

17th January 2020

Dear Parents

Last week's newsletter seems to have been attacked by gremlins and somehow never left the system! So this week you have two for the price of one and can catch up with what we have been doing for the last fortnight... This week pupils have really settled back into school after the Christmas break. Year 9 have been hard at work completing their exams – Mr Rees and I also introduced the GCSE options process to them on Monday. With much hard work from Mr Rees and Mr Robson in particular we have built a great deal of support and guidance around the options process this year, to ensure that students take the subjects that not only really suit them, but give them the best chance of successful next steps. Year 11 are at the other end of this process – this week they have been undertaking mock MFL oral examinations and reflecting on the grades attained in last term's mock examinations. Staff have been inputting reports which will go out to parents next week and hopefully enable them all to see what needs to be done in the next term and a half before the real exam season.

Of course it is not all about exams! Some Year 2 children took part in a multi-skills event at the Dolphin Centre on Monday afternoon – leading Mrs Elsdon to send me the following report:

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a Multiskills Event this afternoon and took part in several activities to promote health and well being. Their behaviour was exemplary and I was extremely proud of how they worked together in all the different partner and team games. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the Year 10 children who acted as Sport Leaders for all the different schools present and they conducted themselves politely, calmly and with confidence.



We also had lovely feedback on our Year 10 Sports Leaders from Alison Raw, who is the School Games Organiser & Partnership Manager for Darlington School Sport Partnership:

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for your leaders today. They were absolutely brilliant and the feedback from the schools particularly in the morning session was excellent – a couple of accompanying members of staff said they were the best leaders they had ever seen! They were confident, mature, supportive, encouraging and creative in adapting and extending the activities.

Well done to our Sports Leaders! Miss Blair also sent me a lovely picture – sent to her by Mr Noutch who runs the table tennis club after school, of the winners of his tournament:



It has not all been sports this week – there has been plenty going on in classrooms as well! On my walks around Junior School I have encountered lots of Latin teaching this week – Year 2 were explaining to me how to say ‘My name is...’ while Year 5 pupils explained to me how masculine and feminine endings work in Latin!

Mrs Brown has told me about her the work that her class are doing as part of their Convince Me work on light and dark. They have been investigating how shadows are made. *We had lots of fun experimenting with our hands and also creating shadow puppets!*



Miss Barras has also been working with Year 5 focusing on areas around the school grounds, which we could tidy up and has sent me this report: *We have been for a walk around school to discuss where we think is overgrown and where we could improve. The children have worked very hard as a team and have some brilliant ideas to move forward in getting the school grounds looking amazing! I'm really pleased with their effort.*

Could I ask all parents to be considerate in their parking please – we have had a number of complaints from local residents this week about parking in the roads near to school. I would also like to remind all parents about uniform rules – in particular a reminder that Senior School

students should not be wearing trainers and that girls should not wear earrings, makeup or false nails.

I hope that you all have a restful weekend and we look forward to another busy week!

Best wishes

Kate Reid