

1st October 2021

Dear Parents

Last night we held Senior School Prizegiving, which is one of the most important events in our school calendar. Last year I simply awarded the prizes with no audience – this year we were able to have a proper event with staff, pupils and their parents. Members of our Academy Council attended and Hardip Begol, the CEO of Woodard Academies Trust, came up from London to present the awards. It was lovely to welcome everyone to the Liddiard Theatre and to be able to celebrate the achievements of our pupils, especially those who left in the summer and came back to receive awards. Inevitably there are too many prize winners to mention them all here, but there are two very special awards given out at the end of the ceremony, which I would like to mention. The Sally Pelham Award for outstanding contribution to the school throughout KS3 went to Ollie Morgans and the Woodard Board Prize for overall contribution to Polam Hall life was awarded to Jessica Nunn. Well done to both – they are both a real inspiration.

Another whole school first for this year has been our first full Junior School assembly in the theatre this morning. We wanted to give our younger children a chance to settle back into their routine before we brought them to the theatre and this week we felt that everyone was ready! Bella and Danylo, our Head Students in Year 11, came down to welcome the new House Captains and School Councillors, which was lovely to see. The next step is to invite parents back in for class assemblies, which we are hoping to begin after half term.

Also inspiring to me has been the work going on in the STEM faculty this term. Mrs Bartholomew-Millar has sent me a report about all the exciting things that pupils have been up to!

It has been all go in STEM these last couple of weeks. With year 7 receiving their Bunsen Burner licences and finally getting to carry out practicals with flames! Year 9 biologists created some beautiful slides from onion skin as part of the GCSE course.

In KS3 the fight for rock legend status continues with some incredible times tables scores. Top coin earners in each year group were recognised, special mention to Jaspreet Singh who earned 166000 coins in the last month. Also of note is Liam Barker's unbelievable speed: his current record is 95 questions in 90 seconds! All students in year 7-9 have log in details and should keep practicing this essential skill. Please join us on @hallpolam where we will keep you updated with all things STEM.

We have been finalising the details of the laboratory refurbishment that will take place over half term as part of our planned redevelopment and upgrading of the school site. I know that Mrs Straughan is very excited about having another of the labs updated and hopefully I will be able to bring you some pictures once work begins in the next few weeks!

Miss Courtney-Walker has sent me a report about the work that Reception have been doing this week:

This week, the Reception Eco-Warriors have been learning about what they can do to help the environment. The Eco-Warriors went on a nature walk around school with Miss Courtney-Walker and Miss Franks, to find things that don't belong in the environment. Super work Eco-Warriors!



There has been lots of sport in school this week – football, rugby and Junior School cross country. I don't have reports from all of the fixtures, but Mr McGrath has sent me the following about those that he led:

Firstly, the Y8 football team had another league game away at Longfield. The game was extremely tight with both teams creating opportunities throughout the game. We were unfortunate to lose 2-0 but the defence have made great improvements over the last few weeks as they have gained more experience in 11 a-side games.

Last night our Y9 rugby team competed in a rugby 10s tournament at Allens West in Eggescliffe. The boys performed brilliantly. Thien Ahn Diep scored a late try to win our first game vs Ian Ramsey.

Brandon Boyle-Blair, Ollie Robinson and Finlay Gaines all scored tries to take us to our second win vs Eggescliffe meaning we finished winners of our group.

This meant we played Carmel in the final of the tournament where we put on an excellent performance. Unfortunately, we lost 2 tries to 1 with Seb Gummerson finishing off an excellently worked move.



I am always impressed by the work that our Year 6 pupils do whenever I am in Miss Blundy or Mr Turnbull's classrooms. I have been sent a report about how they have been working to ensure that they remember all the key information in Maths:

Miss Blundy's Y6 maths class have been creating double page spreads for each PowerMaths unit they have completed. The children will use these as a reminder throughout the year to

