

29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents

As the politicians have wrangled in Westminster, we have had a political week in the Senior School as well. Hustings has begun – with elections for the post of Head Boy and Head Girl taking place this week. All five candidates spoke to the Senior School in Reading on Tuesday and then pupil voting took place on Wednesday at break and lunch. Staff now have the chance to vote and I will interview all of the candidates next week. I should be able to give you the results in next week's newsletter. Here are the candidates, looking nervous before their speeches:



In the Junior School, the parishioners of All Saints church have been to lead assembly again and this week told our children the story of the Last Supper:



Stories have been a theme of the week in Juniors, as Year 2 have had their trip to Seven Stories. All of your Junior School Year groups are visiting this wonderful place this year, as part of our focus on reading and writing which is led by Mrs Goodwin. Mrs Mawson and Mrs

Elsdon tell me that Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Seven Stories! They were a credit to the school and explored different books by David McKee. The pupils listened to a range of stories, acted out parts of a story, dressed up as characters and investigated how the illustrations help to tell the story.



In the Senior School there has also been a focus on stories – this time in dramatic form! The GCSE Drama students performed their Component 2 Text in Performance extracts to an external examiner on Tuesday night. Although the final result will not be revealed until August, it was clear to see the hard work and dedication which was put in by each and every student; the performances were all outstanding. Mrs Barker is extremely proud of them all and could not have been more pleased with the outcome!

Mrs Barker has had a busy week as she and Mrs Squires took a group of students to the Darlington Hippodrome on Thursday night to see a production of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Grey*. She tells me that the students were a pleasure to take out, impeccably behaved and exemplary ambassadors for our school.

In sports news, the Under 14 football team played their latest league game last week and managed to beat Carmel 4-3. Fynn Lumley, scored twice, whilst Jess Whitaker and Nathan Dixon scored one each. The team continue to make excellent progress. Their next game will be against Wyvern Academy next Tuesday.

We also have a new sports reporter this week, as Max Martin in Year 7 has written for us:

### ***Polam Hall V Wyvern Academy (Y7 Football League)***

*It was a great performance by all lads as we passed and communicated together. Early in the first half Wyvern scored a good goal leaving us with a lot of work to do. We didn't let our heads drop and Roman scored a fabulous goal making the score level at half time. As Mr Wilkinson gave us a team talk we strongly came back into the second half with Ethan and Adam both scoring great goals to put us in the lead. We got a bit excited and Wyvern scored another good goal making it 3 - 2.*

*The game was getting close with 5 minutes to go. We had the possession for 3 minutes until we won a free kick and our midfielder Harry scored a banger, curling it around a 3 man wall and it nestled into the top corner of the Wyvern goal.*

*We all went crazy as the final whistle blew. We also had a good looking team photo and we congratulated Mr Wilkinson for his good news. Well done Lads!!!*

*By Max Martin (7X)*



On a different sporting theme, the inaugural Polam Hall Chess Championships completed this week. Fourteen competitors from across all school year groups played games in a knockout format through the term. The title of school chess champion 2019 was won by Gurjot Singh-Kahlon, who narrowly defeated James Hannan, both of year 10. The final was a well contested and tense affair, with a tiebreak sudden death game being required to find a winner. Special mentions go to semi-finalists Elizabeth Kirkup and Olivia Martin, who progressed far in the competition despite being in years 8 and 7 respectively. My thanks to Dr Gardner for running the competition and for the report.

A final phot from Miss Lawton, who has sent me this picture – with the comment ‘some of the Infants spent all lunchtime enjoying the sunshine and being creative on the playground...’



I have to mention here the fantastic efforts and hard work of all of our exam and assessment year groups – particularly Year 6 pupils, Year 11 and Year 13 students. This can be a tough time of year as teachers are preparing pupils for assessment and we are all very proud of them. I have assessed English Language Speackign exams this week and been amazed by the quality of the speeches – and Mrs Goodwin spoke with me this week about how proud she and Miss Hopper are of Year 6. Well done to them all.

Mrs Barker has asked me to let you know that on Wednesday 3rd April A level Drama and Theatre Studies students will be performing their monologues and group piece for the external examiner. Family and friends are welcome to attend but please note that the content is only suitable for students in Year 10 and above. The performance will start at 5.30pm in the Liddiard Theatre.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Kate Reid