

Quakers in Yorkshire Meeting

From September 2018 we extended our all girl provision at the Mount to the age of 4 which strengthened our whole school, core message 'We know girls can'.

In the Junior School our curriculum provides the structure within which our girls can develop the confidence and independence, to question, cultivate and articulate their own opinions and ideas.

Our creative curriculum ensures teaching and learning supports girls' natural curiosity and stimulates their creativity. It offers girls the opportunity to work in depth, giving them the time they need to reflect, consolidate and transfer their learning. A key focus this year in the Junior School has been digital competency.

Digital competency is developed within all curriculum areas and is therefore at the forefront of our minds when we consider how we teach and deliver lessons as well as how the girls' record and communicate.

Lesson are enhanced across the curriculum by the use iPads and App smashing. From Key Stage One girls are demonstrating creative and innovative ways to present and record their work including the use of green screen technology. To further extend our digital learning we run a popular Robotics club and Coding Clubs for the younger girls. E-safety is an integral part of our Computing curriculum and in February we took part in 'Internet Safety Day' on the national theme of 'Our Internet, Our Choice'.

In the Junior school all girls participate in a wide range of sporting activities and competitions. It is important to give all girls the opportunity to take part in matches as well as key players being given the opportunity to excel. Last year we hosted the YSSN - York Schools Sport Network swimming gala and Cross country event at The Mount. These competitions include over 13 local state schools and they provide great competition for our girls as well as the opportunity to share our facilities with other schools.

The girls have also competed in their Inter-House competitions and have enjoyed taking part in a range of extra-curricular sport activities including lifesaving, Latin American dance, netball, swimming, gym and tennis. We have celebrated individual success with one of our Year 5 pupils qualifying for British School's Modern Biathlon 2019 Championship at Crystal Palace.

The Creative Arts provide essential skills in equipping our girls with self-confidence and they continue to have plenty of opportunity to perform. In February the Key Stage 2 Performing Arts group took part in the whole school event 'A Night at the Musicals' where they performed alongside the older girls. Our main production last year was 'A Mystery at Magpie Manor'. The production was set in 1920s and was interactive theatre so the performance took place in the hall, on the stage and through film footage. Everyone attending the performance entered into the spirit of the occasion by dressing in 1920s attire.

In October we took part in Quaker Week with the theme of Quaker Stories. The girls considered the Quaker values Simplicity, Truth, Equality, Peace, Social Justice and Sustainability. They discussed how these values inspire and guide their actions within themselves and towards others. They took part in discussions and role play activities. At the end of the week they invited parents to a Meeting of Worship led by our Year 6 girls.

In addition to our curriculum the girls continue to take part in School councils, charity days and national awareness events. Last year we took part in Mental Health Awareness week. We focused on the theme 'Being kind to our bodies helps our minds too' and encouraged the girls to consider the benefits of exercise and dance on their emotional well-being. Eco-Committee supported the boarders' initiative to collect plastic bottle tops to send to 'Lush' who recycled them for product containers. We have also helped raise money and awareness for Pancreatic Cancer and Comic Relief. These events raise awareness of a range of charities and help the girls to be empathetic towards others and reflect on their own lives as well as those of others.

Each term we have a 'Thinking Adventure Week' where we set aside the regular timetable and girls collaborate across the years in problem solving tasks and explore in different subjects a theme or idea. At the start of term we had a 'Go Green' week and the theme was 'Protecting the Ocean'. This was an open ended thinking challenge and the girls worked creatively and presented their work to parents and teachers at the end of the week.

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Head of Junior School