

Welcome to the last PBA Press of this academic year!

What a term! There have only been seven weeks since our last PBA Press and yet we seem to have had quite a lot to celebrate and manage.

Firstly, it was really fantastic to be able to visit the lower schools and meet our new year 4 pupils in their schools. My thanks go to the lower school for facilitating this. Mrs Smyth (Director of KS2) and I were able to meet with the pupils joining the school, answer their questions and provide a little insight into their new school. I know it is nerve wracking for young people and their parents, but you will know that we are very used to this process and do everything we can to reassure all involved. These meetings were followed up later in the term with virtual meetings with the parents and teachers. Unfortunately, the continued restrictions prevented pupils from attending a Step-Up Day but we were at least able to talk to parents about the new term. Finally, I am really pleased to say that both new and current parents and children were able to visit the school in person. It has been a long year without visitors being able to come into school and very frustrating not to be able to show our fantastic facilities to the community. I hope that we have gone passed the point where we will have to restrict visitors in the future.

As is always the case in schools, we try to take advantage of the good weather and the opportunity for new staff to join the school before the end of term. This year we were able to hold a sports day which was brilliant fun. We are nearly at the point of being able to use the field fully and when we are able to do so this will truly transform the way events of this nature can be held. Even without access to this area we are fortunate that we have great facilities and the pupils were able to enjoy a day of games, races, table tennis and generally have the type of day that we all remember when we were at school. It was dry and not too hot, what more could you want? Pupils behaved impeccably and competed in great spirits as expected.

Last week we had Harry Potter day. This came as a result of Year 5 pester power and as parents the world over know, young people are experts at wearing down the adults by continually making "reasonable" requests! This day was a classic example and when pupils developed a deliverable curriculum I finally capitulated. A great deal of credit must go to these pupils who recognised that a day of this nature must include the learning normally associated with school but could be done in a slightly different way. It was great to have Mr Goode, ex Head of Science at Samuel Whitbread Academy come over as our own head of potions and deliver a lesson of smells, smoke and flames to the Year 6 pupils.

The practical experiment of screaming jelly babies will long be remembered. Year 5 pupils had their own version of Professor Snape in the form of Mr Fleckney who helped the pupils make their own potions, (predominantly made of jelly and smarties).

All great fun. English and art lessons were also included and it was great day to see the pupils in their Harry Potter outfits.

The last week of term was planned to include the "WOW" days traditional in KS2. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had one last sting in the tail for us before the end of term. As we have seen the rates of infection have accelerated significantly in the last few weeks, I had still hoped that we would continue to avoid a case and that the term could finish normally. We had been both careful and lucky to avoid an outbreak since returning to school but on the last Friday of the year a positive case resulted in a number of pupils and staff having to self-isolate. Everyone knows there is nothing that can be done in these circumstances but it does not stop everyone from feeling disappointed and "flat" to finish the term in this way. Our pupils have been superb all year. All staff have thoroughly enjoyed working with both them and parents and carers throughout the year and to have the final week so cruelly curtailed for some is so disappointing.

It has been the most incredible year. A new school, new pupils, new staff, and the start of the journey that will be Pix Brook Academy. To do all this in the face of a global pandemic has been truly challenging in the most unexpected ways. As I reflect on this year I am struck by the fortitude of staff, parents and pupils who have coped so magnificently with all that has been thrown their way. With the summer break about to start I would like to wish everyone a healthy, safe and enjoyable few weeks. We start back again on Monday 6th September for new year at PBA. I wonder what that has in store for us?

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break



Mr Steve Adams
Principal

Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

Teaching & Learning News

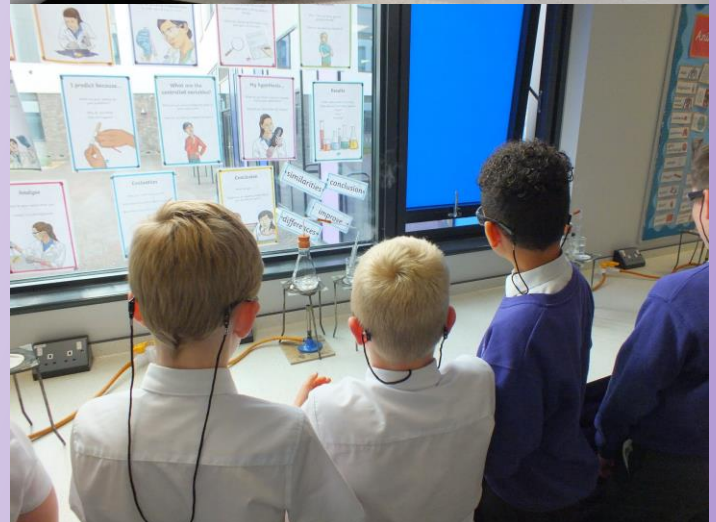
Science

Blyton class made "Blood Soup" in their science lesson. This followed on from their research into the four parts of blood. They added white blood cells (marshmallows), red blood cells (Cheerios and food colouring) and platelets (grains of rice). Lots of fun was had by all as they also created plasma.



Year 6 had a fantastic practical science lesson with Mr D Goode from Samuel Whitbread Academy. They were able to use Bunsen Burners to try and separate the salt from the salt water solution they had been given.

Working in teams and following clear instructions the children were able to witness evaporation and condensation in action through the process of distillation. To finish the session they also were able to observe a heart dissection and allow them to see the amazing organ that keeps us alive every day. It was great to see their enthusiasm for the lesson and to hear that so many are looking forward to Science in Year 7.



Sports Day

Despite the difficult sporting year we have had with no clubs running and fixtures to compete in, the students did themselves proud in sports day!

We had a carousel of activities in the morning of Netball, Basketball, Football and Table Tennis, with all students taking part in something. In the afternoon we had lots of races including egg and spoon, skipping, sprints and relay's! They all tried incredibly hard and the scores were very close all day. In the end our Year 5 winners were Churchill and our Year 6 winners were Zephaniah.

I am really looking forward to a full complement of extra-curricular clubs and teams we will run next year.

Well done to everyone this year, and here's to Team PBA next term!



Really Wild Day

After a week of fabulous weather, the rain turned up just in time for our really wild day!

Luckily the weather did not put a dampener on the activities that went on at school for our really wild day which has been planned as part of the #30daywild challenge run by The Wildlife Trusts

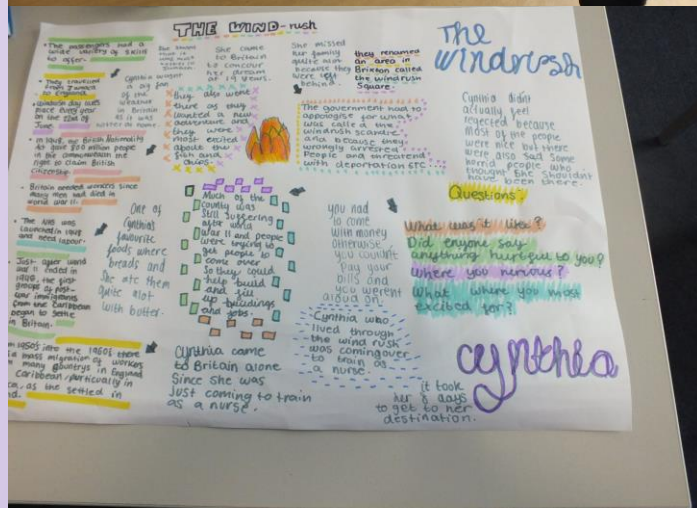
We had a range of activities that included listening to wildlife, creating wildlife-based tangrams and bird feeders for the year 5 pupils. The year 6 pupils have designed and built bug hotels as well as designing a wildlife reserve within a set budget.



History

We were able to offer an exciting opportunity to enrich our history lessons with personal experiences of someone from the Windrush generation. A family member of one of our students kindly donated their time to speak to year 5 and 6 bringing the history of the period after WW2 to life. As this was done over zoom it was a unique mix of modern technology enabling us to bring history back to life. This enabled the pupils at PBA, to gain an insight into the untold stories of the Windrush generation and a glimpse of how Britain and the world has changed over the last 50-60 years.

We would like to take this opportunity, to thank Mrs Wilson for her efforts to ensure the zoom call went ahead and to thank Ms Cynthia Greenwood for providing us with an insight into the untold stories of the Windrush generation.



English

Year 6 have loved reading the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Over the last 12 weeks we have explored the complicated life of Stanley Yelnats and his times at Camp Green Lake. The book covered many topics including racism, punishment and bullying. The children have created exciting stories about the villainous Kissin' Kate Barlow, written a balanced argument about a moral dilemma and even had a go at rewriting one of the character's past.

Louis Sachar wrote the book in a very creative way, intertwining events from the past into the present and the children loved discovering the connections between the sub stories.

The children have really enjoyed discovering the historical links and created some amazing work. Teddy (from Blyton) enjoyed the book and then even more so the film. He asked his dad to find him a dressing up costume so he could become Stanley Yelnats! Although I do not think he will be digging many holes in this heat 😊



Harry Potter Day

On Friday 16th July, some very enthusiastic pupils took part in our Harry Potter themed day. There were various hex-citing activities and tasks all based on the Harry Potter world. We were amazed at the creativity of our pupils during the day which ranged from designing socks for Dobby in art to mixing screaming jelly baby potions in science. We were equally impressed by the costumes that many pupils came to school in – we had some very Snape-y dressers! Many pupils commented that the day was wand-erful and far from being a Dumble-bore. On the whole our pupils rated the day as 9 ¾/10!



Safari Stu

On Wednesday 21st July, the pupils had a very special visit from Safari Stu. Everyone was very excited (especially Mrs Smyth) at the array of animals he had brought with him. This highlight for the children was 'Boris' the common tenrec. Safari Stu is the only person in the UK who owns three of these and has successfully bred them. Among the other animals were Kev – the sand boa, Pebbles – the tortoise, Bob – the lesser tenrec plus many more! A fantastic end to a very strange term.



100% Class Attendance

As a reward for their 100% attendance the week of 14th June Attenborough class had an extra 10 minutes play time as a reward!



Since Attenborough will have Mrs White again next year and we already know each other very well, we used our time this morning to do some important work weeding the flower beds in the playground! They did an amazing job and now all the plants that should be there have more space to grow and aren't being crowded by all those pesky weeds!

Well done and thankyou Attenborough!



THANK YOU

From all the staff at Pix Brook Academy, thank you all for your generous gifts and all the support you have given us this year!

SEND & FSM

Summer Programme Offer

CREATIVE BUZZ

FREE CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

AGES 5-12 YEARS
HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND TAKE PART IN FOUR DAYS OF DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC AND MORE!

26th TO 29th JULY
10AM TO 3PM
SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL,
SHEFFORD

16th TO 19th AUGUST
10AM TO 3PM
STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL,
BIGGLESWADE

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO GET CREATIVE!

EACH CHILD WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE HOT LUNCH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR FREE SPACE GO TO: FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK/CREATIVEBUZZ OR EMAIL: INFO@FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK

FULL HOUSE 20 YEARS
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Central Bedfordshire






Free summer holiday fun!

In Central Bedfordshire

great prospects

This Summer, Central Bedfordshire Council is running a range of free activities and food for children and young people aged 5 upwards.

Try out a local holiday or youth club this summer - children can have fun and make friends while taking part in a range of exciting activities including crafts, acting, dancing and sports. Pick up a free Disney healthy activity pack and back to school items. We'll also be providing creative activity packs and virtual sessions so you can have fun at home with your family!

- Take part in sports and outdoor activities
- Get involved in dance, drama and music at the Creative Buzz workshops
- Learn to play an instrument, and have fun making music

The Holiday Activities and Food programme is for children eligible for benefit related free school meals. This is a requirement from the Department for Education who are funding the programme.

Sign up here www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/summer-activities



Football Fun Factory

summer Holiday Football Fun Camp

Camp Details

Pix Brook Academy

26th-30th July

9th-13th August

23rd -27th August

09:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Central Bedfordshire

Secure a HAF Funded Place by emailing matty@theFootballFunFactory.co.uk






FOREST SCHOOL BRANCH-OUT HOLIDAY CLUB AT CRANFIELD

CONTACT: Shona Perrett 07811 087322 info@marstonvaleforestschoo.co.uk [f marstonvaleforestschoo](https://www.facebook.com/marstonvaleforestschoo)

JOIN US FOR

- EXPLORING
- DEN BUILDING
- FIRE LIGHTING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- FREE PLAY

For children aged 6+
Times: 9:30am - 3:30pm

August
2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
16th, 17th, 18th, 19th
23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th

Marston Vale Forest School



CREATIVE BUZZ

FREE SUMMER
ACTIVITY PROGRAMME
FOR CHILDREN
WITH SEND
AGES 5-12 YEARS

AUGUST
2021

THERE'S NEVER
BEEN A BETTER TIME
TO GET CREATIVE!

FULL
HOUSE | 20
YEARS
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Central
Bedfordshire



CREATIVE BUZZ SENSORY ADVENTURES

AN ONLINE PROGRAMME OF INTERACTIVE, SENSORY
WORKSHOPS - DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR CHILDREN
WITH SEND.

EVERY CHILD WILL RECEIVE A FREE SENSORY RESOURCE PACK WITH
EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO TAKE PART.

CREATIVE BUZZ SEND WEEK

HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND TAKE PART IN FUN
AND EXCITING ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY TAILORED FOR
CHILDREN WITH SEND.

REDBORNE UPPER SCHOOL, AMPHILL
23RD TO 26TH AUGUST, 10AM - 3PM

EACH CHILD WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE LUNCH.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR
FREE SPACE GO TO: [FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK/CREATIVEBUZZ](https://fullhouse.org.uk/creativebuzz)
OR EMAIL: [INFO@FULLHOUSE.ORG.UK](mailto:info@fullhouse.org.uk)

Summer Sports Programme!



FREE multisport
and activities for
Children*!

Age appropriate
sports and games;
lunch, snacks &
t-shirt provided!

BOOK NOW!

*To qualify for this programme your child must
qualify for pupil premium or Free School Meals

8 - 12 year olds:

Mon 2nd - Thurs 5th Aug, 10am-3pm:
[Biggleswade Rugby Club, SG18 9RA](#)
Mon 9th - Thurs 12th Aug, 10am-3pm:
[Fitzwillik Football Centre, MK45 1BA](#)
Mon 16th - Thurs 19th Aug, 10am-3pm:
[Marston Vale Middle School, MK43 9NH](#)
Mon 23rd - Thurs 26th Aug, 10am-3pm:
[Robert Bloomfield Academy, SG17 5BU](#)

13 - 16 year olds:

2nd, 3rd Aug & 9th, 10th Aug 10am-3pm:
[Biggleswade Rugby Club, SG18 9RA](#)
16th, 17th Aug, 23rd, 24th Aug 10am-3pm:
[Marston Vale Middle School, MK43 9NH](#)

To book: www.bluesfoundation.org.uk



Spaces are limited so book now!

To book your place visit: www.bluesfoundation.org.uk/holiday-provision
or call: 07596 237315



Other News

Summer Reading

Lists of recommended reads have been posted on all Google Classroom pages next week. These are there to keep children engaged with reading over the summer and help them out if they need a new book. For Year 6 there will also be a list of books linked to transition into secondary school which may be of use to some children. Most should be available at your local libraries.

Extra-Curricular Clubs (From September)

The timetable and booking form for extra-curricular clubs will be available when we return in September. Clubs will commence week beginning Monday 20th September.

School Lunches (From September)

If your child will be in Year 6 or Year 7 from September, lunch selections for the new term will be available to book on ParentMail from Monday 26th July but please remember that selections close 8 days before the booking is due to take place therefore, for example, if your child would like a school lunch on the day they return (Monday 6th September), the cut off for ordering this will be Sunday 29th August.

If you have child starting in Year 5 in September, please provide a packed lunch for the first week.

Please note that the price of school lunches will increase to £2.40 from September.

We are unable to make any amendments once the booking has closed.

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call 0300 300 8306.

COVID Testing (Year 7)

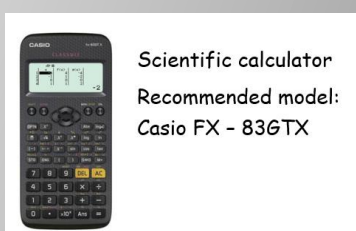
Following the Government's announcement last week, we have been asked to complete two Lateral Flow COVID-19 tests on our Year 7 pupils on their return in September. The first test will take place on Monday 6th September and the second test will take place on Thursday 9th September

In order to do this, we will require your consent.

Please complete this form for your child if they are currently in Year 6 and moving into Year 7 in September. [COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test Consent Form](#)

Maths Equipment (Year 7)

Year 7 pupils are required to have a scientific calculator. Mrs Bryant, the Head of KS3 Maths has recommended the Casio FX-83GTX which is available from Amazon or Argos for £9.99



Scientific calculator
Recommended model:
Casio FX - 83GTX

PE Kit

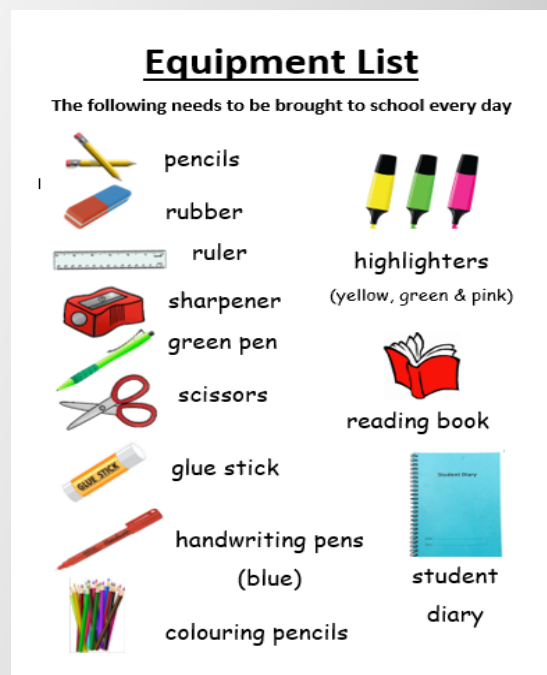
As restrictions have now eased, pupils are to wear school uniform on PE days and change at school.

PE Kit (Year 7)

Year 7 pupils are required to have gum shields, shin pads and football boots.

School Equipment

Please can you make sure that your child is re-stocked for September and that they have all the necessary equipment in school on a daily basis. Please can you also make sure they have a water bottle with them every day too.



Bike Recycling Event

A poster for a 'Bike recycling event' featuring the 'great lifestyles' logo and the 'Central Bedfordshire' logo. The event is on Thursday 12 August, 8.00am - 4.00pm, at Saxon Pool and Leisure Centre car park, Saxon Drive, Biggleswade, SG18 8SU. It mentions that donated bikes change lives and provides an email for further details: TravelChoices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. At the bottom, there are logos for 'sustrans' and 'Travel choices' along with icons for various transport modes and social media links.

Safeguarding

Child Safety Online:

A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media

Why children use social media

- Entertainment
- Belonging
- Confidence
- Popularity
- Self-esteem
- Expression



Social networking is hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets, and games consoles.

But social media, like all forms of public communication, comes with some risks. Not all of these risks turn into actual problems; and if children never face any risks, they never learn how to deal with them. By helping your child understand what the risks are, you can play a big part in preventing them from turning into problems.

Understand the risks children may need to deal with

What they could see or do:

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, anorexia and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or harmful behaviour

Who they might meet:

- People who might bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for:
 - Mischief-making
 - Sexual grooming and stalking
 - Blackmail and extortion
 - Identity theft and hacking

How this could affect them

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design
- Developing unrealistic, and perhaps depressing ideals of body image and gender
- Becoming subject to peer pressure or interactions that are intense or too difficult to handle
- Creating an online reputation that may create problems for them in the future



Practical tips to help minimise the risks your child might face

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them.

Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- Explain how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images.
- Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled, sharing their location unintentionally.
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them.
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them.

Keep talking and stay involved

In a mobile age, children can't be completely protected, even by the best privacy controls: another child may use different settings. So it's important to keep talking to your child about the implications of social media.

Getting a sense of what they think is a useful place to start; you may be surprised by how much thought they may have given to the issues. Encourage your child to think carefully about the way they, and others behave online, and how they might deal with difficult situations.

- People may not always be who they say they are online: how can this create problems?
- Why is it unwise to meet anyone in the real world that you've only ever met online?
- Even if you think your messages are private, remember that words and images can always be captured and broadcast.
- People present themselves differently online - do they really look like that? Are they always having that good a time?
- Be aware that screens, and especially being anonymous, can lead people to say things they wouldn't say to someone's face.
- What does being a good friend and a likeable person online look like?
- There can be pressure to be part of a particular group online or to be seen to be following a certain set of ideas. How can you take a step back and make your own decisions?

For more information

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at:

www.childnet.com/sns
www.internetmatters.org
www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
www.parentzone.org.uk
www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents
www.askaboutgames.com

To make a report

Concerned about online grooming or sexual behaviour online? Contact CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk

If you stumble across criminal sexual or obscene content on the internet you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk



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.



Teaching Staff 2021/2022

YEAR 5 (KS2)



Miss N Priestley
Shakespeare



Miss T Power
Gandhi



Miss E Izzard
Attenborough



Miss G Aksoy
Pankhurst



Mr J Williams
Turing



Mrs J Gregory
Nightingale



Mr E Van Wyk
Churchill

YEAR 6 (KS2)



Mrs K Robertson-Browne
Austen



Mrs M White
Tolkien



Mrs T Smyth
Zephaniah



Miss V Broadbent
Morpurgo



Mrs E Murphy
Blackman

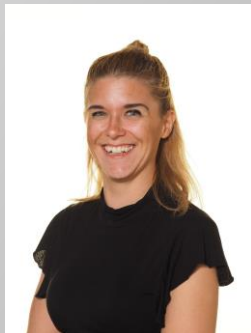
YEAR 7 (KS3)



Mr M Dawson
7MD Form Tutor
& PE & Science Teacher



Mr J Szwajbak
7JS Form Tutor
& Head of PE & Science



Mrs I Pearce
7IP Form Tutor
& Humanities Teacher



Mr S Brooks
7SB Form Tutor
& Head of Humanities



Mr M Campbell
KS3 Head of English



Mrs V Lewis
KS3 Head of MFL



Mrs K Bryant
KS3 Head of Maths

Senior Leadership Team 2021/2021



Principal
Mr S Adams



Vice Principal
Mr I King-Mand



Associate Principal
Mrs T Smyth

Support Staff 2021/2022

SENDCo

Mrs I Whent

Teaching Assistants

Mrs M Betts
Mrs K Murphy
Mrs S Thaneja
Mrs Fadoua Lahna
Mrs N Ash
Miss A Jack
Mrs S Sacco-Farag

Teaching Assistant/Science Technician

Mrs D Devine

Pastoral Officers/Cover Supervisors

Mr F Burton-Cook (Key Stage 2)
Mrs M Horwood (Key Stage 2)
Mr W Fleckney (Key Stage 3)

Office

Mr G Wilson – Business Manager
Mrs S Chandler – Office Manager
Mrs R Dallas – Receptionist/Admin Assistant

Kitchen

Miss S Pegg – Catering Manager
Mrs M Wood – Kitchen Assistant
Mrs S White – Kitchen Assistant
Mrs E Mirowska - Kitchen Assistant

Site

Mr K Betts – Site Manager
Mr D Miles – Assistant Site Agent

Diary & Term Dates

September	Thursday 2 nd Friday 3 rd Monday 6th Monday 20 th Friday 24 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Term - Extra Curricular clubs commence - School Photographs
October	Friday 1 st Friday 8 th Friday 22 nd Monday 25th – Friday 29th	- Parliament Trip (Year 7) - Parliament Trip (Year 7) - Non-Uniform Day - Half Term
November	Monday 1st Tuesday 2nd Thursday 25 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Term - Open Evening for Year 5 Prospective Parents
December	Wednesday 8 th Friday 10 th Thursday 16 th Friday 17 th Monday 20th – Tuesday 4th Jan	- Christmas Lunch - Christmas Jumper Day - Pantomime Trip (Year 5 & 6) - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs) - Christmas Holidays
January	Tuesday 4 th Wednesday 5th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Term
February	Monday 14th – Friday 18th Monday 21st	- Half Term - Start of Term
March	Thursday 3 rd	- World Book Day
April	Friday 1 st Monday 4th – Monday 18th Tuesday 19th	- Non-Uniform Day - Easter Holidays - Start of Term
May	Monday 2nd Monday 30th – Friday 3rd June	- Bank Holiday - Half Term
June	Monday 6th	- Start of Term
July	Friday 1 st (TBC) Friday 22 nd	- Step-Up Day - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs)