



# Houghton Kepier Sports College

## An Academy



Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5BH Telephone: 0191 553 6528 – Facsimile: 0191 553 6533  
Email: [info@houghtonkepier.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonkepier.org.uk) – [www.houghtonkepier.org.uk](http://www.houghtonkepier.org.uk)

Principal Mrs Nicola Cooper BA (Hons) NPQH

14 December 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

My first term here at Houghton Kepier has gone past so quickly and the Christmas holiday is almost upon us. There have been so many events taking place this term that it will be difficult to include everything in this letter, please look at the website and my blog for all up to date activities.

On the last day of term (Friday 16 December) the end of term assembly will take place as usual, when we will be giving out prizes for learners who have worked hard throughout the term. School will close at the end of this assembly, probably at around 2.15pm. **Please note that school will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January.**

### Year 7

Our new year 7 learners have settled in well and are working hard, you can see their comments on their experiences so far on the website. There is also a special year 7 Christmas newsletter available online.

### Sporting Achievements

We entered teams in the West Wearside Cross Country Championships and had some outstanding performances. Namely, Poppy Pattinson who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Year 7 Girls, Alexander Brown who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Boys and Chelsea Gill who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Intermediate Girls races.

The girls football have had a successful start to their season. So far they are U13 League Winners and Year 7 5aside Winners. They have also reached the U13 and U14 County Cup Semi-finals. Their biggest achievement however is reaching the last 16 of the National Competition where they are currently the only North East team left. They play their next game in January.

The Year 8 Boys Football team are doing well having made it through to the Quarter Finals of the County Cup and as a result, two boys have been selected to represent the City. Well done to Thomas Fisher and Jackson Husband.

The Year 11 Football team have seen a change of form motivated by their forthcoming tour of Barcelona. Alongside playing matches they have participated in several bag packs, cycle rides and are looking to complete a Pier to Pier run and a raffle draw over Christmas to raise further funds. If you would like to support these learners by buying raffle tickets, please see Mr Osmond.



Our Sports Hall Athletes have made an impressive start to their season too. The Year 7 Boys and Year 9 and 10 Girls won the Sunderland Sports Hall Finals and will progress to the regional competition next year. Congratulations must also go to Aimee Beck, Natalia Smith, Jake Wilson, Emma Pritchard, Poppy Pattinson, Bethany Taylor and Erika Warren because as a result of their individual performances they have been selected to represent Sunderland in the Sports Hall Championships next year.

Our Young leaders are continuing their excellent work with our partner Primary Schools. So far this term they have helped out with the Netball Festival, where Newbottle were winners and most recently the Year 10 BTEC dancers and Boys dance group have helped run a Primary Dance Festival at the Bethany Centre with Years 3 and 4 where Shiney Row were winners.

The Year 10 Boys are doing well having reached the semi finals of the Londonderry cup.

With regards to the JAE form they continue reaching great heights in their own sports. Congratulations must go to Dan Anderson for being selected for the England Youth Ice Hockey Team in Holland next year and Natasha Agnew has been chosen to part of the English Youth Ballet. Jessica Thompson continues going from strength to strength in her swimming. She took part in the North East Regional Championships and won gold in the short course 400m IM and qualified for the 2012 Nationals with a lifetime best. She also achieved bronze in the 100 metre breast stroke.

#### Community and fund raising

Lots of staff and learners have taken part very enthusiastically in Movember, an event to raise awareness of mens' health issues.

Mr Forsyth in the History Department led the Remembrance events this year with a series of assemblies and the sale of poppies, we raised a record amount this year, just under £300. Thanks to Mrs Parker for her handiwork and the 'bling' poppies which were in great demand! For the first time learners in the armed forces cadets wore their uniforms to school with an immense sense of pride and a representative group visited the Cenotaph in Houghton, we look forward to building on this for next year

Children in Need was again a great success with a spotty theme and again very generous fund raising. All of these events are covered on the website.

This week we held a carol concert attended by 200 members of the local community. Many hours of rehearsals go into ensuring that the performances on the night are faultless, with our learners, staff and ex learners giving up a great deal of their time, both after school and on weekends to rehearse, thank you.

#### Exams

English exams take place after the holiday:

Year 11 Information and Ideas - 10th January - (Sets 1,2,5,6,7,8)

Year 11 GCSE Literature Paper - Lord of the Flies and Poetry - 17th January (Sets 3,4,5,6,9,10 only)

Year 10 GCSE Literature Paper - Of Mice and Men - 13th January (Sets 1-4 only)

#### Library

The Library is busier than ever before after school, at break and lunchtime. This term, year 7 have all been delighted to receive a free book in time for Christmas, as part of the national Booked Up! project. They all chose from a selection of 12 titles and the book is theirs to keep. Year 7 have also made a positive start to Accelerated Reader,

with several learners achieving their Ready Reader certificates since half term. We have decided to put year 8 and 9 back on to the reading scheme so we can track their progress and provide support where needed, this has been well received.

#### School Meals

We are very keen for all learners who are eligible for free school meals to have the opportunity to claim their entitlement. You will have recently received a letter giving details of eligibility and how to claim.

**To apply simply contact the main school office who will help you complete the application form.**

#### Uniform

Just a reminder on our uniform policy regarding jewellery and piercing. On health and safety grounds we do not allow learners to wear jewellery for school except for a small stud in each ear and a watch. Facial and other piercings, including ear gauges must not be worn. Any new piercings must be covered for two weeks and then removed. Black trousers only, leggings, jeggings and jeans are not acceptable. Black sturdy shoes without any logos must be worn. We will be checking uniform during the first week of the new term.

As a school we occasionally photograph learners carrying out a range of activities during the course of the school year. Photographs could be used within the school, published as part of a promotional brochure ie the prospectus or published in the local press. If you do not wish to have your child photographed please write to your child's Year Leader expressing your wishes.

Just a reminder that school will close for spring half term on Friday 10 February and will re-open Monday 20 February. Year 11 parents evening will take place 4-6pm on Thursday 2 February, I would encourage you to attend. There will be an inset day on Friday 30 March; learners will not be in school on this day.

I hope that you and your family enjoy a peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing all our learners back on Tuesday 3 January 2012 at 8.30am.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Cooper  
Principal