











# Dear Parents / Carers and Students.

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. I am sure you will agree that this has been a year like no other. I hope that you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

Here are PCSA, we are committed in keeping our students and staff safe and we have worked really hard to achieve this. From September, we have invested effort and money on two key areas; the safety of the school and a good solid curriculum for all of our students. The kind of curriculum that will help them with their progress and attainment.

In terms of safety, we have a robust risk assessment, which has helped us with keeping everyone safe. I know it has been difficult at times, especially with the temporary closure of whole year group bubbles; however, at times it was the right thing to do with safety in mind. For me, it is always with a heavy heart that I ask for students to self-isolate and to not attend school.

Furthermore, after listening to parents, carers and students' feedback, we have invested in a more robust remote learning policy, which will allow our students to continue to learn from home. Equally important, we have tried to resolve technical issues, such as the lack of laptops or Wi-Fi, and so far, we have been very successful in this area. Please continue to contact us if you have any issues with any access to remote learning. Also, during year group bubble closures, we have increased our communication in order to keep in contact with our students and parents/carers.

In terms of our curriculum, it was my commitment that we will offer our students a full curriculum. In KS3, all students have been able to enjoy the full offer of subjects, including creative and vocational lessons such as Music, Art or Design and Technology. Equally, in KS4, we have honoured every single choice our students have made in terms of their options and we have done it in the safest possible way.

Looking forward to Term 3, we are expecting further guidance for 2021 exams. As soon as we are given definitive information, we will share this with parents and carers immediately. In terms of personal development, we are planning to launch our "Character Education" programme next term. We want our students to work hard and achieve personal, social and interpersonal skills that will give them an extra edge later in life. More information on this will follow next term.

At this point, I want to thank you for your support and understanding of the ongoing situation. Running a large secondary school during a pandemic has not been easy. However, the support and encouragement from most of you has been the fuel to keep us going.

Equally important, I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues at PCSA. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, have gone above and beyond since returning in September to make sure the school runs smoothly so that all students are safe and learn to the best of their ability. I am extremely grateful to them all.

My best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Angelos Markoutsas, Principal angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



# **Executive Principal's Message**



Dear Parents / Carers and Students.

I am delighted to again write a short piece for the PCSA Christmas newsletter. It is always great to reflect on all the very positive news from students and

staff. As you will read here, and in spite of the current climate, many very great things are happening at PCSA. Thank you for your great support of all our staff at PCSA during 2020 – it has been the most testing of school years – however, our Trust has been very resilient and our Principals and staff have been absolutely first class.

The school at PCSA continues to thrive. We were delighted to have 300 new Year 7s join us at PCSA last

September with a huge 352 first choices. Miss Dodson (Head of Year 7) tells me that all is well with Year 7 and despite all the challenges that Covid-19 has presented to schools the new students have settled incredibly well. In fact, the idea of being just with Year 7s (in a 'bubble') for T1 and T2 has possibly in many ways assisted transition. We will see what 2021-22 brings but we are very mindful of this potentially unintended positive consequence of the pandemic.

Clearly, this year has been a very strange one. I again thank all the PCSA students, parents and carers for their great support of Mr. Markoutsas and his team. It has not been easy; we have had to follow Public Health England advice on closures of 'bubbles' at times — this is the very last thing we want to do but absolutely

necessary; we are left with no choices. Clearly, we are all very hopeful that by the spring or summer terms we will be back to 'normal'.

We were especially delighted this year to see such strong numbers into TPLT Sixth Form at TKASA (Highbridge) — this is absolutely part of our Trust and in our view the top destination for Post 16 study. Some 90 students entered Year 12 (lower Sixth) this year which allowed us to have a total Sixth Form of around 180. This is a sustainable number — but, we hope that we can encourage even more PCSA Year 11s to join the Sixth in September 2021. I hope you as Year 11 parents/ carers / students will consider our Sixth Form provision. As always, should you wish to talk with me at any time

about the Sixth Form or any other issue then please do email me; I will get promptly in touch – neville.coles@theplt.org.uk.

To end, I was delighted in November to be able to present Dawn Carey (pictured) from the mental health charity 'In Charley's Memory' with a cheque for £13,000 - this is the charity total raised from all our schools this year towards ICM.



### https://www.incharleysmemory.co.uk.

Thank you to all who contributed – our collecting actually ended in March (!) so this is particularly remarkable from what was essentially a half year of fundraising activities.



In this school year we support MPS - https://www.mpssociety.org.uk.



Can I wish you a very happy
Christmas with family and friends –
we clearly look forward to a much
more normal 2021.

Neville Coles CEO – The Priory Learning Trust



It is with a sense of awe and wonder that I find myself writing the newsletter this year. My wonderful year group continue to make me proud and remind me that with a positive mindset and resilience in the face of adversity anything is possible.

Students have taken the transition from primary to secondary school in their stride and it is a pleasure to hear from staff, parents and carers the positive comments about the year group.

A huge thank you from me to parents and carers for your words of support and kindness over the last few months. Many of our students have shown great resilience pushing themselves out of their comfort zone with your help, reinforced by school.

We have 46 students who have received over 400 achievement points with 7B4 in the lead with 14, followed by; 7B1, 7B5, 7A2, 7B6, 7A5 & 7A6.

Our top students in the year are Olivia Burge 7B4 & Henry Jones 7B1. Well done!

As Head of Year 7, I have the continued pleasure of being part of a wonderful, kind year group. Seeing students extend the hand of friendship, help each other, show empathy whilst navigating the world makes my heart swell with pride.

Mr. Wilmot held a Buzz Quiz Challenge, to help students look at their skills and attributes and how these might help guide them with different careers that might suit them. It also showed what animal they are most like and we have a whole zoo! Koalas, bears, dolphins, falcons, panthers, lions and my favourites a seahorse (Jack Roach 7B6) and a clownfish (Sophie MacLennan 7B5).

I continue to enjoy being Head of Year 7 and seeing first hand the will to succeed from so many students. With their continued positive mindset, I am sure we will see the next generation of young people making a positive impact on the world.

My final note, as I say in assembly is always be kind (to yourself and others), and be the change you want to see in the world.

Miss Dodson, Head of Year 7, lee.dodson@pcsa.org.uk

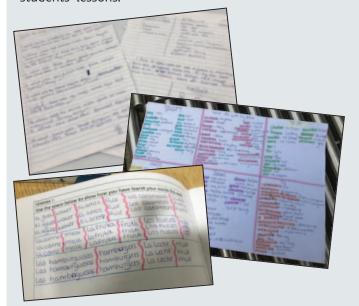


# YEAR 8 - Mrs. Boyce



t's been my pleasure to become the Head of Year 8 and see the students return this academic year with a grown up and positive attitude. I am so pleased of how the students have adapted to our new way of life at school in our year group bubble. From weekly zoom assemblies to students popping on their face masks, every student has taken these changes in their stride and I am so proud of the whole year group.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know the students either individually, in lessons, or during break and lunchtimes. The students have tried their very best this cycle, and I can see this when being present in the students' lessons.



They are thriving on learning and engaging with their teachers and the quality and accuracy of the work is a great achievement.

I am so lucky to have a very talented year group. The students were set a task over four weeks to look at the

> work of Pop Artist Claes Oldenburg and create a sculpture of an everyday object. The sculpture had to be larger than its original size, made

from recycled or found objects and as lifelike as possible. All the students have excelled in this with an enormous number of students receiving a gold star. You can see two students pictured who created a guitar



and a very large box of McDonald's chips! It was great to hear and see the enthusiasm and skill that the students were putting in to this task – well done all!

### Anti-Bullying Week 2020: Monday 16 – Friday 20 November

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 was: United Against Bullying. The week started with Odd Socks Day. Last year 75% of schools in the country took part, reaching well over 7 million young people. Odd Socks Day was a great way to kick off the week as it's an opportunity to encourage young people to express themselves and celebrate their individualities! Now, more than ever, we're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.









I am so proud of the whole year group and proud to be their Head of Year. I hope the students keep learning, listening, enjoying school, stay safe and continue to be the great year group that they are!

Mrs. Boyce, Head of Year 8, abigail.boyce@pcsa.org.uk

### YEAR 9 - Mr. Caulfield



■ irstly, I would like to say that I am so proud of Year 9 so far this year. It was an exciting challenge for all of us when we returned in September after the summer break, but Year 9 have worked extremely hard throughout these unprecedented times.

As our Year 9 students embark on their final year in Key Stage 3, they have had to work hard during lessons, on their commitment and their attitude. To date Year 9 are progressing well in all lessons to ensure they have a wealth of subject knowledge to aid them in their GCSE Options in Term 3. As always, we have put our 'students first' to ensure that there is an opportunity for all students to achieve their full potential with the guidance of tutors, teaching staff and the wider Pastoral Team.

At the start of the year the non-negotiable three virtues for Year 9 were explained. These are as follows:

#### 1. Ambition

Having worked with Year 9 for the past two terms, it has become apparent that they aspire to achieve great things. They want to success and be successful in life. As a Year 9 team, we have celebrated the succeed of students throughout the term by recognising the hard work by certain individuals. As we approach the halfway point of the year, students look to effectively make the biggest decision of their life during school. What GCSEs am I going to take? As a Pastoral Team we are there to support and encourage the students to aim high and reach their goals. Anything is possible when they 'work hard and be kind'.

### 2. Engagement

Students have played a full role and accepted accountability for their learning and for others around them. They have continued to 'work hard and be kind' each day. This year we introduced



our Community Kindness Award, which is awarded to students for doing something exceptional for the local community, their peers or for members of staff at school. It is great to see our students perform some great random acts of kindness and we have, so far, awarded ten Community Kindness Awards since returning in September!!

#### 3. Resilience

During the ongoing pandemic, students have been superb and continued to show resilience by remaining in the mindset of attending school each day to work hard. Year 9 have been supported by their fantastic tutors during terms 1 and 2 and have been given the guidance and help to ensure they overcome setbacks. Each student in Year 9 has, so far, demonstrated strength and character in different situations – I applaud them for doing this. It is important, as students approach their GCSE choices and Year 10, that they continue to be resilient in order to maximise their education.

For me, this term has been a rewarding one, and seeing all students 'work hard and be kind' has made a significant impact on myself and the students own learning.

As always, as Head of Year, it is my role to support, encourage and monitor all students in Year 9 to ensure they continue their enthusiasm for learning and make the best possible progress. This year we have introduced **Year 9 Star** 





of the Week, which is awarded to those students who demonstrate the Year 9 virtues each and every day to ensure they are improving their chances of success. Well done to all

those who have won this award so far, they have all worked extremely hard and are always kind to staff, students and

It is important that as a year group we continue to celebrate the small successes that students can achieve weekly. The 100% Attendance Award is given each week for the student who has attended every day. We have a lot of students who attend every day and we pick this out of a hat each week. Secondly, we love to celebrate the Most Class Chart Points weekly. Students who achieve the most positive points weekly are rewarded for their hard work during lessons. Well done to all students who have received awards this term – you are all amazing!

Reading for All has continued to be a fabulous addition to Year 9 tutor time. Each tutor reads to their tutees, whilst explaining tier 2/3 vocabulary to the students in order to improve their own literacy skills. During term 1, we saw Mr. Hodder and



his tutor group 9A2 win the Reading for All Award. Within minutes of arriving, students retrieve their books and are reading straight away with some fantastic reading from Mr. Hodder which really entices the students into the book.

Finally, we have our Super Star Tutor Award, which was most recently won by Mr. Gilbert, captain of 9B3! A super contribution to ensuring 9B3 and the rest of Year 9 has run smoothly throughout term 1. Super Star Tutor is an award given to our tutor team every term who have gone above and beyond to support



students and staff within Year 9. Well done Sir!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for the continued support you have given me and the fabulous Year 9 tutor team here at PCSA. Please continue to contact us if you have any questions.

> Mr. Caulfield Head of Year 9, jake.caulfield@pcsa.org.uk

### YEAR 10 - Mrs Petrou



Well, what a year 2020 has turned out to be! I don't think anyone could have possibly imagined a stranger, more uncertain year but I have to say Year 10 have been wonderful. Beginning the academic year in September, now part of Upper School, our students have risen to the challenge exceptionally. The whole year group have returned to Priory with a clear, focused determination to succeed and achieve their full potential which has created a wonderful atmosphere in the school.

This year I am new to the role of Head of Year 10 and, I have to say, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside your children. They are polite, thoughtful and inquisitive young adults who have shown resilience in droves!

Students have begun their GCSE courses and option subjects with determination and passion and this has been noted with the large majority of students accumulating a considerable amount of achievement points. Particular recognition must go to the following students who have gained the most achievement points to date for their hard work and positive attitude to learning:

YEAR 10 STARS



Charlie T (10A4)
Kelly J (10A3)
Olivia T (10A3)
Benjamin J (10A5)
Jasmine R (10B5)
Finlay H (10B3)









Year 10 is traditionally an important year for exploring careers and looking at various options to study beyond PCSA. In the summer term we will holding a plethora of activities for our students to participate in. These include creating a CV, researching the wide range of job roles, a mock interview day for our students to participate in where they are interviewed by an employer, either face to face or by zoom. In regards to work experience we are still exploring all the options available for our students. Mr Wilmot, our Head of Careers, is keeping an eye on current restrictions and guidance and as soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

Despite the limited freedom we all had over this summer I was delighted to learn that many of our students had successes within their sporting teams. A special mention to a few key individuals who have excelled in extracurricular activities, including; Alice Bird (10B5) who has had an incredible achievement in Cricket this year. Alice represented the Somerset Woman's 1st XI and was also selected to participate in the Elite Performance Programme this year. Billie-Jean Chenoweth (10B4) won rugby 'player of the year' for her age group at Weston Hornettes which is an incredible award and one that is voted for by the club and team mates. I would also like to mention the hard work that was shown by so many of this year group during the summer lockdown. Both the PE faculty and myself were blown away by the effort and dedication students put into their sporting exercises and sharing their progress with the house challenges. A special mention must to go to lestyn Owen (10A2), Roman Osborne (10A2), Morgan Craig (10A3) and Tiernan Cook (10A3) for the numerous miles you all cycled, variety challenges you undertook and the commitment you showed to your school, well done!









Lastly, I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs. Petrou, Head of Year 10, rhian.petrou@pcsa.org.uk

### YEAR 11 - Miss Rees



ear 11 have enjoyed a hugely positive start to the school year and have returned to PCSA determined to do their best and eager to impress as they continue with their GCSE courses. It has been a difficult time for Year 11 but they have shown tremendous resilience and adapted well to online learning during their period of isolation. I would like to thank you for your continued support in home schooling and likewise thank the students for their hard work and dedication in continuing their studies in an unprecedented time. Having spoken to many colleagues they have been impressed with the outstanding work that students have managed to achieve. I couldn't be prouder of the year group.

During the start of the year, we have been focussing on planning Year 11's next steps during these challenging times. Miss Silmon and Mr. Wilmot have said to me how impressed they have been with the majority of the year group being proactive in applying for future courses, whether it be at college or sixth form. This demonstrated to me the endurance of Year 11 students to succeed no matter what the circumstances are. For those students who have yet to decide on their next steps please do not hesitate to contact me or the Careers Team for advice.

Students have continued their lessons with determination and eagerness with many successes, with the majority of students accumulating a considerable amount of achievement points. Particular recognition must go to the following students who have gained the most achievement points to date for their hard work and positive attitude to learning. All these students are excellent role models for the rest of the year group.

- Lucy Fowler (11B5)
- Thomas Fox (11B4)
- Isobel Few (11B5)
- April Youdan (11B4)
- Isabelle Board (11B1)

I would also like to highlight Tutor Group 11B1 as the tutor group who have accumulated 4836 positives, and have not received any negatives so far this year! Congratulations 11B1 both Miss Winsborough and I are delighted by this accomplishment. The tutor group's motto is "One of the least miserable tutor groups in the world!"

To ensure that students know where to start with their revision and for you to help them get started we have put together a Year 11 Revision Starter Pack. This was sent out to all students earlier in the year. We hope that you found the contents of this pack useful and a good starting point to encourage students to take ownership of their learning. A great way to start for Year 11 would be to access GCSE Pod. Mr. Edwards presented an assembly to Year 11 students to illustrate how to access it, as well as to show key features that

help students revise and complete their own retrieval practice of key information for a variety of subjects.



Prep for Success sessions have started for our Year 11 students. Sports Science had a successful turnout. Other subjects are scheduled throughout the year. This is open to all Year 11s to attend. We look forward to seeing them at future sessions.





Please contact us if you have any queries regarding any of the above. We are always happy to speak with you. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing students in the New Year.

> Miss Rees, Head of Year 11, abigail.rees@pcsa.org.uk



# **CREATIVE ARTS - Mr. Stanley**

### **ART & PHOTOGRAPHY**

### Year 8 Homework - Claes Oldenburg inspired **Sculptures**

We were pleased to see our Year 8 students embrace and excel in their homework task to produce a large scale, 3D sculpture of an everyday item in the context of the Cycle 1 Pop Art project.

It is a project that encourages collaboration and imagination which the students seem to really enjoy. They were very proud of their achievements and everyone in the Art Department were thrilled to see such a vast range of creative ideas. Well done!

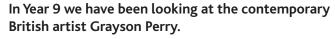




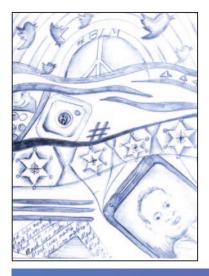






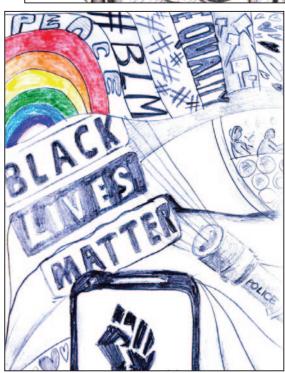


Furthermore, we studied British values and how we need to treat others with respect. During this topic we have researched and discussed the Black Lives Matters movement. Year 9 art students have created a Grayson Perry style drawing inspired by these themes.









# ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, DRAMA & MUSIC



#### **MUSIC**

At PCSA we have been proud to continue offering a full curriculum this year, including music lessons for all of our students. The music staff at Priory have been really impressed by the resilience that students have shown whilst adapting to the new classroom arrangements.

During this first cycle, Year 7 have been learning about the Elements of Music - the nuts and bolts of how music is put together! They have been showing off their knowledge using their new mini white boards. Year 8 have been studying the development of Rock n' Roll during the 1950s. Year 9 have been studying the Sounds of the '60s including Motown and the Beatles. Our Year 11 students have clearly done some practice during lockdown and they are working really hard on their coursework for the RSL Level 2 course, including writing their own pop songs. Keep up the good work everyone!



### **DRAMA**

The first cycle in Drama at PCSA has been busy yet fun. We have ended their cycle with a plethora of duologues ranging from Year 7, 8 and 10. Whilst Year 9 had to devise their own Theatre of Cruelty productions.

Our Year 7 Drama classes have completed a scripted absurd duologue focusing on the characters of Chalk and Cheese. They all did fantastically well and have set a high standard for their work for the rest of the year.

Year 8 have used their Theatre in Education theme of Joyriding to devise their own duologues and all classes performed these as a radio play to the rest of the class.

The Year 9 Drama classes have been writing their own Theatre of Cruelty plays based on a nightmare, nursery rhyme or fairy tale. We were extremely pleased with many of these presentations and could tell the students had put a great deal of thought into them.

Year 10 have been using the work of the English playwright Harold Pinter. They spent two weeks learning lines for a short Pinter sketch and performed these duologues to the class. I can see some fantastic talent emerging already.

Year 11 have just completed their first of 3 exam performances. They all took part in various scenes from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and have all done exceptionally well.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone, staff and students, for their warm welcome to Priory Community School. It has made my transition into my new role here smooth and delightful. I am looking forward to our next cycle.

Mr. Stanley, Central Leader of Creative, james.stanley@pcsa.org.uk





# **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - Mr. Clay**

### **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Design & Technology has been very different since returning in September. Due to the ongoing pandemic and working in year group bubbles, the faculty has had to adapt its curriculum and approach to teaching Design & Technology. However, we have been amazed at how well the students have adapted and their work has shown accuracy, flair and creativity.

### KS3 Design & Technology

Within Key Stage 3 students have been developing core Design & Technology skills. In Year 7, students have been introduced to working safely within D&T; developing their product analysis and learning about developments in materials; technology; user needs in product evolution by looking closely at kettle designs.











applying colour.



In addition they have been introduced to the graphical communication skills required to be successful in D&T, such as sketching and drawing in 3D and







Year 8 students have been developing their graphical communication skills by studying single and two point perspective drawings; the significance of colour and the colour wheel including contrasting and harmonious colours. They have developed their knowledge and understanding of materials and applying this to a set design challenge of developing a sofa in the style of the 1950s Eames lounger chair.







### **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

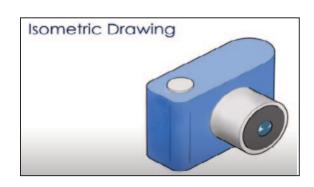


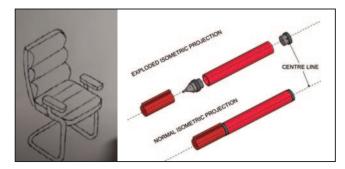
Year 9 students have had the opportunity to develop their sketching and drawing skills further focussing on being able to present complex design ideas in 3D By developing their skills in isometric, exploded and orthographic drawings.

They have learnt how to apply colour and textures to render objects to make their designs more realistic. They have also been introduced to the world of 3D printing; understanding how designs are generated, modelled and how 3D printers work.

Students have been able to draw on the skills developed during the learning cycle to design and present a new desk lamp design.

As we move into the new learning cycle we look forward to what the students will achieve in their new projects.







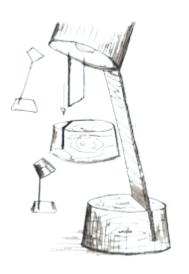




### KS4 Design & Technology

We have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to continue our KS4 lessons within D&T to allow students to continue with their option subjects and practical work. Year 10 students have made a great start to their chosen courses learning through practical activities to develop their knowledge and understanding of materials, components and technical skills.

All Year 11 groups have been heavily involved in coursework this term. Engineering students have been completing their Engineering design coursework and Hospitality and Catering students have been learning about nutrients and the needs of specific groups as part of their coursework. They are now working on their menu proposals which will form the practical element of their coursework. GCSE D&T students have also been working on their coursework. Analysing the contextual challenge and identifying user needs and wants and are currently developing their design proposals.



Mr. Clay, Central Leader for DT david.clay@pcsa.org.uk

### ENGLISH - Mr. Dodd



Things have been very different for us in the English faculty so far this year. Obviously, we've been unable to run our usual Year 7 Spelling Bee and Poetry Slam event, which would normally feature heavily in this newsletter entry! That said, we have still been able to share our passion for literature with all of our classes, delivering a varied and challenging curriculum even in the face of adversity. We have welcomed two new members of staff, with Ms Todd joining us as a full time English teacher from the drama department and Ms Wray joining us from our sister school TKASA, both of whom are already making a huge difference to our team. Ms Wray has now left us again, but only temporarily, as she is having a baby – we can't wait to have her back in September 2021.

### **KS3 Update**

Years 7 and 8 have both started the year off with some Shakespeare. Cycle 1 for Year 7 was spent studying The Tempest, and we've really enjoyed giving the students their first taste of Shakespearean English and the depth of meaning in his wonderful words. We would normally spend a lot of time engaged in drama activities to explore the text as a play, so it has been a little disappointing that we've not been able to do this. The first cycle for Year 8 has been focused on Much Ado About Nothing: the original 'Rom Com'. They have grappled with the difficult language and concepts and come out on top, with interesting, analytical ideas.

Year 9 have gone back even further in time to the age of the Ancient Greeks. They have read extracts from Ovid's The Iliad and learnt the Greek creation story from Stephen Fry's Mythos. This all lays the groundwork that they need to understand the next text we are studying: Macbeth, in which we will be analysing whether the Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland is presented as a hero or not. We will also be applying what we have learnt about Aristotle's theory of tragedy to the plot of the play.

### KS4 Update

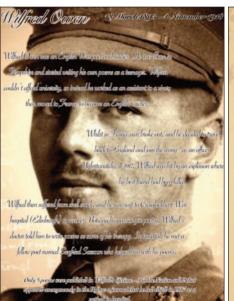
Year 10 and 11 students have thrown themselves back into their studies since they have returned in September. We have been so impressed with their determination and dedication. In these strange times, all that we can control is our attitude. Our focus in Year 11 has been Romeo and Juliet, considering what Shakespeare has to say about love, gender and conflict between the generations. This is the start of our preparation for the Literature GCSE next year and Year 11 have made such an impressive start. In Year 10, we have been reading Dickens' A Christmas Carol charting Scrooge's road to redemption. We are totally ready to embrace the magic of Christmas. No more "Bah humbug!" this year. We will "keep Christmas in our heart all year round".

### Mr. Dodd, Central Leader for English philip.dodd@pcsa.org.uk

Pictures of Year 7 isolation work: Researching Wilfred Owen and posters for The Tempest.















His poems were about the horror of war from personal experience whilst serving in the British army in France.

In 1989 an association was set up to celebrate his life and poetry.





### **NEW TO THE TEAM**

This year has seen the maths faculty continue to grow and I have pleasure in introducing one new member to the team. One thing that is really great for the maths faculty is the stability that we have achieved within the team which is a massive bonus to our students consistent learning.



Leonie Dale: Whilst I was working in a bank, I became aware of teenagers and adults who lacked real life mathematical skills. Often they would tell me that maths was a chore and that they didn't like it, so they didn't try. I was astounded

as this couldn't have been further from my own experience. The reason that I loved maths in school was because my teacher was very entertaining. She made every lesson fun and interesting. And that is my goal.

### **HOMEWORK**

A little bit about how homework has changed in maths. All year groups now hand their homework in on the same day; Monday is Year 7, Tuesday is Year 8 A & B, Wednesday for 8C, Wednesday is Year 10, Thursday is Year 11 and Year 9s are Friday.

We are also increasing the use of Hegarty Maths across all the year groups. In Year 7, 8 and 9 there is a minimum of 1 task per week, in Year 10 a minimum of 2 tasks per week and Year 11 a minimum of 3 tasks per week. Students are expected to achieve at least 60%, otherwise they will need to watch the video again and improve their score. If they struggle or have any problems make sure they talk to their teacher who will be happy to help. These tasks are set by their teacher on a weekly basis and relate to the topics they are learning in the classroom. The benefit here is that tasks can be set on an individual basis making the homework more tailored to the needs of the individual.

In addition, from Cycle 2 all students will have a homework booklet to write their notes from the video and any workings. This is a great resource for your child to keep as part of revision.

#### EXTRA HELP

At the moment we are not running the normal after school sessions. However, your child can still get help. Make sure they are you on the relevant Maths Google Classroom for their maths class and they can send a message to their teachers asking for specific help. Check out the pcsa.org.uk

website for all the information about accessing the google classrooms that have been set up. If you need any more help with this please email me

### **IUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE**



In what has been an unprecedented year, the Junior Maths Challenge went online. The good news is that despite this we still had over 50 students have a go at this challenge and we achieved some amazing results.

This year we saw a great number of bronze, silver and gold awards and were able to ensure that all students received their certificates at the beginning of this year. Here is a just a summary of the amazing results from this event and well done to all those that took part.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total			
Year 8	11 2		2	15			
Year 7	5	1	3	9			
Best in School	Freddy Jones (119)						
Best in Year 7	Dai	sy Fielding (	112)				

#### **HEGARTY MATHS** & hegartymaths

This cycle, we as a school, have attempted over 150,000 questions so far, watched nearly 700 hours of videos and given over 6000 pieces of feedback. This is a phenomenal start to the year.

To keep you in the picture we are aiming high this year. We were on track last year and so would like to achieve over 1 million questions across the whole year and watch over 6 months worth of videos. We have made a great start, but still have a long way to go. Remember your child does not have to only do quizzes and watch videos set by their teacher. They can use it to help on lots of different topics and earn house points for their effort. Every week the three top students in each year group earn house points for their house and at the end of each cycle we give house points for the top 10 users in each year group. So it all helps to make your house the best.

Remember you can always request more work from your teacher as well, you just ask in Hegarty Maths.

#### Hegarty Maths Champions of the cycle

Year 7	Maddie Tucker	Year 10	Rio Jones
Year 8	Shannon Kingston	Year 11	Lily Thompson
Year 9	Mia Fisher		

#### Student of the cycle

Every cycle each teacher in the maths faculty nominates one student who has been outstanding throughout the cycle. Below is the list for Cycle 1 and the teacher who nominated them. Congratulations to all the students, you will be getting a certificate and chocolate as well contributing to your house, with many house points.

Angel Trundley-Read (Mr Gilbert), Ben King (Mrs Crouch), Phoebe Tudor (Miss Reeves), Ryley Coghlan (Mr Pierson), Cameron Bishop (Miss Harding), Isabelle Sirmon (Miss Dale), Sophie Whitchurch (Mr Zeeman), Alice Bird (Mr Wilson), Tom Harding (Mr Marsh), Tyler Townsend (Mrs Kerrison), Rebecca Mawbey (Mrs Robins), Olivia Talbot (Mr Ennis)

> Mrs. Kerrison - Central Leader of Maths lois.kerrison@pcsa.org.uk



### **HUMANITIES - Mrs. Hancox**

Humanities has, as ever, had a busy start to the year. We have welcomed two new members of staff to the team and also welcomed back another colleague who worked at PCSA a few years ago and has rejoined the school this year. The addition of these excellent members of staff to Team Humanities has strengthened what was already an excellent team of teachers. We welcomed back Mr. Jason Edwards to PCSA after a few years away. He is now one of our Assistant Principals and a fantastic have teacher. We also welcomed Mr. Jeremy Vize as a teacher of RE and Miss Sapphire Fortey as a teacher of geography. Miss Fortey herself went to PCSA as a student! All three of these teachers have made an excellent start to the term and are really making a difference to the students they are teaching.

As always, we have been so impressed with the hard work students are putting into their humanities lessons all the way from the new students in Year 7 to the Year 11s. Here are some examples of the work they have produced this term.

In history this term, Year 7 have been learning about William the Conqueror, whilst the Year 8s and 9s have shown great maturity in their studies of empire and slavery and the Holocaust respectively. These issues are so important for students to learn about and we hope

they have taken away some important messages from learning about these topics.

In geography the Year 7s have been learning about their place in the world through an introductory skills-based unit whilst Year 8 have been looking at development in Ghana and Year 9 have been studying the way resources are distributed around the world.

In RE Year 7 and 8 have been studying Judaism and Hinduism respectively. We have been especially impressed as well by the attitudes our Year 9s have shown to starting their GCSE in RE this year, a year before they start it in their other subjects. They have shown an excellent, mature attitude to their learning which is great to see.

We have also been delighted with the start Year 10 have made to their GCSE courses in history, geography, RE and sociology. The effort of the Year 11s has also been exceptional and they have shown fantastic determination to succeed in their GCSEs in our subjects. We look forward to welcoming them to our Prep for Success sessions first in RE and geography and then later in RE, history and sociology to further support them in their road to achievement.

Mrs. Hancox – Central Leader of Humanities zoe.hancox@pcsa.org.uk

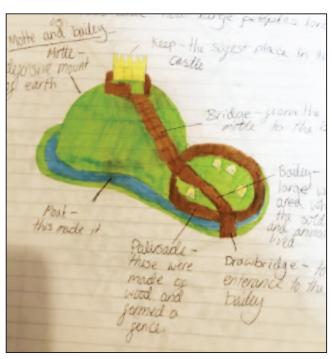


A picture of Mr. Edwards a few years back on the Berlin trip.

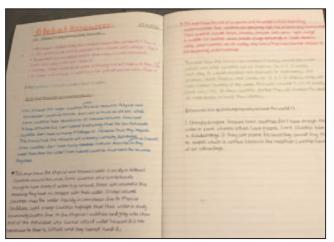


Miss Fortey on a walk through a gorge.

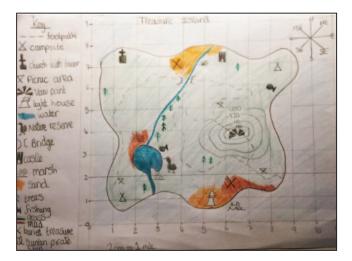




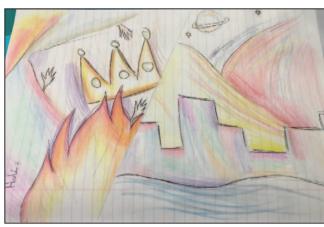
A fantastic castle diagram from one of our Year 7s.



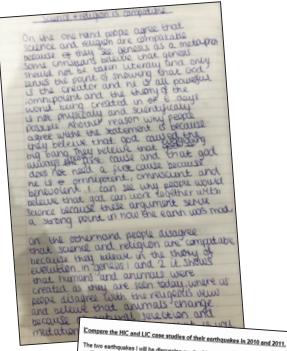
Lovely example of some Year 9 geography work



A map from one of the Year 7s showing all of the geography skills they've learnt this cycle.



A piece of Year 8 work showing learning about the Hindu festival of Holi.



The two earthquakes I will be discussing are the 2011 Japan earthquake and the 2010 Halti earthquake. The Japan earthquake measured 8.9 on the Richter scale and the Halti earthquake measured 7 on the Richter scale.

earthquake measured r on the Holcnter scase.

On one hand, the Halti earthquake was worse than the Japan earthquake because there were 250,004 the parties (234,178 more than Japan). Other primary effects include: 293,383 more seen and the primary effects include: 293,383 more was approximately £5,9-£6,5 billion. This had a social impact on people because they had nowhere to like and the government couldn't alrod to pay for repairs. There was also a lack of sanitation with almost 300,000 people siving in one sturn in addition, there were no pawed roads, severes, tills to no water or electricity and there was also insafe issues which include: 65% of the population earn less than £1 a day with 56% of the population earn less than £1 a day with 56% of the population very poor. Being the porest country in the Western Hermisphere, many of the health issues. Their environment would have been totally destroyed and as a result of this, people were still surviving in camps a year after the disaster.

On the other hand, some people would argue the Japan earthquake is worse. With 15,822 deaths and over 125,000 buildings damaged. Japan had 434,000 people made homeless. It this had a big social impact on families and health. As an HIC pligh income country), the cost of damage was £185 billion and the rebuilding began almost immediately. Japan resistent to earthquakes as beliess as Halia as billions were spent making buildings more resistant to earthquakes. An environmental issue is: damage to urban vater supply and sewage networks which can result in cross contamination, leading to health impacts for the

In conclusion, I think that the Haiti earthquake was worse because despite the cost of repairs for buildings, there was also a cholera outbreak which was not ideal for Haiti as there was a beans and fruit also rigad by 50%, meaning that large, poor families didn't get any food. Moreover, Haiti has the most corrupt government on earth.

An example of a great first GCSE RE essay and a first GCSE geography exam question from two of our Year 10 students

### **ICT - Miss Whitham**



It's been an unusual start to the new school year for the Computing, ICT and Business department. We have a record number of students studying our courses at KS4 (Year 10 and 11) as well as the challenge of teaching ICT and Computing lessons in KS3 without the use of computer rooms. Our staff have been planning innovative and creative lessons and our students, as always, have risen to the challenge of these new styles of learning.

### **KS3 LESSONS**

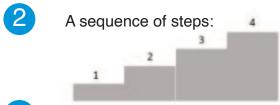
Year 7 have been learning all about E-Safety and staying safe online. One of the areas they have been looking at is the concept of a 'Digital Footprint'.

A digital footprint is a trail of data you create while using the internet. It includes the websites you visit, emails you send, and information you post to social media sites. Through class discussions, watching videos and analysing their own digital footprint, Year 7s have learned how important it is to think carefully before posting anything online. The next unit Year 7s will be studying is all about algorithms.

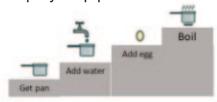
A list of instructions that can be followed to achieve a result:

1.	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
2.	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
2																

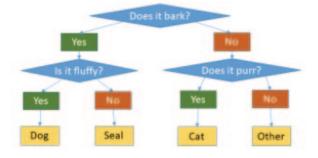
4.



3 Step-by-step procedures:

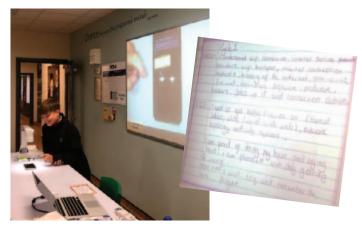


A set of instructions and decisions:

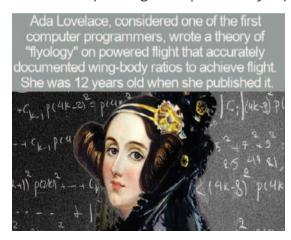


Our Year 8 students have been learning all about computer networks, including how the internet works and careers in network security.

Here are some photos of Year 8s demonstrating how handing in work has changed (uploading photos of their written work to their Google Classroom) as well as examples of their self-evaluations for Cycle 1 (we're using exercise books now). For Cycle 2 we are moving on to computer games design, so we are looking forward to seeing how creative our Year 8s can be!



Year 9s have been learning all about the history of computing, as well as looking into the ethical, moral and environmental issues surrounding the use of ICT and Computer technology. They were very interested to find out that the first 'computers' were actually people (it was a job title!) and that the first computer programmer was Ada Lovelace (the daughter of poet Lord Byron).



In Cycle 2 they are moving on to 'Data Representation' which includes such topics as binary and the hexadecimal numbering system.

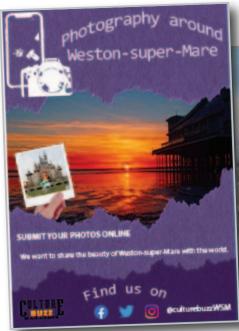
# **COMPUTING, ICT & BUSINESS**



### **KS4 LESSONS**

In KS4 we now have students studying: Business, Computer Science and Creative iMedia (ICT). Our Creative iMedia students have been working very hard to complete their coursework using Adobe Photoshop.

Here are some examples of their work:





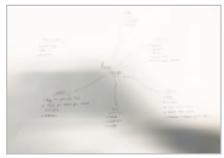
Year 11 Computer Science students have been practising their programming skills during their 20 hour programming project using the Python language.

Year 11 Enterprise & Marketing (Business) students have similarly been working through their first coursework unit where they have to create a business idea for either a hat design company or a pizza restaurant.

Below are some of their mind-maps where they are brainstorming ideas for their project.

Miss Whitham, Central Leader for ICT jo.whitham@pcsa.org.uk









# LANGUAGES & GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (LGU) - Mrs. Parsons

It has been fantastic getting back in the classroom after lockdown and being able to interact with students face to face again. We all quickly settled back into the familiar routine and Cycle 1 was successful all round. Our well-established 2 main lessons 1 vocabulary lesson structure means students know exactly what to expect and when their homework is due (every weekly vocabulary lesson). We also introduced a new style of retrieval starters for all year groups and these have also been welcomed by students as they allow knowledge to be constantly reviewed and reinforced. This has been a useful tool to support students in their transition back to the classroom.

This term, we welcomed Miss Lisa Burgess and Mrs. Petra Bartosova to the team and they have fitted in really well. Mrs. Honnorine Harbridge, is leaving us this Christmas and we wish her all the best.

### **KS3 NEWS**

It has been lovely having students back in the classroom again from September and Year 7 have settled wonderfully in their new learning, whether French or Spanish. Students learned the basics for each subject, such as the alphabet, how to introduce themselves and how to describe what is in their bag. It has been fabulous seeing students' confidence grow and enjoy their learning. In Year 8 and in Year 9, students have been deepening their knowledge of key vocabulary and grammar and again, it has been so gratifying to see them embrace learning and continue to make progress.

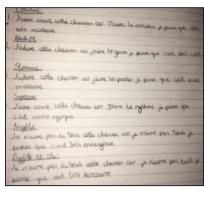
Students have been using mini whiteboards regularly in lessons to practise and show their learning which has allowed for some great interactive activities.

Year 7 students have also showed their creative skills when taking part in a Christmas card competition in the lead up to Christmas.

### KS4

Year 11 students have really impressed us with their commitment to making progress and it has been lovely to see so many engaging in learning on Google classrooms.



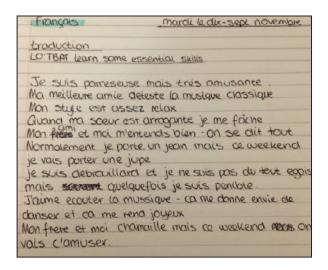


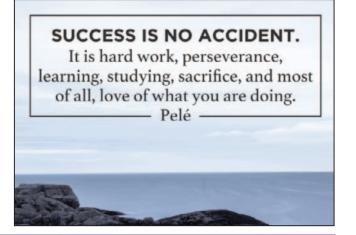




In line with the 2021 exams, a lot of input was put on writing and translation, both important skills to master and develop. Our weekly vocabulary tests lend themselves very well to this and students are growing increasingly confident with these. Despite a period of isolation in November, students' hard work, enthusiasm and commitment have been impressive and amazing to see. With so many online platforms to embrace to support language learning, digital learning has added an exciting twist to students' independent home learning and it has been great to see this.

Mrs. Parsons, Central Leader for LGU christelle.parsons@pcsa.org.uk





### **CAREERS - Mr. Wilmot**





### A BUSY TIME FOR CAREERS!

The Year 8 interview challenge ran really well in October. All students created their first CV, researched different career paths, practiced interview skills and were interviewed for their dream job. Great effort and aspirations from all students who participated.

Progression 121s with Year 11 students were held throughout November to talk about next steps beyond school. We are very fortunate to be surrounded by fantastic colleges and sixth forms offering, 'A' levels, diplomas and apprenticeships. They all hosted online events for families to participate in and zoomed into Thursday tutor times to talk about their courses and to encourage applications. Don't forget that you can apply for multiple courses and colleges and make your final mind up closer to the summer.

We also began zooming career talks into the classroom. Previous students and guest speakers have been speaking to students about their own career choices and how school links to the workplace.

With some help from our friends in publishing, PCSA's young authors and illustrators are producing another (hopefully!) bestseller in December. Christmas Stories Volume 5 will be available to download from Amazon and we hope that it will reach the top 5 in the Amazon Children's Christmas eBook Chart.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021:**

Year 11 students will continue to take steps beyond school by submitting college, sixth form and apprenticeship applications before being invited to attend interviews.

Year 9 students will make their option choices with 121 support from the Careers Team as well as a classroom zoom from our friends at University Centre Weston.

Lots more COVID safe events and activities for Year 10 and Year 7 too!

Happy Christmas to all students and families.





Miss Silmon, Careers Advisor jodie.silmon@pcsa.org.uk

Mr. Wilmot, Director of Careers james.wilmot@pcsa.org.uk





# PE Winter Newsletter 2020



Lessons in PE have been forced to change slightly this year with the global pandemic having an impact on every person locally and nationally. With endless supplies of hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes, as a faculty we have managed to deliver safe and engaging lessons to all year groups.

Our PE curriculum has pleasantly changed towards a more health related fitness and mental wellbeing focus. This has allowed students to understand how their bodies function and made them more aware of how to lead a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle. With the figures for mental health issues on the rise since the March lockdown, we have explored the benefits of exercise on the mind and how the positive endorphins can lead to overall increasing happiness.

We want to congratulate our Y8, 9, 10 and 11 sports captains who have retained their leadership position from last year. We would also like to congratulate our new Y7 sports captains who wrote fantastic application letters explaining how and why they would be excellent for their elected position. Good luck and enjoy leading your houses to sporting success.

	Tweddle	Daley	Holmes	Hoy
Y7 Boys	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN
	Sam L	Tom B	Harlow G	Aaron T
	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN
	Oliver A	Elijah M	Harry K	Sam B
Y7 Girls	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN
	Harsha KJ	Olivia H	Lily S	Olivia B
	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN
	Dorcas A	Sophie P	Lavanna M	Phoebe T



### **OCR SPORT SCIENCE**

Our Year 10 students have recently started their course and are working hard towards their first ever exam in January. We have 3 classes in Year 10 and all students have made an excellent start to this with many students being very forthcoming in asking for work and exam questions which creates an excellent culture within the lessons.

We have just started our 'Prep for Success' program and we had almost every sport science student attend. This is a program that has been hugely successful for our students in the past where we focus on exam technique and answering exam questions. We are extremely excited for the outcomes of their exam (Jan 11 th ) and cannot wait to see how well these amazing group of students do.







Our Year 11s have had a very peculiar experience so far with lockdown hitting in the middle of their course. However, these students sat their exam last January and received some truly outstanding results that has set them up well in achieving some fantastic grades at the end of the course. The students are currently studying about training. They have looked at the principles of training as well as methods of training. They have then performed various fitness tests in preparation for writing their own training programs. The students have adapted brilliantly and have been working hard on their coursework at home with many students going above and beyond to ensure they secure their grade.

### **OCR SPORT STUDIES**

Our Year 10 students this year have adapted brilliantly to the demands of this course and settled into their GCSE very quickly. With the current focus on R053 sports leadership, they are planning and preparing to deliver a sport session to their peers. This part of the course leads nicely onto R052 during the winter and spring term, focusing on an assessment of their individual sport, team sport and officiating skills.

The Year 11 cohort have shown immense resilience, in managing multiple 'working from home' periods in the current climate we are in. As they have been practically assessed in their ability to perform an individual sport, team sport and officiating skills this allows them to work towards their final unit of the Sports Industry (RO55).

Over the upcoming weeks, they will continue to work on the Sports Industry coursework which will see them explore a variety of sports jobs and the process behind applying for them. Not only is this unit very interesting, it also becomes extremely real life as they create a CV and cover letter and learn about how to gain a job within sport.

A massive well done to all of our students across the entire school. It hasn't been easy this year but you all have showed a considerable amount of determination within your PE and OCR lessons. Keep up the good work and stay safe!

Mr. Coombs, Central Leader for PE chris.coombs@pcsa.org.uk

### HOUSE SYSTEM UPDATE



 1st
 Holmes
 192060

 2nd
 Hoy
 172256

 3rd
 Daley
 168145

 4th
 Tweddle
 153865

With the first full academic year of the new whole school house system being interrupted from March onwards, that did not stop Holmes storming to victory by over 20,000 points!

However, this year could not be more opposite. Tweddle have charged to take an early and convincing lead whilst Holmes are left behind in 4th place. Each school day presents itself as an opportunity for students to earn house points;

- Students of the week in a range of subjects
- Head of Year students of the week
- Friday Positive Phone calls
- 100% termly attendance
- 400 class charts positives in a learning cycle
- PE house matches
- Languages knowledge assessments
- A variety of home learning projects
- And many more!!

As a school, we are excited to see how this year for the whole house system unfolds. This new structure allows all of our amazing students to flourish and be frequently recognised on a wide range of successes every single week. Keep up the good work guys! @HousePCSA



### PRIORY Community SCHOOL An Academy

### **SCIENCE** - Mrs. Callander

We are so proud of our students for their efforts since returning to school in September. Be it in the classroom, or at home, our scientists have been a credit to themselves. Well done for working hard over the last few terms in these times of uncertainty. Keep it up!

#### **KEY STAGE 3 SCIENCE**

WOW! What an amazing start to the new academic year. A new cohort of Year 7 bursting with excitement and inquisitiveness have created fantastic science lessons. They were welcomed with a different transition session this year, which was an escape room science based learning experience.

So far Year 7 have been learning all about Energy and Cells and will be moving onto topics covering Electric Circuits in a brand new and exciting scheme of learning.

Year 8 are also not to be outdone; they have been learning about Health and Disease, with many students retuning and building upon last year's success. The students have returned with a new found resilience and confidence which is exceptional.

We have so many things in the pipeline for Science with plans being made for activities taking place in National Science Week, and more hands-on science days. There really are exciting times ahead.

It is hoped when we move away from the new "normal" we will again be able to offer activities for trips, and our very popular STEM days.





Edward Hodge - Pizza Cell Homework





### **SCIENCE CLUB**

Despite being unable to run science club as usual this year so far, we have managed to see some fantastic successes and valiant attempts at a more home-based science club experiments that have really showcased some students love of science and determination to get the job done. After a fair amount of head scratching Mrs Bush and myself found some ideas that can be completed largely using things you would find in the kitchen cupboard (with the addition of some shaving cream and skittles) and have plenty more to come with some festive themed experiments to add a bit of Christmas cheer. A special well done to Sophia Dutu and Abi Ballinger who have completed the distanced science club nearly each week and are producing some brilliant results and pictures.



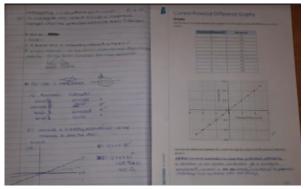
Stalactites made by Sophia Dutu

### **KEY STAGE 4 SCIENCE**

Our Year 11 students are an exceptional cohort that are determined to succeed whatever is thrown at them!

The quality of their work and dialogue with their teachers is exemplary - both in school and home.

Our Year 9 and 10 students have responded really well to being taught science in their designated part of the school and are also producing truly excellent work.



Concepts that have caused a buzz in the classroom this cycle include: the discovery of the atom, electron configuration, organic chemistry, metabolism, diabetes, the menstrual cycle, stem cells and therapeutic cloning just to name a few!



### **TASSOMAI**

The new science home learning platform "Tassomai" has been successfully rolled out to all year groups, allowing students to engage in a snapshot of science learning every single day! Scientific evidence has shown that little and often is the pathway to success and therefore students have been asked to complete between 2 and 4 daily goals per week depending on their year group. Engagement with the new home learning style has been fantastic with some really outstanding students:

- Year 11 Tom Harding, Meena Loewy and Ruby Minty
- Michael Lewis, Mary Kate Lally and Holly Fry
- Hannah Fowler, Eloise Norman and Charlie Owens
- Jessica Haldane, Michael Wayne & Weronika Opitek
- Sophia Dutu, Carys Welch and Isabella Hawley

Each of these students (and many more) regularly complete more than their expected number of daily goals, which indicates true dedication and ownership of their own learning and progress. We look forward to seeing the impact of this program over the coming years.

> Mrs. Callander, Central Leader for Science rosie.callander@pcsa.org.uk





# SIR RICHARD BRANSON CENTRE (SRB)

### **NEWS FROM THE SRB**

Hello! As always we have had been incredibly busy at the start of the academic year. In September we welcomed our brilliant new Year 7s and quickly screened them to check if they would need some support in lessons. Since then we have been testing to see if our Year 10 and 11 students are eligible for exam concessions. If you have any concerns at all about any student's ability to access the lessons or exams please contact Miss Smith.

We feel it's really important to listen to our new students and we have asked them to share with us how they are finding their Phonics classes (which aim to improve reading ability).

"We do Phonics three times a week. We work through booklets where we read a story. Then we answer questions on the story and then do our own story writing".

Scarlett

"Phonics lessons help me improve my reading and spelling. It is fun because we play games".

Cody



"I find intervention very handy because I get to learn words and then I can use them in my English lessons".

Billie-Rose

Miss Smith, Assistant Principal and SENDCo lisa.smith@pcsa.org.uk

# JILL DANDO STUDENT JOURNALISTS





Above: Nolli Waterman interview

The first national lockdown in March was a time which really worked positively for the Jill Dando News team: we were able to take our interviews online and bring in some fantastic guests who were waiting to be interviewed from their sofas! From the International journalist for The Independent, Andrew Buncombe, to NASA Astronaut Doug Wheelock, or the England Women's Football champion Nolli Waterman – we interviewed them all! Creatives, sports personalities, scientists, authors, journalists and politicians all participated in our virtual interviews, led by our talented young people. There was a real buzz amongst our students from across The Priory Learning Trust who were honing their journalistic skills whilst engaging with inspiring role models.



You can watch all our incredible interviews here: https://www.theplt.org.uk/jdnc.php



Above: Jodi Parslow interview



Above: Doug Wheelock, NASA

Returning back to school, students were eager to continue from the TPLT primary schools and sign up from all year groups to become involved in this buzz of positive news. We host regular Trust-wide catch ups and recently interviewed Jodie Parslow, a former Priory student who is now leading the way in neuroscience research. Students were enthralled by her knowledge and fervour for achieving in science and loved hearing about passion for supporting people with dementia. As a woman in the STEM world, she is a huge inspiration to all. We look forward to hosting a number of exciting upcoming interviews which students will be publishing online as the positive news happens!



Keep your eyes peeled for the editions of The Post, the newspaper created by our student journalists, throughout the year for all the latest good news stories from across our Trust and community.

Miss O'Gorman, Teacher of English sarah.o'gorman@pcsa.org.uk

Keep up with the latest headlines here: https://goodnewspost.co.uk/



### LIBRARY - Mrs. Watts



This year, like previous years we were determined to bring BookBuzz to our new Year 7 students. BookBuzz is a fantastic reading programme from BookTrust and the aim is to encourage a love of reading in children by offering a free fiction or non-fiction book to all Year 7 students that is theirs to keep.

The choice of books is always excellent but this year we think they are the best ever! We know that some of our students had a tough time choosing the book they wanted but whichever they chose we really hope they enjoy them. The books will arrive by the end of Term 2 and will be something to look forward to and enjoy over the forthcoming festive season.

The most popular choice by far with 76 requests was City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab. This story revolves around a young girl called Cassidy and is set in the beautiful but haunted (allegedly) city of Edinburgh. Cassidy soon realises that this city of ghosts is way more sinister than she could ever have realised.

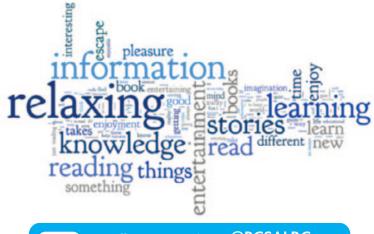
Crater Lake was the second most popular choice with 37 requests followed in third place by The Haven with 23 requests. Every book was chosen at least once which is great to see. Enjoy with our compliments and very best wishes Year 7!!

There are so many reasons to read — as librarians we always have a book in our hands at PCSA. The health benefits alone make reading so important as it reduces stress, helps you to fall asleep, builds your self-esteem and stimulates your brain. There are also educational benefits such as increasing your knowledge, improving your spelling, widening your vocabulary and reading also helps with improving your communication with others.

Readers can also become great leaders. World leaders such as Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln were voracious readers and many of Churchill's political decisions were based on things he had read. Abraham Lincoln actually taught himself how to read and he was known to walk huge distances just to borrow a book.

Modern day well known personalities that love a good book include Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey and Marcus Rashford. Marcus is a huge advocate of promoting reading and demonstrating to children it is cool to read.

My own personal reasons to read are simply because I love it and because I can.





Mrs. Watts, Learning Resources Leader rachel.watts@pcsa.org.uk





### PRC JUNIOR GYM

We look forward to welcoming you back when it is safe to do so. Junior Gym memberships are due to expire in January, however with Junior Gym having to be paused because of the pandemic we are extending all existing memberships to September 2021.

When we are allowed to restart P6 Junior Gym members will stay in their year group bubbles, each year group will be allocated one day of the week to use the PRC during P6.

We will not be taking on any new memberships at the moment because we are at capacity, however, Junior Gym memberships will be able to be purchased for new students and existing members in September 2021 on a first come first served basis, and these will be able to be purchased through parent pay.

The Paula Radcliffe Centre (PRC) is a gym and fitness facility open to the public based here at school. We have a selection of high-end equipment available for your use, as well as professional fitness instructors to help and advise you.



Please take a look at our website www.info@theprc.org.uk and check out our opening times plus availability. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with our friendly staff on 01934 319140.





Follow us on Twitter: @PrioryPRC where you can follow all the latest news from the PRC.

Mrs. Mawford, Manager of The PRC Fitness Suite vanessa.mawford@pcsa.org.uk



# **TERM DATES 2021/22**

Term Days	Holidays	<b>INSET Days</b>

	JANUARY 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
				1	2	3					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

	FEBRUARY 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28					

MARCH 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
29	30	31								

APRIL 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
			1	2	3	4				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
26	27	28	29	30						

	MAY 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
					1	2					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
31											

	JUNE 2021											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S						
	1	2	3	4	5	6						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
28	29	30										

TT TT 2004										
JULY 2021										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
			1	2	3	4				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
26	27	28	29	30	31					

AUGUST 2021							
M	Т	W	T	F	S	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

SEPTEMBER 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

	OCTOBER 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

	DECEMBER 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

#### **Term Dates 2020 - 2021**

TERM 2	Ends Friday 18 December 2020
TERM 3	Starts Monday 4 January 2021 Ends Friday 12 February 2021
TERM 4	Starts Monday 22 February 2021 Ends Thursday 1 April 2021
TERM 5	Starts Monday 19 April 2021 Ends Friday 28 May 2021
TERM 6	Starts Monday 7 June 2021 Ends Friday 16 July 2021 Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July 2021are INSET days.

Term dates have been set for 2021-2022 and once again, we will be having a two week break in October, to give parents an opportunity to take holiday time away from the more expensive traditional half-term week. We are also building in some training time for our staff in July, and so the summer term for students will end earlier than many other schools. We would encourage parents to consider using these times for family holidays, rather than children missing out on education during term time.

#### Term Dates 2021 - 2022

TERM 1	Starts Wednesday 1 September 2021 Wednesday 1 September is an INSET day. Please check with individual schools on arrangements for this day
	Ends Friday 15 October 2021 Friday 15 October 2021 is an INSET day.
TERM 2	Starts Monday 1 November 2021 Ends Friday 17 December 2021
TERM 3	Starts Tuesday 4 January 2022 Ends Friday 18 February 2022
TERM 4	Starts Monday 28 February 2022 Ends Friday 8 April 2022
TERM 5	Starts Monday 25 April 2022 Ends Friday 27 May 2022
TERM 6	Starts Monday 6 June 2022 Ends Friday 22 July 2022 Thursday 21 July 2022 and Friday 22 July 2022 are INSET days.