



HMS Newsletter February 2018

Holocaust visitor

In advance of Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27th, we were privileged to welcome Sue Bermange, from the '45 Aid Society', to share with us her father's life story. Bob Obuchowski, one of 'The Boys', was a survivor of the Holocaust: he lived through the Nazi uprising, the horrors of the Lodz ghetto, and concentration camps: Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Rhemsdorf and Theresienstadt. After liberation he was brought to the Lake District and rehabilitated with the help and support of the local community. He went on to live a happy life, watching the birth of his grandchildren with huge gratitude for every day of freedom. In later life, Bob was determined to share his story in schools to raise awareness with the younger generations; Sue has continued her dad's work. Over two days, Sue talked to the whole school. These were powerful, moving presentations triggering a wealth of questions. Year 6 will now apply what they have learned and submit entries to the Alfred Huberman Writing Award, a competition which runs in conjunction with the Lake District Holocaust Project. Our thanks once again to the PTA for funding Sue's visit.

An Audience with John Bercow, MP

On Monday 29th January, pupils had the privilege of asking the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Mr John Bercow, MP, a range of questions as part of an initiative known as 'Skype the Speaker.' Via a live link to Westminster, members of the school council and the school parliament put a diverse range of questions to Mr Bercow covering topics such as issues surrounding education today, how Brexit may impact young people in the future and the influential political figures of the 20th and 21st century. Mr Bercow was even able to advise the young political hopefuls on how to pursue a career as a Member of Parliament.

Handwriting competition

Thursday 8th February was the closing date for the spring term handwriting competition. Pupils were encouraged to focus on handwriting and the presentation of their work and then select a piece of which they were particularly proud. Submitted entries will be judged by teachers and prizes awarded after the half-term holiday. Good luck to all entrants!

Victorian Day for Year 6

Year 6 have launched their new Explore topic, "Revolution," with a Victorian Day. Pupils dressed in costumes from the period and experienced lessons in Victorian school room style. We all agreed that we much preferred 21st century teaching and learning! The children will go on to study life in Victorian times, including the changes that occurred during the Industrial Revolution.

Spelling Bee

Well done to the Key Stage 3 pupils who recently took part in the French Spelling Bee at St Joseph's Middle School.

Peter J Murray: book launch

The ever-popular author and friend of the school, Peter J Murray visited recently to launch the sixth and final book in the Mokee Joe series: 'Mokee Joe, Scourge of the Emirates.' We were privileged to be the first school in the North East to be host to the book launch for this novel and the visit, as ever, was a huge success.

Octoball House Competition

Congratulations to Aln in Key Stage 2 and Wansbeck in Key Stage 3, the victorious houses in the recent Octoball competition.

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Matilda Anderson, who recently qualified for the Inter-County Cross Country Championships and to Ryan Dodd for his continued canoeing success in the Bobby Timperley Memorial Race on the Tyne at Hexham.

Volunteers

Many thanks to those who have offered their time to support pupils in school or to give talks to groups. We always very much welcome offers of help and would be delighted to hear from anyone with some time to spare. Please contact Mr Watters or Mrs Minto in the first instance.

Upcoming dates for diaries:

Teacher Training Day: Friday 9th February (school closed to pupils)

Year Eight taster days at QEHS: 21st & 22nd February

World Book Day: 1st March 18 (come to school dressed as your favourite book character!)

Book fair: 5th -9th March

House Totals

Aln	Coquet	Tweed	Wansbeck
98	105	89	77

Attendance

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
97%	96.3%	96.1%	94.6%

School will close for the half-term break on Thursday 8th February and will re-open on Monday 19th February.