

11th October 2019

Dear Parents

This week has been a theatrical one – with the Senior School production ‘I Hate Shakespeare’ taking place in the Liddiard Theatre last night and this evening. I watched last night and have to say that the performances are very funny! It is Shakespeare but not as you know it! From Matthew Dove as Bill Shakespeare complete with Hawaiian shirt and shades, to a Blind Date re-enactment of Romeo and Juliet (during which, last night, Genevieve Ferrari managed to fracture her elbow, but still continue performing...) and Bob the skeleton’s starring role as Hamlet’s Father – it has proved that Polam has certainly got talent! My thanks to Mrs Barker and the other staff involved for their hard work in putting the show together over the last few months. I hope some of you will be there tonight.

Mrs Roberts is also taking her CCF recruits away tonight to Northern RAT – a weekend camp where they will have the opportunity to meet other cadets and take part in a range of activities. We keep our fingers crossed for good weather for them!

Mrs Elsdon was the winner of the competition for early entries for the newsletter this week, sending me photographs on Tuesday of Year 2 who spent the afternoon exploring Church furniture at All Saints’ Church in Darlington. She tells me that they discovered lots of interesting facts and enjoyed speaking in the pulpit!



Mr Galley has emailed me some pictures of the Year 7 football team, who played in the first round of the ESFA Small Schools National Cup against Outwood Academy Normanby. Although they lost the game, there were plenty of positives to take away from it. Ben Ward got man of the match, Answorth Adu-Gyamfi scored an excellent goal. Well done to the whole squad.



Mrs Ryan's Sports Leaders were in action again this week. They have now helped at two different events with primary age children in Darlington and the feedback has been hugely positive. The following report is from Alison Raw, who is the School Games Organiser & Partnership Manager for Darlington.

I would just like to say a huge thank you for providing your leaders for the events today. They were absolutely brilliant. They presented themselves wonderfully, knew what they were expected to do and delivered to an extremely high standard, adapting as they went along. They were enthusiastic and approachable and patient and encouraging with the young children. As the first of these type of festival we have delivered they were instrumental in making it a huge success. The feedback was fantastic from all the accompanying staff and the children went back to school absolutely buzzing.



There has been a great deal of creativity (one of our Polam Learner 4Cs of course!) going on in Junior School this week! As part of their Anglo-Saxon topic, 5H have been dying wool with natural colours - just like the Anglo-Saxons would've done many years ago. Miss Hopper tells me that the children then designed their own tunic with the dyed wool! Miss Hopper's Activities group have also been getting creative – this time making garden gnomes! The children have worked extremely hard on them. Perhaps we may spot some in our quiet garden!



Not to be outdone, in Science Year 6 pupils have been making hearts from clay to help secure their understanding of the shape of the heart and naming the different components. I saw them for myself when I was in the classrooms earlier today and was very impressed, so Mrs Goodwin has sent me some pictures!



This week the STEM Faculty have been celebrating Ada Lovelace Day. Ada was seen as the world's first computer programmer. In Year 7 Computing lessons this week students have been learning about programming their own poetry generator using Scratch. Using the random function of programming and the students literacy skills of listing verbs, adverbs, nouns and adjectives, the poem generator created an endless stream of random poetry. In addition to this, the STEM faculty also hosted the BAE Roadshow which was delivered to all of Year 7 and 8 today in school and focused on raising awareness of the wider opportunities a career in engineering can bring. The roadshow is designed to inspire an interest in STEM subjects and this year the theme was communication. The roadshow ambassadors explained the technology behind mobile phones, bluetooth and demonstrated programming with sphero robots. It was fantastic to see so many students wanting to volunteer for different demonstrations and contribute their answers. Brilliant curiosity Year 7 and 8!



I hope you all have a good weekend – next week is the final week of the half term, which seems to have come round very quickly! We have Junior School parents’ evenings on Monday and Thursday as well as a GCSE Information Evening for Year 11 parents on Tuesday night. I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes

Kate Reid

Junior School 4 C Heroes

1M	Arthur Craig-Benson
1B	James Harburn
2M	Vinnie Earl
2E	Freya McCarthy
3J	Jemimah Oladipupo-Lewis
3S	Annecy Williamson
4DH	Radu Lupu
4T	Cicely Morgans
5B	Lexie Pickergill
5H	Emi King
6G	Marcus Hughes
6B	Anton Rolls

A correction from last week – the winner for 3S from 27th September should have read Eliza Voss

Senior School Top Housepoints

Ciaran Dixon

Kiran Kaur

Thien Anh Diep

Poppy Atkinson

Lewis Clark

Ella Gibbon

Jessica Nunn