

Houghton Kepier Sports College

A Trust School



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Headteacher Mrs Sue Hyland MA MBA

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Summer holiday is fast approaching and I would like to update you on events over this term and give you some information about end of term arrangements.

The last day of term will be Friday 23 July. The end of term assembly will take place as during the morning, when we will be giving out prizes for learners who have worked hard throughout the term as well as prizes for learners with excellent attendance. School will close at 1.30pm. **Please note that school will re-open on Tuesday 7 September; learners in years 8 to 11 need to be in school at 10.40am ready to start classes at 10.45am; new year 7 learners need to be in school at 8.25am for an 8.30am start.**

Please note; work experience for year 11 is 27th September to 1st October and year 11 exams will start in November. No holidays will be authorised during this time.

It has been a busy term in the Library. Year 8 had a visit from Jenna Burtenshaw, a local author who has just published her first book and spoke to a group of learners about the experience of seeing her first book in print and how she structures her day as a full time writer. The learners then bought their own signed copies of the book. We have continued with Accelerated Reader and are seeing a steady improvement in the reading ability of year 7, 8 and 9, as well as increased confidence and enjoyment of reading. The Library continues to be packed out at break, lunchtime and after school and learners from all year groups are regularly taking books home.

As part of our citizenship programme, all KS3 learners had to imagine that they could vote in the general election for real. Four learners put together an election campaign - videos, posters etc onto the school intranet representing four different parties. Learners then had to go to the library to vote (like a real election boxes, ballot papers etc) for the candidate they would like to win the general election. The information/videos/results are still on the intranet if you want to have a look.

Also related to citizenship, the school won a prize in the Sunderland in Bloom competition in the autumn term for community/gardening work in Rectory Park.

Once again learners have taken part in the Junior Maths Challenge, results this year were better than ever, with four of our learners receiving gold awards, seven silver and twenty two bronze. The four gold winners are; year 8, Jack Reay and Kevin Barry, year 7, Ben Stafford and Ben Hall who was also best in school. Well done to them!

Also, congratulations to Miss Button who won the North East Inspirational Teacher of the Year award, apparently it was like being at the Oscars! Well done Miss Button.

Website updates: latest information on uniform and holidays will be available online over the summer.

This term all learners were given the opportunity to take part in sports focus days; events combining internationalism, enterprise and sport all based around the world cup took place over 4 days; learners and staff took part enthusiastically and enjoyed the experience.

We have had several sporting success this term:

- Hannah Goodman (Year 7) reached the final of the Year 7 City of Sunderland tennis tournament.
- Matthew Goodman (Year 11) won the final of the Year 11 City of Sunderland tennis tournament.
- The Year 11 Dancers have done really well to have reached the final of the Gentoo talent show, and we wish them the best of luck
- Dance leaders from Years 9 & 10 have been out to primary schools to teach all year groups dance.
- U12/U13 and U14s all came runners up in the Tyne and Wear Rounder's League.
- 2 teams were entered in the Sunderland SSP Triathlon for the first time this year. Jessica Thompson (Yr7) won overall in her age group.
- We now have 24 learners who have successfully received their bronze and silver certificates for Duke of Edinburgh. So far this year we have 4 learners who have completed their silver expedition and 37 who have completed their bronze expeditions. Well done to all of them.
- A Yr 9 inter form 5aside Competition was run during lunchtimes and Congratulations to Mr Halls coaching group for winning. Brad Fraser from Miss Sood's form won player of the tournament
- The Year 8 Boys Cricketers are in the Semi-Final of the TSSA County Cricket Competition.
- In the Year 7 West Wearside athletics championships we had some excellent performances. All learners who took part did really well, but noticeably, Natalia Smith won both events (Hurdles and High Jump) and Emma O Connor won the Javelin event.
- Many athletes in the Junior/ Inter West Wearside won their events and gained selection to the regional competition. Well done to, Rachael Simpson, Laura Fenwick, Andy Nkany, Chelsea Gill, Jonathon Baines, Beth James, Kirsty Poulter and Becky Gordon Watson.

Our Leadership programme continues to grow....

- 69 Learners (Year 9/10) have achieved their Junior Sports Leaders Award
- 29 Learners (Yr 10s) have achieved their Dance Leaders Award
- 45 Learners have now qualified as rugby ready coaches through the recruit into coaching scheme.


Medicines in school: We need to have very strict control over medicines in school. No medication should be taken without meeting parent/carer first. If a learner comes into school with medication, then parents must be contacted and informed that no medicines can be given until a consent form is signed, as there are certain criteria to meet before we can administer anything. Full guidelines are available on the school website.

As a school we occasionally photograph learners carrying out a range of activities during the course of the school year. This helps us to promote and celebrate the good work that goes on at Houghton Kepier Sports College. 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.

We are saying goodbye to several members of staff this summer, Mr Hair of the art department, Mr Sargeant of the maths department and Mrs Stephinson of the PE department are retiring this year; between them they have given over one hundred years of dedicated teaching in Houghton schools. Mrs Watson from the Learning Support department and Mrs Waite, assistant cook in our dining hall also retire having been with Houghton Kepier since its inception. They will be greatly missed by their colleagues and learners alike; we wish them all a healthy and happy retirement. Mrs Bullen of the music department leaves to be a Department Leader, good luck and our best wishes go with her. In September we will also be missing a number of staff on maternity leave; however, we have had an extremely good recruitment campaign and have subject specialists teaching in all areas of the curriculum.

I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to welcoming learners back in September for another busy and hard working year.

Yours sincerely



Sue Hyland
Headteacher