



## PBA WEEKLY BULLETIN

### A Week of Positive Partnerships

A Message from Mrs Linehan

We began the week with some blustery, autumnal weather, but our students responded with great maturity. Despite the high winds, we were delighted to welcome so many of you to our family-facing events. It was a pleasure to see so many Year 5, 7, and 11 families on-site for Welcome Events and Meet the Tutor appointments. Your support is truly appreciated. We are very proud to share that the Year 5 event achieved an incredible **94% attendance**. Having the opportunity to forge partnerships with home is invaluable as strong home-school relationships are so important for your child's success. Please note that our next family event is on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September for all Year 10 families** and students to explore the start of their Key Stage 4 journey.

I would like to thank you for your patience with the ongoing BromCom rollout. You may be aware that there was a national issue that has delayed the distribution of account activation links. However, you don't need to wait! You can activate your account right now by downloading the My Child At School app, clicking 'Reset Password'; entering your registered email address, and following the subsequent steps.

We ended our week on a high note with the opening of our School Parliament, attended by local MP Alistair Strathern and BEST CEO, Dr. Lee. It was wonderful to see our pupil leaders so passionate and engaged in their school-based projects. Next week is Sustainability Week at PBA, and selected pupils will be delivering the morning school assembly to all year groups. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck!

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

## EdShed Results

Well done to everyone who completed their EdShed homework this week!

Here are the ten highest-scoring classes!

### Top Spelling Shed Groups

#	Group	Score
1.	Blackman	143,555,559
2.	Zephaniah	98,052,395
3.	Austen	71,576,223
4.	Attenborough	56,239,163
5.	Tolkien	53,667,124
6.	Angelou	38,612,596
7.	Morpurgo	36,684,064
8.	Shakespeare	34,485,880
9.	Pankhurst	20,448,942
10.	Churchill	7,438,015

## Baseline Assessments

A message from Ms Lewis

Year 5 Parents

We just wanted to make you aware that over the next couple of weeks, your child may be undertaking some baseline assessments. These tests are standard practice across schools.

Please be assured that there is no need for your child to revise or prepare for these tests. They are designed to assess natural abilities rather than specific knowledge.



## Homework - Years 7 & 8

### Year 7 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	MCL, CCN, SCS, HHE, LMN, NLE	Monday	Monday	Various - pre reading and research on topics which we are studying. Some SENeca tasks.	1 hour PW
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA, RJN	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY, JSK	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, creative task or google form revision quiz for each topic	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom	30 mins
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: eg. Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes	30-40 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Any lesson on the rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young Mrs White	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant & Miss McGuigan	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes	10 minutes

### Year 8 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, CCN, LMN, SCS, HHE	Monday	Monday	Pre- reading & research into topics which we will be studying. Some SENeca tasks. Consolidation of learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY, JSK	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, creative task or google form revision quiz for each topic.	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins to an hour
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks eg: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes.	30-40 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Food rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation.	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young Mrs White	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes	10 minutes

## Homework - Years 9 & 10

### Year 9 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, SCS, RSN, CCN, HHE	Monday	Monday	Pre-reading & research into topics which we will be studying. Some SENeca tasks. Consolidation of learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1 hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards, Seneca.	30 minutes - 1 hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins to an hour
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes.	45 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Food Rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation.	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes.	10 minutes

### Year 10 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, SCS, CCN, EDN	Monday	Monday	Researching topics which we will be learning about. Revision tasks to prepare for mock exams and consolidate learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1 hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards Seneca.	30 minutes - 1 hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Weekly	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins - 1hr
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom. Including revision and practice exam questions.	1-2 hours
French	DSD, IPS, VLS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes, revision, exam practice.	1 hour
DT	Mr Fleckney	When required	1 week after setting	Tasks to support the learning in class. Exam question practice. Research and design tasks for practical lessons.	30-60 mins
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young	Every week	1 week to complete	Tasks to support the development of the students' coursework portfolios, for example preparing for lessons e.g. taking photos, artist research etc., working on artworks that have been started in class and presenting work into sketchbooks.	1-2 hours
Business	Miss McGuigan	10B- Thurs 10D- Tues	10B- Thurs 10D- Tues	Business context research task building a bank of mini case studies of businesses of their choice).	20mins
Philosophy	Mr Collins	Monday	Monday	Propello task + similar revision activity.	30 Mins
BTEC IT	Mrs Brant	10A/IT	1 week to complete	Weekly Know It All Ninja learning and quiz.	20 mins
Food	Miss Kinnear	10A Mon/Thurs 10B Weds/Thurs	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation for practical. Theory based exam style questions.	20 minutes 30 minutes
GCSE PE	Mr Dawson	Friday	1 week to complete	AQ1 content - recap of learning within class, 6-9 mark exam style questions, case studies linked to current issues in sport.	30 minutes - 1 hour
Drama	Mrs Jones	When required	1 week to complete	Learning lines, key term quizzes, set text knowledge tasks, group rehearsals.	10 minutes to 1 hour
Music	Tim Weed	Monday	Monday	Practice Journal, Listening questions.	

## Homework - Years 9 & 10

### Year 11 Homework

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, EDN, CCN	Monday	Monday	Revision and consolidation tasks to prepare for mocks and GCSEs.	2 Hours
Maths	SPL, CSN, DMN, JMN	Friday	Friday	Sparx Maths	1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards, seneca.	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE CBN, SBS	weekly	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins -1hr
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom. Including revision and practice exam questions.	1-2 hours
French	IPS, VLS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks eg: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes, revision, exam practice	1 hour
DT	Mr Fleckney	Every Week	1 week after setting	To continue with the NEA design folder. Completing pages from the lessons and acting on teacher feedback to support the work. GCSE Mock paper practice prior to scheduled mock exams.	1-2 hours
Art	Mrs Poxson	Every week	1 week to complete	Tasks to support the development of the students' coursework/exam portfolios, for example preparing for lessons e.g. taking photos, artist research etc., working on artworks that have been started in class and presenting work into sketchbooks.	1-2 hours
Drama	Mrs Jones	When required	1 week	Learning lines, key term quizzes, set text knowledge tasks, group rehearsals.	10 minutes to 1 hour
Business	Miss McGuigan	11A / 11D Weds	11A / 11D Weds	Business context research task (building a bank of mini case studies of businesses of their choice).	20mins
BTEC IT	Mrs Brant	11B/IT	1 week to complete	Weekly <b>Know it All Ninja</b> learning and quiz. Revision tasks.	20-40 mins
Food	Miss Kinnear	11C Mon/ Thurs 11D Tues/ Weds	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation for practicals Theory based exam style questions COURSEWORK also will have homework attached to it.	20 minutes 30 minutes Time limit will be set in lesson
GCSE PE	Mr Nicholl	Friday	1 week to complete	AO1 content - recap of learning within class, 6-9 mark exam style questions, case studies linked to current issues in sport.	30 minutes - 1 hour



## GCSE History Trip - The Globe Theatre



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the History department took 25 year 11 Historians to the Globe Theatre in London. Year 11 have been studying the Globe as part of Paper 2 on Elizabethan England, forming the Historic Site element of the paper.

We left bright and early at 8am to make our 10.30 tour of the Globe. The students enjoyed learning about how the Globe developed: they were particularly interested in the idea of live bears being used in Elizabethan performances!

The students were able to ask questions and we were really proud of their level of engagement throughout the tour, as well as the insightful points they made about the site. We then enjoyed a GCSE workshop, with the students taking away some key points about the site in their workbooks.



Finally we had a quick lunch by the Thames, before getting the coach back to PBA. Particular thanks to the students for their fantastic behaviour and attitudes during the day, as well as Ms Burge and Ms Ford helping on the day.

## Food Prep and Nutrition

Our new Year 7's enjoyed a practical this week learning how to stew apples. They peeled and chopped, showing great knife skills and used the hob to stew their apples carefully. Their fruit is now frozen and awaiting next week's Apple Crumble lesson to layer and complete their tasty bake. Well done year 7. Great start to the term!



Also joining the Fruit Crumble wagon was our new cohort of year 10's. A nice practical to ease them in; the pupils showed us their careful knife skills in preparing their fruit, practiced their oven safety and also used personal judgement, to assess their crumble and decide on extra baking time or not. All very important skills in the kitchen!

**Our Year 10 star bakers this week are Maddie W and Evie P**



Our Year 11's have been practising and perfecting their advanced chopping skills this week. We have seen some excellent examples of Dicing, Julienne, Brunoise and more. All of these techniques will serve them well for their plate presentation in their final practical exam.



## BTEC Digital Information Technology

The Year 10 BTEC Digital information technology class has made an excellent start to the course this term. They have been exploring key concepts, learning about User Interfaces (both complex and basic), essential user skills, and the importance of accessibility in technology. To bring all their learning together and demonstrate their understanding of these key concepts, the students have created a series of informative infographics, which are available to view below.

### Six factors to consider when choosing a ui

- USER EXPERIENCE**  
DIFFERENT USERS WILL HAVE VARYING LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT FEATURES ARE FAMILIAR TO USERS.
- ACCESSIBILITY**  
SOME USERS HAVE ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: VISUAL, HEARING, SPEECH NEEDS.
- PERFORMANCE**  
CONSIDER HOW QUICKLY A TASK CAN BE COMPLETED.
- USER REQUIREMENTS**  
CONSIDER THE TASKS THAT NEED TO BE PERFORMED AND CAN THE USER INTERFACE PERFORM THESE AND HOW WELL.
- EASE OF USE**  
CONSIDER IF YOU CAN OPERATE THE INTERFACE AND HOW TO GET SUPPORT.
- STORAGE SPACE**  
AMOUNT OF STORAGE SPACE CAN DETERMINE THE TYPE OF BEST INTERFACE USED AND THE FEATURES IT CAN HAVE.

Felix Neaton

## 6 USER INTERFACES

- 01. Text based**  
A text based interface is when a user enters information with multiple form controls. Entering a new contact is an example of one. It's very easy to use.
- 02. Form**  
A menu interface is a way of selecting options by clicking on graphics on the device screen. Like a Mac OS menu. It can lead to different screens and options.
- 03. Menu**  
A graphical interface allows users to interact with devices through icons and other visual features. Like Windows 11 etc and smartphones. It requires powerful hardware.
- 04. Graphical**  
A sensor interface came around them for changes in the environment. Like a car's heating or a ring doorbell. It runs automatically and easy to use.
- 05. Sensor**  
A speech interface responds directly to voice and commands. This could be on a laptop or Siri etc. They often connect to the internet. It's very easy to use and accessible.
- 06. Speech**

### TYPES OF USER INTERFACES

the point of interaction and communication between a person and a machine, website, or software, encompassing all the visual, auditory, and touchable elements that allow a user to give input and receive output.

- SENSOR INTERFACES**  
a system that interacts with a user's senses (like touch, hearing, sight) to give information from digital data, or to allow a user to influence their environment.
- SPEECH INTERFACE**  
allows users to interact with devices and software using spoken language, enabling them to have voice commands and receive auditory feedback.
- GRAPHICAL INTERFACES**  
user-friendly, visual systems for interacting with electronic devices through icons, buttons, menus, and other graphical elements, instead of text-based commands.
- TEXT BASED INTERFACE**  
a user interface that interacts with a computer to view and track characters and symbols, allowing users to input commands and receive output in their graphical elements (like icons or windows).
- MENU INTERFACE**  
a typical human-computer interaction where every navigate a system to select options from a series of displayed menus, rather than by typing complex commands.

### CHOOSING USER INTERFACES

**performance**  
response time how quickly the interface responds to user input and tasks, how long does it take for an interface to COMPLETE a task such as processing a request.

**user requirements**  
Design for an existing and changing requirements like high contrast, readable fonts, and alternative input methods to support users with disabilities.

EASE OF USE	USER EXPERIENCE	ACCESSIBILITY
A cluttered interface is confusing. A user-friendly design uses a minimalist approach, making essential functions easy to find and use.	tailor the interface to the target audience, balancing multifunctionality for designers with efficiency for users. Using consistent patterns, clear feedback.	consider and address barriers and solutions. Offer an alternative way to interact with the system. Use clear and concise language and avoid jargon. Offer an alternative way to interact with the system. Use clear and concise language and avoid jargon.

**STYLE, TONE & FORMALITY**  
You should aim to be formal and objectively using professional and concise language and avoid jargon. Offer an alternative way to interact with the system. Use clear and concise language and avoid jargon.

**EVIDENCE**  
When researching good work to look at, make sure you include as many different types of user interface as you can. Use a range of different devices and software. Look at the design of the interface and how it is used. Look at the design of the interface and how it is used. Look at the design of the interface and how it is used.

### TYPES OF INTERFACE

- TEXT**  
A method of interacting with a computer system that uses text on a plain background to display information and receive commands.
- GRAPHICAL**  
The most widespread using visual elements like icons, windows, and buttons for user interaction via devices like mice and keyboards.
- FORM**  
A digital tool with fields, buttons, and other controls that allow users to input data, make selections, or interact with an application or system.
- MENU**  
A type of graphical user interface that allows users to interact with a computer or device by navigating through lists of options or commands, known as menus.
- VOICE**  
Users interact with the system using spoken commands, exemplified by virtual assistants.
- SENSOR**  
Enable a system to read out information from the input signal generated by complex sensors.

### User Interface

- Graphical**  
A graphical user interface allows the user to interact with device through icons and other visual features.  
Examples of this are PC, Games Console, Tablets, Smartphones.
- Sensor**  
Appliances that use sensors to carry out a command, these are usually found around the home and in buildings such as office.  
Examples of this are Central Heating, Burglar alarm, Facial Recognition, Doorbells.

### Speech

A speech interface is an interface that responds to voice or to sound.  
Examples of this are Personal assistant, Cars, Artificial intelligence, TV.

### Text

A text interface works by the user entering specific commands with the keyboard. When these have been entered, the user interface will then respond.  
Examples of this are Code.

### Form

A form interface works by the user entering information using various forms of controls.  
An example of this is Contact list on phone.

### Menu

A menu interface is a way of selecting options by clicking on graphics on the device screen.  
An example of this is ATM Self-Checkout.

### When choosing a User Interface to use consider these details

- Performance**  
Consider how quickly a task can be completed.
- User Requirements**  
Consider the tasks that need to be performed and can the user interface perform, them and how well.
- Accessibility**  
Some users have needs. These include visual, hearing and speech.
- Storage space**  
Amount of storage space can determine the type of user interface used and the features it can have.

### Easy to use

Consider if you can operate interface and how to get support.

### User experience

Different users will have varying levels of experience. It's important to know what features are familiar to users.

Please note: all long hair should be tied back for PE lessons, and piercings should be covered or removed

## Fixtures This Week



## Sports Update

A Message from Miss Sidhu

Another fantastic win for our Under 16's Netball team. Their first League match of the season against Henlow Academy, the girls played brilliantly and finished with a score of 36-12!



## Nathan Wins Place on County Team

Huge congratulations to Nathan F, year 11, who has recently won a place on the county Football team!



## Elizabeth Cycles to Success

Elizabeth M (Year 6) has been competing in the Welwyn Track League at Gosling Sports Park from April to September this year.

It was her first complete season riding on the velodrome in Welwyn, and she finished the season last week at the top of the Under 12 Girls league table.

Well done, Elizabeth!



## Clubs and Societies

Our sports clubs and societies aim to give the pupils a range of activities and interests to enjoy.

**Please note: the Sports Clubs are likely to change termly, and are usually linked to the current competition schedule.**

### Before School 7.45-8.15

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y5/6 Badminton Sportshall (AJK)	Y5/6 Netball Sportshall (PSU)	Y7/8 Badminton Sportshall (RNL)	Y10/11 Badminton Sportshall (RNL)	Y9/10/11 Gymnastics / Dance Dance Studio (PSU)

### Lunchtime 1:12.40-13.10

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Y5/6 Table Tennis Dance Studio (SLY)		Y10/11 Boys & Girls Badminton Sportshall (RNL)	Y9/10/11 Gymnastics /Dance Dance Studio (PSU)
	KS2 Coding Club 140 (EBT)			Y10/11 Boys & Girls Basketball Sportshall (RNL)

### Lunchtime 2: 13.30-14.00

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y9/10 - Handball / Tchoukball Sportshall (RNL)	Y10 Futsal Sportshall (RNL)	Y8/9/10/Y11 - Strength & Conditioning Dance Studio (RNL)	Y10/11 - GCSE Table Tennis Dance Studio (MDN)	Y7/8 - Table Tennis Dance Studio (MDN)
KS3 Code Club 140 (EBT)	Y10/11 Table Tennis Dance Studio (JSK)	Y11 Futsal Sportshall (RNL)	Y8/9 - Basketball Sportshall (RNL)	Y10 & 11 GCSE Art Club 127 (MYG)
		KS3 eSports 140 (EBT) Starting November 2025		

### After School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y5/6 Boys & Girls Trampolining (AJK)	Y10/11 Boys & Girls S&C (MDN)	Y8/9 Boys Football Training (RNL/MDN)	Y6 Football Fixtures (Team selection)	GCSE Rock Climbing - Off-site (RNL/AJK)
Y7/8/9/10 Girls Netball Training (PSU)	Y7 Boys Football Training (RNL)	Y9/10 Trampolining (AJK)	Whole school choir (TWD)	
Y5/6 Boys Football Training (SPE/SLY)	Y7/8 Girls Basketball Training (AJK)	Y5/6 Boys & Girls Rugby Training (OCL)		
Y9/10 Boys & Girls Rugby Training (MDN)	Yr 8 Football Fixtures (Team selection)	Y7/8 Netball Fixtures (Team selection)	Staff Meetings	
Y11 - GCSE PE Intervention (RNL)	KS3/4 Drama Club (Pix Brook Players) Main Hall (LJS)	Y7 Football Fixtures (Team selection)		
Y10 & 11 GCSE Art Club 126 KPN	Year 5 Homework Club Year 5 classrooms	Young Voices (KS2 only) Main Hall. (MWE/TWD)		
		Year 6 Homework Club Year 6 classrooms		
		Year 7 Homework Club Room 206		

## Drum Lessons

Drum Lessons are available every Monday and Tuesday to students of all ages and abilities! Whether you would like to pursue grades or achieve your own personal goals.

Becca Robinson – [beccadrums@gmail.com](mailto:beccadrums@gmail.com)



## Singing Lessons



I have more than 15 years experience teaching children of all ages in a wide range of musical styles.

My style is fun and friendly with many of my pupils taking public exams and successfully auditioning for singing courses at a range of reputable post-school institutions.

For further details, please speak to Mr Weed via school or contact me direct on 07905 225825 or [eleanorpugsley@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorpugsley@gmail.com)

## Piano Lessons

### Piano Lessons

Boris Peck is a classically-trained conductor, violinist and pianist offering in-school piano lessons.

Spaces are currently available for new students. Weekly lessons (20 or 30 minute sessions) will be taught on one of the keyboards in school.

Please contact Boris via email at [boris\\_peck@hotmail.com](mailto:boris_peck@hotmail.com), or phone 07884 057278 for more information.



## Brass and Wind Lessons

### BRASS & WIND LESSONS

Learning to play an instrument opens up a world of musical-expression and creativity. It offers a unique way to develop musical skills while improving focus, discipline, and teamwork.

At Pix Brook, we currently offer lessons on Drums, guitar, piano, violin, and voice. In our efforts to expand this provision, we would like to start offering brass and woodwind lessons. At this point we are looking to see if there is enough interest within the school to facilitate a teacher coming in.

**The instruments to choose from would be:**

- Brass:
  - horn,
  - trombone,
  - trumpet,
  - tuba.

- Woodwind:
  - bassoon,
  - clarinet,
  - flute,
  - oboe,
  - saxophone.

The cost of the lessons ranges from **£11 per lesson to £24** depending on the length of lesson and whether it is taught individually or as part of a group.

**If your child is interested in starting lessons, please let me know by email** ([tweed@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:tweed@bestacademies.org.uk))

If there is enough interest, we will look to set this up in the near future.

Thank you for considering this exciting opportunity.

We are excited to be looking at offering lessons in brass and wind instruments in school.

If you would be interested in signing your child up for lessons, please contact Mr Weed: [tweed@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:tweed@bestacademies.org.uk)

## Tech Ambassadors

A Message from Mrs Brandt

We are excited to announce the relaunch of our Tech Ambassadors programme in the Computing department! This initiative offers students a valuable opportunity to develop leadership and responsibility. The Tech Ambassadors will play a crucial role in the **preparedness** and storage of technology before and after lessons, including helping to manage resources like the Micro:bit kits, which are essential for our practical lessons. This role is a fantastic chance for your child to gain hands-on experience and contribute to a **positive** learning environment for all.



The Tech Ambassadors programme will also provide some unique opportunities for our Year 5 students, who will get a chance to help with important tasks like server maintenance and Chromebook trolley checks. This will foster **perseverance** and problem-solving. Two students from each class will be chosen to serve as Ambassadors for one half-term, allowing many students to experience the role throughout the year. Your child's Computing teacher along with the class will select the two best representatives for each class. This is a role to be **proud** of, and a great way to demonstrate being **polite** and helpful to classmates. Students who perform their duties well will be rewarded with praise points for their efforts. We believe this programme will help our students develop key skills while fostering a sense of community and responsibility within the school.

## Can You Help?

To support hands-on learning opportunities in the Computing department, we would be incredibly grateful for any donations of old or unwanted technology you may have at home.

These items will be used to help students learn about the physical components of a computer, how to safely dismantle and rebuild a machine, how technology has evolved, user interfaces and human computer interaction. We are specifically looking for:

- Floppy disks, CDs, and DVDs
- Hard drives, RAM, and internal components like CPUs or GPUs
- Joysticks, controllers and old gaming consoles
- Older phones (both smart and "dummy" phones), pagers, and personal organisers like a PalmPilot

Your generosity would provide our students with invaluable practical experience. If you are able to donate, please contact Mrs Brant on [ebrant@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ebrant@bestacademies.org.uk)

Thank you so much for your support.

## Careers Advisor Joins PBA

I'm Emma Fuller the new impartial and independent Careers Adviser working alongside Miss McGuigan, the Careers Lead.

My background has involved working with young people in various settings such as play schemes, youth work settings and schools before qualifying as a careers adviser.

I am looking forward to meeting the students and will start year 11 guidance appointments shortly. I am based in room 162 in school so students are welcome to drop in and see me at break or lunchtime too.



Join the PBA Dance Club!

## 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.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** and **Deputy Safeguarding Leads** are teachers who have the really special job of keeping you safe.

Their special job is to listen, support and help you at any time of the school day.

**If you feel unsafe or you have any worries/concerns that you feel you cannot speak to a member of staff about, you can send an email to [pba-safe@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:pba-safe@bestacademies.org.uk).**

### You can speak to us:

- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it's 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

If you are concerned about the safety and well-being of a young person, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 3008585



## School Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Team.

## Bright Paths

**Workshop for parents/carers:**  
Understanding emotions and behaviour of children who are Neurodiverse (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)

**Workshop for parents/carers:**  
Understanding and exploring 'masking behaviour' of children who are Neurodiverse (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)

Information leaflet

Children centres provide a friendly service to families with children ages 0-12 years

The workshop is suitable for parents/carers of children aged 0-12 with emerging needs, on the pathway to assessment, have a diagnosed condition and/or identified special educational needs.

The workshop will cover:  
- State development  
- Self-regulation and co-regulation  
- Mindfulness  
- Strategies to support behaviours that are difficult or disruptive

The workshop will be run by the Early Years SEND Advisory team (0-5 Intervention and support)

Please contact: [earlyyears@brightpaths.org.uk](mailto:earlyyears@brightpaths.org.uk)

Information leaflet

The workshop is suitable for parents/carers of children aged 9-12 years old with emerging needs, on the pathway to assessment, have a diagnosed condition and/or identified special educational need.

The workshop will cover:  
- Masking the  
- How children may present when they are 'masking'  
- Strengths and challenges  
- Strategies to help children to manage 'masking'  
- PE forms and possible reasonable adjustments for school  
- Responding to other services, responses and further reading.

This workshop is aimed at a small group of children and carers. It will not be relevant for all children and carers. Please contact the Early Years SEND Advisory team if you are unsure if your child is suitable for the workshop or for further support.

The workshop will be run by the Early Years SEND Advisory team (9-12 Intervention and support)

Please contact: [earlyyears@brightpaths.org.uk](mailto:earlyyears@brightpaths.org.uk)

## SNAP Parent/Carer Forum

SNAP PCF is delighted to invite parent carers to the "Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Conference" this autumn.

### PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD CONFERENCE

Conference sponsored by Central Bedfordshire

Wednesday 15th October 2025  
9.30am- 3:00 pm The Rufus Centre Fittwick

We understand that supporting your young person on their journey to adulthood can be challenging. Thanks to sponsorship from Central Bedfordshire Council, we are pleased to offer this supportive event to help guide you through the process

**Who is it for?**  
This event is designed for families of children and young people in Year 9 and above who are in the Preparing for Adulthood transitional phase. To attend the talks and visit the stalls, you must be a member of SNAP PCF and book your place in advance.

For your young person to have the best opportunities moving into adulthood there should be a strong focus from year 9, we hope you can attend this valuable conference. Booking is essential.

**What will be available?**  
There will be a range of stalls available throughout the day, offering advice and information on the support available during the transition into adulthood. If you would prefer a quieter time to visit and chat with stall holders, we recommend doing so during the scheduled talks, when the room may be less busy.  
**Please note: each attendee must be a member and book individually.** You do not need to stay for the entire day - feel free to attend the sessions that are most relevant to you.  
A cafe will be available on site if you wish to purchase refreshments throughout the day.

Information Stalls and Informative Talks

[www.snappcf.org.uk](http://www.snappcf.org.uk)

Outreach services for Neurodiverse children. Visit <https://brightpaths.org.uk/services/school-services/> for details.



## CBF Families Bulletin

Please [click here](#) to access the latest copy of the Ivel Valley Parents Bulletin.

## 2025

### September

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Parent Information Evening for Year 10

### October

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Flu Vaccination for All Years

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

KS4 Options At PBA for Year 8 Families Only

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

Open Evening. **School closes at 12.20 for All Years  
No PBA Extra**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

Flu Vaccination for All Years

WC Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

**Half Term Holiday for All Years**

### November

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Term begins for All Years

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Vaccinations: DTP/Men ACWY for Year 9

WC Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mock Examinations begin for Year 11

WC Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

End of Term Assessments begin for Years 7 & 8

WC Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

End of Term Assessments begin for Years 9 & 10

### December

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Subject Progress Event for Year 6

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Subject Progress Event for Year 8

**School closes for y7-11 at 1.10pm. Y5 & 6 onsite to 3pm.**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Panto Trip for Year 5

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Winter Disco for Years 5 & 6

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Careers Fair/ Subject Progress Event for Year 11

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

**End of Term for All Years**

**School closes at 1.10pm. No PBA Extra**



## Reporting an Absence

If your child is absent from school, please report the absence **daily by 8am** by either leaving a message on the absence line

**01462 416243** or by emailing

**[PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk)**

This is also the system for informing the school about **appointments.**

## Contacting School

A reminder that **all queries** with regard to Pix Brook Academy students should be emailed to [pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk) or call the office on **01462 416243.**

**Please do not use** our Social Media platforms to request information about or contribute to conversations with regard to our students.

If you need to get a message to your child/children during the school day, please contact Reception.

Teachers are unable to pass on messages during the school day. Our Reception team will take the message and deliver it to the pupil(s) involved. **Please call or email the office on 01462 416243 or [pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk)**



## NHS Guide to childhood illness

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

### Should I keep my **child off school?**

#### Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

#### No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

#### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>.

## No Footballs at PBA



Please remind your child/children that we have a strict rule that **football-related games may not be played at break and lunch times.** Footballs brought into school will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

## Medication in School



If your child needs to have medication in school please ensure that you bring it to the main office and fill out the required forms. **Children are not permitted to carry medication around the school.**

Medication may include: Calpol, Paracetamol, Antihistamine

## Drop Off and Collection Time Parking

We ask parents to avoid **parking next to the carpark entrance or on the road junction near the football club** during morning drop off and afternoon collection time.

This junction is particularly busy during school pick-up, and parked cars create hazards for both children and drivers. We would also remind you **not to use the Staff Car Park** when dropping off or collecting children.

Thank you for your understanding.



## No Nuts, Please!

Please be reminded that we are a **nut free school**: please do not include nut products in your child/children's snack or packed lunch. This includes Nutella.

Thank you.

## Body Sprays and Perfumes

We would like to remind you that **body sprays and perfumes are not permitted** in school, as the use of the sprays can affect people suffering with asthma. Please send your child/children in with roll on deodorant **only**.



## Use of the Cycle Paths

The foot- and cycle-paths near the school get very busy before and after school. Please remind your children that the paths are shared with members of the public, and that the children should be courteous towards others when travelling to and from school.



## Road Safety

Please be aware that the new bus stop, Etonbury and Pix Brook, is on a narrow stretch of pavement which is often busy during the school run. Please remind your children **not to sit with their feet in the road**, when waiting at the bus stop, as this is a safety issue.



PBA are proud to be part of Stotfold's community - [check out our community page](#) for details about local clubs, camps, classes, societies and events happening around the area.

## FREE Sports Clubs

Football Clubs looking for new members

Free-to-attend sports clubs for children.

# BEST CALENDAR

## BEST Academic Calendar 2025/2026

School Holiday ■ Bank Holiday ■ Pupil Day ■ Training Day ■

September 2025					October 2025					November 2025					December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25	Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	7	14	21	28	

January 2026					February 2026					March 2026					April 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27
Tue		6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28
Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	

May 2026					June 2026					July 2026					August 2026							
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue		5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu		7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Term 1 – 75 days. Term 2 – 55 days. Term 3 – 65 days. = 195.  
 Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on 5 of the 195 days. In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used to enable teacher training to take place.  
 Training days set are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.