

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents

To start this week's newsletter I have a report on the Senior School Ski Trip, which actually took place during the Easter holiday. Wonderfully, the report has been written by two of the students who went on the trip, Jessica Nunn and Rosie McElvanney:

*The biannual ski trip is always an event to look forward to! This year's ski trip was held in Bormio, Italy.*

*From the moment each child arrived in the school car park the excitement had begun. The journey to a destination is typically the boring part of a holiday but with 41 hyper and eager children there never was a dull moment.*

*The bus journey to the airport went by in flash and the buzz of excitement had barely settled before we had arrived at the airport but we hadn't just arrived at the airport: we arrived at our first challenge! This wasn't getting 41 children through an airport quickly, quietly and without losing a child but was managing to fit this large amount of children into a lift without squashing a year 7! This proved challenging but the mission was accomplished and before long we had taken our seats on the aeroplane and we were off to Milan, Italy.*

*Everyone was excited to get going and see the Italian landscape. As we left Milan airport we were greeted by our second bus journey of the day a 5 hour journey from Milan to Bormio. On our way we had a quick stop off at an Italian service station where we had a run around and admired the blanket of sparkling lights that coated the far distance. Not only did we admire such a beautiful sight but we witnessed another beautiful sight that was a certain year 9 boy crawling under a sculpture of a wooden horse and admiring its rear end. No names mentioned.....*

*We arrived at the hotel late at night and everyone was thankful to go to bed after a long journey. The next day welcomed the start of our week of skiing, we got ready quickly and went to breakfast where we had warm bread rolls coated in Nutella. Then we all headed down to get our skis fitted and before we knew it we were off on the slopes.*

*Over the week we skied in all kinds of weather such as glorious sunshine, light snow, clear blue skies, and blizzards! At the end of a long day on the slopes we headed back to our room where we had a hot shower and awaited the night's activity. Our evening meal consisted of traditional Italian pasta and pizza and the activities on a night varied from Karaoke, Discos and quizzes.*

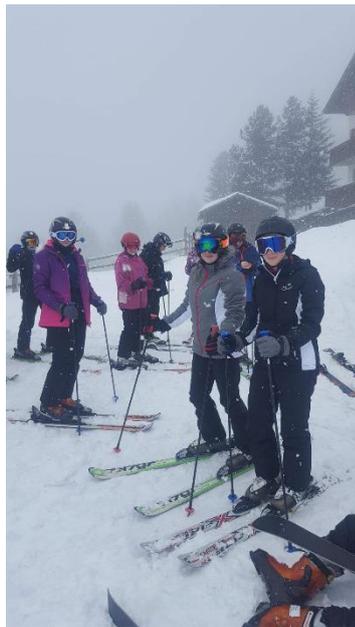
*The view from our bedroom windows alone was enough to take anyone's breath away and the beauty was only magnified when on the slopes. The glistening snow, clear blue skies and valleys lined with snowy mountains were picture perfect.*

*On our last day we had a glorious morning where we took part in races where we showed off the skills we had learned over the course of the week. On the evening of our last night we received the results of the races. We congratulated the winners and collected our certificates.*

*The progression made by the skiers was outstanding, improvements were made by all the ski groups, and beginners enjoyed experiencing their first time on skis and even got up to the 3000 slope on their last day also middle group enjoyed a hot chocolate on the way down for their efforts made during their time skiing.*

*We made bonds with students from older and younger years. It was a great socialising event for the school. We would like to see more school trips as it encourages community, confidence and creativity through children. We can't wait for the next ski trip and the adventures it beholds.*

*Jessica Nunn 9X, Rosie McElvanney 9V*



Well done to both girls for such a lovely report! This week has been a busy one in both Junior and Senior Schools. Year 4 have certainly been busy as I have had two reports on the work that they have been doing. As part of their Convince Me...? work Year 4 have been exploring the reasons behind deforestation. In small groups they have formulated ideas for a class debate which will lead to children writing their own balanced argument. Mrs Hood, Mrs Daniel and Mr Davies are impressed with the interest and enthusiasm Y4 children have shown in this term's new topic. Year 4 also had great fun in science this week. In teams, they first had to find clues (which were placed around the playground) about the digestive system. Following this, they then had to return to their 'base' and use their new knowledge to draw, label and stick the different parts of the digestive system on their human model. Well done!



It has been Year 5's week for Forest School and they have cooking bread in the forest with Miss Lawton. Their challenge was to make sure their group all had something hot to eat and drink and so they had to share out the jobs to get it all done within the session. The bread was proclaimed the best they've ever eaten!

Mrs Hood has also sent me some information about the new activity that has begun in Junior School. *Our new term's extra-curricular clubs commenced this week with a flourish of excitement in the Junior School. A new art and craft club, run by Dawn from Make Time, began with an explosion of Spring colour. Crafts included creating unique seasonal headdresses.*



In the Senior School Cricket Season has very firmly begun. On Wednesday Mr Wilkinson took the Year 8 team to the U13 Darlington tournament. His report follows: *Today we took part the Town Cricket Tournament at Darlington RA. The lads were up against 5 other schools and had the following results:-*

*V Wyvern - won 91-60*

*V Carmel - won 82-60*

*V Hurworth - won 64-61*

*V Longfield - won 71-54*

*V St Aidens - won 48-44*

*A fantastic set of results. Highlights included George McAdam having to retire in all 5 games scoring over 20 runs each time, some good bowling from Alfie Reid, Max Martin and Jack Sharp who all took more than 3 wickets. Kian Charlton did an excellent job as wicket keeper and Jonny Jiang, Josh Pilcher, Seth Rippon and Roman Fedyk all with some super fielding and bowling. Well done lads. The first time the Polam Boys have won this tournament! A super achievement. We shall look forward to competing at the Tees Valley Finals next month!*



The very next day Mrs Ryan took the U13 girls cricketers to their Darlington tournament. Even though they were not placed, all the girls were impeccably behaved, worked well as a team and had a great time. Over the course of the day it was clear to see improvement in their performance.

There was great fielding by Thea McNeil and Aelf Green and batting by Elizabeth Sandford and Storm Smith. Well done as well to Izzy Hannan, Rose Fisher, Megan Johnson, Sophia Farley Smith, Katie Kitson and Jennie Taylor Garthwaite.



Congratulations also to the Darlington School Under 14 District side managed by Mr. Galley who managed to secure a league and cup double on Wednesday evening. After remaining unbeaten all season they beat East Northumberland 2-1 at Maiden Castle, Durham. An excellent achievement for schools football in the town and another great milestone for the schools involvement in football. The trophy will be on display shortly in the reception area. This is the first time a Darlington team has won the competition since 1995. Hopefully more players from Polam will be nominated for the district teams in the upcoming year.

Mr Galley also wanted me to wish good luck to Ciaran Dixon and Sean Chidanyika who have been selected for Durham County U15 football trials. They will take part in trials over the next two weeks and have represented their district side extremely well this season.

Mrs Hutchinson took her Year 11 pupils, who are studying for the Level 2 Award in Child Development and Care, to ROF59 on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The pupils were taking part in activities linked to the assessment criteria within the subject. As well as enjoying and achieving their assessment criteria, pupils also worked well as a team and gained confidence. Mrs Hutchinson wanted to congratulate them on their brilliant work!



I haven't finished the newsletter with a pupil triumph for a while so here is one sent to me by Miss Lawton. Ethan Shaw in Year 6 has been successful in becoming one of the Arthurs in this year's Kynren. Each show night two children are Arthur due to costume changes and scene changes. Well done Ethan!

A particular well done to all out Year 11 and Year 13 languages students, who undertook the challenge of oral exams this week. I have been so proud of the way in which they have approached the exams. Mr Rees and I have discussed the revision programme for the next few weeks with Year 11 students today and they will be coming home tonight with the details. The Bank Holiday weekend is the perfect time for revision and I hope that students make the most of it. For the rest of the school – I hope you enjoy the extra day off!

Best wishes

Kate Reid