

30th April 2021

Dear Parents

There has been a great deal of competition of different kinds in school this week. Year 11 students have been undertaking practical assessments – meaning that Mrs Babington has been exhausted by their cooking endeavours and Mr Wilkinson has been very busy organising the different sporting assessments today. All our Year 11 students have worked so hard and put so much effort into these assessments – well done to them all!

It has also been House Week in Seniors and so we have had sports competitions for a range of different year groups throughout the week and the return of University Challenge for Y11.

This time Mr Pepper, as quizmaster, moved beyond GCSE and into some of their A Level content. Kent took an early lead that they maintained (having come second Skerne in the last event) through to the end through rounds on Languages, Drama, History and Geography, among others. Overall a good time was had with pupils looking forward to a final showdown before the end of term.

Final scores were Tees - 35, Swale - 45, Skerne - 85 and Kent - 95.



We have also had more external competition this week – in netball this time! Mrs Ryan has been incredibly excited by the return of sporting fixtures – and even interrupted a meeting I was in on Tuesday night to bring us the scores! Here is her report:

On Tuesday Year 7 Netballers played their first ever fixture at home against Hurworth. I chose not to have an A and B team, as the majority of students are of equal ability. Hurworth brought two teams to Polam for the fixture on Tuesday 27 April. There was some fantastic play from both teams and schools considering the amount of netball that has been played since their start at Polam. A big shout out goes to all of the girls for excellent performances, winning 11 - 8 and 12 - 0 respectively.



We will continue the theme of House challenges and competitions next week with Number Day for Senior School. Junior School parents will recall that Juniors kept to the original date for Number Day and held it during lockdown – I certainly remember as I had to make a cake covered in calculations! The NSPCC did actually add a new date for the event though so that schools could celebrate it once pupils were back in classrooms together – and so Seniors will be using this new date, Friday 7th May, for their celebration of all things mathematical! Mrs Bartholomew-Millar has asked me to include the following notice in this week's newsletter @

Senior School will be celebrating NSPCC number day on Friday 7th May. Pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in house challenges as well as a whole school effort to rescue Mrs Reid from the claws of the Polam cat. The sneaky cat has locked Mrs Reid in an escape room. Which tutor group can rescue her the quickest? There is a suggested donation of £1 which is available to pay on parent pay. We look forward to lots of number day fun!

I have to say that I am slightly concerned by the prospect of being locked in a room by Eric the cat... though I'm sure our students are mathematically adept enough to get me out of there quickly!

As a final congratulations, Miss Barrass has asked me to say a big well done to Year One for their work on the suffragettes and votes for women poster. She says that they worked really hard on them – good work Year One!

And so we head into the Bank Holiday weekend – an extra day of rest for some or revision for others... Let's see how much we can pack into a four day week starting Tuesday!

Best wishes

Kate Reid