



# ESKDALE NEWS

*A place of belonging, a place of inspiration*



As we head towards the Christmas holidays and look forward to 2022, there are new changes coming for Eskdale School. As you will have been informed, I made the decision in September to step down as Headteacher at the end of this term. With the new executive headteacher being recruited I felt this was the right time to allow someone else to take the school on the next stage in its journey.

To say being the headteacher at Eskdale has been a privilege is an understatement. Over the last 4 years I have seen our students grow in confidence and pursue their dreams. Eskdale School has incredible potential and the next year will be an important part in its development. Our students are incredible.

Since my arrival, I was determined to improve the educational experience our students receive and I made it a focus to invest in the school. I'm proud of the work I have done as well as the improvements to the site I have made. These improvements include the building of 4 new classrooms, a fitness suite and the building of the 3G pitch.

It was lovely hearing so many positive comments on our last Open Evening from families who have seen the physical transformation of the site and the lovely atmosphere of the school. Academically, I have steered our team to ensure that our results have been successful and I have no doubt this will continue.

With the restrictions lifting, it has been wonderful to bring back some normality for our student body, including taking part in competitions and school trips. We have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a museum trip, a business programme and a Lego competition to name just a few. I hope you enjoy reading about the exciting things our students have been up to this term.

It's been a difficult decision to move onto the next phase in my career. I will miss you all and wish all the best for the school moving forward.

# Happy Christmas from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that, further to the announcement of Mr Fyfe's departure at the end of this term, the Governors have started the process of making an Interim Headteacher appointment; we intend to do this before the beginning of next term and I will keep you updated.

Meanwhile, Mr Paul Dixon will be in charge of the school, on a temporary basis, when it re-opens in January.

In the meantime, on behalf of all the Governors, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Paul Dixon*

## Notices :



### **Carol Singing:**

Monday, 20th December, 10.30—12pm

There will be a group of staff Carol singing in aid of Cancer Research at the bottom of Golden Lion Bank if anyone would like to pop along and enjoy the seasonal sounds.

### **New Staff:**

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff this month:

Lisa Grason is our new Attendance Officer.

Richard Parkinson is a new member of the federated site team.

# Christmas Food Bank collection

Students at Eskdale have done a fantastic job in the Christmas Food Bank Collection. Each form group has been collecting donations for Whitby Food Bank. Items include tins, pasta, toiletries, soup, puddings and cereal. This is the second year we have supported Whitby Food Bank as a school. I am, as always, extremely proud of our caring, generous pupils and their families.

Carolyn Pearson





# Eco Schools update



## We did it!!!

I am so pleased to announce that Eskdale is now a Green Flag school. We join the ranks of 749 schools in the UK that have a Green flag award. That is 3% of secondary schools and we are one of them :)

To get here we had to complete seven steps:

**Step 1** Establish an eco-committee and ensure that we had members from across the school involved.

**Step 2** Completing an eco-school's audit to establish the areas that we needed to improve.

**Step 3** Developing an action plan. This involved increasing the number of recycling points around the school, collecting crisp packets for charity, removing plastic from our oceans, and increasing awareness of environmental issues and alternatives to plastic.

**Step 4** Implement an action plan at the school. Including publishing what we were doing in the local community and establishing curriculum links across the school.

**Step 5** Informing and involving the wider school community

**Step 6** Monitoring and evaluating the actions we put in place. Evaluate lessons in school to see where eco topics are being covered.

I am so proud of both past and present students for working so hard. These students have not let anything get in their way, not even the pandemic. I would ask you to join me in celebrating their achievement.

A special thank you to Mrs Winspear, Miss Kotadia and Mrs Bedingfield for their continued enthusiasm in keeping Eco-schools running throughout the pandemic and continuing to work hard with Eco club now. We are currently working on a great project to put a little green reminder in all classrooms.

Thank you for your continued support with this.

## PE News

The Eskdale PE Department has been back in action this term after Covid restrictions within the district were lifted. As always, the fixtures for all year groups have included Football, Cross Country, Netball and Basketball. It's been a pleasure to have so many students actively involved in lessons and extra curricular activities at lunch time and after school. A big thank you to all our supportive parents and carers who regularly continue to collect students, even after the late finishes.





A special mention must go to; Ellie Walsh, Esmee Hall, Emily Dugdale, Isaac Lockley, Luca Hall, Nat Parker, Ben Williamson and Greg Walsh who have been selected to represent the Scarborough and District Area at the North Yorkshire Trails in Cross Country in January. Your commitment and dedication has been immense, we are proud of you all.



A big well done to Mr McGovern and the Year 9 Sports Leaders who have ran the Primary Football Tournaments with over 16 schools being represented in the boys and girls Yr 5/6 Festivals on the Eskdale Community 3G Pitch.



After Christmas, Year 11 GCSE PE Students will be invited to practical intervention on a Monday Evening and Theory intervention on a Thursday evening, please attend where possible.



Many thanks  
PE Department.



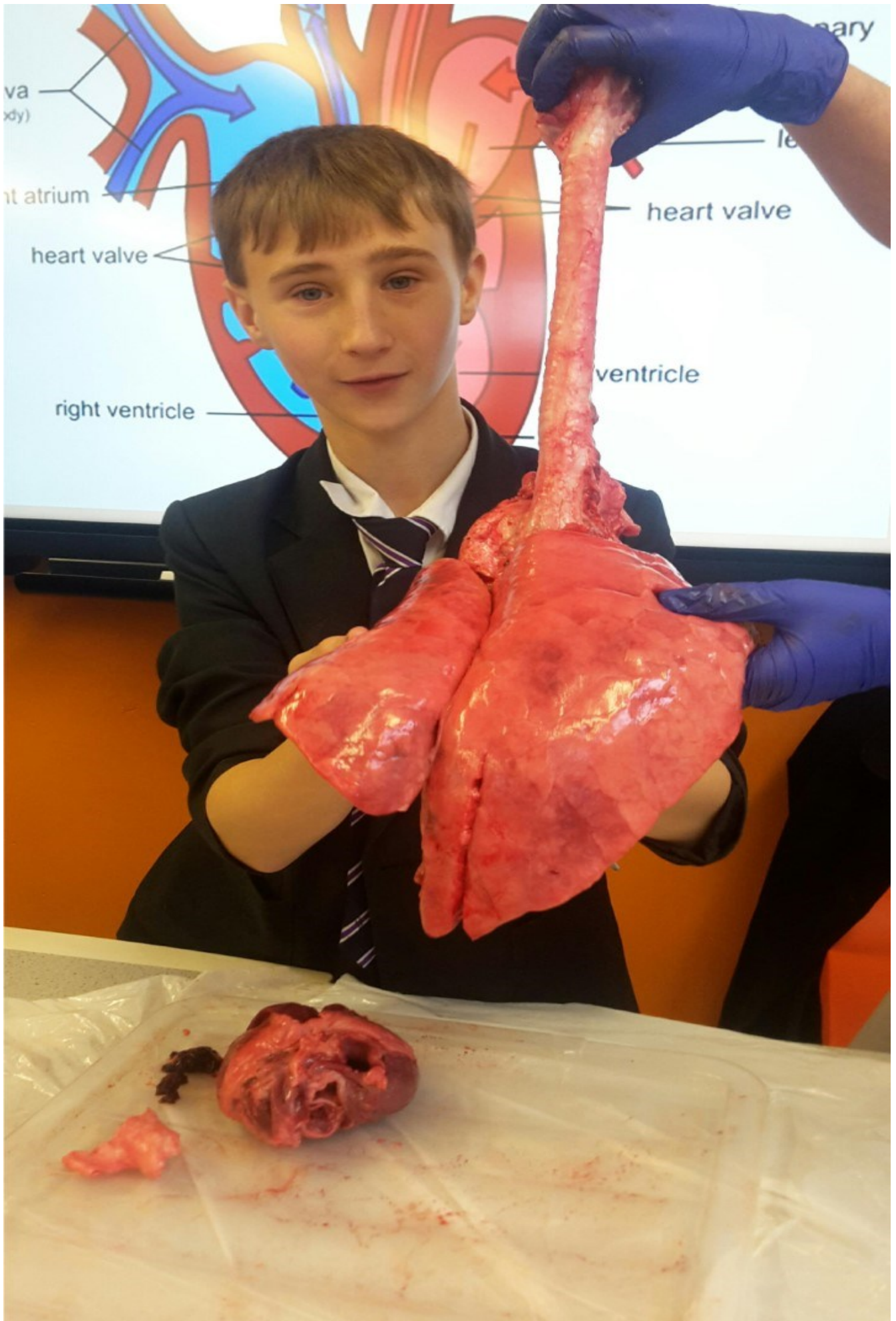
## Science

Mrs Pearson's year 8 science group have been dissecting hearts and lungs as part of their topic on organisms.



Year 8 study a unit called Organisms. They learn all about our Respiratory and circulatory Systems, how we breathe and how our heart pumps blood around our bodies to all our cells. Today, we dissected a full set of lungs, heart, windpipe and pharynx. Pupils could feel the solid muscle of the heart compared to the spongy air sacs within the lungs. Sophia was surprised that the windpipe was made of rings of cartilage that could flex. Noah was amazed to find blood clots within the heart.





# English Department

Rotary Club

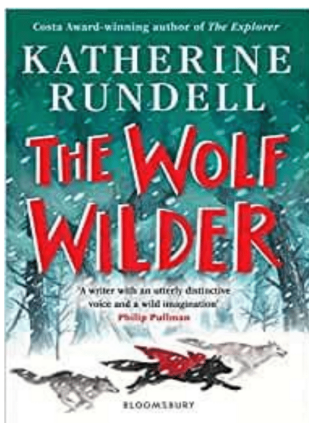
Writing Competition



The English Department were delighted with the record number of entries for the Rotary Club Young Writer's competition. This year we had a range of wonderful poems, stories and non-fiction reports to submit. Good luck to all of those who entered the competition and we look forward to receiving the feedback from the judges. We are keeping everything crossed that we have lots of prize winners again this year!

## Book Advent Calendar

### Book Advent Calendar 3rd December



Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans.

When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.

We have really enjoyed sharing our favourite winter stories during our English lessons. Lots of students have made their way to the library to discover some new authors and it is lovely to see so many students accessing the library at break time and lunchtimes again. Students will be able to share their opinions of the books they read over the Christmas holidays when we return to school in January.



# Humanities



On Friday, 12th November, 7 Year 7 students, alongside students from Caedmon College, took over the James Cook Memorial Museum as part of the National Kid's in Museum's Takeover Day. Students took on the roles of the receptionists, tour guides, exhibition handlers and publicists for the day. To fulfil their roles, students had to prepare themselves in advance, learning about the life of Captain James Cook and life at sea. They were all excellent ambassadors for the school and did fantastically well in their new roles for the day. Although there were apprehensions at the start of the day, by the end, they were all super proud of themselves and glad that they had pushed themselves out of their comfort zone. It was a brilliant day and the visitors to the museum sang the students praises on how professional they were.

Well done to everyone involved.

A very proud Miss Wardell.

## And Finally!

We came third in the national Lego league heat robot competition on Friday. The Robot was supplied by Anglo American who run the local mine and we are very grateful for their support.

The students had to design the robot and program it to do as many missions as possible in 2 and a half minutes. They also had to make a model which would predict their vision of the future of transport, the boat in the picture is the start of the model. They then did a presentation to the judges. All the students did really well and learned a lot from the experience. The picture shows some of the contestants who competed.



We had a great time working on this during many lunch times this term.

The plan is to improve next year!