

Letter to parents/ carers 4 July 2024

Hello Everyone,

By the time you read this, we should be close to knowing the outcome of Thursday's General Election. Meanwhile, we've got an exciting election of our own going on! Year 10 students have been campaigning for students' votes to be elected to the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl.

Our Year 10 students went to Darlington College last week to attend a taster day. Our students had a great day! All students got the opportunity to experience two courses of their choice, throughout the day; these courses ranged from Hair and Beauty to Criminology and everything in between. The students represented the school very positively and were praised for their good manners and respectful, polite behaviour.

Our SEND enhanced transition day went very well - Year 6 students from seven of our feeder schools attended and got to sample our school lunches - which were very popular! They had a treasure hunt to find their way around the school and then took part in a Food and Nutrition lesson, where they designed and made their own mocktails, which was the perfect activity for such a hot day. We are looking forward to seeing them again for our next step of transition, which is a two-day induction next week, for all new starters.

The Geography Department has been running Year 10 fieldwork trips all week and students have enjoyed studying the urban regeneration in Ouseburn, Newcastle, together with visits to Percy Beck to study river characteristics and how they change.

There have been more celebrations this week with lots more Golden Tickets being given out to amazing students, to the musical accompaniment of Kool and the Gang's 'Celebration' and heaps of clapping in the 'Pause for Applause' slot in assemblies.

On Friday evening our music teachers, took our choir to St Mary's Church for a *Celebration of Song* concert with Green Lane School Choir and St Mary's Community Choir. Our singers did us proud, as always, with some beautiful debut solos and a superb folk trio. The highlight was the opening number *Sing*, where all three choirs sang together. Mrs McGrath said: "What a privilege to conduct such an enormous and wonderful group of singers from age 6 to 76+! A truly intergenerational community experience which we hope to repeat in the future".

Last Friday saw the Y11 prom at The Morritt Arms. It was wonderful to celebrate the end of this phase of their education with so many delightful, hard-working students. We wish them all the very best of luck on results day and we look forward to welcoming a large group of them back to study in our Sixth Form in September.

In all, a busy time for staff and students alike but so much fun! And even more to come as we approach the summer!

Happy Weekend to you all.

Anna Cleckner

Head of School