

House Update - March 2020

The last two months have been very busy with lots of activities and competitions going on for the Houses. House Leaders and Captains have had a lot on their plates trying to squeeze in all they wish to accomplish at this time of year.

A data count of house points has recently shown that Seacole are currently in first place, but only just, ahead of Bronte and Pankhurst.

The Easter season began with the start of Lent and the ever popular Pankhurst Pancake sale. The hall was filled with the smell of lemon and sugar, chocolate spread and warmed pancakes. The hungry hordes descended from across the school and raised over £160.

March 8th saw the celebration of International Women's Day, a particular day that we wanted to mark in school. Firstly we did this with the launch, entries and judging of an Inter House Art Competition where pupils were asked to come up with a piece of art to recognise a woman who was particularly inspirational to them. The range of entries was varied; from Greta Thunberg to somebody's very own special Mum. Some of the House Leaders were given an almost impossible task to choose a winner for their own house and then Mr Raikes had to pick an overall winner from those six. Hepburn's Priya Wadwha's beautiful pencil drawing of Ariane Grande, came a close hard fought second place to Keller's Annie Phillips' first placed oil painting of actress Ruby Rose. Prizes were presented to all entrants as well as highly commended and winners certificates in last week's House assembly, along with prizes to all the current house champions.

With the approach of Mother's Day, Bronte sold selling raffle tickets for the chance to win a fabulous hamper as a delightful present for the significant figure in someone's life, who deserves a special treat. All items were donated by members of staff and some pupils from the house and it raised a fabulous £100 for the Southport Inshore Lifeboat.

Bronte are particularly busy due to a changeover in their House Leader. Mrs Almond, who has been so active, hardworking and diligent in her role for a number of years is reluctantly relinquishing the role and handing over to our head science technician, Mr Wildman. Therefore she wanted to complete her planned events before she stepped down. We tearfully say farewell to Mrs Almond but welcome Mr Wildman with open arms and are looking forward to the new ideas and commitment he is bringing with him as a new leader. House competitions for all our fabulous footballers are already being discussed.

Bouncing and biscuits were the order of the day during break for the last two weeks as year 8's from all the houses took part in a sponsored skip. Turn out for some of the houses was excellent and sponsor money was already coming in.

As the skipping is so much fun - as the pupils find out when they do take part - two year 11 forms were cajoled by their form tutors to shed off the pressure of revision for imminent exams for a brief spell and join in with the skipping for some light hearted relief and biscuit rewards. Mr Campbell and Mr Howgego themselves also took part, much to the delight of the girls, and as I offered a prize to whomsoever brought in the most sponsor money, it was Mr Howgego himself who went away with a giant box of chocolates which he kindly shared with his form.

Changes are afoot to the house system from September as you may be aware. These changes will require a seventh house being created and International Women's Day was a perfect opportunity for pupils and staff to vote for a new inspirational woman to be the new house patron. I am pleased to tell you that the overwhelming vote was for Christiana Hartley, the daughter of the creator of Hartley's jam, the first female mayor for Southport, former Governor of Southport High School for Girls (as Greenback High previously was) and the founder of the local maternity hospital in Southport that was named after her. A very well deserved and suitably chosen new patron.

Although the current situation means all forthcoming plans the Houses had are now on hold, this means that when things do return to normal there are exciting events that can be organised. Pupils can still earn House achievement points while working from home and hopefully, despite not being in school at present, we will have a new set of House Champions to reward as soon as we are able to.

Look after each other over these difficult times and take note of the words Audrey Hepburn said:

"Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm. As you get older, remember you have another hand: the first is to help yourself; the second is to help others."

Mrs Moran
House Co-Ordinator