

20th September 2019

Dear Parents

The major event this week has been Senior School Prizegiving on Thursday night – our annual formal recognition of the achievements of our pupils from Year 7 to Year 13. The prizes recognise achievement in the previous academic year, beginning with subject prizes for Years 7 to 9 and then moving onto Old Scholars' Awards and finally School Awards – including those for the students who achieved the highest marks in GCSE and A Level examinations. It is always a lovely evening and this year was no exception. Councillor Cyndi Hughes very kindly presented the prizes for us and addressed the students, urging them to 'be fabulous!' The picture below shows all the prize winners after the ceremony:



We began the week by inviting new Year 7 parents into school to 'Meet the Teacher' – an informal opportunity to get to know the staff teaching the children this year. On Tuesday we also hosted Year 10 parents in the library for an event designed to give them information about the GCSE courses that the students are embarking upon. I hope that those who attended found both events useful. The slides from the Y10 Introduction to GCSE event are now on the school website, under the Examination Information tab in the Senior School section.

There has been a great deal of other activity this week. Miss Hopper has sent me this report about what her class have been up to: *Children from 5H visited Moorlands Care Home on Thursday afternoon to share their favourite short story with some of their residents. Moorlands Care Home were amazed to see how engaged their residents were and Miss Hopper was extremely proud of the care and attention the children were giving to each person they read to. We look forward to taking the rest of Year 5 to the Care Home in the next coming weeks.*



On Tuesday, Year 2 went to the Captain Cook Museum in Middlesborough to launch their Convince Me...Challenge for this half term. The children have to decide whether it is more perilous to be an explorer in the past or present. During the visit the children explored the museum to find out about the life of James and his voyages which included tasting very sour lemon juice to prevent scurvy! They also participated in writing with quills and ink, dressing up as characters Cook met on his travels, Aboriginal art painting with cotton buds and drawing artefacts. Mrs Mawson tells me that the children represented the school beautifully and had a thoroughly enjoyable day.



There has also been plenty of sport this week. Miss Blair has appointed her Year 6 Sports Leaders. They are William Xiw Liu, Rachel Twedde, Alfie Jewkes, Martha Gibbon, Phoebe McWhirter, Ruby Hemingbrough, Rebecca Davison, Lexi-Mae Guy and Emily Lawson. Next week, the leaders will be announcing their first 'personal best' challenge for children to complete. In Senior School there has been competition aplenty! The U16 (Y11) netball team won their final town tournament, in which six Darlington teams participated, after an emphatic set of results. The Polam team were missing Caitlin Minns but Amber Gaines was excellent in filling her role as Centre. A big shout out too to the B team who fought hard in every game, overcoming injuries. Mrs Ryan tells me that there was excellent play from all and would like me to say big congratulations to Gabby Lane who was great, playing in three different positions over the course of the tournament. Well done ladies, They take on Teesside High next week.

Mr Wilkinson has sent me reports on both football and rugby. *This week our U13 Football team took on Carmel in the cup. The boys played well in the first half only being 1-0 down. The second half was really tough in the boiling hot sun but the last got a consolation goal from Ethan Grundy and Man of the Match Josh Elsdon defended well at the back making some impressive tackles. The lads look forward to more games this term!*



On Tuesday our U14 Rugby Team played Eaglescliffe and matched them for long periods in the game. They had a couple of giants who we struggled to tackle but other than that we matched them in most areas actually looking more dangerous with the ball. Tries were scored by Man of the Match Jason Heaney (x2), Jack Sharp and a penalty try for Alfie Reid. Kian Charlton also deserves a mention for captaining the side and also kicking a tricky conversion! Well done lads, you are a super team!



Mrs Goodwin tells me that the reading challenge in Junior School has got underway this week with some fantastic reading taking place from children in Junior School. So far, 4T are in the lead but as it is early days, the prize could still be won by any of the classes!

There are a couple of upcoming events which I would like to publicise. On Tuesday night we hold our Open Evening for Year 7 entry in September 2020. We hope to see all parents of current Year 6 pupils there so that we can show you what the Senior School has to offer.

It may seem somewhat early, but the PHPA would like to advertise the school Christmas Fair taking place on Saturday November 16th: *We anticipate this event in keeping with previous years will be very seasonal and well attended We hope the you can come along and support what we anticipate to be a fantastic event. If anybody would like to hold a stall at the fair then please contact the PHPA to arrange. phpa@phs.woodard.co.uk We look forward to hearing from you.*

I wrote about it last week but another reminder that Vocal Ensemble will be singing with the Backworth Male Voice Choir at St Hilda's Church, North Shields on Saturday 12th October at 7pm.

It looks like it will be a lovely sunny weekend – I hope that the children enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes

Kate Reid



Curiosity:

Isabel Walker 1B

Kori Ward 2E

Sebastian Parsons 2M

Jamie Blewitt 3S

Sam Chisholm 4T

Alfie Clark 5B

Danielle Winter 6G

Konrad Miszke 6B

Creativity

Isabella Waterfall-Brown 1M

Confidence

Oisin Gleisner 3J

Holly Allison 4DH

Eva Langdale 5H