

7<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents

This week we have welcomed pupils back to school for the final half term of the school year. This is always one of my favourite half terms – the sun shines (hopefully!) and pupils are able to be out using the grounds.

This Tuesday Mrs Daniels organised a special day for all Junior School children. This is her report: *All children and staff from the Junior School arrived wearing Red, White and Blue for our French Day. It was a fantastic day and we all thoroughly enjoyed the activities. The staff were so proud of how all the classes engaged with learning either a poem or song to perform to their key stage and, in particular, how the children were eager to have a go at showcasing their language skills. The cultural activities were also fabulous and ranged from pupils enjoying the 'tastes of France', building the Eiffel Tower out of art straws, making cultural collages and completing sketches of famous French landmarks. Finally, we would like to extend a huge thanks to Mrs Bonas who taught mini-French lessons to various classes throughout the morning. The children and staff loved her input and were buzzing from the activities that she provided.*



Also on Tuesday, we began the first of our transition afternoons for Year 6 pupils. One of the benefits of being an all-through school should be smooth transition and so Year 6 will be spending several afternoons in Senior School experiencing lessons in the four Faculty areas. This week they went to the Languages and Literature Faculty. Mr Robson and Mrs Squires both commented on what a pleasure it was to have them! Mrs Robson really enjoyed teaching some transition German and said what a 'wonderful bunch of really enthusiastic switched on and pleasant students' they are! Well done Year 6!

Year 6 have had a really exciting week in many ways – they have also been out to visit The Sage (and the city beach in Newcastle at the same time!)



They explored what they could tell about the river from clues on the quayside and then had their lunch (and a play!) on the beach before going to see Wallace and Gromit's Musical Marvels. Both the children and staff all had a fantastic time!

In the Senior School Mrs Wilkinson tells me that it has been a tennis mad week! Here is his report: *On Tuesday the U15 boys and U13 boys played Conyers winning 5-1 in both matches. On Thursday we played Barnard Castle with the U13 Girls losing in some tough games but our U13 boys winning overall 6-3 after losing their first 2 Doubles games but coming back to win their singles, 2 of them in tie break deciders! Kian and Alfie coming good in long singles games, George, Jack, Josh and Max also doing brilliant in the boiling sun! Well done everyone! Look forward to Egglecliffe next week!*



In Year 2 Maths this week the pupils and staff investigated whether the tallest children had the biggest feet. Mrs Elsdon tells me that they went outside to gather their data and the results were rather surprising as they discovered the tallest child in each class did not have the biggest feet! Both Year 2 teachers are so proud of how the children worked so well together.



You may remember that Senior School form groups planted tomato plants which after Mrs Jones' Science of Happiness Reading back in March. All the form reps came out in force this week to pot on their tomatoes into bigger pots and put them into the school polytunnel. Mrs Jones tells me that we even have some extra chilli and pepper plants in there and the students have fully embraced being green fingered this week to care for plants named 'Citizen Cane' and 'I am Groot' to name but a few! Hopefully we will be eating the fruits of their labours later this term!



Parents/guardians of Senior School pupils have been sent an email about the Race for Life this week. All students in the Senior School will be taking part in either a 3k or 5K walk or run to raise money for Cancer Research, organised by Interact. This will be on the afternoon of Friday 21st June, which is Sports Day and all students have been asked to bring a £1 donation if possible on the day. Sponsorship forms have been handed out to all students by Interact members but there is also a link in the email sent out for our JustGiving Page for the event. All students are also encouraged to change into something pink for the afternoon. Any extra sponsorship money would be gratefully received as we try and reach a target of £1000 for the whole of the Senior School.

On the topic of fundraising the PHPA have sent me the following for Junior School parents:

*Hello*

*This term the children have been busy drawing self portraits for tea towels and cloth bags. The PHPA are arranging for these to be printed and they will be sold at a cost of £5.00 each. These are a lovely and useful keepsake of your child and their class friends. Both the tea towels and cloth bags should be ordered and paid for via the parent pay system as soon as possible with a deadline for final orders of Friday 14th June 2019.*

*Remember these items also make a lovely gift for grandparents and others. All funds raised by the PHPA go towards additional activities that the school would not be able to offer without your support. Please get your orders in quickly so the tea towels and bags can be handed out to your children to bring home before the end of term.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*

*Regards*

*Polam Hall Parents Association.*

To finish, a pupil (and school...) triumph! Miss Lawton tells me that Yvaine and Sebastian Parsons completed their first fell race last weekend, completing The Yomp 6.5 miles (10.5km) over peat marshes, bog land and up mountains around Kirby Stephen. As they had a bit of a local school competition they competed as Polam Hall School and were respectively placed Female U12 13th and Male U12 20th position. I had the pleasure of handing out their medals in assembly this morning – well done to them both!

I am sure that next week will prove to be just as busy – this half term is always a full one! I hope that the weekend proves restful.

Best wishes

Kate Reid