

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents

One of our core values at Polam and one of the traits that we hope to develop in all of our pupils is 'Community'. In our Learner Profile it says that 'we care for each other and work together, in school and in our wider community'. This week Ebony in Year 2 has exemplified these values perfectly. She has, in the words of her Mum, taken the 'brave decision to have her lovely long hair cut for the charity "Little Princess Trust." I just wanted to share how incredibly proud I am of Ebony.' Ebony is in Mrs Elsdon's class – 2 Ceres – and Mrs Elsdon would like to add *this is such a kind and thoughtful gesture and I too am so proud of how Ebony has thought of others at such a young age - she looks amazing! Well done from all of Year 2.* I would echo both of their comments – well done Ebony!



At the other end of the school, I am equally proud of the contribution that Tilly Limbrick and Fynlay Watson in Year 10 have made to their community. This report from Mr Buchanan:

*On the 25th March Tilly and Fynlay, two of our Year 10 students took part in an online event where they had to respond to questions from the Children and Young People's Scrutiny committee on the effects of the Pandemic.*

*On Tuesday this week, both students received certificates from Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Chris McEwan of Darlington to thank them for their contributions.*

*We would like to extend our congratulations to both students who represented Polam Hall with great success. Well done to both.*





Mr Buchanan has also asked me to highlight the success of two of our Year 9 students:

*We would like to wish Ella G and Francesca S in Year 9 the greatest of luck this weekend, when they will be competing in the BRC National Championships in both Team and Individual Arena Eventing. This is a huge achievement and to have two Polam Hall Students competing is a very proud moment for the school. Well done girls and good luck for this weekend.*

Mrs Squires has sent me a report about all the exciting things that have been going on in the Languages and Literature Faculty this week. Earlier this week she sent out the latest Polam Print bulletin, which has been the talk of the school ever since! Brilliant work by the Polam Print team!

*Once again, I must begin by congratulating my Polam Printers on their awesome journalistic ways - the instalment of the Polam Bulletin has been shared this week and I have received an influx of compliments about how brilliant my reporters are. Ollie and Jay, I can't help but think you have a serious career ahead of you both as presenters. You are doing an incredible job!*

*Several Year 7 students took part in a Hard Spell spelling competition this morning - I know Mr Robson is eager to share a report on this with you all but I must pass on praise to everyone involved. The students showcased a huge amount of talent and the winner even managed to beat Mr Robson - although I bet he keeps that bit quiet.*

*This week, we have managed to add a further 8 hours and 13 minutes to our myON total and an additional 27 books. Thank you to all who have read this week - not just on myON but to anyone who has held a book in their hands and felt the joy of turning those pages too.*

*This week, I launched the next creative writing competition which focuses on the theme of freedom. I've already received some beautiful poetry based on this and look forward to reading a wide selection of Literature on the current theme. A reminder, students from Years 7-11 can write any type of Literature and there is no word count.*

Mr Robson has indeed sent me his report and, far from hiding his defeat, he has actually challenged his opponent to a return match! Well done to Emre – what follows is Mr Robson's report:

*There was a lot of excitement in the Dining Hall today during Accelerated Reading with Year 7 as Mr. Robson was the quizmaster for a hard spell challenge. This included very difficult spellings of words ranging from 5 to 14 letters. It takes a lot of courage to spell out hard words in front of an audience.*

*Fourteen competitors, selected by Mrs. Squires as having the highest spelling ages in Year 7, competed for the trophy. All students did extremely well but we whittled down the final three to Emre Aslanbas, Jayden Hyare and Harry Pierson-McCourt.*

*In a tense final Harry took third place, Jayden second and Emre was the overall winner.*

*The sting in the tail was an ultra-final where Mr. Robson challenged Emre, and Mrs. Squires became quizmistress.*

*The winner was.....Emre!!!!*

*Mr. Robson is very competitive so revenge will happen Emre.*

*Well done to all. Mrs. Squires would like to now have this as a half-termly competition amongst students of equal spelling ages to raise the profile of spelling in Year 7.*

*The three finalists received food rewards at break from Mrs. Squires and will be rewarded at final Reading at the end of the term.*

Year 4 have been learning all about fossils this week and I have had reports and pictures from both Mrs Johnson and Mrs Staerck:

*This week Year 4 had lots of fun creating their own fossils out of salt dough! We used shells, shark teeth, our imagination and more to create something unique. During this lesson, the children learnt how real fossils have formed over millions of years through their bones filling up with water, which is then covered with layers of sediment. Therefore, fossils can only be found in sedimentary rock.*  
*Mrs Staerck*



*This week Year 4 have been looking at how fossils are formed, they have learnt that they are found in sedimentary rocks and that we can learn about the history of life by studying them. The children then enjoyed making their own fossils with salt dough, using shells and model dinosaurs to make imprints.*  
*Mrs Johnson*

Earlier this week Mrs Ryan was involved in more netball fixtures – with the Year 10 girls at Longfield Academy this time:

*It was lovely to umpire a thrilling game of netball as year 10 girls took on a strong Longfield team in their first friendly game. Unfortunately after a tough game they lost 14-16. Player of the game chosen by Longfield players was Lily Sinfield whose outstanding shooting kept the girls hot on Longfield's heels. Well done girls, so proud.*  
*Mrs Ryan*



Year 2 have been learning about Australia in their Geography lessons and this week have looked at the indigenous Aboriginal people who live in the outback. They explored how a didgeridoo is made and decorated and then created one of their own. A lovely picture from Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson, who both wanted to say well done Year 2!



I missed Mrs Bartholomew-Millar's report on the winners from the Senior School NSPCC Number Day last week – so here it is for you. Well done to all those who participated and who won!

*Thank you very much to everyone who entered the Number Day challenge and raised money for NSPCC. All of the entries were put into a random draw and the three winners are: Danylo Chertov, Zara Edwards and Jason Hunter. As promised there is a prize for these students if they can see Mrs Bartholomew-Millar. Well done also to Skerne who won the house competition with the most entries by one student!*

Next week is the final week of this half term – it has certainly been a long one! Year 11 have one more week of assessments to go, although most of the major examinations are complete at the end of this week. They have done so well this week and deserve some rest (as well as revision!) over the weekend. Mr Rees has sent a letter to Year 10 parents today about the examinations that will be coming up next half term for them.

Best wishes



Kate Reid