



# CHRISTMAS TERM

# PBA PRESS

A round-up of this term's news and events

This Issue:

Message from Mrs Linehan  
News from School  
Year 5  
Year 6  
Year 7  
Year 8  
Year 9  
Year 10  
Year 11  
Departmental Updates  
Sports News  
Achievements  
Wellbeing and SEN  
General Information

## A Message from Mrs Linehan

As we reach the end of these first 15 weeks, I find myself reflecting on my first term as the sole Principal of Pix Brook Academy with an overwhelming sense of pride. It has been an incredibly busy journey, but above all, it has been a joy. Seeing our school community thrive and grow has been a pleasure.

We have shared some truly standout moments this term that capture the heart of PBA:

- **Democracy & Leadership:** It was an honour to welcome **MP Alastair Strathern** to officially open our **School Parliament**, giving our students a powerful voice in their community.
- **Reflection:** Our **Remembrance services** were incredibly poignant, and I was moved by the deep respect shown by our students.
- **Festive Joy:** From the sea of colour on **Christmas Jumper Day** to the laughter shared over **Christmas Lunch**, the festive spirit has been high.
- **A Week of "Firsts":** This final week alone has been a whirlwind of success with our new events: the high energy of the **KS2 Disco**, the focused ambition at the **Year 10 & 11 Careers Fair**, and the beautiful, festive atmosphere of **Carols on the Playground**.

These events, paired with the intensive **personal development** work happening in classrooms, remind us how vital collaboration is. We have been working hard to open our doors to you virtually through our **enhanced social media** profile, providing a real-time insight into school life. With a significant increase in school trips and events this year, we are committed to raising standards and celebrating the abundance of success we see in our students every single day.

As the term ends, we say a heartfelt goodbye to three members of our team: Mr Roula in maths; Mrs Warner our Medical Officer, and Mrs Theobald our DSL. Our thanks and very best wishes for your future adventures. We thank them all for their dedication and the impact they have had on our students' lives.

I am incredibly optimistic about what 2026 will bring for Pix Brook Academy. We are just getting started! I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday, January 6th**, and I can't wait to

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025



CHRISTMAS TERM

# NEWS FROM SCHOOL

## Absence and Attendance

A Message from Mrs Baker

Absences need to be reported daily by 8am either by phone or email

If you have an appointment booked, please **send supporting evidence** to [PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk) and confirm the time of collection.

On the day of the appointment you will need to provide your child with a signed letter in order for them to leave the class to meet you in reception.

We will no longer be issuing collection passes.

Children need to be collected by a nominated adult from reception.

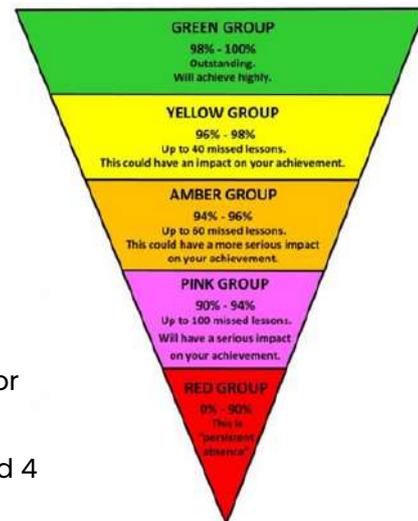
**The school gate closes promptly at 8.20 am.** If your child is going to be late for any reason other than an appointment, please phone and leave a message. Detentions will be given out if a child is late. Detentions are for Key stage 3 and 4 only.

The Attendance Officer can be contacted on 01562 416 243 option 1 (please leave a message if before 10.30am) or [PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk).

### ATTENDANCE TRIANGLE



#### WHERE ARE YOU?



## Requests for Leave of Absence

A leave in term time request should be completed and submitted, by email, at least 2 weeks prior to the absence to [PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk). We will send our response to you via Edulink.

## National Poetry Writing Competition

A Message from Mrs Coulthard

We are excited to be taking part in the national Young Writers competition "Winter Wonderland 2026."

Pupils are invited to write a poem with the theme of Winter and submit them to the library to be sent off to the competition organisers!

Forms can be collected from the Library in the first week of term.

**CLOSING DATE: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025



CHRISTMAS TERM

# REWARDS & SUCCESSES

## Celebrating Success: A Term of Achievement and Character

As we approach the end of term, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the incredible accomplishments of our students. At Pix Brook Academy, praise, reward, and celebration are the fundamental heartbeat of our ethos.



We firmly believe that acknowledging a student's positive contributions is the most powerful tool for fostering high standards and boosting motivation. Our goal is to create a supportive environment where every child feels valued, and our structured reward system is designed to recognise both academic achievement and personal character in equal measure.

## How Have We Celebrated?

- Through verbal praise and our values-linked points system, students receive immediate reinforcement for their hard work.
- We love sharing good news with you! Whether through certificates, postcards, emails, or phone calls, we strive to make parents and carers active partners in celebrating student success.
- Our Celebration Assemblies publicly recognise outstanding students. For sustained excellence and significant character development.

We are delighted to share that our Rewards Assemblies took place this week! It was truly inspiring to see so many students recognised for their dedication, kindness, and resilience over the past few months.

Seeing the pride on our students' faces as they receive their awards reminds us why this system is so vital. It isn't just about the prizes; it's about acknowledging the hard work and positive choices that define our school community.

Acknowledging the effort, celebrating the progress, and then the excellence will follow.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these values at home. We look forward to even more celebrations in the coming term!



CHRISTMAS TERM

# REWARDS & SUCCESSES

## Most Reward Points Earned This Term

Ella S Y5 – 135

Islagh-Belle F Y6 – 139

James G – Y7 129

Harrison Q Y8 – 133

Iris DT– Y9 149

Henry T Y10 – 122

Zack W Y11 – 79

## PBA League Winners

Churchill

Blackman

7OCE

8DSD

9RNL

10JMN

## Extra Special Recognition

Students with over 95% attendance, fewer than 3 x C2s and fewer than 5 behaviour points were recognised for their exemplary behaviour:

302 students across the school were involved in various activities this week.

705 students were awarded certificates for earning 50 praise points.

117 students were awarded certificates for earning 100 praise points

86 students received a Principal's Award.

Congratulations to all our winning students!

## REWARDS &amp; SUCCESSES

## 100% Attendance/0 Behaviour Points Winners

## 100% attendance and no BP

Chloe-Elizal 6F Angelou  
 Essie A 7F CAY  
 Hillary A 7D EBE  
 Charles A 7C PSU  
 Kian B 5F Pankhurst  
 Lucy B 5B Shakespeare  
 Cooper B 7D EBE  
 Jack B 6D Tolkien  
 Oriana B 5B Shakespeare  
 Charli B 6A Blackman  
 Jackson B 7A MCL  
 Zoe B 7A MCL  
 Jasper B 6F Angelou  
 Georgia B 9F NRA  
 Lauren B 10C JMN  
 Florence B 8B JHL  
 Joseph B 5C Churchill  
 Ethan B 8B JHL  
 Jake B 8D KPN

Sami H 10A CBN  
 Oliver I 10B TWD  
 Amelia J 7A MCL  
 Emelia J 8D KPN  
 Oliver J 10A CBN  
 Jacob J 10A CBN  
 Eadie J 6E Morpurgo  
 Rosie J 9C RNL  
 Penny J 7D EBE  
 Annie K 6B Austen  
 Teddy K 6F Angelou  
 Felix K 7A MCL  
 Matilda KW 8C ISP  
 Alex L 9D EIP  
 Brooke M 9D EIP  
 Lacey M 11A SBS  
 Isla M 11A SBS  
 Freddy M 9A CCN  
 Jessica M 6A Blackman

## 100% attendance and no BP

Ashdon Jay 10C JMN  
 Issy C 5B Shakespeare  
 Amelie C 6D Tolkien  
 Mae C 7D EBE  
 Felicity C 5F Pankhurst  
 Sophie C 10B TWD  
 Charlie C 5D Attenborough  
 Erin C 5A Turing  
 Shaun C 7A MCL  
 Anise C 5F Pankhurst  
 Sophie D 8E DSD  
 Emerie D 6A Blackman  
 Amber D 8C ISP  
 Nathan D 8B JHL  
 Elizabeth E 10D LIS  
 Riva EB 6D Tolkien  
 Noah F 10B TWD  
 Islagh-Belle 6D Tolkien  
 Luke F 9C RNL

Cecilia M 8D KPN  
 Elizabeth M 6C Zephani  
 Annabelle I 5D Attenbo  
 Jana M 7C PSU  
 Cian M 7D EBE  
 Reuben N 6A Blackma  
 Grace N 7F CAY  
 Emily N 7F CAY  
 Jack N 5A Turing  
 Anaya P 5D Attenbo  
 Livleen P 10C JMN  
 Tamanna P 8C ISP  
 Saiyan P 5C Churchil  
 Ada P 5E Nighting  
 Cora P 6B Austen  
 Harrison Q 8D KPN  
 Maria R 5B Shakesp  
 Florrie R 6A Blackma  
 Caitlin R 10C JMN

## 100% attendance and no BP

Nathan F 11C CSN  
 Quinn FS 9A CCN  
 Wyatt FS 7A MCL  
 Max F 8D KPN  
 Adam G 8C ISP  
 Harry G 5B Shakespeare  
 Ryan G 5A Turing  
 Mia G 5F Pankhurst  
 Emily G 9E CWD  
 Georgia G 8B JHL  
 Edie H 10D LIS  
 Maisie H 8C ISP  
 Lucas HW 10D LIS  
 Florence H 6E Morpurgo  
 Amber H 6F Angelou  
 Jessica H 5F Pankhurst  
 Abigail H 5B Shakespeare  
 Emily H 7C PSU  
 Oliver H 6E Morpurgo

Eve R 6B Austen  
 Pippa R 6B Austen  
 Amber S 6B Austen  
 Lottie S 5D Attenborough  
 Oliver S 7A MCL  
 Amber S 6B Austen  
 Carter S 9D EIP  
 Jovan S 6F Angelou  
 Freddie S 10C JMN  
 Ella S 5F Pankhurst  
 Inaya T 5F Pankhurst  
 Sophia T 5D Attenborough  
 Macey T 8D KPN  
 Dotty W 5F Pankhurst  
 Florence W 6A Blackman  
 Isobel W 7D EBE  
 Felix W 10C JMN  
 Lana W 10D LIS  
 Euston Y 5D Attenborough



# CHRISTMAS TERM KEY STAGE 2

## News and Updates

### #TeamKS2 Celebrating the Autumn Term

A message from Mrs Smyth

What a term it has been!

In over 25 years of teaching, I honestly believe this is the longest one I have ever known and I know that both pupils and staff have been perseverant and are excited about the well-deserved rest!

Each year, I cannot believe how fortunate I am to work with such amazing pupils and this term has been a whirlwind of learning, enrichment and fun. We have hosted our first ever KS2 Winter Disco, to raise money for KS2 equipment, and finished the term with our first ever 'Carols in the Playground', supported by our wonderful families. It's been a pleasure organising these events to enable our pupils to have experiences beyond their classroom learning and embed our PBA values.

On a personal note, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to welcoming our pupils back refreshed and replenished on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**.

#### Top Spelling Shed Groups

#	Group	Score
1.	Austen	83,369,196
2.	Turing	64,419,665
3.	Attenborough	53,190,511
4.	Tolkien	51,936,955
5.	Morpurgo	47,068,656
6.	Shakespeare	46,621,625
7.	Pankhurst	44,562,372
8.	Blackman	44,111,602
9.	Churchill	24,792,532
10.	Angelou	23,906,429

#### Top MathShed Groups

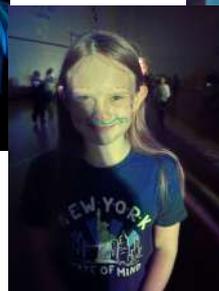
#	Group	Score
1.	Shakespeare	6,878,168
2.	Pankhurst	5,042,521
3.	Angelou	1,780,168
4.	Tolkien	1,771,453
5.	Austen	1,309,154
6.	Blockman	1,203,719
7.	Morpurgo	683,360
8.	Zephaniah	447,144
9.	Churchill	110,726
10.	Turing	0

EdShed

Our final EdShed scores for the term!  
Well done to everyone who has completed their homework this term, and congratulations to the top-scoring classes!

### Winter Disco

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a fabulous Winter Disco this week. They came into school dressed in their best festive partywear, and danced away the Winter blues!



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025



CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 5

News and Updates

## A message from Mr Cresswell

As we reach the end of our first term at Pix Brook Academy, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress our students have made and share some highlights from this term. It has been a period of significant growth and adaptation as we welcomed our new Year Five and embraced the challenges of starting at a new school.

As we reach the end of our first term at Pix Brook Academy, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress our students have made and share some highlights from this term. It has been a period of significant growth and adaptation as we welcomed our new Year Five and embraced the challenges of starting at a new school.

Throughout this term, our students have demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning. They have shown remarkable preparation for the challenges that come with adjusting to a new environment. Their politeness towards each other and our guests has been commendable, and their perseverance during the longest term of the academic year has been inspiring. We are all proud of the quality of work produced by the students, which reflects their hard work and dedication.

We have also enjoyed several enriching trips, including visits to Cadbury World and the Pantomime. In our lessons, we have explored fascinating topics such as the Mayan civilisation, forces, and the habitats of living things. The texts we have read together, including "Journey to the River Sea" and "Curse of the Maya," have been well-received and have sparked engaging discussions in class. Looking ahead, we are excited about next term, where we will delve into the study of space in science and World War II in history. Our guided reading text will feature "Once" by Morris Gleitzman, which we anticipate will be a wonderful addition to our curriculum.



Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education during my first term here at Pix Brook. The Year Five team all look forward to another successful term ahead.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025





## Churchill Class 'Chute for the Skies

Churchill class in year 5 have been learning about air resistance in their science classes. This week, they used their knowledge to make parachutes and test them!



And here they are, enjoying the snacks that were part of their End of Term rewards activity. Churchill won the PBA League for Year 5, with the most Praise Points earned! Well done everyone!



CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 6

News and Updates

## A message from Mrs Murphy

What a fantastic start to the academic year it has been! The children have settled remarkably well into Year 6, showing great maturity as they embraced the move to ability-based classes and the increase in homework. It has been a joy to pop into classrooms this term and witness such high standards of presentation and learning—from Science experiments on refraction, periscope creation and recreating Charles Darwin's finches, to the creativity shown in their recent 'Moth' storyboards and poems.

We have also loved seeing the children shine outside the classroom. Our trip to the Victorian museum in Hitchin was a triumph; the costumes were wonderful, and the enthusiasm during the outdoor drill really brought their learning to life. We also celebrated student voice during Anti-Bullying Day, where the sea of odd socks was a lovely sight. However, the undisputed highlight of the term has to be our inaugural Winter Disco—the children behaved beautifully and it was brilliant to see them waving their glow sticks and showing off their dance moves!

I am really impressed with the number of children attending clubs at lunch times. Top Trumps, Coding Club and Mindfulness have proved very popular.



As Head of Year, I am immensely proud of this cohort. I hope you all have a very restful Christmas and enjoy precious time with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the Spring term, where we will continue our SATs preparation with a clear focus on ensuring they feel prepared, confident, and calm for the months ahead.

CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 6

News and Updates

## A Rewarding Day

Here are some of the photos from our Rewards activities this week, plus Blackman class (year 6) enjoying their class Secret Santa! When asked to describe the activities, one of them said it was "The best day ever!"



CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 7

News and Updates

## A message from Mrs Stevenson

As the term draws to a close, we would like to extend our congratulations to all Year 7 students for successfully completing their first term in the secondary phase of their education.

Having transitioned from our primary provision, this term has nonetheless represented a significant period of change for year 7. Overall, students have embraced the new routines, new subjects, and increased independence that comes with beginning Secondary School. On the whole, it has been an incredibly positive term. We are immensely proud of how well our students have embraced these challenges, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm every step of the way, allowing them to make a truly brilliant start to the academic year.

A standout moment this term was the highly successful Year 7 Faith Tour. Students were praised for being incredibly mature and polite while out in public, acting as outstanding representatives for our school. This maturity reflects the excellent transition they have made into their secondary studies.



We hope that all our students and their families have a wonderful and restful Christmas break. Please take this time to relax and recharge. We look forward to welcoming the Year 7s back in the New Year, ready for another term of learning and success!

CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 7

News and Updates

## End of Term Award Winners

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### LEAGUE WINNERS

7OCE Reward on Thursday during Citizenship

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### PRAISE POINT WINNERS

3rd Place: Charles Aylott 105  
1st Place: James Garner 128  
2nd Place: Amelia Jackson 116

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### TUTOR AWARDS

7A: Norah Rahman  
7B: Kirsten Coates  
7C: Harper Stain  
7D: Clon Muffin  
7E: Eliza Robertson  
7F: Amelia Beckart

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### HOY AWARDS

James Garner  
David Stanwick  
Florence Emery

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### PERSERVERANCE AWARD

Amelia Flexton

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### MATHS

Standout: Mithi Dhanal  
Most Improved: James Gurner

### ENGLISH

Standout: Eska Arbulknay  
Most Improved: Sophia Ewan

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### SCIENCE

Standout: Amelia Jackson  
Most Improved: Felicity Sae

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### GEOGRAPHY

Standout: Sham Dool  
Most Improved: Sophia Henry

### HISTORY

Standout: Lilyan Au  
Most Improved: Lisa Most-Priety

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### FRENCH

Standout: Isabelle Pugin  
Most Improved: Theodora Therap

### ART

Standout: Felix Kirby  
Most Improved: Eva Clark

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### DT

Standout: Jesse Davlan  
Most Improved: Charlie Whyte

### FOOD & NUTRITION

Standout: Charlotte Ineving  
Most Improved: Oliver Davenport

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### IT

Standout: Zoe Bell  
Most Improved: Kian Repply

### DRAMA

Standout: Eliza Beauchamp  
Most Improved: Clon Muffin

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### PE

Standout: Christopher Hall  
Most Improved: Willy Au

### MUSIC

Standout: Grace Mehl  
Most Improved: Charlie Aylott

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025





CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 8

News and Updates

## A message from Ms Kinnear

A fantastic term for Year 8, always one of the longest and most tiring but the year group have continued their high levels of effort and attainment.

It is great to see so many of the year group taking up the opportunities given to them by attending a variety of clubs across the curriculum.

Walking around and seeing the hard work in lessons is a weekly highlight of mine. In Science, there have been some fun and interactive experiments in topics like combustion. English has been based around the book 'refugee boy' which the year group have enjoyed reading and understanding the hard topic around which it is based. I have really enjoyed teaching my groups in food this term where we have made chicken stir fry.

The work and knowledge on show is excellent and the engagement is high. As we fast approach Year 9 where GCSE options choices are closer than we all want to believe, it is so important that students start to think about what subjects they would like to select.

The hard work is paying off for the year group as they see themselves on a number of occasions winning 'Field Friday' for having the most praise points. We have further celebrated success this year with the introduction of praise point certificates which so many Y8 students have achieved 50 points and 100 points. Well done Y8 for a great term! Always PROUD of the POSITIVITY and PERSEVERENCE you show around school, how POLITE you are and how you are always so PREPARED! Have a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you in January.

CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 8

News and Updates

### End of Term Award Winners

**LEAGUE WINNERS**

8DSD  
Steward on Thursday during Citizenship

**PRAISE POINT WINNERS**

2nd Place: Nathan Oka 124  
1st Place: Harrison Oduval 538  
2nd Place: Amy Haggren 172

**5PS CHAMP**

Ethan Brett

**HOY AWARDS**

Maisie Gibbs  
Arwen King  
Umur Awais

**TUTOR AWARDS**

8M/G: Dorothy Aho  
8J/L: Freya-Dora Trevor  
8SP: Koral Koral  
8K/PN: Harin Negres  
8DSD: Kughis Clark

**SPORTS COLOURS**

Football: Chloe Portar  
Netball: Amber De Foo  
Basketball: Evie Hamilton, Maddie Thomas, Issy V, Freya Probert, Darcy Wilding, Sara Wloch, Alice Glower and Chloe Portar

**MATHS**  
Standout: Olivia Cooke  
Most Improved: Isla Lucas

**ENGLISH**  
Standout: Mollie Hackett  
Most Improved: Catherine Newle

**SCIENCE**  
Standout: Harry Lamont  
Most Improved: Ezra Gilk

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Standout: Dylan Gony  
Most Improved: Chloe Lighted

**HISTORY**  
Standout: Martha Galis  
Most Improved: Hannah Berg

**FRENCH**  
Standout: Ethan Welf  
Most Improved: Arman DuRazak

**ART**  
Standout: Theo Minar  
Most Improved: Isla Lucas

**DT**  
Standout: Jordan Buxton  
Most Improved: Ben Dalborn

**FOOD & NUTRITION**  
Standout: Ayla Roberts  
Most Improved: Jade Bentley

**IT**  
Standout: Drew Mitchell  
Most Improved: Annabella Brooker

**DRAMA**  
Standout: Taha Newton  
Most Improved: James Robb

**PE**  
Standout: Evie Hamilton  
Most Improved: Harrison Day

**MUSIC**  
Standout: Cecilia Mitchell  
Most Improved: Jacob Whitby



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025





CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 9

News and Updates

## A message from Mr Cook

As we reach the end of the first term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the truly positive and energetic start our students have made to Year 9. They have approached the challenges and increased academic focus of this pivotal year with commendable maturity, and it has been a pleasure to witness their engagement over these initial months.

The start of the next term will bring some planned changes to our Year 9 support team. We will be saying a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you to Mr Roula, who is moving on to new ventures. We wish him nothing but the very best and great success in his future endeavours. To ensure a smooth handover and transition period for the students in 9F, Ms Pearce (Geography), a familiar and valued member of the Pix Brook staff, has already been introduced as the new tutor for 9F this December. We are delighted to formally welcome her onto the core Year 9 team at the start of next term. She has already proven to be a fantastic addition, bringing her expertise and insight to support the students as they navigate this crucial key stage.

Academically, Year 9 is a vital time, and this term we have already initiated some exciting and necessary conversations with the students regarding their future pathways. The process of exploring GCSE options has begun in earnest, encouraging students to start thinking carefully, not just about their current strengths and interests, but also their long-term aspirations as they prepare to make those important choices later this academic year.

Furthermore, we are very pleased to announce an important and enriching opportunity for the cohort: the Year 9 Battlefield Trip has been formally announced. This educational visit promises to be a deeply moving and valuable experience that will complement their studies and provide historical context far beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of the manner in which the students have embraced the step up to Year 9, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm, and we eagerly look forward to continuing this positive momentum into the next term.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable festive break!

# CHRISTMAS TERM

# YEAR 9

## News and Updates

### End of Term Award Winners

#### LEAGUE WINNERS

Reward on Thursday during Citizenship

9RNL

#### PRAISE POINT WINNERS

1st Place: Iris Dowden-Tate 143

2nd Place: Oliver Hunt 142

2nd Place: Brock McQuilly 142

#### PERSISTENCE AWARD

Amy French

#### SPS CHAMP

Luke Finch

#### HOY AWARDS

Oliver Ollberg

Zachary Bright

Brock McQuilly

#### TUTOR AWARDS

3A: Oliver Hunt

3B: Nathan Johnson

3C: Sophia Pang

3D: Kairo Robert

3E: Eema Terfima

3F: Mia Gray

#### MATHS

Standout: Akele Amfloga

Most Improved: Nathan Jensen

#### ENGLISH

Standout: Brooke McQuilly

Most Improved: Akele Amfloga

#### SCIENCE

Standout: Anna Creek

Most Improved: Lily Ann Coulson

#### GEOGRAPHY

Standout: Claire Fenner-Scott

Most Improved: Willow Small

#### HISTORY

Standout: Sophia Pang

Most Improved: Iefa Hill

#### FRENCH

Standout: Joshua Davies

Most Improved: Georgia Berry

#### ART

Standout: Georgia Tiback

Most Improved: Zachary Knight

#### IT

Standout: Lilya Kerevan

Most Improved: Oliver Ollberg

#### DRAMA

Standout: Mason Brown

Most Improved: Mia Ewin

#### DT

Standout: Leo Gwynne-Drew

Most Improved: Eamon Miller

#### FOOD & NUTRITION

Standout: Dylis Brans

Most Improved: Luke Midgton

#### MUSIC

Standout: Sukran Sultani

Most Improved: Olu Iyemba

#### PE

Standout: Leo Gwynne-Drew

Most Improved: Olu Connolly



## CHRISTMAS TERM 2025





CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 10

News and Updates

## A Message from Mrs Mannion

As the Autumn Term wraps up, I wanted to write and celebrate just how much our Year 10 students have grown and achieved over the past few months. They have truly shown incredible maturity!

This term saw a big shift as the students moved into the official GCSE syllabus and started their new option subjects. They've jumped into this tougher academic work with real focus and independence. This commitment really showed during their End of Term Assessments, which gives us the key information we need to help them target their revision when we return in the New Year.

Outside of the classroom, Year 10 has been fantastic in every aspect of school life.

We've seen some fantastic sporting achievements! Our teams have consistently represented the school brilliantly, showing great skill and determination.

A special thank you to the students who passionately got involved in fundraising for Movember, demonstrating impressive initiative and social awareness.

We've also been busy looking ahead. Students have had their first individual careers interviews to start thinking seriously about their post-16 options. All that preparation culminated in our hugely successful Careers Fair last night, giving them a great chance to chat with professionals and explore different paths.

The Spring Term is absolutely vital. We'll be deepening their knowledge in their chosen options and making sure the core content is locked down. Our main goal will be gearing up for their first set of mock examinations in the Summer Term. The dedication they show in January and February will make a huge difference to those results.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support this term. It is so crucial that we work together as they navigate these final two years.

Wishing you and your family a restful, happy, and safe Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming all students back in January.

CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 10

News and Updates

## End of Term Award Winners

**PRAISE POINT WINNERS**

3rd Place: Lucas Hall-Watts 108

1st Place: Henry Taylor 190

2nd Place: Oliver Jackson 118

**5PS CHAMP**

Isabella Hardy

**HOY AWARDS**

Aqarah Patel

Mary Taylor

Sophia Cooke

**TUTOR AWARDS**

10CBN: Stan Welch

10JMN: Liaison Parker

10LJS: Iwan Burdett

10TWD: Debby Duff

**MATHS**

Standout: Lauren Sims

Most Improved: Inga West

**ENGLISH**

Standout: Maddie Robb-Wood

Most Improved: Prabha Venkatesh-Lynn

**SCIENCE**

Standout: Elif Elgraf

Most Improved: Josh Corbridge

**GEOGRAPHY**

Standout: Connor Cleary

Most Improved: Ludwig Patel

**HISTORY**

Standout: Ed Watson-Fildes

Most Improved: Callum Wilson

**FRENCH**

Standout: Sophie Coetz

Most Improved: Shere Ali

**ART**

Standout: Freya West

Most Improved: Jacob Cooper-Ross

**DT**

Standout: Amela Duggan

Most Improved: Luca Gray

**FOOD & NUTRITION**

Standout: Elio Hackett

Most Improved: Maddie Williams

**IT**

Standout: Sebastian Westcott

Most Improved: Connor Moroney

**DRAMA**

Standout: Isabella Hardy

Most Improved: Noah Tibbald

**MUSIC**

Standout: Jonathan Saunders

Most Improved: Connor Cleary

**PE**

Standout: Gattie Stewart

Most Improved: Elizabeth Emery

**BUSINESS STUDIES**

Standout: Stan Welch

Most Improved: Lili-Mae Jones

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS**

Standout: Oliver Jackson

Most Improved: Edie O'Donnell



CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 11

News and Updates

## A Message from Mr Fleckney

It has been yet another busy time for our Year 11 cohort with the recent GCSE Mock Exams and Post-16 options. The GCSE Mock Exams went well for most students, and for those that were disappointed with their results they will need to return in the new year with even more dedication and perseverance. With less than half a year left of their life at PBA it is essential that students are engaging in learning and attending school, this will give the students the best opportunity to succeed when they open their envelope in August.

Throughout this term the Year 11 cohort have been able to explore some of the Post-16 options in the local area, with many schools and colleges coming into PBA to talk to students. A big thank you must go to Mrs McGuigan for organising these essential events to help the students progress into the next stage of their life. We were also lucky enough to be able to visit Etonbury 6<sup>th</sup> Form due to its close proximity to look at their facilities.

As you read this, the Year 11s will have just had the recent parents evening and I am positive this would've been beneficial for the parents/carers to see how their children are progressing. It is vital that all students act on the feedback of the subject teachers – this may be a good new year's resolution.

On a personal note the opening of the Brook Room (GCSE Study Room) has been a huge success and it has been a pleasure to witness and support the students that have been actively using the study space.

Away from all things academic it has been nice to see the Year 11 students with their new ties – although there have been some questionable knots from some of them. A bit of practice over the Christmas period would be great for some!

Today we held our termly awards assembly and as always it is a real pleasure to share success stories and congratulate so many students on winning an award. It is hard to believe there are only a couple more to go... Also, I would like to thank all parents that ordered the Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies in a quick turnaround. These have now been handed to students in today's assembly. There will be opportunities for students to wear these, however just a reminder that these will not be allowed on a daily basis due to our uniform guidelines.

As we move into the new year further plans relating to a leavers' year book and the school prom will be announced. **Although it will be a busy time for our Year 11 cohort there is much to look forward too, including the first ever PBA Leavers' Assembly. Please feel free to send in any embarrassing baby photos to me via email.**

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! I look forward to welcoming our Year 11 cohort back in January, for now it is time for me to open those mince pies, sip on a glass of wine and enjoy a relaxing festive period.

CHRISTMAS TERM

YEAR 11

News and Updates

## End of Term Award Winners

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### PRAISE POINT WINNERS

3rd Place: Leah Hartwell 71

1st Place: Zach Walsh 77

2nd Place: Isla McNaughton 76

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### 5PS CHAMP

Neyli Senadheera

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### TUTOR AWARDS

11SB5: George Winton

11MDN: Mili Peckay

11CSN: Dalia Pentil

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### HOY AWARDS

Posha Rogers

Elliot Butler

Erin Carr

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### PERSEVERANCE AWARD

Taylor Lintot

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### MATHS

Standout: James Lamb

Most Improved: Hugo Baker

### ENGLISH

Standout: Brody Moran

Most Improved: Erin Carr

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### SCIENCE

Standout: Josh Blaxton

Most Improved: Milow Du Plessis

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### GEOGRAPHY

Standout: Josh McNameey

Most Improved: Logan Dittala

### HISTORY

Standout: Zach Walsh

Most Improved: Lucas Palmer

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### FRENCH

Standout: Clain Burris

Most Improved: Vili Niemi

### ART

Standout: James Lamb

Most Improved: Leahy McGuirk

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### DT

Standout: Charlie Stant

Most Improved: Leah Hartwell

### FOOD & NUTRITION

Standout: Ella Talbot

Most Improved: Lailie Wood

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### IT

Standout: Leah Hartwell

Most Improved: Zack Walsh

### DRAMA

Standout: Teity Ellis

Most Improved: Claudia Gibb

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.

### BUSINESS STUDIES

Standout: Erin Carr

Most Improved: Euan Ward

### PE

Standout: Nathan Finch

Most Improved: Ella Talbot

POSITIVE PREPARED POLITE PROUD PERSEVERANT  
Doing Our Actions, Shaping Our Future.



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# ART AND TEXTILES

News and updates from our Art Department

## A Message from Mrs Poxon

During October, we celebrated 'The Big Draw' Festival. Thank you to all of our KS2, KS3 and KS4 form groups that got involved in the Inktober challenge; it was fantastic to see everyone drawing together and producing their collaborative calendars! Throughout the month, it was so much fun drawing to music, learning how to draw portraits and even drawing together in the canteen during our lunch breaks! Year 5 did such a fantastic job responding to the wonderful book 'The Dot' to make their rainbow 'dot' display, which can now be seen in the entrance to the school and Year 10 art students participated in an expressive mark making lesson.



In art lessons, Year 5 have been exploring a wide range of materials and creating work inspired by 'Rainforests' and Year 6 have been learning about the arts and crafts movement, and in particular, the work of William Morris. They even made some beautiful clay poppies in time for Remembrance Day in November.

In KS2, Year 7 have had lots of fun exploring 'Pop Art'; they have drawn, printed, painted and sculpted! Year 8 have looked at expressive art materials and techniques and 'doodle artists' to help them to produce their own portraits. Year 9 have been creating work based on the pollution of our oceans; they have produced observational work as well as exploring new creative techniques, such as collage and sgraffito.



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# ART AND TEXTILES

News and updates from our Art Department

Our GCSE students continue to inspire and amaze us with their talent, fantastic ideas and creativity. Year 11 have just completed component 1 of the course and will begin their exam projects in the new year. We are really looking forward to showcasing all of their work at an exhibition during the summer term (dates and further information TBC).

Year 10 have been working on a range of observational studies linked to their theme of 'Identity', and have explored pen techniques, acrylic painting and coloured pencil to create some brilliant artworks. We look forward to working with them in the new year as they start to research their own artists and designers and we will be taking a trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge in January to kick start their Component 1 work.

Mrs Young has settled into the art department brilliantly since joining us in September; she has planned two excellent textiles projects, which Year 7 and Year 8 have been thoroughly enjoying, and we are so proud of the work that they have been producing. KS2 have also enjoyed taking part in the 'festive bunting' textiles workshops.



# CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# DRAMA AND DANCE

## News and updates from our Art Department

### A Message from Mrs Jones

This term, Year 7s have been learning about Greek Theatre as it is at the root of all theatre. They have looked at Amphitheatres, the role of the chorus, mask performance and myths.



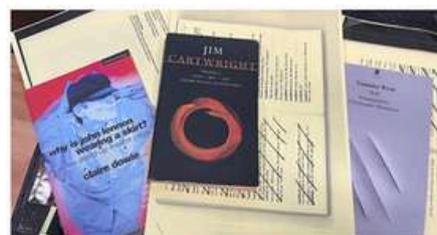
Year 8 have been studying the genre of Pantomime "Oh yes they have!" They have looked at stock characters, stylistic elements and audience interaction.

Year 9 have been studying the theatre of Bertolt Brecht: Epic Theatre. This has required them to identify his place in history and how this affected his socio-political style of production.



Y10 have been completing their first taste of Component 2 exam work, requiring them to learn a section of script and bringing it to life for an audience. They used DNA, their set text, to further embed understanding of the characters.

Year 11 have been busy preparing for their upcoming Component 2 practical exams, their effort and focus have been relentlessly ambitious!



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# DRAMA AND DANCE

News and updates from our Art Department

Pix Brook Pulse is our Dance Club here at school. Now in our second year of existence, some excellent dance talent is starting to emerge and, with the assistance of our amazing Dance Ambassadors Liv and Claudia, we have really started to put Dance on the PBA map! I am so proud of the dancers that took part in Pix Brook Pulse's recent dance competition – another first for the school! Thank you to our amazing judges: Mrs Ip, Mrs Brant and Mrs McGuigan for giving up their time and dance expertise!



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# DT - FOOD TECH

News and updates from our DT Department

## A Message from Ms Kinnear and Mrs Brooker

This term we have seen our students learn and display many skills (with excellence!) in their Food practical lessons.

Our Y10 GCSE cohort have tackled; different types of bread dough – pizza, dinner rolls and focaccia art with some great successes! They've also made soups, fruit crumbles and learned how to make a bechamel sauce, adding cheese to create a cauliflower/broccoli cheese dish!

Our Y11 GCSE cohort have been working hard, focusing a lot on their theory work, but have also had a couple of great opportunities in the food room this term! Firstly, our guest chef Patti Sloley ([pattismenu.com](http://pattismenu.com)) visited to show the students about Ghanaian food and spices. Patti cooked a beautiful bean and fish stew, introduced us to the versatility of plantain and talked to us about gut health. Patti also showed them how to portion a whole chicken into 8 pieces. We froze their chicken parts and they later used some to make Gyros and Flatbread and a Curry.

KS3 Y7, Y8 and Y9 have made dishes such as apple crumble, Stir fry, pizza bases and sauces, flatbreads, thai green curry and ginger biscuits to name a few! These dishes have seen them practice skills such as; safe knife handling and chopping, kneading, handling raw meat, stewing/reducing down and the rubbing in method. All great techniques to equip them for making meals and treats for you at home!



Well done to all students! Have a great winter break!



CHRISTMAS TERM

# ENGLISH

News and Updates

## A Message from Mr Campbell

It has been an incredibly busy and productive Autumn Term in the English Department. As we head into the festive break, we want to take a moment to celebrate the outstanding effort and hard work our students have demonstrated.

**Year 7:** Our newest students have made a fantastic start to their KS3 journey. They have navigated the ancient world of **Myths & Legends** before moving forwards in time to the dark, industrial streets of Victorian London to meet the **Villains of Dickens**.

**Year 8:** Students have shown great maturity this term while tackling the sensitive and timely themes within the novel **Refugee Boy**. Their empathy and insightful comments have been a credit to the year group.

**Year 9:** It has been a term of drama and imagination! Students have thoroughly enjoyed the classic play **Blood Brothers** and are now beginning to explore the unsettling and thought-provoking genre of **Dystopian Writing**.

**Year 10:** Our Year 10s have stepped up to their GCSE studies with an excellent attitude. They have been meticulously annotating the **Power and Conflict** poetry anthology and are already successfully transferring those analytical skills to **Unseen Poetry**.

**Note for Parents:** After the Christmas break, we encourage all Year 10 students to bring their own copy of *An Inspector Calls* to class. This allows them to make their own personal annotations directly onto the text –an invaluable tool for revision!

**Year 11:** It's a landmark term for Year 11, who have been focused on **Language Paper 2** and **A Christmas Carol**. We have now officially covered all curriculum content! This is a huge milestone, meaning we are now fully prepared to spend the coming months honing exam skills and revising ahead of the **Literature and Language** exams in **May and June**.

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of our **Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires club!** Since the programme's inception in September, these students have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to reading, each surpassing the incredible milestone of 1 million words read.

A massive congratulations to our inaugural members:

- Eli Payne (Morpurgo)
- Isobel Webber (7EBe)

This is an outstanding achievement that reflects a true passion for literacy. To our Millionaires: Keep an eye out for your rewards in January 2026!

CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# GEOGRAPHY

News and updates from our Geography Department

## Term Reflections and Global Journeys

It's been another incredibly busy and successful term for the students in the Geography Department! We are immensely proud of our students' progress and skill development, and we are especially excited to have welcomed our new Year 7 geographers into the department.

Each year group has tackled a diverse range of topics, developing both their geographic knowledge and essential analytical skills.

## KS3 Adventures

Our younger geographers have been exploring the fundamentals of the Earth and its inhabitants:

- Year 7 started their journey by learning about Natural Resources, the composition of the Earth's Geology, and the vital interplay of the four Spheres of the Earth (Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, and Biosphere). This foundation helps them understand how our planet functions as a connected system.
- Year 8 focused on the human side of geography, investigating the dynamics of Global Development across the world. They explored the reasons behind wealth inequalities and analysed the key causes of Population Changes in different countries, using data to understand global trends.
- Year 9 enjoyed a fascinating regional study of the Middle East, examining its unique geopolitical challenges, resource distribution, and climate. They also embarked on a detailed study of UK Coasts, learning about the processes of erosion and deposition that shape our shorelines and how we manage this dynamic environment.

CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# GEOGRAPHY

News and updates from our Geography Department

## GCSE Focus and Exam Success (Years 10 & 11)

### Year 10: Building Knowledge and Skills

Our Year 10 students have hit the ground running with their GCSE course. They successfully completed the Development Dynamics topic, which looks closely at national and global economies, the causes of uneven development, and strategies for sustainable growth.

They are now moving swiftly onto the physical side of the syllabus, beginning their topic on UK Physical Geography. Importantly, the Year 10s have also been intensively developing their exam skills and techniques. This preparation is essential to ensure they are fully prepared for their mock examinations later in the academic year.

### Year 11: Mocks and Momentum

The Year 11 geographers have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for and during their recent mock examinations. We are pleased to acknowledge some shining stars who have shown significant improvements in their grades, reflecting their dedication and effective revision strategies. We will continue to support all our students as they head into the final preparation phase for their summer examinations.

## Happy Holidays and Keep Revising!

As we come to the end of the calendar year, we reflect on the tremendous effort and progress demonstrated by all our students.

We would like to wish everyone a very fun and restful Christmas break!

A **friendly reminder to our Year 10 and Year 11 students** to find a little time amidst the festivities for some focused revision—consistent effort now will make a big difference when the exams arrive!

Happy Holidays from the Geography Department!

CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# HISTORY

News and updates from our History Department

## A Message from Ms Burgin

It's been a busy and productive term in the History department.

We have held our first "design a poppy" competition, open to all forms in all the key stages. The designs that we received made judging them very tricky: all students who took part deserve a mention.



The winning designs

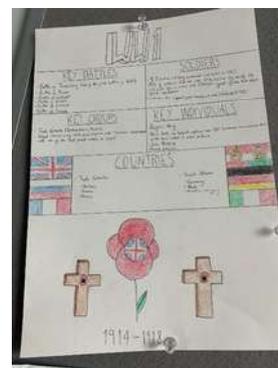


Last year's display

We have also had year 7 working on their Local History project, independently researching, preparing and presenting in class on their chosen location. Once again, we have all learnt something new about our surrounding area! The standard of presentations gets better each year!

There will be a display in the Library next term for students to enjoy year 7's efforts. Year 9 are working on their commemorative pieces for how we should remember WWI, as we come to the end of that topic and prepare for 20<sup>th</sup> Century world in the Spring term.

Year 9 are working on their commemorative pieces for how we should remember WWI, as we come to the end of that topic and prepare for 20<sup>th</sup> Century world in the Spring term.



### KS2 ICT Lessons

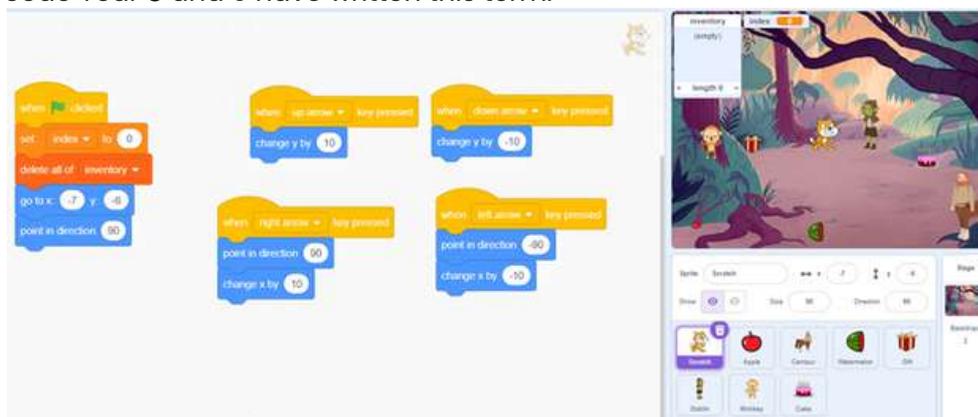
This term our Year 5 classes have completed the NCCE 5.1 'Sharing Information' unit, where we investigated the foundational technology that powers online communication. We began by learning how individual devices connect to form networks and what the difference is between a network and the entire Internet. Students discovered that data isn't sent as a single whole, but is broken down into small chunks called packets. We explored the vital role of protocols and IP addresses—the digital rules and unique numerical labels that ensure these packets travel correctly from their source computer to the correct destination, making sharing information possible across the globe.

Meanwhile, Year 6 delved into the complex world of how information is shared and organised across the internet. We explored the essential role of search engines, understanding them not just as a place to type questions, but as massive digital librarians. A key focus was on web crawlers (sometimes called spiders or bots), learning how these automated programs constantly scan and index the vastness of the web, finding new pages and updates. Furthermore, the students investigated the intriguing process of website ranking, discovering the various criteria and algorithms that search engines use to determine which websites appear first, we might have even made our own Pix Brook Academy websites with a competition to see whose ranked the highest.

### KS3 ICT Lessons

This term Year 8 and 9 have been developing their Programming skills using Scratch! This is part of the 'Computer Science' element of the Computing curriculum at Key Stage 3.

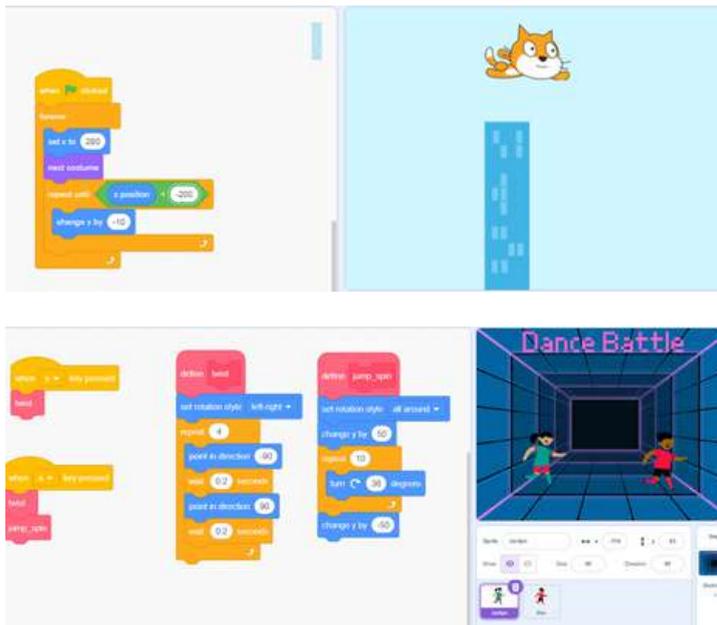
Year 8 and 9 have both developed their own PBA Lingo (Duo Lingo's), Dance battles and Angry Birds to demonstrate their programming skills in Sequence, Selection, Subroutines and Iteration. Below are some examples of the code Year 8 and 9 have written this term:



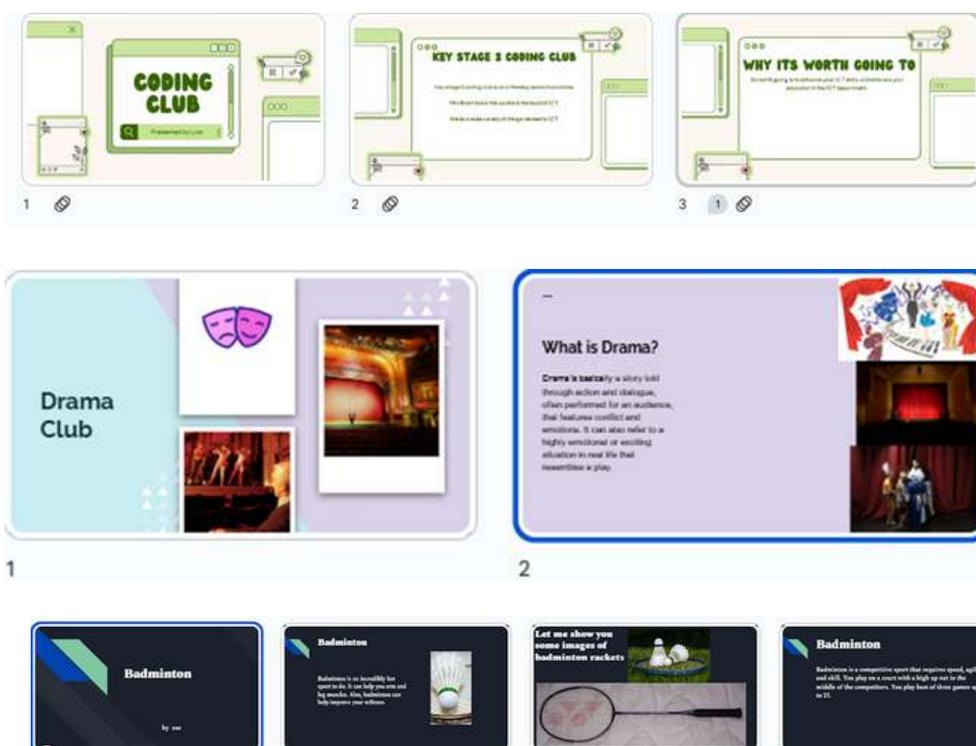
# CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# ICT

## News and updates from our ICT Department



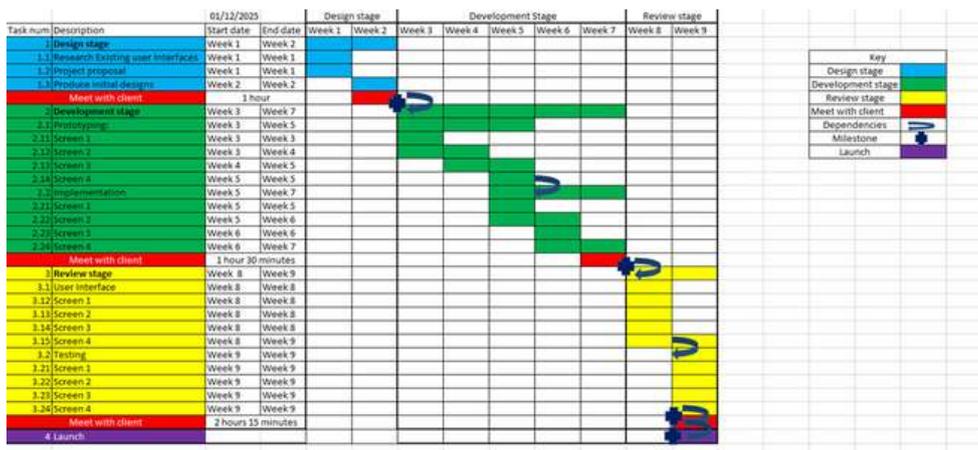
This term, students in Year 7 have been making sure they are experts at all things Google! Knowing where their files are saved, and visiting the school's server rooms. Before making sure they are highly skilled at using Google Docs, Google Forms and Google Slides. They made the worst presentations they could, before challenging a partner to improve it to be the best presentation. Below are some examples of the great work completed this term:



### KS4 ICT Lessons

Firstly, a big well done to Y11 BTEC Digital IT students who have now completed 60% of their course. They can celebrate over the Christmas break that all their coursework is complete. I can't wait to take them on their journey through the last 40% of their course focusing on the digital world and data analytics. Sorry I can't share any of their coursework whilst we wait for the exam boards marking!

Next up Y10 will start their first coursework in January worth 30% of their final BTEC grade; focusing on user interfaces. Below are some of their great practise work on Gantt charts!





CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# PE ROUND UP

News and updates from our PE Department

## A Message from Mr Nichol

As the new Head of PE, having started in September, I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the incredibly warm welcome I have received from the entire PBA community. It has been a fantastic first term, and I am particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and positive attitude the vast majority of our students display in PE lessons every day.

The range of year groups we cater for, from Year 5 through to Year 11, presents an excellent opportunity and challenge for the department. It drives us to be creative, adaptable, and ensures we remain up-to-date with the evolution of the PE national curriculum. We firmly believe we offer a broad and balanced curriculum, giving students the chance to experience a wide range of sports and activities. This not only supports their physical development but goes hand-in-hand with reinforcing the school's Five Ps values (Patience, Perseverance, etc.).

## Curriculum Highlights

This term has seen the successful introduction and take-up of new and exciting sports by a variety of year groups, most notably Tchoukball and Futsal. Both of these activities have been excellent in helping our students develop a range of skills that compliment all invasion games, such as quick decision-making, spatial awareness, and passing accuracy. Moving forward, we are excited about the prospect of organising some external fixtures with other schools in these sports.

In a different discipline, both the girls and boys have truly enjoyed gymnastics this term, developing their understanding of key concepts such as locomotion, balance, and flight. Our Year 7 girls, in particular, have taken this to the next level, creating wonderful routines set to music based around these skills. These performances have been amazing to see!

## Clubs, Competitions, and Success

We have had a wonderful turnout to our extracurricular clubs this term, with great attendance across every year group in a range of sports including Football, Basketball, Badminton, Netball, and KS2 Rugby. We have a new extracurricular timetable coming out for the next half term, and it would be fantastic if we can continue with this enthusiasm and high take-up from January 26.

A Note on Clubs and Fixtures: We endeavour to offer as many clubs as we can, but there are occasions when clubs must be cancelled due to external fixtures. We understand this is not ideal, and we hope to minimise this disruption by avoiding scheduling clubs on the evenings when we have planned league or cup competitions.



CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# PE ROUND UP

News and updates from our PE Department

The school has enjoyed significant success on the sports field this term:

- Our Year 10 Boys Football team have won their district league and qualified for the semi-final of the district competition in February.
- The Year 9 Boys Football team have also reached the semi-final of the district competition and are, at the time of writing, still competing strongly in the County Cup competition.
- The Year 8 Netball team have performed exceptionally well, coming second in their district league—a truly excellent achievement.

We were proud to attend the School Games Swimming Gala with 16 students from Year 5 to Year 8 representing the school. It was brilliant to see the students excel in a discipline we don't always get to see in school. The KS2 Boys team came 3rd in the competition, while the KS3 boys and girls' teams narrowly missed out on a podium position. The good news is that the vast majority of these students will have another opportunity to compete next year!

Our TAG (Talented and Gifted) team is up and running, with our young sports leaders playing a crucial role in helping to run events for our local primary schools. It has been great to see so many of our students display a range of leadership skills supporting younger pupils. We have more competitions coming up for our TAG team and will be utilising the young leaders further as we start more inter-form competitions during lunchtime clubs.

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## Academic Update

Our Year 11 GCSE PE cohort recently completed their first set of mock exams, providing them with a valuable opportunity to reflect and plan ways to develop specific topic areas. In the new year, students will be taking part in a GCSE PE moderation where their practical sports will be assessed, which forms a part of their final GCSE grade. In core PE, the Year 11 students have taken some ownership of their curriculum by selecting different sports/activity options, which has been successful in enhancing active participation.

# CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# PE ROUND UP

## News and updates from our PE Department

It is also nearly time for Year 9 students to select their options. Within PE, we aim to keep GCSE PE as an option, but there will also be the opportunity for students to take an alternate course that has a different set of topics and is assessed differently. More information on this will follow in the new year.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for their support this term, and most importantly, a massive thank you to our students for their hard work, commitment, and excellent behaviour.

Merry Christmas from the PE team!



### Fixtures w/c 5th January

6th- Y9 Netball Grading @Bedford Academy

7th- U13 Girls ESFA Vs Queenswood (H)

A sneak preview of our Sports Clubs for next year!

	Before school 7.45-8:15	Lunch 1 – 12:40 – 13:10 (KS2) No need to get changed	Lunch 2 – 13:30 – 14:00 (KS3) No need to get changed	After School: 15:05 – 16:00 Other fixtures will take place during the term - this may affect the club timetable	
PBA Extra-Curricular Autumn (Jan - Feb) 2025	<b>Monday</b>			Y5/6/10 - NETBALL TRAINING (PSU) Y5/6 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK) Y5/6 - BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING (SPE/SLY) Y11 - GCSE PE INTERVENTION (RNL) Y9/10 - RUGBY TRAINING (MDN) <b>Y5 - FOOTBALL FIXTURES</b>	
	<b>Tuesday</b>	KS2 - BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL)	Y5/6 - TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (SLY)	Y7 - INTER-FORM BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL) Y8 - TABLE TENNIS DANCE STUDIO (JSK) Y7/8 - RUGBY TRAINING (MDN) Y7/8 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK) Y9/10/11 - HANDBALL (RNL) <b>Y10 NETBALL FIXTURES</b>	
	<b>Wednesday</b>	KS3/4 - BADMINTON SPORTSHALL (RNL) INVITE ONLY		Y8/9 - BADMINTON Sports hall (JSK) GCSE PE WORKSHOPS INVITE ONLY (ROOM 206) (RNL)	Y5/6 - RUGBY TRAINING (OCL) <b>Y5/6 NETBALL FIXTURES</b>
	<b>Thursday</b>			Y10/11 - GCSE PE TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (MDN) Y8 - INTER-FORM BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL)	GCSE PE MODERATION SESSIONS (RNL/MDN/PSU) <b>STAFF MEETINGS</b>
	<b>Friday</b>	GCSE PE TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (AJK) GCSE ACRO-GYMNASTICS / DANCE DANCE STUDIO (PSU)		Y9 - TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (MDN) Y8 - FUTSAL SPORTSHALL(WRB) INVITE ONLY	



# CHRISTMAS TERM 2025



# SOCIAL MEDIA & ACHIEVEMENTS

A round up of our social media posts and achievements

## Millie Raises the Bar on Compassion

Millie from Attenborough Class has shown outstanding kindness and initiative by raising an impressive £100 to create care packages for people experiencing homelessness this winter.

With colder months ahead, Millie has been particularly keen to ensure the care packages focus on warmth and comfort, supplying essential clothing such as hats, gloves, socks, and other cold-weather items to help protect those most in need from the winter chill. This thoughtful effort highlights Millie's compassion and determination to make a real difference in her community. We are incredibly proud of her generosity and the positive example she sets for others.

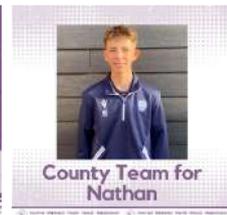
Well done, Millie – a truly heart-warming achievement!



## Pippa Helps Bring the Christmas Spirit to Hitchin

Year 9 student Pippa C has recently finished appearing in "Scrooge" with Hitchin-based theatre company Hitchin Thespians, playing Belinda Cratchit. Well done, Pippa, you and the cast did a great job!

## Social Media Posts from This Term



# CHRISTMAS TERM 2025

# DIARY AND DATES

Useful to know!

## 2025

### December

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

**End of Term for All Years**  
School closes at 1.10pm. No PBA Extra

## 2026

### January

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Inset Day for All Years

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Back to School for All Years**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Vaccinations for Year 9

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Young Voices for Years 5 & 6

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dr Bike - Cycle Maintenance Checks for All Years

### February

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

Options and Progress Evening for Year 9

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

Non Uniform Day for All Years

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Vaccinations for Year 8

### March

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

Mock SATs for Year 6

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

World Book Day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

Planetarium Visit (Y5)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

Year 7 Progress Event (early finish years 7-11)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

DofE Silver Award

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

Year 6 Progress Evening

### May

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

Year 6 SATs