



Ponteland Community Middle School

E-mail: admin@ponteland.academy

Www.ponteland.academy

Telephone 01661 824853

Newsletter 8 – March 2018

'We take our vision from John 10:10 'that they have life and have it abundantly'

Dear Parents

Last Thursday, Lord Agnew, Kt, DL, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System spoke with me, Chair of Trustees Jacqueline Knight, Guy Opperman MP and the acting RSC, Katherine Cowell in a conference call discussing the school's application to extend our age range from 9-13 to 9-16. Since then, a strong team of staff, Trustees, parents and supporters prepared an equally strong case answering Lord Agnew's questions and supplying additional information and evidence for our case. We cited our close collaboration with Whitley Bay High School; our warm relationship with the North East Futures UTC; our commitment to our community and parents who have been consistent in their demand for choice; our prepared steps forward to extend to Y9 in 2019, Y10 in 2020 and Y11 in 2021.

Having submitted our answers to Lord Agnew's questions we are now waiting for the outcome of our application.

Over the last two years we have talked and debated, considered and reflected, planned and prepared; and say a HUGE Thank You to each and every one of our stakeholder group: trustees, former governors, parents, Parents' Forum, School Council, Friends of PCMS, children, senior leadership team, teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, technicians, caretaker/cleaning/catering staff, external agencies, developer and architect teams, councillors, Guy Opperman MP, Peter Jackson, PoPS, friends and families. Trustees have scheduled meetings discussing the next steps. We shall keep you posted.

Trustees, staff, children and families send their deepest sympathies to Mr and Mrs Pope for the tragic loss of their son, Charlie. He was a beautiful, cheerful boy with honour, integrity and a passion for what was right and 'fun' at the same time. His service of celebration is Thursday 22nd March and in respect of him and his parents' wishes that attendees wear yellow, this newsletter includes some yellow. On Thursday, please, everyone will wear a token of yellow to send our love, respect and strength to his family, friends and community

With kind regards

Caroline Pryer
Headteacher

Calling Home and Forgotten Kit Requests

We are finding more and more children arriving at the front of school asking to ring home for various reasons. This could be for forgotten kit, forgotten homework and even to arrange where they are being picked up at home time. Please check that your child is fully ready the night before school; and at breakfast they know their pick up points. The requests cause significant congestion within school and also for parents having to drop off items for children. Could we please stress the importance of being organised and encouraging your child to organise and remember what they need to bring to school and also how they are getting home.

Attendance percentages to date for each class– Target for school is 98%
Percentages taken 09/03/2018

5JH	5MG	5LC	5MB	5CW	6RP	6BN	6KS	6OT	6CE
96.7	96.4	97.3	96.8	96.8	96.7	97.3	94.9	95.2	96.9
7MP	7ABe	7CC	7TB	7CJ	8BF	8DR	8NM	8AP	8PC
97.6	96.6	95.8	96.7	96.7	95.4	95.7	96.4	95.1	95.5

Sports News

Y5 Football

The Y5 A Football Team played their first League match this week with a convincing victory over Newcastle School for Boys. It was amazing to see the lads put all their hard work in training into the game. Mr Bodley is extremely excited about the talent in Year 5 across all sports and is looking forward to taking them through all the way up to Year 8!

Y8 Boys Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 8 boy's rugby team. U13 County Champions 2018, they played at Kingston Park on Monday 26th February 2018.



Boys Badminton

Congratulations to the boys badminton team, who became County Champions, despite playing pupils a year older. On Wednesday this week they travelled to Thornaby for the regional finals with Phil Hall, finishing an incredible second place. The boys won their first two games before going down 3 matches to two in the decider. Across those 5 games the school only missed out on the national finals by 5 points. Thank you to Phil for all of his hard work with the badminton in school this year.

Well done to the school badminton team on Tuesday who took 16 players over to Walbottle for a friendly. The team ran out convincing winners over both doubles and singles formats.

Dodgeball

Last Wednesday we had our first Year 7 Dodgeball fixture against St Cuthbert's, who also brought Y8 pupils. We didn't manage to win all the games but the team spirit and resilience shown was something each and everyone of our players should be proud of.

Girl's Football Trip

In July 2018, 16 Y7 and Y8 girls are travelling to Shropshire for the week to take part in the Jill Scott Football Tournament. They have a fantastic opportunity to play teams from all over England, and receive coaching from the women's Manchester City and England midfielder. For this trip they will need at least 2 strips of football kit, which we need help in sponsorship and/or donations to purchase. We would like to ask, please, if you would consider helping us in any way to sponsor or donate towards these football kits. The strips will be used during the trip, and then be utilized by school pupils in school fixtures such as league games, regional and county tournaments. If you feel you could contribute in anyway, please contact the school directly, either by phone or email. Thank you in advance for your incredible ongoing support of Ponteland Middle School, we are eternally grateful.



Fun in the Winter Sun

Year 7 Castle Project:

The Y7s were given a project to complete over half term to make a model castle. The castles had to either be a Motte and Bailey Castle or a Stone Keep castle and could be made out of anything. We had cakes, ginger bread castles (which the staff enjoyed eating at lunch time thanks to Henry Kay!), wooden castles, cardboard castles, castles made out of Lego, clay and even Blu Tac! Mr Bodley was blown away with the quality of these castles and truly does appreciate the effort and hard work the pupils did to complete these. I'm sure there were a fair few families members involved too and we would like to thank everyone who was involved. The overall winners were as follows:

1st - Adam Marshall

2nd - Jamie Hodgson & Luke Wilson

3rd - Olivia Brown & Jess Doyle.

