

13th March 2020

Dear Parents

Today has been Sports Relief – in Juniors everyone has been wearing sportswear and undertaking sports activities, while in Seniors there have been lunchtime challenges in both football and netball! Miss Blair has sent me the following report from Junior School and promises me pictures for next week's newsletter: *This week, the children in Junior School were set a series of fun and active challenges in order to raise awareness for Sport Relief. After speaking to the children, they thoroughly enjoyed being active this week. As a school, we stepped 257699 steps in fifteen minutes. Our team challenges were won by 1M and 4DH, who were thrilled to receive their winning badges this morning in assembly.*

Thank you to all those families who have donated to Sports relief via Parent pay. If you have not yet donated and would like to do so, please log on to [www.parent pay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) to make your donation. The Payment name is Sport Relief 2020 Donation. Donations can be made up to Sunday 15th March 2020. Thank you for your support.

Fittingly, here has also been plenty of other sport this week too. This afternoon the U11 netball team had a game against Teeside High. Miss Coggins tells me that the girls did amazingly and certainly made her proud. Despite the delay and long wait in the cold for Teeside's arrival they came out on top, winning all four quarters. Well done girls!

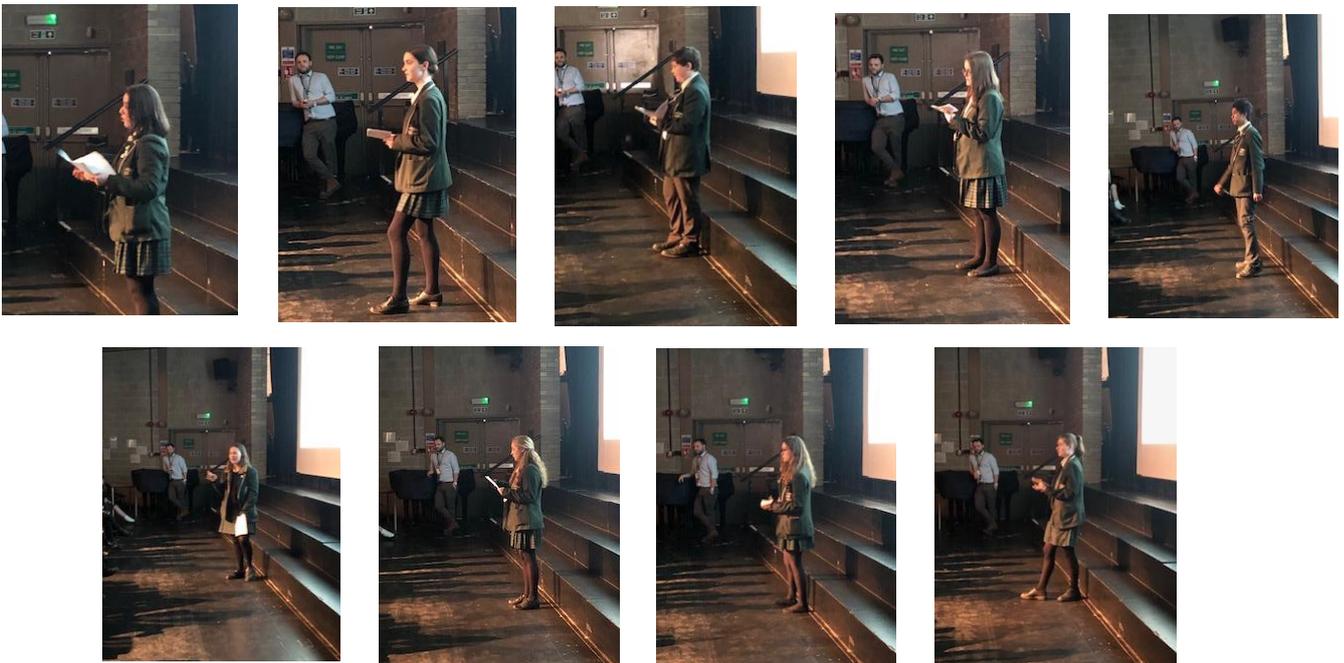
Mr Wilkinson has sent me this photo of the U16 rugby team who beat Teesside High 8-6 on Tuesday night in Rugby 7s. This will be the last rugby game that the boys will play for Polam so it was a proud teacher moment for Mr Wilkinson when Polam got the win!



In other news we held our Hustings for Head Students in Senior School Reading on Tuesday. This is the first year when these most senior positions in the Student Leadership Team will come from Year 10, who will take the roles through to Year 11 and then hand over before Easter next year. All the applicants have written a formal letter of application and I have interviewed each of them. They were then asked to prepare a two minute speech to deliver in front of the whole Senior School, before the public vote which took place on Tuesday lunchtime. I have had nine applications for the roles, which is fantastic – and the quality of the letters which all the candidates wrote was very high. They all spoke with real confidence and

assurance during Reading and all have excellent ideas about how they would use the role to develop the experience of all the students at Polam. One of the questions which I asked them at interview was what they thought made our school special and the answers were so interesting: 'the community spirit of our school', 'the opportunities which Polam offers' and 'the way in which students from different age groups get on well together' were just a few of the answers.

I will be letting the candidates know who has been appointed at the start of the week. Mr Buchanan has also asked for applications for House, Music and Sports Captain roles and so we will soon have a full new Student Leadership Team. Whilst I will of course thank them formally when they relinquish their roles, it does also seem a good moment to thank the current Head Students and prefect team for the good work they have done in the last twelve months.

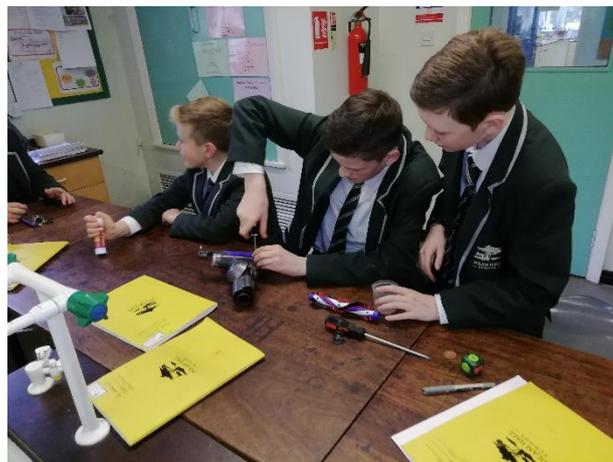


4DH won the Junior School's reading challenge last half term. To celebrate their success they visited Waterstones on Monday for a morning of reading fun. They listened to the first chapter of Mr Stink (David Walliams), which inspired many to want to read this book. Following this they participated in a quiz and then they had to search for hidden characters in the junior section of the bookshop. Two books, as voted for by the children, were purchased for 4DH's classroom. Congratulations 4DH, keep up the excellent reading!



During Wednesday activities in Spy Club, Jessie Linfoot in Year 10 planned a lesson to celebrate Women's History Month as well as last Sunday being International Women's Day. Jessie organised the students in Spy club to take part in a small treasure hunt to find information about 9 influential Women Scientists. The students then discussed their contributions to different scientific fields. They then learnt about Stephanie Kowlek who invented Kevlar who also developed the Nylon Rope Trick which is a classic Chemistry demonstration. The spy club students then attempted this practical themselves and had a competition to get the longest unbroken piece of nylon. Well done to Bella Tait and Annabelle Sun for getting pieces of Nylon 60cm long! Well done to all Spy club students but huge thanks to Jessie for organising and leading on the session to celebrate all of the past contributions of women in Science.

This week in Science Year 8 have had the opportunity to look at the Dyson Engineering Box which we have been sent for four weeks to investigate. This is a very competitive engineering project we have been able to source and Year 8 have had great fun looking at how a DC-39 Hoover operates and they have been able to disassemble and rebuild different parts of the machine in small groups. We have been very impressed with students engagement with the project and seen some budding future engineers in the making! They have learnt about different careers such as product design engineers that work at Dyson and the students then had to design a piece of technology that would care for pets whilst their owners are away on holiday. A fab opportunity which all of Year 8 have been able to get stuck into and have really enjoyed.



Earlier this week Mrs Hood sent me the following snippet which I thought I would share with you because it really does illustrate for us what Polam is all about!

Whilst taking my class to lunch on Tuesday, we walked past the senior gym where exams were taking place. My class were showing respect and were walking in silence. I was fortunate enough to spot some children in my class using their new knowledge from the signing (British Sign Language) extra-curricular club they attend: they were walking silently, but signing to each other. My (limited) sign language allowed me to understand what they were saying and sign back to them, "Good idea!" This was a joy to see, especially as it shows the wider skills we promote and nurture in our school.

The PHPA have sent me some really good news – for someone!

 **CONGRATULATIONS**  **WOW**  **FANTASTIC NEWS** 

We are extremely pleased to announce that somebody from within our Polam Hall school lottery has won the jackpot of £25,000 we are so happy for them and hope they enjoy spending their winnings.

If you would like to join our school lottery to be in with a fantastic chance of winning this fantastic prize or the weekly in house draw of approximately £36.00 please follow the link below. All money raised from the school lottery for 2020 will be used to purchase outdoor equipment for all the children at Polam Hall to use.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/polam-hall-school>

Thrift Shop Announcement

The PHPA are happy to announce the reopening of the Thrift shop. This will take place on Tuesday March 17th in the Liddiard foyer 4-6. We look forward to seeing you there. Please remember we can only currently accept Cash Payments.

Please remember the senior school day does not finish until 3.50 therefore parents will not be able to gain access to Thrift until 4pm. Please use Main Entrance gates to access senior school.

The PHPA are looking for donations of any school uniform including dance and gymnastics wear which you no longer require. Please ensure any donations are in a resell-able condition. If you have any items to donate please could you drop these off at the senior school office.

We thank you all for your continued support and patience whilst the Thrift shop were closed.

Regards

PHPA

I would like to finish my news by wishing all Miss Rachel's ballet students good luck for their examinations next week. I am sure they will be spending the weekend practising!

As a final note, can I please re-iterate the advice that we have received from the Department for Education today about the Corona virus. This is:

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- **A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **A new, continuous cough**

May I wish all of you and your families and relaxing and healthy weekend.

Best wishes

Kate Reid

