



# PBA WEEKLY BULLETIN

## A message from Mrs Linehan

It has been an incredibly uplifting week here at school, absolutely brimming with exciting new initiatives and wonderful opportunities for our young people to explore, grow, and shine. We are passionate about providing enriching experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence, and this week has been a beautiful example of that commitment in action.

We wholeheartedly embraced Science Week, beginning with inspiring assemblies that celebrated the ground-breaking work of female scientists across a variety of fields. We want all our pupils to view science as a truly explorative, enquiry-based adventure, and they certainly experienced that magic firsthand in KS2! We welcomed the wonderful Fab Science into school to deliver captivating one-hour workshops for all our younger pupils. Year 5 and Year 6 children threw themselves into interactive experiments and demonstrations that brought genuine awe, wonder, and lovely surprises to their day. The excitement continues this coming Monday when our Year 5 pupils will each have the unforgettable experience of stepping inside a visiting planetarium. Meanwhile, our older students were equally inspired as they met online with professional scientists working in biochemistry and neuroscience. They asked thought-provoking questions and learned all about the different pathways into a science career, opening their eyes to future possibilities.

Thinking about those bright futures, our hearts were positively bursting with pride yesterday as our Year 11 students arrived looking exceptionally smart for their Mock Interview Day. To ensure they felt fully supported and prepared, Mrs McGuigan led a fantastic, skills-based assembly. She gently talked them through the entire interview process, exploring how they can warmly sell their best qualities, respond effectively to challenging questions, and understand the vital importance of positive body language and first impressions. We owe a huge thank you to the wonderful parents and community members who so generously gave their time to conduct these interviews. Despite those very natural initial nerves, our Year 11s stepped up beautifully and did us all proud. We are right behind them and wish them every success as they head into their real college, sixth form, and apprenticeship interviews over the coming weeks.

We were delighted to welcome MP Alistair Strathern on site this week to run a highly engaging social media workshop; students in Years 7-10 attended. Navigating the online platforms of today can sometimes feel like a minefield for our young people, and it was great to see our students listening so attentively and exploring different perspectives and concerns without bias. Through open discussions and lively debate, they reflected thoughtfully on their own digital habits. We are hopeful that their insightful and mature contributions will go on to help shape future policies to better protect young people everywhere in the digital world.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

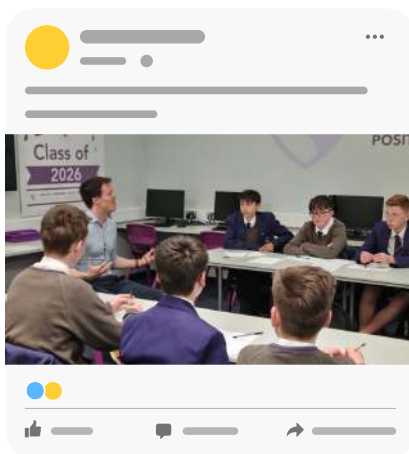
## Empowering Our Students: Social Media & Safety Workshop with Alistair Strathern MP



We were delighted to host local MP Alistair Strathern at Pix Brook Academy this week for an engaging "Social Media, Safety & Society" workshop. The session provided a unique platform for our students to think critically about their digital footprints and the impact of social media on their wellbeing, identity, and community.

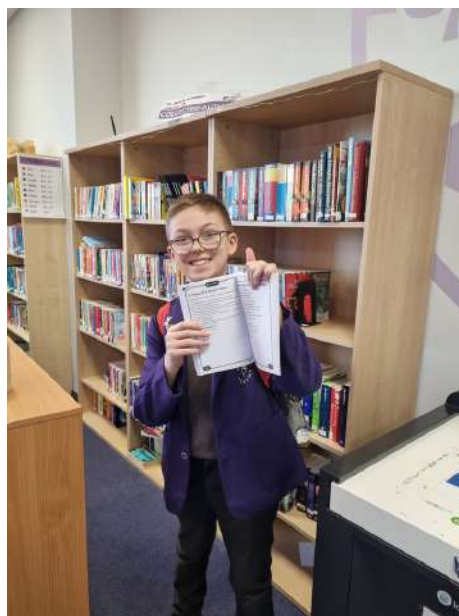
From discussing the benefits of online connection to debating potential government restrictions for under-16s, our students tackled complex modern issues with maturity and insight.

This was more than just a classroom lesson! By sharing what they value and what they find challenging about the online world, our students contributed their direct views to national policy discussions. The workshop concluded with a roundtable on how members of Parliament can better communicate with the younger generation, ensuring that Pix Brook voices are heard at the highest levels of government.



## All The Write Stuff

Congratulations to Year 8 student, Konrad K, who has recently had a poem published in the Young Writers anthology "I Have a Dream." We're looking forward to seeing more of your work in print, Konrad!





## School Production

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our school production of *Do We Ever See Grace?* Since October, our Pix Brook Players have been working hard on this project and we are very excited to share the creative skills of our wonderful students. Written in the 1980s but set at an unspecified time, the play tells the story of Grace, a girl that flies and is deemed as 'crazy'.

She has dreams of joining the circus but instead, ends up in London – poor and on the streets. A story of dreams, harsh reality and society's judgement of difference, this metaphorical tale is sure to make you question how you view the world. We have two evening performances to offer you, **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, performances will start at 7pm.** Tickets are priced at £4 each and include a pre-show drink and snack per ticket. Please note that there will be no interval as the play is only an hour long. There will be a performer pre-sale for tickets to ensure families of the performers and creative team are able to support them, these will be on sale from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Parents will be able to purchase up to 4 tickets per performer. Remaining tickets will then be sold on general release from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. All tickets will be available through Parentmail and delivered to students during afternoon tutor times in the run up to the show.

## Supporting Our Staff

Do you run a local business focused on health, creativity, or wellness? We are currently planning our Staff Wellbeing Week in June 2026 and are looking for volunteers to host short, engaging sessions for our school staff. This is a wonderful way to connect with the school and support our team's wellbeing. If you can help, please get in touch with Mrs Brant ([ebrant@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ebrant@bestacademies.org.uk)). Thank you in advance for your generosity!



## EdShed Results

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

Here are the top scoring classes.

### Top Spelling Shed Groups<sup>®</sup>

#	Group	Score
1.	Pankhurst	68,805,611
2.	Churchill	40,736,041
3.	Austen	40,348,441
4.	Shakespeare	36,782,007
5.	Attenborough	30,024,175
6.	Turing	28,111,281
7.	Blackman	25,900,848
8.	Nightingale	23,656,800
9.	Marpurgo	19,058,966
10.	Zephaniah	18,797,562

### Top MathShed Groups<sup>®</sup>

#	Group	Score
1.	Tolkien	3,725,124
2.	Zephaniah	2,803,616
3.	Pankhurst	1,658,361
4.	Austen	1,522,634
5.	Blackman	1,174,394
6.	Marpurgo	180,062
7.	Nightingale	171,129
8.	Angelou	168,674
9.	Churchill	120,170
10.	Shakespeare	76,889



## Note Perfect

This week, Year 5 have been learning to play the Glockenspiel.

Here are Pankhurst class, working on notes CEG.



## Science is FAB

KS2 have enjoyed a visit from FAB Science this week, watching and taking part in a series of fascinating science experiments.





## TTRS - the Battle of the Bands

News from the front line, by Mr Randall-Williams

It was finally time for the **Year 5 vs Year 6** battles to kick-off in the TTRS competition and I think it is safe to say it is 1-0 to team Year 6.

5 victories for them in these first clashes:

First up, the battle of the underdogs as Austen and Nightingale went toe-to-toe. A great story as Nightingale hit a 3-digit team score for the first time, but **Austen** still claimed victory with a great showing.

Next, **Shakespeare** (the round's only Year 5 victors) put in a barnstorming performance against Mr Prue's old platoon in Angelou - a late surge not enough to rescue this one.

Following this was another great performance from **Morpurgo** class, with Dehan once again stealing the show - a definite MVP of these battles. They saw off Attenborough to get back to winning ways.

**Tolkien**, who remain unbeaten, saw off a spirited challenge from Pankhurst. Despite my class's battle song of "MAKE THEM CRY!" it was almost them left in tears as Pankhurst threatened an upset, with a very strong last day sparing my blushes.

In the round's two best battles: Churchill looked strong favourites for much of their encounter with Mr Lindley's old class Blackman. However, a rousing comeback lead by a deadly front three of Emerie, Isabella and Mia saw **Blackman** rise from the ashes a deliver a winning blow.

Finally, in the pick of the battles, it literally came down to the last seconds to determine a winner as unbeaten Zephaniah and unbeaten Turing went head-to-head. This topsy-turvy, thrill-a-second battle ALMOST ended in the competitions second draw, but a short burst in the dying embers allowed **Zephaniah** to continue their fairytale run. Commiserations to Turing who have been superb and will hopefully continue to upset the odds!

## KS2 Mindfulness Club

During **Mindfulness Club** on Wednesday lunchtimes, the KS2 pupils have been practising different breathing techniques, meditation, mindful doodling and self-esteem boosting activities. This week, they made 'Mindful' Chatterboxes which gave the children different strategies to provide them a tool for when they feel they might need it.



## 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 - Year 11

### 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



## Year 11 GCSE Subject Interventions

To support our Year 11 pupils with their ongoing examination preparation, subject interventions will be running as per the timetable below.

We greatly value your support and encourage you to speak with your child about the importance of attending their intervention sessions and positively engaging with the reward card initiatives.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Prep (8.00-8.40)</b>	English (SRS) 216 Geography (IPE) 231 Science (FCK) 251	English (SRS) 216 Maths (SPL) 233	English (SRS) 216 Geography (IPE) 231	Science (EAS) 250 Science (JHL) 201 Science (SHS) 224	Year 11 Assembly
<b>Lunch (1.30-2.00)</b>	Business Studies (NMN) 141 Maths (CSN) 239	French (VLS) 157 French (IPS) 039	History (CBN) 106	BTEC DIT (EBT) 140 Maths FSMQ (SPL) 233 Maths (DMN) 238	
<b>Period 7 (3.05-4.00)</b>	Art, Craft and Design (KPN) 126 PE (RNL) 204	Geography (EIP) 230	Compulsory triple science lesson (SHS) DT (WFY) 052 Food (HKR) 204	Staff Training	Drama (LJS) Drama Studio

## Year 10 Work Experience

**Work experience week commences 29th June.**

Emma, our careers adviser, has contacted a few local companies with some potential opportunities for the work placement.

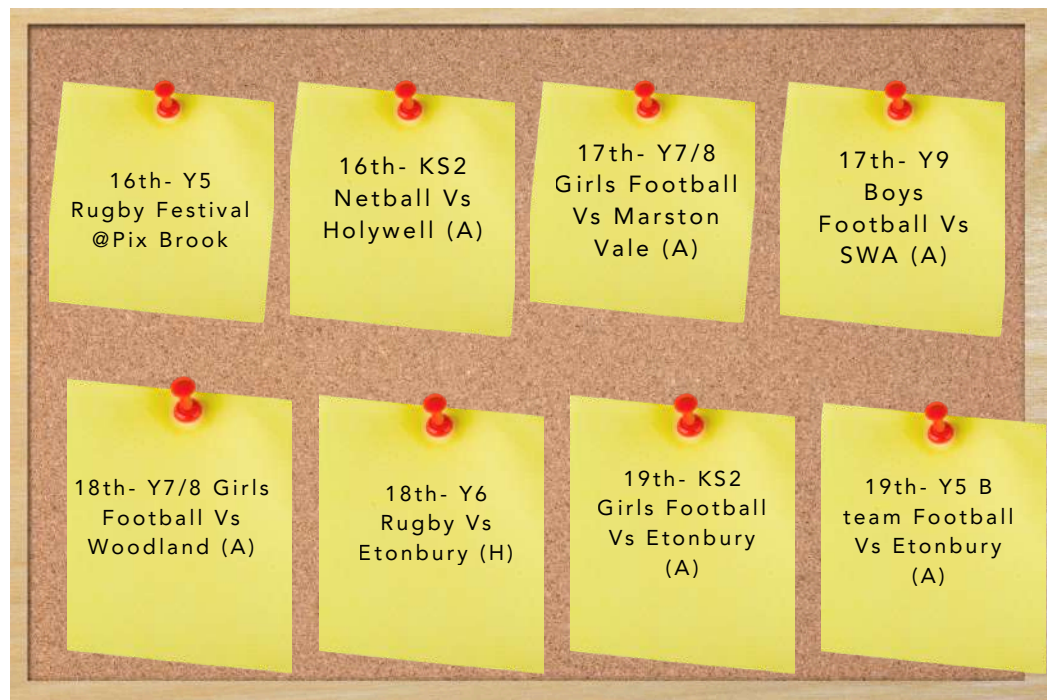
Ashe Group are a construction company based in Hitchin. They can offer one student a rotational week, spending half a day with different departments, including estimating, planning, design, procurement, surveying, roofing, business support and marketing, to gain a full overview of the business. The student will need to be able to get to offices in Hitchin, which are just round the corner from the train station.

There are also potential placements at a children's nursery in Letchworth working with babies to 3 year olds.

Please do email me at [efuller@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:efuller@bestacademies.org.uk) with the student's details and why they are interested in the placement.

**If your company is able to offer a student a placement, we would be delighted to discuss this with you! Please contact Emma if you're able to help!**

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



## Winter Sport

A quick reminder that when lessons are timetabled to be outside, we will head outdoors unless the weather is unsafe or extremely poor. With this in mind, please ensure students are fully prepared with the correct PE kit, even if they are injured but able to change — this helps avoid students getting wet in their uniform before returning to class.

As the weather continues to change, students should have a **Pix Brook PE jumper and bring both football boots and trainers** so we can adapt to indoor or outdoor sessions as needed. Shin pads are essential for anyone taking part in football or hockey.

You can find the full PE kit list here: [Pix Brook Academy PE Kit List \(page 5\)](#).

## 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.**



### PBA Extra-Curricular Autumn (Feb - March) 2026

	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
<b>Monday</b>				Y5/6 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK) Y5/6 - BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING (SPE/SLY) Y11 - GCSE PE INTERVENTION (RNL) Y9/10 - RUGBY TRAINING (MDN)
<b>Tuesday</b>		Y5/6 -TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (SLY)	<b>Y7 / 8 - REWARD SESSION (INVITE ONLY) SPORTSHALL (RNL)</b>  Y8 - TABLE TENNIS DANCE STUDIO (JSK)	Y8 RUGBY FIXTURE NIGHT (MDN / RNL)  Y7/8 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK)
<b>Wednesday</b>	KS3/4 - BADMINTON SPORTSHALL (RNL) INVITE ONLY		Y8/9 - BADMINTON SPORTSHALL (JSK)  GCSE PE WORKSHOPS INVITE ONLY (ROOM 206) (RNL)	Y5/6 - RUGBY TRAINING (OCL)
<b>Thursday</b>			Y10/11 - GCSE PE TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (MDN)  <b>Y9 / 10 - REWARD SESSION (INVITE ONLY) SPORTSHALL (RNL)</b>	GCSE PE MODERATION SESSIONS (RNL/MDN/PSU)  Y8 RUGBY FIXTURE NIGHT (MDN)  <b>STAFF MEETINGS</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Y8 / 9 - BADMINTON (AJK)  GCSE ACRO-GYMNASTICS / DANCE DANCE STUDIO (PSU)		Y9 - TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL MDN  Y8 - FUTSAL SPORTSHALL(WRB) INVITE ONLY	



### PBA Extra-Curricular Clubs (Jan - Feb) 2026

	Lunch 1 – 12:40 – 13:10 (KS2)	Lunch 2 – 13:30 – 14:00 (KS3)	After School: 15:05 – 16:00
<b>Monday</b>		KS3 Code Club 140 (EBT)	KS3 and KS4 Prop, Set and Costume Design 126 KPN  Dance Club Dance Studio (JS)
<b>Tuesday</b>	KS2 Top Trumps 107 (EMY)  KS2 Coding Club 140 (EBT)		KS3/4 Drama Club (Pix Brook Players) Main Hall (JS)  Year 5 Homework Club Year 5 classrooms
<b>Wednesday</b>	KS2 Mindfulness 110 (CBS)	KS3 eSports 140 (EBT)	Year 6 Homework Club Year 6 classrooms  Year 7 Homework Club Room 206
<b>Thursday</b>	Top Trumps (JRW)  KS2 EdShed 016 (OCL)  Drawing Club 127 (MYG)		Whole school choir Music Room (TWD)
<b>Friday</b>	Games Club 015 (SPE)	Y10 & 11 GCSE Art Club 127 (MYG)	

## 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 - Slots Available

### 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:**
- Saxophone,
  - Clarinet,
  - Flute,
  - Oboe,
  - Bassoon.

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)



## Pix Brook Academy Safeguarding Team

We are here to keep you safe

Who can you speak to if you feel worried?

Any Adult

Our Dedicated Safeguarding Lead or Any Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
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)



Mrs Smith  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

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



Mrs Dapin  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (SLT)



Mrs Hapworth  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (SLT)



Mr Crisswell  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 5



Mrs Murphy  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 6



Mrs Stevenson  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 7



Miss Kinnear  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 8



Mr Cook  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 9



Mrs Mannion  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 10



Mr Fleckny  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 11



Mrs Jackson  
PP Coordinator & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## School Safeguarding Team

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

## Online Safeguarding

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Currently, children are growing up in an innovative and technowise culture where it's easy to connect. What's concerned online, like social media, is now and foreverly created to be shared in nature – and they often create their own content as well as consuming it. It's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- 1. REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING**  
It's common to get stuck scrolling through social media feeds for hours. This can be a bad habit to get into as it can lead to feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Try to limit your scrolling time to 15-20 minutes a day.
- 2. TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT**  
It's important to have open conversations with your children about the content they see online. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and to report any inappropriate content to the platform.
- 3. FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS**  
Encourage your children to focus on the positive aspects of social media, such as connecting with friends and family, and sharing their own content. Encourage them to use social media to support their interests and hobbies.
- 4. REDUCE SCREEN TIME**  
Set limits on your child's screen time. Encourage them to spend time doing other activities, such as reading, playing sports, or spending time with friends and family.
- 5. FILL THE VOID**  
Encourage your children to engage in activities that give them a sense of purpose and accomplishment. This could be anything from volunteering to learning a new skill.
- 6. LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD**  
Encourage your children to spend time outdoors and to engage in activities that help them connect with the real world. Encourage them to spend time with friends and family in person.
- 7. DIGITAL DETOX**  
Encourage your children to take a break from social media. Encourage them to spend time doing other activities, such as reading, playing sports, or spending time with friends and family.
- 8. MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR**  
Encourage your children to use social media responsibly. Encourage them to think about the impact of their posts and to be respectful to others.
- 9. BE CLEAR ON THE WHY**  
Encourage your children to be clear about why they are using social media. Encourage them to think about the benefits and risks of using social media.

Meet Our Expert: **Wake Up Wednesday** by The National College

## Mental Health Information

**Supporting Young Minds**

A new resource for parents and carers

Visit our free hub for guidance, advice, and support for parents, carers, and children's mental health.

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/resources-for-parents-carers](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/resources-for-parents-carers)

**Talking to Your Teenager**

Getting teenagers to talk openly about what's bothering them can be hard. Below these tips to help get them to talk to you about their worries.

1. **Be a good listener**  
When your teenager is talking to you, listen to what they are saying. Don't interrupt them or tell them what to do. Just listen.
2. **Be patient**  
It may take some time for your teenager to open up to you. Be patient and let them know you are there for them.
3. **Be honest**  
If you are worried about your teenager, let them know. Be honest about your concerns and let them know you are there to support them.
4. **Be supportive**  
Encourage your teenager to talk to you about their worries. Let them know you are there to support them and that you will do whatever it takes to help them.

NHS

## Home-Start "Living With Teenagers" Course



**Living with Teenagers** is a free online course for Central Bedfordshire parents and carers of children **aged 11 to 16 years**. Delivered online via Zoom by trained parent group facilitators who have first-hand experience of the joys and challenges of being a parent of a teenager.

Increase your parenting skills, grow in confidence, and improve your relationship with your teenager.

Contact us to book your free space:  
[office@home-startbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startbedfordshire.org.uk)



## Ivel Valley Family Bulletin

Click [here](#) to access the bulletin online



## 2026

### March

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Planetarium Visit for Year 5
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>	Progress Evening Year 6
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of Term</b> NB: No PBA Extra. School closes early.

### May

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
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# COMMUNITY

**GKw PRESENTS**  
**EASTER ART WORKSHOPS**  
**Themed Activities**

© Pix Brook Academy, Stotfold SG5 4HB  
8th & 9th April 8:45am - 4pm  
Age 7-12 (School years 3-8)

£35 per day - Sibling discount available  
For more information and to book, contact

info@gkwsports.com www.gkwsports.com

Pendleton Sports Centre  
Stotfold  
Age 4-15 Years

**MBF Sports Ltd**  
**Football Camps**

30th March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April & 7<sup>th</sup> April - 10<sup>th</sup> April

**School Holidays**  
Monday - Friday  
Start: 10.00am  
Finish: 3.00pm  
Early Drop & Late Pickup for £5 per day

- ✓ Qualified Coaches with DBS & Safeguarding
- ✓ Fun Session & Matches
- ✓ Medals, Trophies and Awards
- ✓ Childcare Vouchers Accepted

Contact Information: 07995996418 / 07771958519 | www.mbfestfootball.co.uk

Camps are fully funded by CBC for those children aged 5-16 in receipt of benefits based on free school meals provided by the MAF programme.

**COACHED BY BECKY DARNELL & TEAM**

**NETBALL DEVELOPMENT CAMP**

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH - 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL  
10am-3pm  
7-14 Years Only

Developing Core Skills

- Passing
- Footwork
- Shooting
- Match Play

PENDLETON SPORTS CENTRE  
STOTFOLD

28 PLACES AVAILABLE

Book Now  
www.mbfestfootball.co.uk

**easter at church farm**  
28th March - 12th April

Visit Church Farm Ardeley  
A real working farm!

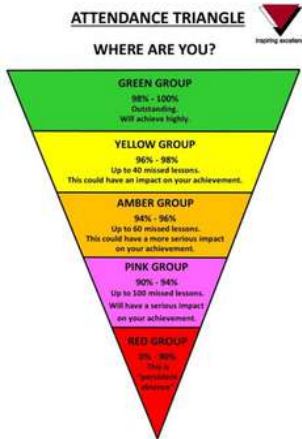
**Easter Farm Day Pass**  
Includes:  
Easter Themed Activity Book  
Woodland Play Area  
Easter Bunny Riddle Trail  
Farm Bingo & spot the Easter Bunny  
See the Lambs, Rabbits & Farm animals  
Walk around the farm

**Additional Activities**  
Meet the Easter Bunny  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Lamb Bottle Feeding  
Goat Walking  
Tractor & Trailer Rides  
Fairy Trail

Book online [www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk](http://www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk)

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY  
A Free Range Experience

# Reporting an Absence



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.

## 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



### 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://qrca.de/minfec>.

## 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

## Menus



Our lunchtime menus are available to view on our website:

<https://www.pixbrookacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Food+Provision&pid=40>

## 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 aware 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.



## 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.

## BEST Academic Calendar 2026/2027

School Holiday ■

Bank Holiday ■

Pupil Day ■

Training Day ■



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

January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26						
Tue		5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27						
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28						
Thu		7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	1	8	15	22	29						
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	2	9	16	23	30						
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	3	10	17	24							
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	4	11	18	25							

May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30					
Tue		4	11	18	25	Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	31					
Wed		5	12	19	26	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25						
Thu		6	13	20	27	Thu	3	10	17	24	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26						
Fri		7	14	21	28	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27						
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28						
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29						

Pupil Contact Days: Term 1 – 70 days. Term 2 – 53 days. Term 3 – 67 days. = 190.

In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used in addition to the 190 pupil contact days to enable teacher training to take place.

Training days set are as follows: 3 September 2026, 4 September 2026, 4 January 2027 and 9 April 2027. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.