



# Newsletter

April 21

Dear Parent/ Carer



Easter is upon us and the term has flown by. It has been a busy term, with many positive changes and additions to the school and RISE. Our latest additions have been a set of triplets that were born on the farm last week. The children and young people at Clervaux have helped to care for the lambs and have been supporting the mother with some bottle feeding.

The threat of Avian Flu has diminished and the chickens are being released from lock down! A number of pupils and students have helped them to secure their freedom and they are enjoying being back out in the open.

New students have started and been welcomed into the school, they have settled in well and we are looking forward to further school growth; we now have 10 students at Clervaux Garden School.

We also welcome Maddy Hooper, our new teacher. Maddy is an experienced teacher and maths specialist. We hope that she will be starting at Clervaux Garden School in May and we know that she is going to contribute enormously to our staff team.

Our unique curriculum continues to ensure good student engagement, we are thankful and proud of the many items of service that have been created by the students, and that are used within the school and homes. This piece of green woodwork, will soon be part of a stool, and has been created by a student in the green woodwork shop by turning on a pole lathe, amongst other techniques. This is a copy of a very traditional design - the Wycombe 3 bead pattern originally made in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

There have been a number of trips this term. A recent visit hiking up Roseberry Topping was enjoyed by students and staff. This was part of our exploration of the local geology and industrial history as it was a centre for iron stone mining, and links with our blacksmithing this term.

Richmond Castle has been well and truly explored as part of our local history topic- the Norman conquest and also linked to our PSHE curriculum with a debate on conscientious objection.





In Science we are exploring the conditions in which tadpoles need to thrive, our pond is heaving with frogs and frog spawn and the students have engaged in pond dipping, observations and discussions around the best conditions. They are certainly thriving!

Assemblies this term have focussed on Holi, regrets and hopes, Lent and Easter. We celebrated World Book Day and shared our favourite books and authors. Students have actively participated in numerous discussions and our assemblies cover a wide and varied range of themes; from celebrating the anniversary of the postage stamp to exploring mis-communication through fake news.

School term dates, we have contacted parents to discuss the change in our term dates. Our Trustees have agreed for the school terms to come in line with other schools in Darlington and within the Trust. This will help with establishing the rhythm of the school and timetables for students, training, curriculum delivery and with staff recruitment.

Electricity is being installed at The Fold and the RISE over the Easter break. Due to our location we have had difficulty in installing cables, and have been relying on our generator. This is great progress and we are looking forward to being on the grid!

Next week will be Training week for all staff at Clervaux, we will be participating in training around foraging, paper making, dyes and inks to then add this to our curriculum. Also on the agenda is resilience training, sessions on embedding Occupational Therapy within our outdoor curriculum, full safeguarding training and updates on behaviour management.

### Our Trustees



Constantin joined Ruskin Mill Trust in 2007 and has a vast experience in social and educational establishments, working across different regulative frameworks in organisations who apply the insights of Rudolf Steiner in a contemporary way.

He was instrumental in developing Ruskin Mill Trust's first school, Brantwood Special School and is now Director of Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE) Pedagogy and a member of the Executive Team Ruskin Mill Trust with responsibility for quality assuring Practical Skills Therapeutic Education and overseeing the Trust's staff development and training programme, Hiram Education and Research Team (HEaRT).

<https://www.rmt.org/clervaux-garden-school/governance/>



We ended the term with homemade pizzas cooked by staff and student's in our outdoor pizza oven and topped with ingredients fresh from our gardens. This was enjoyed by staff, students and our volunteers and was a lovely end to a busy term.

We would like to wish all of our students, staff and families a restful Easter break.

Clervaux SLT