

SENIOR FOCUS

7th May 2010

A message from Miss Green

Two weeks ago our Dining Room was packed with children, parents and Old Scholars enjoying the PHOSA President's Evening on the theme 'Telling Tales'. The proceeds of this year will be used to create an Outdoor Story Area on the school site. We heard lots of the pupils' stories on the evening as well as being thoroughly entertained by our visiting raconteurs. Thank you to all who supported and made the occasion a resounding success.

Thanks to everyone who brought bags into school; these will benefit Polam Hall and the Fire Fighters Charity and we are all very grateful for your help.

I trust everyone received letters this week describing the latest activities in preparation for the next academic year. We will continue to post updates on the school website.

Congratulations to Laura Robinson in M5 who, with her pony Speedy, has been selected for the Great Britain show jumping squad. Laura will compete in Belgium next weekend and hopes to be chosen for the European championships in July.

Parents of pupils in U5 to U6 should have received details of Study Leave arrangements. Orals, practicals, ISA's and Controlled Assessments are already underway and we wish our public exam candidates well in this important term.

The Art Evening on May 27th is always a lovely event and I look forward to welcoming you on that occasion.



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

LOST

Ellie Baister lost her white Juicy Couture watch a few weeks ago.

If found please return to the school office



U6 Biologists Become Genetic Engineers



As part of the A2 Biology course, the U6 had the opportunity to genetically modify some *E. coli* bacteria by adding a plasmid (ring of

DNA) containing a jellyfish gene and an antibiotic resistance gene.

They used heat treatment to shock the bacteria to take up the plasmid. The recombinant bacteria were then cultured on agar plates containing the sugar *arabinose*. This acts as a promoter, “switching on” the jellyfish gene and causing the bacteria to make a fluorescent protein.

When the plates were exposed to UV light, the bacteria glowed a fluorescent green! Yet another example of the cutting edge technology practised in Polam Hall’s Biology Lab!

Diary Dates

A	Mon	10	
	Tues	11	Darlington Town Team Athletics Trials. Team photographs all day.
	Wed	12	
	Thurs	13	Darlington Town Team Athletics Trials
	Fri	14	U4 HPV vaccination. U5 Study Leave starts 4.00p.m. White Gloves & Cocktails May Ball – SOLD OUT
	Sat	15	*Independent Schoolgirls’ Athletics (venue & time tbc)
	Sun	16	
B	Mon	17	
	Tues	18	
	Wed	19	*U12, U13, U15 Rounders v Queen Mary’s (H) 5.00pm start
	Thurs	20	
	Fri	21	L6 Study Leave starts 4.00pm
	Sat	22	*U12, U13, U14, U15 Rounders v Yarm (A) Depart 8.45am – matches start 9.30am.
	Sun	23	
A	Mon	24	
	Tues	25	
	Wed	26	
	Thurs	27	*Art evening
	Fri	28	School Closes 4.00pm for Half Term. Celebration Ball