Easter break and say goodbye to our year 7 teacher Lucy, we recognise that goodbyes for some young people are extremely difficult, which is why the routine of school is always seen as being really important, and which is why we keep any up-and-coming celebrations as low key as possible.

We also remind our young people change can be challenging but life is full of changes, and we are here to support them and ensure that they feel safe and continue to feel secure during these times.

With Lucy's departure, we will be welcoming Bridget who will be the year 7s tutor. Bridget is an experienced senior leader within the SEN sector and is really looking forward to joining the school and getting to know the young people within year 7 and throughout the school. The year 7's timetable will not be changing for this term other than one less Humanities lesson a week which will be replaced with Art. Alongside this, there will be changes to the way young people will take part in dedication and how young people access their daily reading intervention. Young people have been spoken to about the changes to their PSHE lessons as we move into the summer term to ensure that they are given the opportunity to explore age appropriate PSHE and RSE Curriculum.

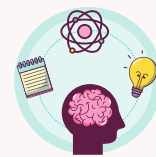
We will also be welcoming James who will be our upper KS3 tutor. James also comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience of SEN. The upper KS3 young people will continue to have Kirsty to transport them to and from the stables and the paddocks on Mondays and Thursday but will rejoin James for lessons in the afternoon.

We do wish Lucy the best for her future and take this opportunity to say thank you to Kirsty, our SENCO, who has been an incredible support by leading our upper KS3 class for the last term. Kirsty will remain a senior leader across both Haywards Farm and Northcroft but will continue to be based at Northcroft.

Staff do want to reassure all of Northcroft's young people that as we are a school that practises restorative practise, incidents that happened on the last day of term will be discussed and revisited, as we do know for both staff and young people that, with a break, comes a fresh approach with settled and rational views.

I look forward to writing an end of summer term newsletter with the amazing achievements which take place during this term

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday. Take, care, Alex



## Highlights of the week



- Year 7 and UKS3 were lucky enough to go and watch lambing at a local farm near the Stables.
- The great egg drop took place where the year 7s had to design vehicles to prevent their eggs from breaking.
- UKS3 and year 7 finished the week making some yummy mini egg cookies.

## Reminders

- Please can students bring water bottles in with the weather getting warmer.

## Dates for the Diary

**Return to school- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Monday-** The Paddocks-upper KS3, alternative plan for year 7

**Tuesday-** Interventions with Michelle and Gym

**Wednesday-** Year 7 PE

**Thursday-** Stable Futures- upper KS3, alternative plan for year 7 but potentially return to the Stables.

**Friday-** Upper KS3 Cooking, Year 7 Personal Development



# CLASSROOM UPDATES



## Upper KS3

Upper Key Stage 3 have had a fantastic end to the term and are in a great place to pick up learning following the Easter break.

We have had some lovely discussions about our English text 'Lord of the Flies', around how despite the need for survival 'children will be children' and the impact this has on them as a group. Next term we will continue with the text and end this unit exploring leadership, settings and the use of symbolism within this novel.

Maths has been particularly challenging for the student, however I have been really proud of their perseverance and determination this week. Next term we will continue this unit on fractions and percentages before moving onto operations and equations with directed numbers.

History has seen some great discussion and students' previous knowledge base has been wonderful to see. We have explored the impact on population as a result of the plague as well as changes in farming practices in Elizabethan era. Next term we will continue our unit on 'Life in Tudor England' and the impact and attitudes towards poverty at this time.

Geography will see the start of our unit on the Democratic Republic of Congo including what are the opportunities as well as the challenges in this region.

Students ended the week cooking some delicious Easter cookies to celebrate their successes of the term, a well earned yummy treat which I am sure will be enjoyed by all.

Well done UKS3 for a great term and a well-deserved break. We look forward to welcoming you all back in a couple of weeks' time.



## Year 7

This week has been a great end to a great term for Year 7. They've been consolidating their learning across all subjects, showing what they've learned and making links between subjects.

In Science this week we made bathbombs to different recipes and investigated how adapting the ratio of acid to alkali changed the chemical reaction we saw. Students observed some surprising results, and all agreed they wouldn't want to use their own bathbombs at home!!

In History, to end our study of the War of the Roses, we compared the reign of the Plantagenet kings to the new Tudor royal family and used our knowledge from Autumn term to decide how the Tudors had a more positive impact on England. Students remembered an impressive amount from their prior learning and could suggest things like more money for England which led to increased trade, focus on education and the Arts.

We completed our Sherlock Holmes unit by analysing the differences and similarities between the antagonists from our two class stories. Students have really developed their ability to plan and structure longer pieces of writing this term.

Out and about, we spent Monday designing and building vehicles to safely carry an egg down a ramp, with some impressive wins for the various contraptions! Who knew that a sledge-style vehicle would safely transport an egg down a concrete skate-ramp?! Students really got into the competitive spirit and decorated their eggs brilliantly too.

I'd like to end by wishing everyone a lovely relaxing Easter break, and saying thank you to students, colleagues and everyone at home for being such a great team to work with here at Northcroft. I will miss everyone and wish you all the best as Northcroft continues to grow.

