

10th May 2019

Dear Parents

It may have been a short week, but it certainly doesn't feel like one! Plenty has gone on in school this week, despite there being only four days. The weather has not helped our sportsmen and women as there have been several fixtures cancelled, including tennis for Senior School pupils and Quadkids for Year 4. The as yet unbeaten U13 Cricket team did manage to compete however as this report from Mr Galley attests: *Well done to the U13 cricket team who beat Teesside High School in an indoor game on Wednesday by 11 runs. The team kept up their unbeaten record for the year with an excellent 81-70 victory. The highlights included Alfie Reid getting a hat trick when bowling and Max Martin and Jack Sharp leading the team to victory in the final over.*



On the subject of sporting activity, Mrs Hood has sent me information about the extra-curricular gymnastics club which is held on a Wednesday after school and is run by Sporting Futures. This week the Reception, Y1 and Y2 children have been focusing on balances and their starting/finishing positions. Children told Mrs Hood how much they enjoy their club, especially as they get to work in small groups. *Next week this club will kindly move out of the senior gym and into one of our outdoor areas to play games. This makes space for the senior exam period to begin.*



In the Senior School, Year 10 GCSE Drama students had the privilege of working alongside Holly Gallagher, a professional actor and director in their lesson this week. Year 10 are currently working hard on creating their Component One devised pieces based on the theme of 'freedom'. Gallagher guided them through a workshop focusing on tricks and techniques for successful devising effective and thought provoking pieces of theatre. Students came away inspired and eager to implement Gallagher's pearls of theatrical wisdom into their own! I was incredibly impressed with how the students represented our school and proved themselves to be curious and confident theatre makers. This workshop was as a result of our invaluable and flourishing relationship with Jabberwocky Market and Luxi Creative. Thank you to Caroline Pearce for continuing to offer our school amazing opportunities within theatre and the arts.



Mrs Jones' Year 9 Scientists have been learning about the difficult concept of ionic bonding in GCSE Chemistry. They were each given a card with either a metal or non metal element on it and whilst George Michael's Careless Whisper was played, they had to find their appropriate partner to make an ionic bond with (based on the number of electrons on offer!) Students then had to complete a certificate of bonding to demonstrate their understanding and they had to explain why they chose their partner and draw appropriate dot and cross diagrams of their ionic bond. It was a difficult task but one that all students really threw themselves into and there were some amazing ionic compounds formed!



The PHPA have asked me to put the following notice into the newsletter to promote the School Lottery – do join up!

The School Lottery have just announced another fantastic draw. If you sign up to the lottery before May 24th then you will be added to an extra draw to win yourself an Amazon Echo, a

Fire Stick, an Echo Dot or a Fire HD8! This is not to mention that you will also be entered into the normal draw with a fantastic chance to win £25,000 on the main draw and the in-house draw of an average guaranteed prize of £38.00.

Our target aim for this year was to raise £2000 for vital IT resources for your children at Polam hall we have raised a fantastic £994 so we are nearly half way to our target. We can only reach this with your support please if possible join the school lottery to help us reach our target and be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes.

This a great opportunity to be able to do something for your school and also at the same time be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes. If you are not already a valued supporter of our school lottery and would like to be then please follow the link below to join.

Thank you for your support from all at the PHPA

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk>

Next week examinations begin in earnest throughout the school. Today I attended the briefing for all Year 11 students about GCSE exams and information has been sent home to Year 11 parents. GCSEs begin next week and will be closely followed by A Level exams.

In Year 6 next week is SATs week – we wish all of our Year 6 pupils the best of luck. We also have KS3 examinations for Years 7 – 9 over the next two weeks and Mr Rees has sent home some information to parents about the tests and exams that students will sit.

I imagine that a busy weekend of revision is ahead for many. I know I have a large pile of Year 11 and Year 13 essays to mark before Monday. Whatever you are doing this weekend, I hope it is an enjoyable one and that the weather improves!

Best wishes

Kate Reid