

22nd November 2019

Dear Parents

The nights really are drawing in now and the Christmas events loom on our horizon. Ms Holmes has this lunchtime been rehearsing with Junior Choir for the joint concert on 7th December which will feature both Junior and Senior choirs as well as the Hurworth Concert band. Interact's annual Charter Night dinner is next Friday night and I have this week had a discussion with the office about the delivery of Christmas trees... Term races on apace!

Last Saturday the PHPA ran their annual Christmas Fair which was a great success and a fabulous start to the season. My thanks to them for all their hard work in putting on such a wonderful event.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students this is a period of challenge – mock examinations begin on the 2nd of December. Year 13 are in the middle of UCAS applications and interviews for Year 11 have taken place today with staff from Queen Elizabeth College.

Mr Robson reports: *On Friday of this week QE brought a team of professionals to Polam Hall to interview Year 11 students who have attended open evenings at QE to discern their correct and appropriate destination paths. This is the culmination of a set of careers information events during this term so that Year 11 students are best placed to have as much information possible about their destinations.*

QE colleagues commented without exception that students were polite, confident, articulate and had concrete and well-informed ideas about their future, and were a credit to their school. Thanks go to Year 11 students for their organised and professional approach to their interviews.

This has also been a week of success for Miss Rachel and her dancers. Ballet examinations have been going on in the Old Gym and Miss Rachel has sent me some lovely pictures as well as this account:

On Tuesday 19th November some of the Polam Dance Students took their Royal Academy of Dance Ballet Examinations. The youngest children were from Year 1 and they presented their Pre Primary for the examiner, Miss Shepherd. Year 3 children took Primary, Year 6 Grade Two and Seniors took Grade Seven. All students were very happy afterwards and commented on how much they had enjoyed the experience and it was FUN!!! Results usually take about six weeks, so fingers crossed everyone.

I am very proud of all my dancers and on their behalf would like to say a big THANK YOU to one of the school's Academy Councillor's ,Mrs Hart, who gave up her time to assist me with the preparations and who read a story to the younger children whilst they waited for their examination.





Mr Wilkinson has had a great week – rarely have I seen him as excited as he was by the U13 footballers' victory over Longfield on Tuesday:

On Tuesday night the U13 Boys Football team played Longfield in the freezing cold. The boys were excited to play their final league game of the season.

We started strongly with an excellent counter attack where Ethan Grundy scored. We soon conceded following this to leave the score 1-1 at half time. The boys went out more determined than ever second half as we knew we could match them in all areas. Hugo Navarro was immense in defence.

Answorth scored a wonder goal taking on the Longfield sweeper to score top bins! Longfield looked strong in the last 5 minutes, hitting the post but the boys held the score at 2-1 to win the match. Alex Wilkins got Man of the Match for his outstanding performance in midfield. What a super team performance!

*From one very proud teacher and team manager Mr Wilkinson!
Candidate for result of the season and goal of the year too.*



It is not only Christmas that draws nearer but the other big event on our national horizon, the General Election. In Senior Reading this week, Mr Pepper announced our very own Mock Election which will take place later this term and a number of pupils have come forward to stand as candidates. As part of this process most of the local candidates running for election will be in school on Thursday next week to speak to our students and to answer their questions.

Having put out a call for students to propose questions on Tuesday, by Thursday's Reading Mr Pepper had 160 questions – testament I think to how engaged and interested our student body is! We are all very much looking forward to seeing how the candidates cope with the grilling that I am sure our students will give them!

Mrs Goodwin has been keeping me up to date with the progress of the Reading competition in Junior School – this week the class in the lead are Mrs Bury's class! Keep reading everyone.

Best wishes

Kate Reid

Junior School 4 C Heroes

Confidence

Sebastian Dew

Emily Robinson-Tregear

Connie Fisher

Freddie Coulthard

Max Bazgan

Martha Bainbridge

Zachary Marshall

Creativity

Leo Liu

Curiosity

Tanisha Chidanyika

Caleb Smith

Matthew Buckingham

Senior School Top 5 Housepoint Winners

Olivia Martin

Annabelle Wilkinson

Olivia Dent

Ella Gibbon

Paula Moreno-Omenaca