



If you would like further information or would like to contact a member of staff at Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form the contact details are listed below:

Have a great Summer Break

from all of the staff and students at Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form



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Edition Fourteen

# Summer 2019 Newsletter



**Horizons Specialist Academy Trust**  
*Providing infinite opportunities*



## Message From the Principal

Welcome to the summer edition of the Sixth Form Newsletter, which is packed with many items that showcase the wealth of activities that we have enjoyed over the last term.

During this summer term, the students have enjoyed complimenting their formal studies with a range of enrichment activities and events. Visits have included a Science tour of Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station, Beamish Museum, Flamingoland and Hollywood Bowl. Students have benefitted from working with external organisations such as Pizza Express and the volunteering organisation VIY. In house class based lessons have been enhanced through innovative learning sessions such as hanging basket making and dramatizations.

Our vocational options have continued to provide enjoyable learning opportunities, allowing our students to develop those personal skills that will move them towards greater independence. It has been particularly rewarding for me to see the different option groups integrating and supporting each other at times. One such example of this has been the planning of our new sensory garden; the project being moved from plan to build with the combined help of the Outdoor Learning, John Muir, Horticulture and DIY option groups.

I have been impressed by the generosity of our students during this year. Several events have been used to raise money for specific organisation, the sponsored walk up Roseberry Topping to support Cleveland Mountain Rescue and enterprise activities to support the Dogs Trust being a couple of examples.

The summer show "Stars In Their Eyes" was a roaring success, with AMAZING performances from 'Whitney Houston, Robbie Williams, Gary Barlow and Freddie Mercury' to name but a few. We eagerly await the next performance in the Autumn term.

Work experience week was another success, with students from Groups 6 and 4 engaging in a variety of different placements; McDonalds, Tesco, Stockton Library, Thornaby Pavillion and North Tees Hospital. All students acted in a mature and professional manner and were fantastic ambassadors for the Sixth Form whilst they were out in the workplace.

With a note of sadness towards the end of the term, we had to say goodbye to our Y13 and Y14 leavers. We had a memorable leaver's assembly to recognise and reward all the hard work, effort and dedication that the students have put into their studies during this past year. We wish them the best of luck for results day this August!

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the organisations who have supported our young people with their studies this year. This includes Environmental City, Tees Valley Wildlife, Stillington Forest Rangers, the John Muir Trust, VIY, the National Citizen Service, Brooks, the DogsTRUST, Cleveland Mountain Rescue, Shaw Trust, Pizza Express, Business/Careers Organisations and all of our work placement providers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of Chris Roberts, tutor to Group 1, who will begin a well earned retirement this summer. A huge thank you from myself and all the team for the invaluable contribution that Chris has made to all aspects of the Abbey Hill community, but specifically for his role in teaching Complex Needs and his development of Outdoor Learning. We wish him our best wishes in all his retirement plans.

If your child is leaving the Sixth Form, can I wish them the best of luck and hope they settle well into their next provision. If your child is staying with us, we will look forward to seeing them return safely on Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Have a great summer!

Kathryn Thompson



## Term Dates 2019 - 2020

Start Date	Break Up
Tuesday 3rd September 2019	Thursday 24th October 2019
Monday 4th November 2019	Friday 20th December 2019
Monday 6th January 2020	Friday 14th February 2020
Monday 24th February 2020	Friday 3rd April 2020
Monday 20th April 2020	Friday 22nd May 2020
Monday 1st June 2020	Friday 17th July 2020

## PD Days/Bank Holidays 2019 - 2020

### The PD Days for 2019-20 will be:

- Monday 2nd September 2019
- Friday 25th October 2019
- Friday 31st January 2020
- Monday 3rd February 2020
- Friday 8th May 2020 (Bank Holiday)
- Monday 20 July 2020



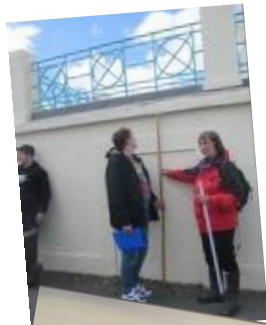


## Science At Work

The 21st June saw the GCSE science group break out of the classroom to look at science in action in our local area. In the morning we were lucky enough to get our very own tour of the inner workings of Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station. After a brief lesson on how the station generates electricity, we had a brief talk with the armed Police that patrol the station. Then we were kitted up in high vis jackets, ear defenders and hard hats and shown around the electrical generators and the pump house. We would have loved to see the top of the main reactor but this was the only area off limits to us, due to security reasons.



In the afternoon, we worked with Teesmouth Field Centre, looking at flood defences down at Seaton Carew. This fit in very well with the work we've been doing in class on Climate Change and Global Warming.



## Staffing News

### Staff Changes

At the end of term we say farewell to Chris Roberts, tutor for Group 1, who leaves us to enjoy a well earned retirement. We thank him for the years of dedicated service to Abbey Hill Academy. Gill Hook, former tutor for Group 2 will replace Chris as Group 1's new tutor and Charlotte Lavelle will become permanent tutor for Group 2.



Chris



Gill



Charlotte



## Pirates of the ..... "Sheraton Building"?

Group 1 were the real treasures earlier this year when they performed their very own drama—"Pirate Cruncher" All thoroughly enjoyed being the stars in the limelight. Watch out Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.



## Work Experience 2019



Jake supporting the caretakers at Abbey Hill Academy



Harry and Matthew acting as Junior Support assistants at Abbey Hill Academy



Daniel busy at his clerical duties at Stockton Library



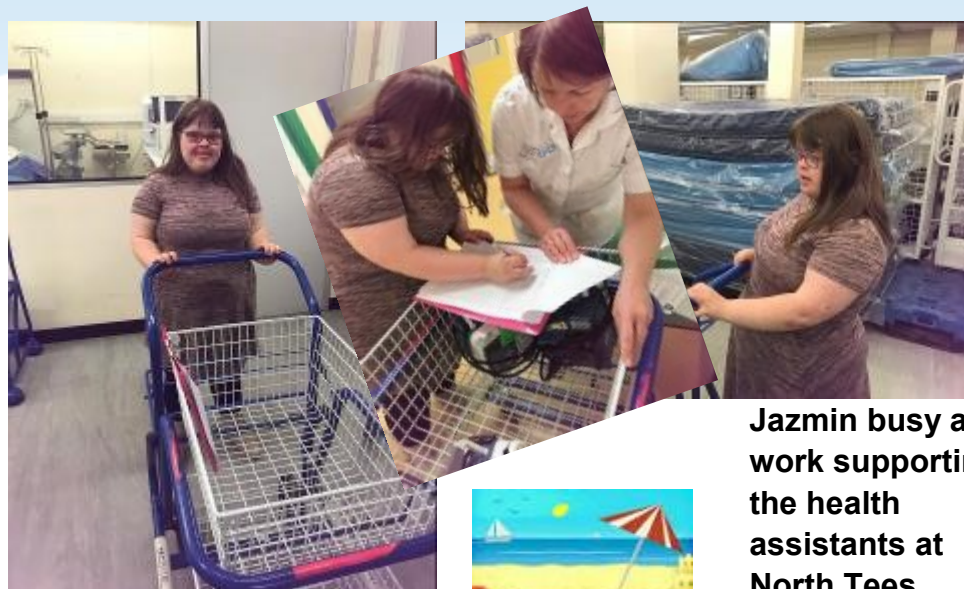
Stuart busy with Property Management



Tom and Jack both "loving it" working at McDonalds



## Work Experience 2019



Jazmin busy at work supporting the health assistants at North Tees Hospital

Kyle, Ben and Andrew helping with stock taking at Tesco



Frank busy at work moving furniture at Thornaby Pavillion

Thanks to Ben Smith for working as Photographer for Work Experience

## Sheraton Students Mind Their Own Business

Sixth Form students were very pleased to welcome our business and career visitors in May, who came to view the students showcasing their vocational skills. A big thanks to the following organisations who supported them

- ♦ Army
- ♦ DWP
- ♦ EDT
- ♦ ARC Stockton
- ♦ Newton Press
- ♦ TMMA





## It's Finally Starting To Make SENSE

Way back at the beginning of 2018, the DIY Group started to clear the area of land that had formerly been the pond. Paving slabs were lifted and rubble piled up ready for clearing, prior to work starting on developing a new Sensory Garden, as part of our wider plans to promote Outdoor Learning. Hopes were dashed and all work came to a standstill when we were unsuccessful in securing a bid to fund the project. However a follow up bid was secured and with funding in place the start of July welcomes the Shaw Trust turning our plans for a Sensory Garden into reality. The photos below show the journey from the original site, through to measuring up in preparation for project time zero on the 1st July.



## Happy Hill

Team Happy are a group of students and staff who aim to embed positive attitudes across our school.

Team Happy are currently in the process of designing a programme to create a ripple of positivity and make Abbey Hill and the Sixth Form a happier place — or as we like to call it Happy Hill!

We currently have members from each tutor group. Look out for our 'Team Happy' badges.





## All Aboard For The Fast Food Express

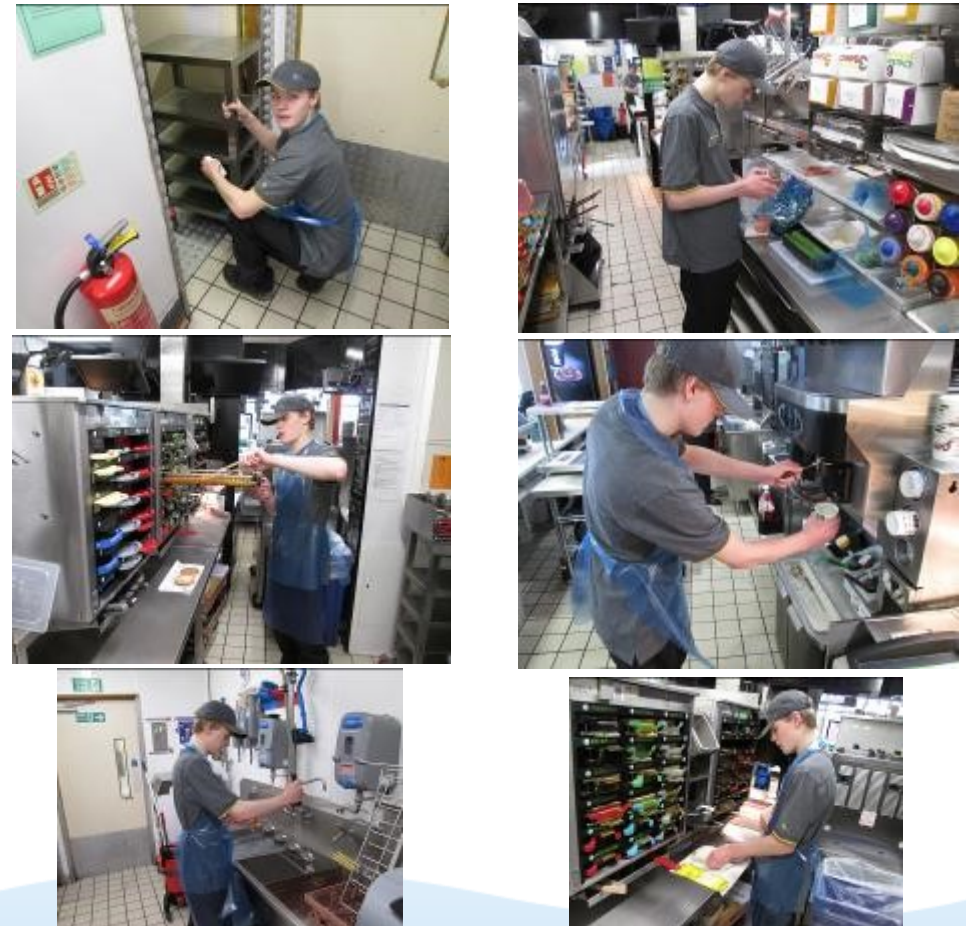
Our students enjoyed a morning being trained as a Pizzaiolo, a Pizza Chef at Pizza Express. Before getting stuck in, they were greeted by the manager so he could run through some important cooking basics; hygiene and health and safety. They were then ready to be trained by the Pizzaiolo and able to have a go at making their very own “Margherita”. Stomachs rumbled over the half hour it took from kneading to cooking.

All were able to bring their pizza back to college along with their Junior Pizzaiolo Certificate.



## Work Experience—They’re Loving It

The start of July saw our Sixth Form students begin their work experience and all are really enjoying themselves showcasing their personal skills and being great ambassadors for the college. There are several photos of them hard at work later in this edition. Nathan Jones did his placement at McDonalds earlier in May and the photos below show him getting fully involved in the fast food trade once he had received great support from Andy, his work mentor, who trained him up on the use of the kitchen equipment.



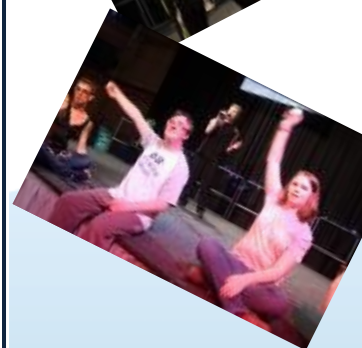
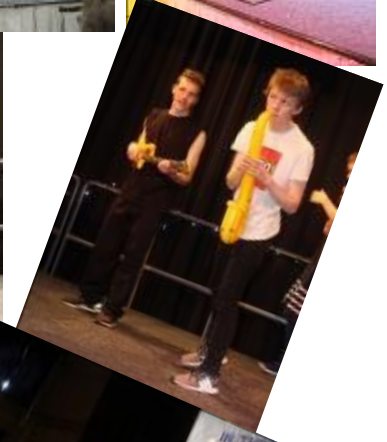


## Sheraton Students Conquer Cleveland's Highest Summit

Following a previous visit to the Headquarters of Cleveland Mountain Rescue, Sheraton students thought that they would say their thank-you by raising money for this volunteer led service. So on a beautiful spring day in mid-May, over 30 students and staff did their sponsored walk up Roseberry Topping and not only did they all conquer this local “mountain” but also managed to raise £275 in the process. We were delighted to ask one of our star mountaineers, Lewis Weetman, to present the cheque to the Rescue Team during our recent leaver's assembly.



## Stars In Their Eyes—The Directors Cut





## Stars In Their Eyes—The Directors Cut

This year's summer show saw the Sheraton Drama Option perform as their favourite pop star, in an amazing rendition of Stars in their Eyes. Everyone gave a fantastic performance and all students involved were enthusiastic. I am proud of them all.

A special thanks to Claire Gayles for the creation of the set and a big thank you to Annie Leck, Elaine Irving, Penny Walker and to all the staff and students that helped behind the scenes. Also we couldn't do it without the parents, families and carers that come along and watch.

Looking forward to the next show!

Suzanne Bielby (Director)

### Performance line up

Zain- Host

Jazmin- Whitney Houston, One moment in time

Lucy- Sean Kingston, Dumb love

Lewis – Jesse (Little mix), Shout out to my ex

Liam- Lou Bega, Mambo number 5

David- Robbie Williams, Angel

Cerys- Zac Efron (The greatest showman), Re-write the stars

Ella – Gary Barlow (Take that), Rule the world

Jake- George Ezra, Shotgun

Poppy- Amy Winehouse, Valerie

Aiden- Meatloaf, I would do anything for love

Chloe- Fergie (The Black Eyed Peas), I gotta feeling

Elliot- Freddie Mercury (Queen), We will rock you



## Sheraton Students Conquer Cleveland's Highest Summit





## Group 2 Have A Lot Of Blooming Fun

It might look like fun by it's all hard work as Group 2 students make hanging baskets from scratch as part of their Asdan Towards Independence qualification. Their green fingers and horticulture skills will certainly brighten up our college environment.



## Rewarding Success





## Rewarding Success

The 27th June was a day to remember. We were able to celebrate a year of successes by presenting our students with Certificates of Achievement at our annual Awards Assembly. Here is a selection of our students receiving their award from Kathryn, Principal of the Sixth Form.



## In "DOG" We Trust

Our group 3 entrepreneurs have used their enterprise skills throughout the year and the profit they have made has been kindly donated to the Stockton branch of "DogsTrust". Some of the students were keen to visit the centre and pass across their donation.





## Maths Is Everywhere

Students from groups 3,4 & 5, enjoy practicing their skills in telling time.



Students in groups 3,4 & 6 'compete' in rallies of times tables or number sequences



Group 5 doing position and direction, giving instructions, and listening to instructions and following them.



## Computer Aided Design

Our Workshop Option students have been working on their entry level qualifications in Preparing for Work — Product Design. They have designed and modelled a product of their choice using CAD (computer aided design) to produce virtual models and are now using a range of tools and equipment to make their product in the workshop.





## John Muir—Discover Your Inner Explorer

Having successfully achieved the John Muir Award at the Discovery Level early in February, the group has recently secured a second award at the Explorer level.

Once again, we have been working with Casper, One-Planet Pioneer Officer with Middlesbrough Environment City, working on the huge area which was once the thriving city park of “Nature’s World”, and is now being slowly restored. As John Muir explorers, one of our highlights was supporting Casper to get more light to the allotment area by thinning out a terrace of trees.



Working with Gwynn in Stillington Forest Park has been a regular commitment for the group. Maintaining the maze of forest pathways and making sure the park is free of litter, has been a task we’ve enjoyed. We were delighted to welcome Coralie, regional manager for the John Muir Trust, to come and join us in our work on a fabulous spring day in May.



## Maths Is Everywhere

Students practicing their money skills; handling money, buying, selling, bartering, working out money and change and best of all spending money.



Students enjoyed taking maths out into the spring sunshine as they practice measuring in metres and centimetres.





## Kyle Talks The Talk

Kyle Walker was a great help in a 'Talker Talk' group this term. He joined younger students who also use Talkers (communication aids) to share what they liked best and enjoy a snack or two. Kyle was a great role model for the others and helped the afternoon run smoothly. Thanks Kyle!

Sue Rowney

Speech and Language Therapist



## FYI - DIY- VIY

The DIY group were pleased to learn new skills, working in a team and were delighted with the final products.



It's great to see the furniture we built being used by the rest of the students in the college.





## FYI - DIY- VIY

We were delighted to welcome representatives from VIY, an organisation that combines volunteering and DIY by challenging young people aged 14-24 to learn trade and building skills by committing to fix youth club and community centre buildings in need of repair or improvement. In our case, they were supporting us in building some new garden benches, chairs and tables so that we can further enhance our outdoor dining facilities.

The project started with a workshop of 30 students learning about



careers in construction.



## Group 1 Put The Beam In Beamish Despite the Rain

Group 1 visited Beamish Museum for their summer outing . The students really enjoyed getting on and off the old buses and trams, which took them around the museum grounds, including the farm, the shops, and the old school.

One of the high points was going down the old drift mine, which was dark, damp, and cramped.

The weather was kind until lunchtime when someone pointed out that 'at least the rain has held off' – true to form it started to rain, and kept going for the rest of the day!

Never the less everyone had a great time.

