

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents

Another busy week in school – beginning with Year 8 parents evening on Monday and ending today with the GCSE Drama examination for our Year 11 students. In between there has been a lot going on. In the letter I sent home at the end of the Easter holiday I wrote that the Department for Education have allowed us to resume fixtures with other schools and Mr Wilkinson was over the moon that the first of these took place this week! Here is his report:

*On Wednesday night we had our first Y9 fixture since Lockdown. We played away at Hurworth and were up against it knowing the quality of some of the opposition players. We showed true Polam spirit, working effectively as a team and never giving up.*

*Our more experienced players encouraged others and deserve a special mention. Harry K led as Captain putting in a huge shift in midfield. Adam L ran his socks off and when moving into defence managed to keep clean sheet points. Roman F & Alex W both created chances and had their own goal scoring opportunities and finally Josh E in goal made some tremendous saves. Player of the match was given to Emily S who played right back for the majority of the game, holding a good position and making some great tackles.*

*Well done to Hurworth for winning the game in the first half BUT we can be proud that we didn't concede in the second half and we're competitive throughout. Looking forward to many more fixtures this term. Written by one very proud PE teacher!*



Mr McGrath has also asked me to congratulate the Year 7 students who had fixtures this week: *A big well done to all the Year 7 students that took part in the fixtures against Hurworth on Monday. All students worked hard and there were lots of extremely positive performances from the students. They should all be proud of themselves as I am and I'm looking forward to organising lots more fixtures in the coming weeks.*

Sporting achievement has been one of the themes of the week – with some of our Junior School pupils having the opportunity to take part in All Stars Cricket sessions on Thursday. All Stars is England Cricket's programme for children aged 5 to 8 years – I have attached a flier with this newsletter for any parent who is interested. Miss Blair organised the sessions and her report is below:

*On Thursday, children in Reception to Year 3 took part in some cricket sessions with All Stars. Their sessions covered the skills they would learn at the club: batting, bowling and catching. I*

*have heard that the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we now have some budding cricketers!*



In Junior School there has also been scientific endeavour – as lots of classes have been involved in exploring habitats and making Bug Hotels Here is Mrs Brown’s report about her Year 1 pupils:

*Year 1 have been learning about microhabitats in their Biology lessons this week. They made the most of the glorious weather and hunted around the grounds for microhabitats and mini beasts. We also collected natural materials to build our own bug hotels next week! We were very careful to not disturb the creatures and to behave as scientists would. Well done Year 1!*



Year 2 have also been scientists – this is from Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson:

*Year 2 have had a wonderful afternoon creating bug hotels for their science lesson about habitats. We went on a scavenger hunt for resources around the school grounds collecting leaves, logs, twigs, grass, stones and pine cones. The children worked as a team and showed great collaboration and communication skills. Well done everyone!*

*Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson.*



In the Senior School, Mrs Bailly has asked me to pass on the following congratulations:

*Special Congratulations to the following Year 8 pupils:*

- *Phoenix Gault for completing 150 Bedrock lessons so far this year - and it's not over yet!*
- *Lacie-Mai Finlay-Malcolm for a superb piece of creative writing in her English exam - very well done!*
- *Poppy Atkinson, Erika King and Abbie Minns for excellent achievement in their English exam*

Well done to you all!

Your children may have told you about the cat which has adopted us and which regularly sends time wandering around the school site. He does have a real home on Polam Road, but he gets lots of attention whenever he visits us! Mrs Joyce sent me these lovely pictures and the story of her encounter with him this week:

*I took these photographs during Wednesday lunchtime. I was eating a sandwich and working at the desk in Room M3 when the 'school cat' casually and confidently jumped in the window, mooched around the classroom and corridor and then left through the next-door classroom window. A 3-minute visit, no more. He/She jumped onto the windowsill once before when I had a class and chose not to come in, so I don't think it's likely to happen during a lesson.*



Mr Robson has asked me to remind Year 10 parents that college forms for Darlington and Middlesbrough need to be returned by Monday 26 April and own sourced work experience forms need to be back to him if possible by Friday 30 April.

Next week will be just as busy I am sure so I hope that everyone is able to have a relaxing weekend and recharge those batteries!

Best wishes

*K. Reid*

Kate Reid