

SENIOR FOCUS

2nd July 2010

A message from Miss Green

I hope everyone has received the two letters sent this week regarding Hurworth House School and Polam Hall's future. I will write with other news in my end of term letter, but would like to thank everyone for their expressions of support.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and enjoyable summer.

THE NUMBERS CLUB IS ALMOST HERE!

In September the PHPA will be starting a numbers club as a fund raiser and a bit of fun.

- A number will cost £12 for the year
- Half the total amount of money raised will be returned as CASH prizes
- The remaining money will be for school funds
- 12 draws will take place monthly at different school events
- All family, staff and friends (over 18) welcome to buy a number

Apply now using the form provided, which is also available from the school website and school offices.

Thank to all those who helped at both the Junior and Senior Sports Days last week - namely Mrs Angela Elliott, Mrs Heidi Weir, Mrs Sue Robinson, Mrs Kim Moriarty & Mrs Sharon Shove.

A BIG THANK YOU also to those who donated the delicious home baking. A special mention to Mrs Harvey and her M5 volunteers for their fantastic ice-cream selling skills. Also, to David Bell for his tremendous support once again. I am pleased to report that the combined profit from both days amounted to £175.84.

Jayne Cox - PHPA



Growing it all at Polam Hall!

From September 2010 Polam Hall Senior School will be establishing its own organic allotment in the school grounds. Growing our own fruit and vegetables will hopefully be a fun and rewarding way to spend our lunchtimes. New research commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society gives the thumbs up to gardening as a way of boosting children's development and well-being. Young people can learn much from the whole process of gardening, not just about the plants that are so vital to the environment but about responsibility and about resilience, both of which will add immeasurably to their own personal growth.

As we all know, you can't beat the taste of fruit and vegetables picked straight from the garden. This is because they are grown without the pressure to perform beyond their natural means, and they are usually consumed a very short time after they have been harvested. The physical activity of digging, caring for and harvesting our own food will also make us fitter and healthier.



Growing your own fruit and vegetables dramatically reduces your food's carbon footprint. Not only will your food have no food miles, but also it will not be responsible for releasing harmful emissions into the atmosphere via exhaust fumes from cars, ships and planes.

Growing your own fruit and vegetables also increases the types of fruit and vegetables you eat. Only a few varieties of fruit and vegetable are available to buy in the

supermarkets and they are usually chosen because of their shelf life rather than how good they taste. There are many varieties of strawberries, apples, potatoes, courgettes and tomatoes, to name but a few. Each one has a distinct flavour and balance of nutrients, so by growing a few different varieties you will be eating a more varied diet.

So....., where is all of this information leading we hear you ask? We cannot 'grow our own' without gardening equipment like forks, spades, hoes etc. and of course fruit and vegetable seeds to plant. We would be most grateful for any donations of any kind to get us up and running. The idea is that the fresh produce we grow will be sold to generate profit which will then be 'ploughed' back into the allotment. If you feel that you could help please get in touch with either Mrs Breckon or Mrs Gowland via the main school office.

Sunshine Party 2010

A letter from Buckingham Palace set the tone for this year's annual Sunshine Party at which the Lower Sixth hosted elderly members from Darlington's Town Mission. With its theme of 'The Queen's Tea Party', the students, led by Head Student Becky Patterson, prepared a wonderful tea party and transformed the dining room with red, white and blue. Almost eighty guests were entertained with music, dance and choral speaking, before the fun of bingo and a gift raffle. The event ended with a short service and community singing. The girls in Lower 4 kindly joined the festivities, chatting, helping (and munching!) throughout the afternoon.

This is always a very special and moving occasion and this year's was no exception. As the Queen expressed in her kind wishes, it was indeed a 'most memorable and enjoyable day'.



Senior Reading Group

The Time Traveller's Wife, The Woman in Black, The Host, Memoirs of a Geisha, Guantanamo Boy, The Lovely Bones, Rebecca... what a busy and interesting year this has been. Summer reading in preparation for September is Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*.

The Lower 4 Visit to Richmond

Last Tuesday all the Lower 4 pupils accompanied by Mrs Yarrow, Mrs Hampson and myself (Miss Booth) spent a very busy, enjoyable and hot day in Richmond. We started our day in the market place so I was glad to see it wasn't as chaotic as it can be on a weekend. We arranged ourselves on the Obelisk and I was hoping I would get my facts correct, as when I started by basic introduction to Richmond there seemed to be quite a few of the locals listening in, including Mrs Chitty who retired from teaching at Polam Hall a few years ago. Our next activity was to get into the Georgian way of life by completing the picturesque Castle Walk. We then explored high and low in the castle and studied the castle's role over the ages.



For the majority of us, myself included, the highlight of the day was not the fudge at the station or the

cooling ice creams but the tour of the Georgian Theatre. Our guide Dorothy brought the place alive and we could imagine the commotion, smells and 'inside rain' of Georgian times. Our budding actors enjoyed seeing back stage where the secrets of the trap doors were revealed.



Our aim of the day was to experience as many of Richmond's sights as possible so we could produce our own personal guide

to Richmond so after lunch we split into groups so the Richmondshire Museum, Green Howards Museum and the Tourist Information could be visited in the day. The Richmondshire Museum is tucked away from the Market Place and is often missed by the majority of visitors but the girls thought, despite its lack of hands on activities, it was well worth visiting to learn about past times in the area. The Green Howards Museum allowed the girls to compare Army life now and a hundred years ago.

I could see from the pictures that the opportunity to try on uniforms was a big hit with the girls. We finished the day at the Station where Mr Young kindly showed us the splendour of the building and gave us an insight into the past. We were very fortunate to have such passionate guides and we hope that the guide booklet that we are producing is able to convey our enjoyment of Richmond's sights.

On the Beamish Trail

On Tuesday 23rd June Lower 5 set out to visit Beamish, 'the Living Museum of the North.' We arrived in time to look round the Victorian farm where we met several rather large animals and had the opportunity to look at all the old machinery, which had been the most up to date technology of its time. After that it was on to the school house where a rather severe lady teacher told us all to behave like 'citizens of the Empire' and took the girls through a strict lesson on pounds, shillings and pence where all the writing was done with a dip pen! Everyone was quite relieved when she took us back to 2010 and turned out to be quite nice really. It was



definitely time for lunch by then so we managed to find a tram big enough to carry us all round to the town where we had our

sandwiches in the park. Now it was the girls' turn to be centre stage when they dressed up as suffragettes, suffragists and campaigners against the women's suffrage movement. Ironically, the girls' clothes were met with amazement while the 'men' looked surprisingly trendy.



Everyone got into the spirit of the day, marching round the town with their banners and being booed and cheered by the other visitors. The

debate in the bandstand was very involved and everyone entered into the part they had been given. The girls who had prepared speeches were particularly impressive and spoke up well for their causes in spite of the great heat. Political campaigning over it was time to look round the town, and everyone made a bee-line for the sweet shop before heading back to the coach and to Polam Hall. I am sure the day has given everyone a lot to think about during their history lessons and in their future lives when they enjoy privileges won for them less than one hundred years ago by women and men who were prepared to speak up for their beliefs.

Celebration Ball 2010

In a blur of ball gowns, bow ties and bucks fizz, the red carpet at The Blackwell Grange Hotel saw the traditional Upper 6 Leavers' Ball evolve into the Celebration Ball this year. Parents, Governors and the Lower 6 students joined the more familiar gathering of staff and Upper 6 for an evening of dining, dancing, entertainment and speeches.



Miss Green, myself and Head Student, Florence Lai thanked students, staff and parents for their hard work and commitment to the school, and the students presented each other with awards and certificates.



That the Committee's vision for the event came together so beautifully was testament to all their efforts and to their attention to detail. Thank you to all who attended for such a fantastic night!

Mrs Hardy

Diary Dates

B	Mon	5	
	Tues	6	*Junior prizegiving 6.30pm.
	Wed	7	Celebration Reading. Term ends 12.00 noon for Juniors, 12.45pm for Seniors
AUG	Tues	31	L4 & Sixth Form boarders return
TERM STARTS			
	1st September		L4 and Sixth Form All other boarders return
	2nd September		Term starts for rest of school