

PBA Press

Christmas 2021 Issue

Welcome to the final PBA Press of the year!

To be frank, I really did not imagine we would once again be considering how we would be responding to yet another COVID variant and hoping that this Christmas was not going to be impacted by the pandemic, yet here we are! There is no denying that throughout the course of this year we have had to deal with a host of challenges and unprecedented changes. What is most amazing is that throughout it all, we have managed to maintain a "business as usual" approach and pupils have simply got on with it. They have been amazing and resilient, simply meeting each change with a "can do" approach. They deserve great credit.

If we take a moment to look back, I think we can all agree that PBA has had a great year. We have now been working out of our new facilities for a year and we are slowly building the teaching resources necessary to deliver the full curriculum. Sporting fixtures have happened aplenty, clubs are running, visits have taken place outside school and visitors have come into school to deliver specialist experiences. On top of this the usual delivery of lessons undertaken by a full body of specialist teachers has happened on a daily basis. When I compare our position with other parts of the country, I really do feel we are privileged.

Christmas in schools is a genuinely fantastic time to be working with children. We have tried to include all the activities we are able to and this year we will undertake our visit to the pantomime, this is a significant and important undertaking with almost all of Year 5 and 6 attending. For many pupils this will be their first opportunity to undertake this classic British Christmas experience and I am so pleased that we were able to organise this.

During these last few weeks I am delighted to say that pupils have worked really hard. We know that having missed so much school we must do what ever we can to accelerate the learning in class.

To that end, it has been great to see so many pupils take advantage of homework club and for pupils to be working so hard in class. We have now reached the end of the term and everyone: pupils; teachers and parents need an opportunity to take a well-deserved rest. We all hope that Christmas this year will be more normal and I'm sure everyone will be doing everything possible to make it a good one.

It remains for me to wish all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. It is this time with family that makes this time of year so important and to have children at home during Christmas is undoubtedly one of life's great moments and hopefully provides memories that last a lifetime.

Have a wonderful Christmas and new year from all at PBA.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 5th January 2022 (staff training day Tuesday 4th Jan)!

*Steve Adams
& the PBA Team*



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
Best Wishes from all at Pix Brook Academy

Year 5



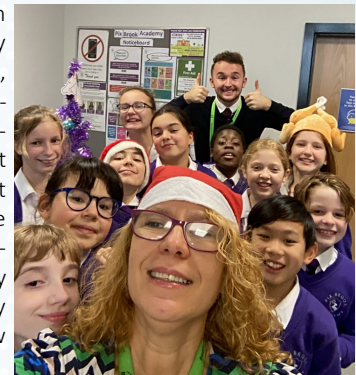
Year 5 have had a fantastic first term at Pix Brook, they have settled in tremendously and made us all very proud. In lessons they have been studying hard on a range of topics from Mayan Empire to Willy Wonka, and from gumball machines to prime numbers. It is such a jump up from Y4 in their smaller lower schools to Y5 at a large, new extended-secondary school at the best of times let alone after two years of disruption. Students have taken on board the Pix Brook ethos and 4Ps showing these throughout their days and continuing to be socially responsible in all that they do. I know that as a year group we will continue to go from strength to strength throughout the new year. I hope that all students and families have a safe, restful and happy festive break and myself and the Year 5 team look forward to welcoming students back on the 5th January.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year! Mr Cook and the Year 5 team

Year 6

As Head of Year 6, I have been privileged and genuine honoured to get to know all of you and teach you from time to time. You all have had an amazing start of the academic year and I am very happy with your attitude towards learning and excellent display of the values at PBA: Positive, Prepared, persevere and polite. I can say that as part of the Year 6 Team that we're very proud of your achievements, not just academically but also of personal growth, as many of you have shown further personal development by becoming more confident on your own abilities to achieve your goals, being that good friend, that is there for others in their times of need; been brave enough to push yourself a bit more and strive to better yourself as a student and as a social responsible citizen of the world! I hope that you have and continued enjoying being part of Pix Brook Academy as we progress on our learning journey together. As we are now at the end of another challenging year for all us in some many different ways, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Festive Seasons and a Prosper and Happy New Year 2022!! Looking forward to see you all on the New year and all refresh and ready to continue your learning journey at PBA!

Warmest wishes to you all. Mrs Horwood and the Year 6 team



Year 7



Well, the first term is now complete for our Year 7 students and it has been fantastic to witness their transition from Year 6 into Year 7, especially with them all looking so smart in their brand-new PBA uniforms. It has been a challenge for the students as they have progressed into Year 7 and I have been really impressed on a whole to see how the students have responded so well to these new challenges. The expectations are now greater, there is more homework, more assessments and different teachers for each subject, therefore to adapt to these changes can take time, but all the students have made a positive start to Year 7, and one that they can be proud of.

We were lucky to be able to have a school trip in October to London to The Houses of Parliament – which all students (and staff) enjoyed. To be able to tour both the House of Commons and House of Lords was a real privilege. In November there was the school Open Evening where many of the students helped and were amazing ambassadors for Pix Brook. A big thank you to anyone that helped and a special thank you to those that helped me in the Art department. Also, it has been great to see so many Year 7 boys and girls involved in sporting fixtures including football, basketball and netball and even better

was some of the great results PBA achieved – well done to all involved and thank you to the brilliant PE department for organising training and fixtures. Other notable highlights this term include the Roman Day, COP26 lessons, police workshops, school photographs, non-uniform days to fundraise, extra-curricular clubs and all the Christmas activities. As you can tell it has been a busy half-term therefore I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students and their families a very merry and restful Christmas and I look forward to the students return in the new year.

Mr Fleckney and the Year 7 team.

This Term's Highlights...



The staff and children were very excited to be able to go on a long-awaited school trip. The journey gave a glimpse of the sights of London which the children enjoyed before we had even got off the coach! Once we had disembarked the kids enjoyed a lunch by the Thames before heading to the Parliament Education centre. In parliament, we toured both the House of Lords and the House of Commons then completed the experience with a workshop on how debating techniques and how bills are passed into law.



Friday 15 October was 'One Run Global' day, a worldwide event for schools to participate in a 15 minute exercise programme whether it be walking, running or cycling. There are around 150,000 students from 54 countries signed up and Pix Brook is now on the map!



Remembrance Day 2021—It was lovely to see so many of our pupils in their service uniforms. Here's a few of our Year 5 pupils...

Another successful week for the Humanities Department bringing subjects to life. As part of the Year 6 curriculum we asked the students to campaign about how to improve their local area. We asked them to write letters

and send them to the local MP Mr Richard Fuller and as a result of those campaigns, the school received a much-welcomed visit from Mr Fuller. The students were lucky enough to have a personal audience with him and he was able to answer their questions in a very informal way. This was a great opportunity for our students and an experience that I'm sure they won't forget.



This term, Year 5 have been covering Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. In Nightingale class (Percy Pig class), all the children have settled in really well. They are producing amazing work across all lessons. Mrs Gregory is extremely proud of them all. In English, the children have been reading Charlie and the chocolate factory. They have completed lots of different activities. One of their favourites was designing and creating a diorama of a new chocolate factory room.

In Art, Year 5 received a letter from no other than Mr Willy Wonka himself. He challenged the children to design a new chocolate wrapper creating different names by combining two words together to make a new word- this technique is called portmanteau. The children really enjoyed this, here are some of their masterpieces.

Year 6 were taken back in time to the Victorian Era at Blists Hill Victorian Town. We had a jam-packed day full of different activities fitting with the era, including changing our modern money to Victorian at the bank, hearing about Victorian medicine at the druggist, seeing a huge ship that had been preserved, and sampling Victorian confectionary. Not forgetting the bakery, where Mr. Cook's group seemed to spend most of their pocket money on loaves of bread! It was a brilliant day, great to see so many students dressed up and seeing students represent PBA tremendously!



This Term's Highlights...



Year 5 were transported back to the time of the Ancient Maya, which we have been learning about in our History lessons, via Cadbury World to learn about where the chocolate we know and love originated from. We enjoyed many different activities such as an interactive talk, a 4D experience and a tour of the Cadbury World factory. It was fantastic to hear from numerous Cadbury World staff how polite and well-mannered our students are, we are all so proud of you!

Thank you to the students who helped in languages on Opening Evening. They did a brilliant job supporting younger students to use some French words and phrases whilst trying some French food and drink. The students involved gave a really nice, warm, caring impression of the school. A big thank-you to all involved.



Shout-out to the Austen class students who helped out at Open Evening with Mr Cook in Food Technology.

It was great to see our fantastic food room in use after a term's hard work equipping it and preparing it for lessons (starting in September).

The students did such a fantastic job following recipes they have likely never seen before and creating delicious baked goods for our visitors for the duration of the event.

They represented PBA impeccably and I am very proud of them. Thanks to all who supported with this. Mr Cook

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to The Need Project's Christmas Hamper appeal.



It was fabulous to see so many Christmas Jumpers being worn on December 11th. We raised almost £300 for 'Save The Children' - thank you so much



In Science, Year 5 have been learning about forces. Pankhurst completed a challenge where they had to move as many jelly cubes from one bowl to the next, using only chop sticks. They then added cooking oil to the cubes and continued to move them, but it wasn't as easy as the first time! At the end of the lesson, the children discussed how this challenge was linked to friction and whether it was high or low friction. A big shout out to Mrs Cook for leading this lesson! Here is a photo of Diya and Max in action! You have all been amazing Pankhurst! Keep it up



It has been another terrific term for Turing class. I continue to be amazed by the maturity and quality of work this amazing class shows, even if they don't always laugh at my incredible jokes (some would argue that is because they are mature!). We have had so many great moments it would be hard to list them all here, but I will try and cherry pick the best ones. We had the Cadbury's World trip and just this week went out to the Gordon Craig Theatre to watch Aladdin. In English, we have continued with our work on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; we have created our own rooms for the factory, our own child to win a Golden Ticket and finally we wrote our own chapter that could be in the book! In Maths, we have zoomed through lots of different topics, ranging from multiplication and division to area and perimeter. Meanwhile, in Science, we moved onto our new topic of Forces! I hope all associated with Turing class have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to starting the new calendar year as brilliantly as we have ended the last!



PBA PE Finish 2021 on a High!

It has been a fantastic first term in the PBA PE department, with many highlights across a range of sports.

In football, we have entered both boys and girls fixtures in multiple age groups, where attendances have been incredibly high and we have even managed to run A, B and C teams! Our 'A' teams have shown great progress, with wins against several schools across the district in the league, while our Year 6 boys C team also beat Robert Bloomfield 4-2 in a friendly last week! Furthermore, our Year 7 girls team put in a strong display at the Luton Town FC u13 community festival, coming 4th in their league in what was a brilliant day of high level football. In the new year we look forward to the Year 5 boys league starting and Year 5/6/7 girls fixtures taking place.



In netball, we have organised teams in each year group, with our Year 7s showing good development in their first season. Our Year 5 team also got off to a promising start, although fixtures have been put on hold due to the ongoing pandemic and we are hopeful that they can continue their season in the new year. Moreover, the Year 6 team finished 2021 unbeaten, with impressive wins against a number of schools and we look forward to seeing them conclude their season in the new year!



Lastly in basketball, our Year 7 team have reached our first EVER district final, winning each of their games and topping their pool in November. In the new year we take on Robert Bloomfield to see who will be district champions in a much anticipated match!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all of the students, parents and carers who have supported the department this term. With over 300 students attending clubs, almost 100 students representing the school, and many supporters gathering on the side-lines each game, it really has been a superb team effort.

Next term we hope to see more sport, more students representing the school and more success at PBA as we continue to build our sporting reputation in the community!

PE Star of the Month - November

<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>	<u>Year 7</u>
Tillie Howes - Excellent performances in Tag-Rugby	Isabella Pykerman - Excellent performances in Tag Rugby and Netball	Isabelle Millington - Showing great teamwork in Netball
Freddy Medcalf - Great effort in lessons	William Whybrow - Excellent energy and skill in Tag Rugby	Noah Challands - Fantastic effort in Netball

PE Team of the Term - August

Year 7 Boys Basketball team - For winning their league and reaching the district finals

SEN Department

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Gifford to PBA as the Assistant SENDCo starting in January. Mrs Gifford has over 20 years of experience working in SEND and is an excellent addition to our growing team. If you need to contact anyone in the SEND team, please could you now use our new email address:

PBA-SEN@bestacademies.org.uk

CBC Winter Holiday Programme

Please find attached activities offered to SEND children in CBC this winter.

Willmott Dixon/Pix Brook Academy win RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2021 Award

Entered by: Bidwells

Other key organisations involved with the project: Willmott Dixon Construction Limited

[Read the Cast Study](#)

This new school embraced modern methods of construction to meet the existing and future educational needs of over 1000 students. With sustainability at its heart, the development provides a main school building with sports hall, drama studio, games areas, football pitches and athletics track. In addition, the 'Now or Never' pod will enable outdoor learning for a net-zero carbon classroom. The school took just 52 weeks to construct.

Judges' comment – 'Innovative and sustainable in its concept this building project also showed a clear focus on project management and delivery for the client.'



Pupil Achievements

Rosa S

- Grade 3 Ballet (Merit)
- Grade 3 Modern (Distinction)

Charlie J

- Cello (Merit)

Changes to Lunchtime clubs:

Debate club will be held on Fridays in the drama studio on Week 1

This is a lively club the children choose the topics they can research the topic and debate it. The topics they have chosen in the past included: 'are Jaffa cakes a cake or biscuit?' and 'do aliens really exist'

Ecology club will be held on Friday meeting in the drama studio on Week 2

At this club we will be studying and logging the vegetation around the local area, we will then go on to look at what wildlife would benefit from this vegetation and how humans can also benefit from it.

School Lunches From January

Selections for next term's lunch menu will be available from Monday 20th December. You will find this as always under the 'Accounts' section on your ParentMail account. Please remember that selections close 8 days before the booking is due to take place therefore if your child would like a hot lunch on the first day of term (Wednesday 5th January) this must be selected **BEFORE** Wednesday 29th December.

CBC Winter Holiday Programme

Please find attached activities offered by CBC this winter.

Book now for free holiday fun this winter!

In Central Bedfordshire

great prospects

Booking is now open for our free holiday activities and food programme for children and young people aged five and upwards. Have fun and make friends as there are activities to suit everyone including sports and games sessions, craft and creative activities.

Our sessions are inclusive so are suitable for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), and we'll also be running a series of activities that are specifically for children with SEND.

You will need to have registered before you can book an activity. Register here: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school-hols-food

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.

To book activities visit: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/holiday-activities

XMAS CARNIVAL CLUB

Young people 11-16 yrs living in Central Beds

Carnival Costume Design & Making

Street Dance

Steelman

FREE activities 10:30 am - 3:30pm
UK Centre for Carnival Arts, 3 St Mary's Rd, Luton, LU1 3JA

FREE lunch & refreshments provided
FREE transport (pick-up at 10 am & return by 4 pm)
Leighton Buzzard (Tues 21st Dec) Fitwick (Weds 22nd Dec) Dunstable (Thurs 23rd Dec)

For more information & to sign-up visit www.carnivalarts.org.uk
info@carnivalarts.org.uk 01582 437 100

CREATIVE BUZZ

AGES 9-12 YEARS

FREE WINTER THEATRE ADVENTURE

18TH - 23RD DECEMBER
11AM TO 4.30PM

JOIN FULL HOUSE THEATRE FOR A FREE FUN FILLED THEATRE EXPERIENCE THIS DECEMBER. WATCH A LIVE THEATRE SHOW AT LUTON'S HAT FACTORY ARTS CENTRE AND TAKE HOME A BUMPER CREATIVE ACTIVITY PACK TO MAKE YOUR OWN SHADOW THEATRE PERFORMANCE AT HOME. THIS EXCITING HOLIDAY ACTIVITY OFFER INCLUDES:

- COACH TRAVEL TO AND FROM HAT FACTORY ARTS CENTRE FROM A DESIGNATED MEETING POINT
- PRE-PERFORMANCE CHRISTMAS PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GAMES WITH FULL HOUSE PRACTITIONERS
- TWO-COURSE HEALTHY CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- TICKET TO WATCH THE ELVES AND THE SHOGMAKER
- TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT AND ONLINE TUTORIAL TO MAKE YOUR OWN SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR FREE SPACE GO TO: FULLHOUSE.CO.UK/CREATIVE-BUZZ

Full House 20 Years
Celebrating 20 Years of Theatre Education

ZSL | WHIPSNADE ZOO

ZOO ACADEMY

Hands-on one day course getting behind the scenes at the UK's largest Zoo.

Hot lunch provided.

Booking via Central Bedfordshire Council www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school-hols-food

20TH OR 21ST DECEMBER 2021

Christmas Football Fun Camps

Incredible Inflatable Experiences for 4-12 year olds
From 9:00am - 3:30pm

At Pix Brook Academy
From 20th - 23rd December

Register Your Child at www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/camps
or email matty@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk
to book your HAF funded spot

Multi-Activity Holiday Clubs Ages 5 to 15

Our Multi-activity holiday clubs have fantastic facilities including: large indoor hall, all weather playground and outdoor field or arena.

Each full day consists of 'Sports Stars' & 'Creative Stars' activities. Accompanied with free play and weekly themed activities, there is something for everyone!

Venue	Dates	Ages	Times / Spaces
Beaconsfield Lower School, Appleton Way, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 5DX	20 - 23 Dec	Ages 5-12	9am - 3pm (50 spaces)
Stonelys Grove Lower School, Bury Street, Dunstable, LU5 5AG	20 - 23 Dec	Ages 5-12	9am - 3pm (50 spaces)
Thomas Whitelaw Academy, Anglia Lane, Houghton Regis, LU5 5SE	20 - 23 Dec	Ages 5-12	9am - 3pm (50 spaces)
Overfield Community Centre, Station, Overfield, MK45 2BN	20 - 23 Dec	Ages 5-12	9am - 3pm (50 spaces)
Uxbridge Middle School, Hemmings Road, Uxbridge, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 5BN	20 - 23 Dec	Ages 9-15	9am - 3pm (50 spaces)

WHAT'S ON THIS WINTER?

- Mon 20 Dec: Winter Wonderland
- Tue 21 Dec: Christmas Tales
- Wed 22 Dec: Winter Olympics
- Thurs 23 Dec: Christmas Party

Enrichment Activities: Different dance styles, including 1 of the following: Street, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Ballroom.

Activities for 11-15 year olds: Themed Arts & Crafts, Puzzles, Quiz's, Clowns, Story, Games, Sports, Healthy Recipes & more!

Sports we play: Running Games, Dodgeball, Net, Indoor Golfing, Archery, Ball Games, Football, Cricket, Chess & Table Tennis & more!

Other things: Football, Ball Games, Angling & Snagging, Water Ball, Boccia, etc. All including, Team Football, Ring Toss & more!

Open to children ages 5 to 15 eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.

Book now: www.kidzzoneclub.com

Email: haf@kidzzoneclub.com Phone: 01582 595630 Website: www.kidzzoneclub.com