

## Welcome to the latest issue of PBA Press

For our new parents, I know that starting a new school can be an extremely worrying time for both you and your children. The prospect of new routines, new teachers, new friends and the plethora of other changes can be unsettling for children and can cause anxiety for parents. This newsletter is designed to give a little reassurance, a little information and hopefully start the process whereby you can feel part of Pix Brook Academy and we can begin to work together.

As a new free school, I am aware that we do not have a history on which to call to show how we do things and what being a pupil at the school means. Very simply we are building that history by the day and those parents and pupils who have chosen PBA will contribute to that, as will the staff who have chosen to join the school. There is no doubt that this is a fantastic opportunity matched only by the huge responsibility. I have talked previously about the mission of the school: to educate the socially responsible citizens of the future. To achieve this will require the concerted efforts of the school, parents and pupils and I know that when those three groups work in partnership great things can be achieved. To welcome our second, much larger year group into the school and build on the work of our first year, is truly exciting. We are approaching the point where we will be unable to take further pupils into Year 5 and to be in this position at this point is fantastic.

We are extremely fortunate that we have been able to make a number of really strong appointments. I believe we have an excellent mix of experienced and newer colleagues joining the school, all of whom were cognisant of the challenges and opportunities associated with working at a new school. Very simply, the staff here are motivated to achieve great things and want to work in partnership with parents to that end. We also have a really strong group of governors who in many ways mirror our staff. We have a combination of highly experienced governors in addition to parent governors who make a full contribution to the life of the school. I hope the brief information provided by staff in this newsletter helps to put a face to a name!

The process of building a new school, both literally and figuratively, is complicated. Every new procedure and policy needs to be developed and every new facility needs to be discussed and agreed. For PBA, this process started a number of years ago and is now a matter of weeks from completion. When we move to the new site in September, I will have been involved for almost two years and will have considered almost every aspect of the school. We have had visits from HMI, presented to the DfE and OFSTED inspectors have been to the school. All this in addition to the support and challenge provided by the BEST multi-academy trust. I believe we are in a strong position but I am not complacent, I understand there is a great deal more work to be done.

To achieve our goal of delivering an outstanding experience for pupils I have worked with colleagues to build our unique model of how pupils will develop over time. We are a school where the focus is on learning, where work is completed to the best of pupil's ability and where the highest standards of appearance and behaviour are expected. I believe this can be achieved in a collaborative, pupil focussed way where everyone feels part of the process. As parents who have chosen Pix Brook Academy, you have already decided what matters and my hope and expectation is that over the next few years we will work together to meet the ambitious aspirations you and I have for your children. Inevitably, there will be changes during the next few years. I believe in working with our community and being mindful of concerns. I have some non-negotiables but these are for good reason and I am always happy to discuss them.

I hope you find this edition of PBA press useful and should you have any questions please do contact the school.



**Mr Steve Adams**  
Principal

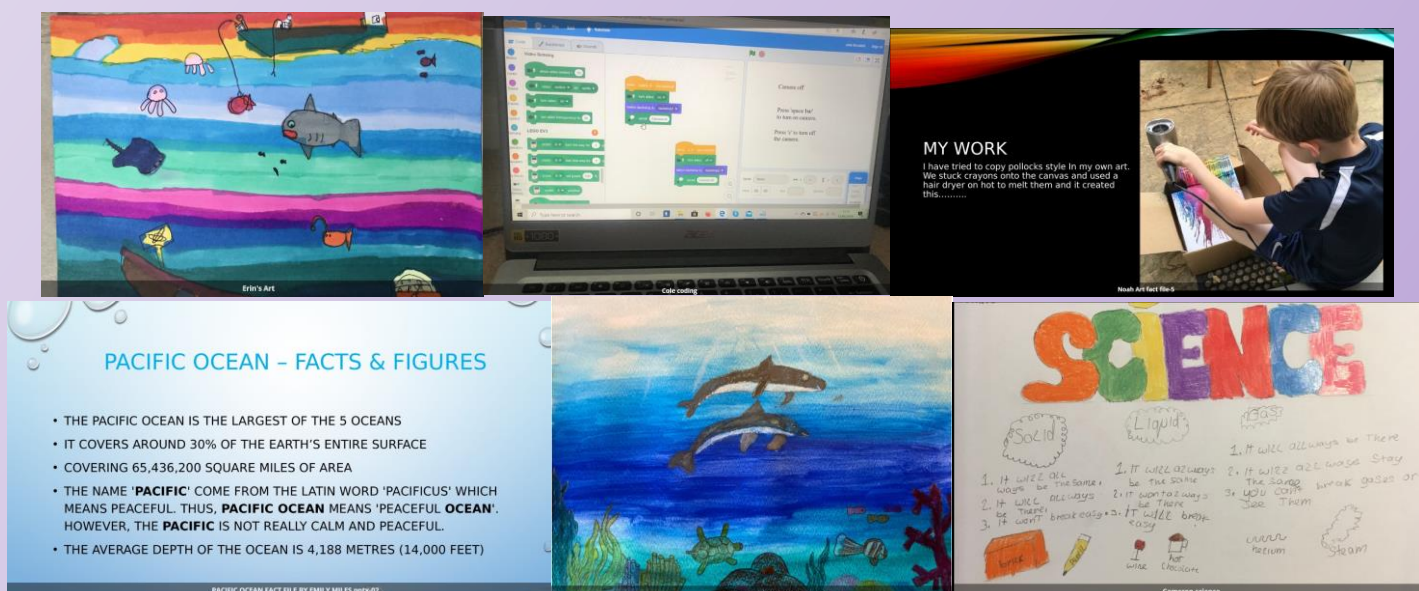
# Welcome back to our Year 5's!

The last few months have simply been extraordinary in so many ways. For those of us who started the process without any real appreciation of just how significant the pandemic was going to be, it has been humbling to see the work undertaken by key workers during this period. I know I am not alone in worrying that there is still uncertainty about how this will finally end.

For those of us at PBA, we have decided to open the school to Year 5 pupils from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We have offered all pupils an opportunity to be back in school for two days per week between now and the end of term. All staff are now back in school full time and will be teaching those pupils in school in addition to setting the work for pupils who chose to remain at home. It will be great to have our pupils back in and I know that all staff are looking forward to something closer to "normal".

## Home Learning

Pix Brook Academy staff have been busy setting Home Learning activities over the last 12 weeks. Each week, the staff have received so many fantastic pieces of work so we have decided to showcase some of the examples here and on our Facebook page. The Home Learning Hub is regularly updated so keep an eye out for all the exciting new work produced by our pupils.



Pix brook- you have been amazing throughout lockdown! Thank you for all that you've done!

Mrs R (Year 5 parent)

This is great! Please pass on my thanks to all of the Pix Brook teachers for planning such varied and engaging activities. The feedback Noah has received has been very plentiful and has motivated him with subsequent pieces. We have felt very well supported during this home school period. Thank you!

Mrs R (Year 5 parent)



## Year 4 Step Up Day

Usually at this time of year, we have full plans in place for Step Up day. This year, as with so many other things, it is very different. I'd like to thank parents who have provided a time to meet virtually with their teacher and for the transition work that has been sent through. This will be a first for the school and I hope that it will provide some information and reassurance for pupils and parents. Teachers have been undertaking class Zoom session with our classes for the last few months but a virtual meeting of this type will be interesting and no doubt a learning experience.

### What our pupils say

Over the last few weeks, I've taken the opportunity to speak to a couple of our pupils about how they felt this time last year. As I mentioned in my introduction, this is worrying time for many and not being able to join the school in a normal Step Up day and having not been in school for a long time, can only add to that anxiety.

Here are some of the things our current Year 5 pupils worried about and how they feel now:

#### Sophie

*"I worried that I would get lost and would not make friends. The teachers helped me make friends and made things better for me. I really enjoy playtimes and the fun things we do in class. I love the colour of the uniform and logo and it makes you look smart."*

#### Evie

*"My worries coming to Pix Brook were that I wouldn't get to see my friends or I wouldn't be in the same class as them. I also thought that I would get lost in the new building or that my teachers would be strict and scary but they weren't, they were so kind and I felt like if I had a problem I could speak to them about it. Most of my friends were in my class and the teachers make it like that so you don't feel alone. Pix Brook has also helped me with my writing and English work I used to struggle a little bit but Pix Brook has really helped me. Another thing I like about Pix Brook is the uniform. When I wear the uniform I feel proud to be a part of this school. I also love the colour and the Pix Brook symbol! That's why I love Pix Brook!"*

#### Ollie

*"I like going outside and the tie."*

## Step Up Day Activities

This year, Pix Brook Academy set a range of Step Up Activities for the Year 4 children who are joining us in September to complete. There are a range of activities to have a go at which will accommodate all the different learning styles. We have been receiving work every day and are blow away by the pieces that we have received so far. Here are some examples of them...!



# Uniform

## Update from Total Clothing



### Appointments and Showroom

The Total Clothing showroom has now re-opened. Parents are able to visit the showroom and shop in Peterborough if they wish to. To monitor the number of parents/pupils we will have in the showroom, we will be asking parents to make appointments throughout the summer to visit the shop. There will be a link for parents to book online.

### Sizing Videos

We have created a sizing video bespoke to Pix Brook Academy offering advice on how to measure your child. In the video I will explain the Pix Brook Academy Uniform requirements (with dressed mannequins on display), how to measure your child and any extra hints and tips specific to your uniform.

Link to sizing video landing page -

<https://totalclothing.co.uk/pix-brook-academy-uniform-guide/>

Link to youtube video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW59w-kzYVM&feature=youtu.be>

### Home Delivery

We are also offering FREE home delivery (minimum spend of £50) throughout June to allow parents to size and order their uniform in plenty of time before the start of school in September. We will also be as flexible as we can with the returns. Any returns will be isolated for at least 72 hours before they are put back on the shelf to sell.



**STIKINS®**

Pix Brook Academy have teamed up with 'Stikins' name labels who will give the school 30% commission on every order placed.

To order your labels visit [www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk) and quote PBA's unique code **6948**.



## New PBA Site Update

In terms of our facilities, we will be in a fantastic position next year. We have been told by the Local Authority that the school will be open from September and given the massive disruption of COVID-19 combined with incredibly short construction programme this will be an amazing achievement.

Due to its size, the school is deemed a “super school” and the completion of the school on time will be the fastest completion of that size school in the country **ever**. An amazing achievement for Willmott Dixon who have been excellent throughout the process. We still await confirmation on the supply of utilities, these have been impacted significantly by the pandemic but should there be a problem, the local authority are committed to providing a temporary solution.

Watching the school appear over the last few months has been genuinely fascinating and not generally in the experience of a teacher. The school looks big from a distance and feels bigger inside. Fantastic facilities are being put in, far too many to mention here but stand out areas include: the Music facilities, including a recording studio, Hall space with electric theatre style seating, separate KS2 suite of classrooms including their own ICT and Science spaces; Learning Resource Centre with full ICT facilities, superb PE facilities; the list goes on.

I am looking forward to being able to show parents around the school and have been working with the contractors to facilitate this. The challenge of doing so with social distancing and without delaying work is making this a little tricky. More on this soon.



## A message from our Chair of Governors...



**Mrs Sue Howley:** I have been a governor since 1990 and a National Leader of Governance since 2012 supporting a number of schools. I was awarded an MBE for voluntary services to education in 2009. I have considerable experience in a number of schools both primary and secondary.

I am still a governor at Fairfield Park Lower School and was Chair of Governors from the opening in 2007 until 2017 when the Board of Governors was the winner of a National Governance Association outstanding governance award. I chair a Regional Hub Board for the Diocesan MAT, am a governor at Vandyke Upper and Shelton Lower.

I have worked with Central Bedfordshire - 10 years on the Schools Forum and Safeguarding Board. I was an Ofsted Inspector for 12 years and I have a background in HR with extensive experience of strategic planning, recruitment, organisational management and training

I am committed to high standards in schools through professional development, challenge and support and keep up to date with the changing education landscape. I am very committed to ensuring that all students have the best possible experience whilst at school and I have a reputation for being demanding and having high expectations. I am retired from paid employment which gives me the capacity for my governance work.

I have experience of several school expansions and I am very much looking forward to the opening of the new school "

## A message from our new teachers...

**Mrs White:** Hi PBA community! My name is Mrs White and I am so excited to be joining the Year 5 team at Pix Brook in September. I can't wait to be a part of a new and growing school!

I have been teaching for 7 years at Etonbury Academy where I taught and was a form tutor in both Year 5 and 6. I am currently responsible for Maths attainment and teaching - Maths is one of my favourite subjects! I have had the opportunity to teach many different subjects and work with some fantastic staff and students over my years in school.

I am looking forward to chatting to my new students and their parents on step up day, and I am very excited for September! Also, to be taking on the teaching of Music which has always been an interest of mine!

Really look forward to seeing you in September! It's going to be amazing!



**Mrs Gregory:** Hi PBA community, my name is Mrs Gregory and I am so thrilled and excited to be part of the new adventure of PBA and joining you all in September as a Year 5 teacher.

I have been a teacher for 8 years and have had the pleasure of teaching in a variety of schools. I am currently working at Etonbury Academy as a Year 6 teacher. Previous to that, I worked at Sandy Place Academy teaching Maths, (my favourite subject) History, Geography, Religious Education and English. I was also Head of Year, continually taking the children right through from Year 5 up to Year 8. This was something I really enjoyed, working with some brilliant students and an exceptional team of staff. This tied in to my other role as Values coordinator, enabling pupils to become thinking, self-responsible and caring members of the school.

I thought that I would share a picture of my grand puppies with you, their names are Reggie, Luna, and Poppy, they are so funny. We can talk more about them in September.

I am looking forward to meeting you all, I know that I am new and unfamiliar right now, but please don't worry! We are going to have an AWESOME year in Year 5 together. I promise!





## A message from our new teachers...



**Mr Williams:** This is a brief message to say hello and introduce myself to the PBA community. My name is Mr Williams and I am looking forward to joining PBA in September as a new Primary Teacher.

I am excited to announce that PBA will be my first teaching position, having completed my teacher training this year through Beds SCITT. During my training, I had the opportunity to gain experience as a Primary Teacher, having been placed in Robert Bloomfield Academy – just a short drive from PBA.

I have been extremely fortunate this year to have worked with amazing students and outstanding staff. However, I can safely say that joining the PBA community is the most exciting opportunity I have had in my short career. I hope that I will be able to contribute to the established ethos of this vibrant school and share my passion for learning; particularly in Mathematics, but also across the curriculum.

I aim to enable and encourage all students to experience the joy and wonder of learning, through the use of exciting and varied strategies. I believe this is of the utmost importance if students are to enjoy their school experience.

Keep safe and I look forward to meeting you all very soon!

**Miss Aksoy:** Hi all! My name is Miss Aksoy and I am delighted to say that I joined Pix Brook Academy in October 2019 as a TA/ after school club facilitator. I am extremely fortunate to continue my journey at PBA as a Year 5 class teacher from September 2020.

I have been working in schools since 2014 and have met some fantastic students and excellent staff. I can't wait to apply the knowledge and skills I have learned to my practice and continue to learn from others.

As I am bilingual, I aim to encourage the teaching and learning of languages at PBA. I believe learning a new language will bring students lots of skills and support them in becoming well-educated young adults. My goal is to think outside the box and deliver enjoyable and creative lessons to aid students needs and ensure they are learning something new every day.

I love going outdoors to explore and will definitely incorporate this into some of my lessons- learning occurs everywhere, at all times! I feel very lucky to be a part of PBA (a brand-new school!) and can't wait to meet you all!



**Mrs Murphy:** Hello, I am very honoured to introduce myself to the Pix Brook community. My name is Mrs Murphy and I am joining as a year 6 teacher and I will be responsible for science in KS2.

I have been working in Luton schools for 13 years, and have had the pleasure of teaching and supporting many amazing children. I have worked in three different schools, and each one has left a lasting impression, both children and staff alike. I am looking forward to sharing all I have learnt from these schools with the Pix Brook Academy children.

I am passionate about school trips and love to take children to exciting new places with a link to their learning. The Tower of London and The Space centre to name a few. I hope to explore more fascinating places with Pix Brook. My current role has involved me revamping science across the school and generating a love and a general buzz for science within the children. Science is a plethora of wonder and discovery and I love encouraging children to question and explore the phenomena of the world around them. I hope to bring this excitement to PBA and I cannot wait to see the new science lab!

The chance to be part of a whole new school and journey is amazing, and I feel honoured to be part of that. Joining the Pix Brook family is an exciting time, I cannot wait to join you and embark on our new journey together.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon!

## A message from our new teachers...



**Mrs Whent:** It is with great pleasure to say that I have joined PBA as the SENDCo full time and Head of PE, after working here one day a week this year, I am so excited to join fully!

I have been a teacher for 16 years and have had the pleasure of teaching a variety of schools, my last role within the Trust as Assistant Principal of Inclusion. Before that I have worked in schools across North London as Head of Year and Head of PE.

I am excited to start Pix Brook's PE journey with state of the art facilities and offer lots of opportunity for a variety of sports and clubs for our students to be involved in, hopefully developing a lifelong love of playing sport, keeping healthy and understanding themselves better.

As SENDCo, I am greatly looking forward to growing the department and supporting an inclusive curriculum across the Academy. I have been a SENDCo for three years now and have gained a great deal of experience from working with the Local Authority, as well as working with some of the best SENDCo's locally. I have my Level 7 Assessors Qualification, which enables me to identify underlying Cognition and Learning needs early. I am also currently undertaking my NASEN SENDCo Qualification, which is incredibly interesting allowing me to develop my understanding around the research that is available into how we best support the need of our students.

Moving into the new building is exciting for us as we have our designated SEND area in the school. It houses smaller therapy rooms and an inclusion classroom, as well as my office and meeting space. Offering that all important safe space for some of our more vulnerable students, as well as an active working classroom for learning to continue. We have appointed new Teaching Assistants to join us in September and I am looking forward to welcoming them to the team.

My ethos for supporting our students with SEND is simple, teamwork. Maybe this comes from the sport ingrained in me, but I truly believe to be the best for our young people and for them to reach their potential, we all must work together. Whether that be staff, students, parents or outside agency support, the better our communication and vision of wanting the same outcomes, I see no reason that our students will gain the very best education with us at PBA. For this reason, my door is always open. All I ask is if there is ever a problem, worry or concern, that you let me know straight away so we can work it out together.

I look forward to welcoming our new Year 4's and starting this unique, exciting journey with you all.

### The Teaching Team in 2020/2021

#### Year 5 Teachers

Miss Aksoy  
Mrs Gregory  
Mr Van Wyk  
Mrs White  
Mr Williams

#### Learning Supervisor

Mrs Pearce

#### Teaching Assistants

Name TBC  
Name TBC

#### Year 6 Teachers

Mrs Smyth (Director of Key Stage 2)  
Miss Broadbent  
Mrs Murphy

#### Specialist Teachers

Mr King-Mand (DT/Art and Vice Principal)  
Mr Brooks (Humanities)  
Mrs Whent (PE and SENDCo)



## Safeguarding at Pix Brook Academy



# Pix Brook Academy

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We are here to keep you safe

### Who can you speak to if you feel worried?

You can speak to **any adult** that works in our school about **anything** that is worrying you or making you feel upset at any time.

There are also 3 adults who have the really special job of keeping you safe. They are known as the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** and **Deputy Safeguarding Leads**. Their special job is to listen, support and help you at any time of the school day.



**Mr King-Mand**  
**Designated**  
**Safeguarding Lead**



**Mrs Smyth**  
**Deputy**  
**Safeguarding Lead**



**Mrs Pearce**  
**Deputy**  
**Safeguarding Lead**

Tell us if you feel worried or upset about anything. For example, you should speak to us:

- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- If someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- If you are being threatened or forced to do things
- If someone has done something to you without your permission
- If you feel unsafe in school, at home or when you are out and about
- If you feel uncomfortable in any way
- If you know of another pupil who is worried, upset or being hurt (even if they have told you to keep it secret)
- If you are scared or worried about going home

There are special organisations you can contact if you need to speak to someone when you are not at school. Their job is to also listen, support and help you.



**NSPCC**  
nspcc.org.uk

- Indie King-Mand [iking-mand@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:iking-mand@bestacademies.org.uk)
- Tracy Smyth [tsmyth@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:tsmyth@bestacademies.org.uk)
- Isabel Pearce [ipearce@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ipearce@bestacademies.org.uk)

## Diary & Term Dates

<b>June</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	- Wider School Opening for Year 5 Pupils
<b>July</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	- Virtual Step Up Day - Last Day of Term - Summer Holidays

**2020/2021**

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**2020/2021**

<b>September</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Date TBC	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Staff Training Day (no school) - <b>Start of Autumn Term</b> - School Photographs
<b>October</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	- Year 6 Bikeability Course - Half Term
<b>November</b>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	- PBA Open Evening
<b>December</b>	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> TBC Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	- Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church - Pantomime Trip to the Gordon Craig Theatre (all years) - Last Day of Term ( <b>NO</b> after school clubs) - Christmas Holidays
<b>January</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	- Staff Training Day (no school) - <b>Start of Winter Term</b>
<b>February</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	- Half Term
<b>March</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	- Year 5 Bikeability Course (Team A) - Year 5 Bikeability Course (Team B) - Easter Holidays
<b>April</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	- Staff Training Day (no school) - <b>Start of Spring Term</b>
<b>May</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	- Bank Holiday - Half Term
<b>June</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	- <b>Start of Summer Term</b>
<b>July</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	- Last Day of Term ( <b>NO</b> after school clubs)