



PBA Press

A ROUND UP OF THIS TERM'S NEWS
AND EVENTS



SCHOOL NEWS

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A Message from Mrs Linehan

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic few months, culminating in an absolutely amazing final week here at PBA. Our school community has been buzzing with energy, learning, and celebration.

The week began with our fantastic School Play, '**Do We Ever See Grace?**'. The thought provoking piece highlighted the hard work and dedication of our students, whilst ensuring audience members considered carefully their own actions. I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the families who attended; your presence means the world to our students. A special mention must go to Mrs Jones, Mrs Baumber, Mrs Poxon and Miss Gomez, the creative team behind the production.

The excitement amongst KS2 generated as a result of our **Times Tables Rock Star Dress Up Day** yesterday was electric. The academy witnessed an array of leg warmers, band T-shirts, leather jackets and wigs. The Primary Team were fully rocking their best 80s looks. Mr. Randall-Williams has led this event over the last term and fulfilled a lifelong dream of entering assembly to a rock anthem. The Staff versus Student battles were fiercely contested—and I'm pleased to report that my Senior Team didn't embarrass themselves! It was an absolute pleasure feasting on Domino's pizza with our winning class Tolkein. Times tables are a fundamental building block in mathematics, and we hope that the fun and friendly battles over this term have inspired many of our pupils to keep building their confidence.

This afternoon we hosted our inaugural **KS2 Family Easter Hunt**. Thankfully, the weather held off, allowing us to end the term with an active, outdoor opportunity that let us consolidate our learning while spending valuable time connecting as a community over sweet treats. We are already busy planning the Summer Term events for pupils across the school and have some very exciting ideas.

Today marked another milestone for PBA with our very first **Culture and Belonging Day**. The academy was a vibrant sea of bright colours and traditional dress as students enjoyed a diverse range of activities, from Ghanaian food workshops and hip-hop sessions to art activities and exposure to new sports. It was a beautiful celebration of our community, and I was pleased to use the occasion to reveal our new signage in Reception, welcoming all visitors to our academy. Our Student Parliament stated in September that they wished to host a day dedicated to the community and it is great to see their hard work come to fruition.

Looking ahead to after the Easter break, we are excited to welcome Mr. Walker to our Maths department. He is a highly experienced teacher who brings a wealth of knowledge to our school. Finally, I want to wish a safe and enjoyable trip to all our students heading off to Barcelona for our first-ever **Sports Tour**. Have a fantastic time—I cannot wait to hear all about your adventures when you return.

Wishing you all a restful and happy Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the students back for the **Summer Term on Tuesday 14th April!**

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 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.

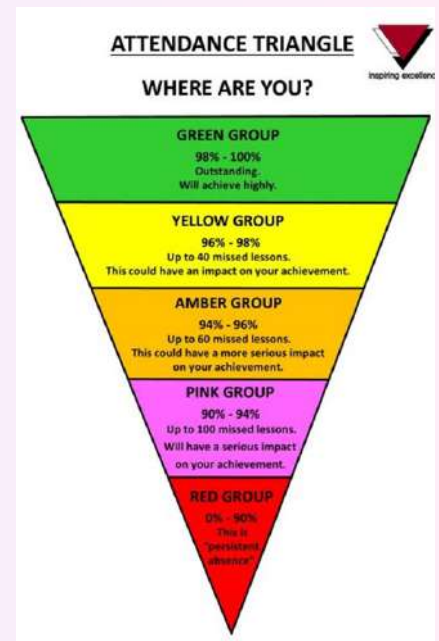
Children need to be collected by a nominated adult from reception.

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.

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. We will send our response to you via Edulink.



At Pix Brook Academy, we are committed to ensuring our school uniform remains affordable and provides excellent value for money, in full alignment with the Department for Education's updated statutory guidance for September 2026.

To minimise the financial burden on families, we have carefully reviewed our requirements to limit the number of compulsory branded items.

Branded items, from September, will now be limited to:

- a PBA jumper / cardigan, tie and sports top in Key Stage Two and
- a PBA blazer, PBA kilt (optional -trousers may be worn), tie and sports top in Key Stage Three and Four.

All other items, **including the grey V-neck jumper**, can be purchased in high street supermarkets and retailers.

All PBA branded items are available from our supplier, Total clothing.

We would appreciate your feedback on our draft updated uniform expectations. Please complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/R44zgCJ94exJq4JQA>



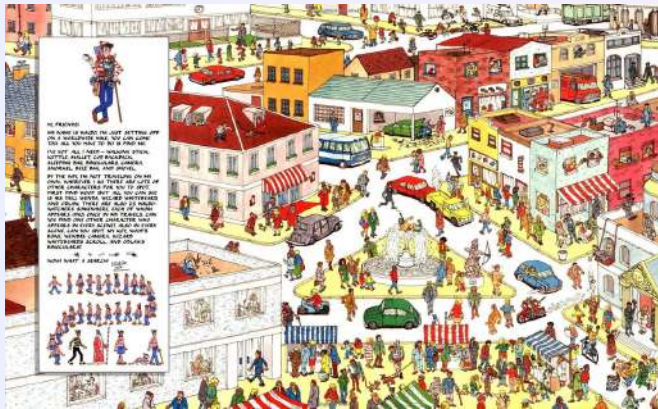
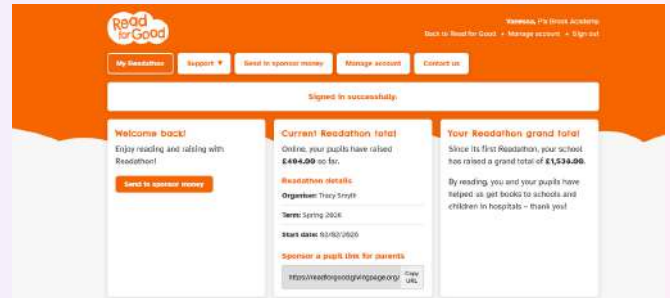
Read For Good Readathon

A Message from Mrs Wright

Thank you and well done to everyone who has taken part in our Readathon - Read For Good event.

We're really pleased to say we've raised over £400 to help bring books and stories to children who are staying in hospital long term.

The children who returned their sponsorship forms all received a book, and a special shout-out goes to Cora P in year 6, who raised £115!



Where's Wally Day Announced

A Message from Mrs Wright

We are excited to announce a new event for Pix Brook - the Where's Wally Day!

Taking place this year on **26th June**, everyone in school is invited to come in dressed as Wally, Wanda or Wally's dog. There will be competitions, treasure hunts, and themed activities throughout the day, and all the proceeds raised will go towards buying new books for the school Library. Further details about the event will be circulated after the Easter holidays.


The Seeds of a Good Idea

A Message from Mrs Brant

We are in the process of tidying up the Staff well-being garden, a small but peaceful space where staff can sit for a few minutes or during their lunch break. If you have any **spare garden plants, herbs or seeds** we would be delighted to re-home them in this haven for harried teachers!

We are also looking for **wildflower seeds for our Nature Area** at the back of the sports field, if anyone has any spare native wildflower seeds we would love to make use of them!



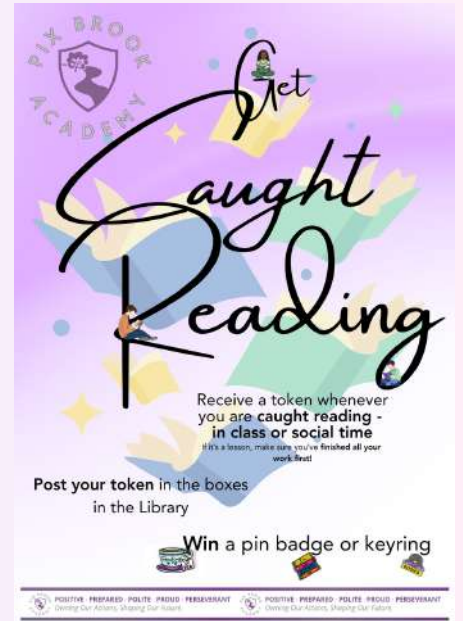
Thank you in advance 

Get Caught Reading

A Message from Mrs Wright

Congratulations to all our students who have been **caught reading** in the last couple of weeks! We are encouraging our pupils to take out a book in lessons (but ONLY when they've finished their work!) or at break or lunch. If they get spotted, they receive a Get Caught Reading token which then gets posted in the boxes in the Library.

At the end of each week, the names are pulled from the boxes and the lucky winners get to choose a pin badge or keyring as a prize.



TTRS - The Battle of the Bands

A Message from Mr Randall-Williams

Our KS2 Battle of the Bands has its winning band:

Massive congratulations to... TOLKIEN CLASS!

Huge commiserations to Zephaniah - they were the 2016 Leicester City story that just didn't quite make it over the line. I know that Miss Binks and I are very proud of her class and the effort they all put in. Some standout moments from the final battle:

1. Tate was finally outscored in a battle - well done to Tommy D in my class who outscored him.
2. Zephaniah held the remaining podium positions with Tate 2nd and George 3rd
3. Miss Binks outscored Mr Randall-Williams in the Teacher v Teacher round
4. Stars of the Match: Oscar G and Jude L

Thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm in taking part this event - it has generated such a huge buzz for Maths and times tables.

Rock on!

Making Space for Nature

Please see the notice from CBC about access routes in Etonbury Woods.

Works are about to start in Etonbury Wood to make some changes to some of the footpaths to help restore vital habitat and promote nature conservation - its really important those using the woods adhere to the new footpaths and closures.

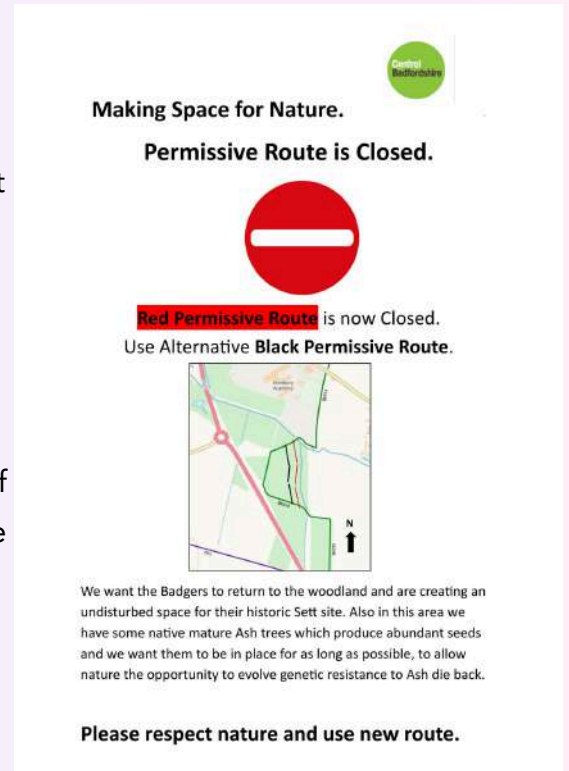
The permissive route shown in red on the below plan crosses the site of an historic Badger's Sett, which foot fall is causing to collapse, causing a trip hazard and constant disturbance preventing return of the badgers to the site. Also the areas of trees between the ditch and the edge of the woodland to the East, is the oldest area of historic woodland on the site, it is not an area of really old trees but does contain some native ash from the local area, which the countryside sites team aim to give the opportunity to seed and possibility to evolve out of the effects of Ash die back, this area will be managed through minimum intervention going forward to encourage native, natural regrowth.

It has been the aim of the countryside sites to allow the track shown in red on the below plan close over, but some unhelpful individuals have often taken it upon themselves to trim the vegetation growth back. To make the permanent change to promote the natural habitat the route will be blocked with large logs and laid vegetation to prevent future use.

The public have made an alternative desire line route shown in Black on the below plan, which is drier and flatter and this will be widened by felling some small dead Ash and other dead trees (which were marked in yellow paint yesterday) and this will be made the formal permissive route to replace the old (red) route giving the space back to nature.

The area has been checked for nesting birds and will be re-checked as the contractors commence work as this situation can change at any time.

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THIS CONSERVATION EFFORT



Making Space for Nature.

Permissive Route is Closed.

Red Permissive Route is now Closed.
Use Alternative **Black Permissive Route.**

We want the Badgers to return to the woodland and are creating an undisturbed space for their historic Sett site. Also in this area we have some native mature Ash trees which produce abundant seeds and we want them to be in place for as long as possible, to allow nature the opportunity to evolve genetic resistance to Ash die back.

Please respect nature and use new route.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

A Message from Miss Izzard

What an amazing weekend! Our Duke of Edinburgh Silver cohort tackled their training expedition with a brilliant mix of grit, determination and a level of incredible humour that kept everyone's spirits high. Despite the ice-cold nights and literally frozen tents, the students proved they are master navigators and "pro-level" tent-pitchers. In fact, their teamwork reached new heights when a group of six decided that the best way to beat the cold was to bundle into a single two-man tent!



The campsite was transformed into a five-star outdoor kitchen as the students showcased their cooking skills. The menu was a gourmet step up from the usual trail snacks, featuring a range of garnished pasta dishes, chilli con carne, and hearty rice meals. Despite the long hours of walking, the evenings were still bursting with energy, filled with dancing and singing around the campfire. The spooky ghost stories had everyone on edge, and watching the students make each other jump with perfectly timed "Boos!" was a highlight for the staff.

The final "knockout" moment was the sheer creativity shown once the campfire was out; students created their own boxing-style entrances, waving phone torches and singing the Rocky theme song.



We couldn't be prouder of their perseverance! They faced the elements with not one complaint, proving they are more than ready for the qualifying expedition in June. A huge well done to everyone, you've done yourselves proud!



Celebrating Success: A Most Rewarding Term

A message from Mrs Mannion

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, it's the perfect time to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students. At Pix Brook Academy, our 5Ps—Proud, Prepared, Polite, Positive, and Perseverant—are the heartbeat of our community, and this term, the numbers show just how much our students have been "Owning their Actions."



The sheer volume of rewards issued this term has been nothing short of outstanding. Our students have demonstrated a consistent commitment to excellence across every year group. While every point represents a moment of individual success, the collective total highlights a school-wide culture of achievement.

You can see below the top students with the highest Attitude To Learning (ATL) for each year group based on their reports. This is a huge recognition of the hard work they put in day in and day out.

Congratulations to Year 5 in KS2 for leading the way with the highest total rewards, Y9 in KS3 and Y10 in KS4!

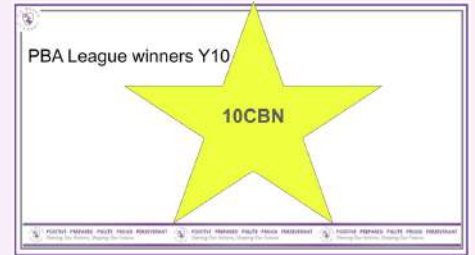
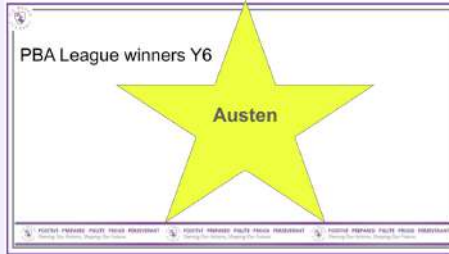
This week's assemblies were a particular highlight as we took the time to recognise specific excellence within our curriculum. In every subject, from the creative arts to the sciences, teachers had the difficult task of selecting just two students for special recognition.

Standout Students: These individuals were celebrated for their consistent excellence and for being role models of our 5P values in their specific subjects.

Most Improved: We were equally thrilled to recognise students who have shown incredible growth. These awards celebrate the Perseverance required to turn a challenge into a triumph.

It isn't just about the points; it's about the character our students are building. Whether it was being Polite to visitors during our recent events, being Prepared for the Year 6 geography fieldwork, or showing Positive leadership in the Head Student hustings, the PBA spirit is stronger than ever.

Praise, reward, and celebration are the fundamental heartbeat of our school ethos. We firmly believe that acknowledging these contributions is the most powerful tool for fostering high standards.



And our winning **Attitude to Learning** students are

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Harmony	April	Felix	Macey	Finlay	Aayush	James
Issy	Candela	Amelia	Olivia	Harry	Charlie	Oisin
Jack	Chloe-Elizabeth	Emilie	Sophie	Brooke	Coen	Charlie
Lucy	Florence	Ivy	Oscar	Celeste	Felix	Brody
Mylo	George	Norah	Amy	Iris	Finley	Elliott
Scarlett	Jasper	Zoe	Ava	Philippa	Freddie	Nathan
Amelia	Xavier	Christopher	Cecilia	Suhana	Luke	Ollie
Anaya	Zaaim	Cian	Darcy	Quinn	Oliver	Evie
Anise	Riva	Oliver	Martha	Eden	Sidney	Georgia
Annabelle	Amber	Amelie	Mollie-Mae	Lola	Stan	Zack
Austin	Amelie	Eilidh	Olivia		Edie	
Cavan	Annie	Ellie-May	Scarlett		Evelyn	
Charlie	Charlotte	Elodie	Florin		Lauren	
Lottie	Elodie	Emily	Ross		Madeleine	
Chester	Emilia	Essie	Theo		Maisie	
Dotty	Eva	Faye			Olivia	
Esme	Gabby	Grace			Poppy	
Hannah	Islagh-Belle	Isla			Sophie	
Isaac	Ruby	Lily			Sophie	
Jacob		Mahi			Lucas	
Joseph		Millie			Emily	
Kaiden		Milly			Isabelle	
Luke		Jackson				
Maria		James				

Team KS2 Spring Into Action

A message from Mrs Smyth

As we reach the end of this short but busy term, we want to say how incredibly proud we are of every single one of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. Their progress has been remarkable—not just in their learning, but in their attitude, resilience, and the way they support one another. They’ve shown curiosity, determination, and a real enthusiasm for taking on new challenges, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow.

We’ve packed a lot into these past few weeks, and the children have thrown themselves into every opportunity. From hands-on projects and creative tasks in DT and Art, to team activities and problem-solving for our Year 6s, and special events such as World Book Day, they’ve brought energy and humour to everything we’ve done. The classrooms have been full of ideas, laughter, and those brilliant light-bulb moments that make teaching such a joy.

As we look ahead, we’re genuinely excited for the summer term. It’s always a special time of year—full of opportunities and experiences, and memorable milestones for both year groups. We can’t wait to see what the children achieve next.

Top Spelling Shed Groups[®]

#	Group	Score
1.	Austen	52,548,871
2.	Blackman	33,371,746
3.	Pankhurst	30,804,725
4.	Morpurgo	25,537,849
5.	Tolkien	24,994,909
6.	Shakespeare	21,583,112
7.	Zephaniah	20,506,050
8.	Angelou	18,819,919
9.	Turing	17,840,330
10.	Churchill	13,603,369

Top MathShed Groups[®]

#	Group	Score
1.	Zephaniah	4,489,102
2.	Blackman	4,235,247
3.	Austen	2,882,853
4.	Angelou	661,566
5.	Morpurgo	604,809
6.	Pankhurst	364,591
7.	Tolkien	146,459
8.	Nightingale	8,717
9.	Shakespeare	0
10.	Attenborough	0



Thank you for your continued support, and well done to all our fantastic pupils for a wonderful term. Enjoy a well-earned break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, on **Tuesday 14th April**, refreshed and ready for the adventures ahead.

A Look Back At The Year So Far

A message from Mr Cresswell

As we approach the end of the second term for Year Five at Pix Brook, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful experiences our students have had over the past few months. It has been a busy term filled with engaging activities and learning opportunities that have contributed to the students' growth and development.



Throughout this term, the children have participated in several exciting whole school activities, including **World Book Day** and **Times Table Rockstar Day**. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the topic of **World War II**, and we are looking forward to the upcoming **Tudor** topic, which promises to be equally engaging. I am pleased to report a noticeable increase in the number of praise points awarded this term compared to last, indicating that our pupils are positively adapting to life at Pix Brook. This reflects our school values of being Prepared, Positive, Polite, Perseverant, and Proud, which we encourage in all our students.

Enriching the learning experience is an area we will continue to develop. This term we have enjoyed FAB science and the Planetarium visits this half term and I am excited to share with you some of the opportunities to enrich the learning for all our pupils.



Looking ahead, I am excited to spend the next two weeks at home as I help prepare my niece for her upcoming GCSE's - which is scary, as I remember teaching her when she was in Year Six!

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe break with whatever you are doing and we look forward to welcoming all the pupils back for their final term in Year Five!





Attenborough Class made Wild Weather shelters in DT, linked to their current reading book "Kensuke's Kingdom." The children thought about the practicality of their shelters, as well as the design, for Michael to use while stranded on the Island.



As part of their topic on World War 2, our Year 5s have been making gas masks - don't they look fantastic!



Churchill Class have been learning about the solar system this week, and measured the distance each planet is from the sun - using toilet paper!

Year 6 Is Flourishing

A message from Mrs Murphy

As we reach the end of a whirlwind Spring term, I wanted to take a moment to share how incredibly proud I am of our Year 6 cohort. The children have shown remarkable resilience and a "can-do" attitude during what is always a demanding time of year, working exceptionally hard and truly persevering through their mock SATs. While these tests represent a serious milestone, we made sure to keep spirits high with a few new traditions. Our morning Breakfast Club - featuring pain au chocolats and croissants - provided the perfect fuel for concentration, while the daily "Biscuit Sweepstakes" turned a potentially stressful moment into a highlight as everyone guessed which treat would appear after each test.

Beyond the classroom, we were treated to a geographically excellent field trip to the river, expertly organized by Mrs. Binks. It was wonderful to see the children applying their knowledge to the real world by identifying meanders and tributaries right on our doorstep at Pix Brook. The sun even made an appearance for some of the visits.

Creativity has continued to flourish in our lessons too, as the children produced amazing fish designs in Art, explored the circulatory system and electricity in Science, and travelled from the murky world of Beowulf to the daring tales of

The Highwayman in English.

World Book Day was fantastic: from Dalmatians to dinosaurs the costume creativity was endless. The children entered a world of books by exploring "Ten Tiny Tales," creating their own mini tales including illustrations and more.

Then, only a couple of weeks later, FAB! Science was a full fifty minutes of fantastic forces fun with exciting hands-on practicals based around gravity and air resistance. Watching an egg appear to "shrink" was definitely a highlight.



As we prepare for the final leg of the KS2 journey, I would appreciate your support with a few practicalities for the upcoming term. **Please ensure your child arrives in the correct uniform, including ties and plain socks without sports branding.**

Additionally, we are seeing a high volume of requests for plastic cups; **to help our planet, please ensure your child brings a reusable water bottle every day.** The upcoming Summer term promises to be our busiest yet, but I have every confidence that the children will continue to thrive and do their absolute best as they enter the final term of their primary school journey. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you have a restful, well-deserved Spring break.



Year 7

SPRING TERM

Year 7 Grow in Confidence

A message from Mrs Stevenson

It's been such a joy watching our Year 7s settle in to the Secondary phase of the school since the start of the year. Moving from primary to secondary is a huge leap - regardless of whether they have stayed in the same building or not - but they've handled it with so much positivity and grit. We are very proud of them!

One of the real highlights for year 7 so far this year has been the Student Runner programme. Seeing the students take on this role with such energy has been great—it's given them a real sense of independence and helped them find their footing as they help out around the school.

The change from the beginning of the year, to the confident group we see now at the end of the Spring term is amazing. They have been mastering new subjects, meeting new teachers, and finding their way around a busy timetable. All of which have posed new challenges that the students have embraced.

We have some exciting things happening in the final term of year 7! Students have been invited to participate in the end of year reward day in which an external company are coming on to school site to run a range of exciting activities for the students.

We wish all year 7 students an exciting, restful and hopefully sunny Easter holidays and look forward to seeing them when we return in two weeks' time!



Year 8

SPRING TERM

Celebrating Talent In Year 8

A message from Ms Kinnear

Welcome to our latest update! It has been an incredibly vibrant few weeks at school, with students excelling across the field, the stage, and the written page. Here is a look at what our talented youngsters have been up to.

Our after-school clubs are buzzing with energy. Whether it's the roar of the crowd or the glow of the spotlights, our students are showing incredible commitment.

- **On the Field:** Participation in extra-curricular sports has reached an all-time high this term. Our sports participants have been rewarded with some fantastic results and given their sports badges to wear with pride.
- **On the Stage:** The Drama department is currently a whirlwind of rehearsals. We are seeing students grow in confidence as they master complex scripts and stage directions, preparing for upcoming showcase performances. And thank you to our Y8's who helped be a part of the Drama GCSE exams too.

Young Authors: 'I Have a Dream'

We are bursting with pride to announce that four of our students have achieved something truly remarkable. **Chloe, Lucy, Konrad, and Amber** have had their original poetry selected for publication in a new book titled "I Have a Dream." This is a significant achievement, as the selection process is highly competitive. Having their voices captured in print is a testament to their creativity and hard work.

About the Book - A National Platform: I Have a Dream is a curated anthology that brings together the most inspiring and thought-provoking poetry from students across the country. **Student-Centred:** The book aims to give young people a platform to express their aspirations, fears, and visions for the future. **A Lasting Legacy:** Unlike a standard school assignment, this work is formally published, meaning our students are now officially published poets! Copies of the book will be kept in national archives, ensuring their words are preserved for years to come.

"To see our students' names in a professionally bound book is a reminder of the power of youth expression. Well done to our four published authors!"

We have the PGL trip heading out in May, there will be a parent/student information evening happening **early in May** to explain all you need to know about the trip.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we encourage all students to continue exploring their passions, whether that's through sports, the arts, or academics. There is a place for everyone to shine here at PBA!



Year 9

SPRING TERM

The Start of the Key Stage 4 Journey

A message from Mr Cook

It is hard to believe we are already over halfway through the academic year. It feels like only five minutes ago that I was welcoming 180 bouncy, giggly, and energetic Year 5s through our doors. Fast forward to today, and I am immensely proud that those same students are now maturing young adults making pivotal decisions about their futures.

Looking Ahead: Options and Adventures

The buzz around the school has been electric as the GCSE option choices have all been submitted. Seeing the students transition from the broad KS3 curriculum to choosing their own specialised paths is a proud moment for all of us.

To bring those future GCSE subjects to life, we are thrilled to announce some incredible international trips scheduled for next year:

- **Geography:** A journey to the volcanic landscapes of **Iceland**.
- **History:** An immersive look at the past in **Berlin**.
- **Cultural:** A trip I will be leading myself to the stunning **Bay of Naples, Sorrento, and Capri**.

Closer to home, we are also looking forward to our end-of-year celebration at Thorpe Park- a well-deserved reward for the year's hard work!

A Dream Team of Tutors

This term's success is a direct result of the dedication of our Year 9 tutor team. I want to extend a massive thank you to Ms Pearce, who joined us this term and has hit the ground running with her class.

Our tutors truly are the backbone of the year group:

- **Miss Crellin:** Has been managing like an absolute pro with her very first form class.
- **Dr Hills & Mrs Howe:** The ultimate "dream team," providing fantastic support.
- **Mr Nicholl:** Who has seamlessly brought his trademark PE charisma and energy to his Year 9 classroom.
- **Mrs Ip:** One of our year group "OGs", who continues to push her students to be the very best versions of themselves.
- **Mr Wood:** Who continues his diligent work, building beautifully on the strong foundations he established in Year 8.
- **Ms Pearce:** For her incredible hard work and commitment since joining the team.

The Final Push

As we look toward the Summer Term, we welcome the prospect of warmer weather and longer days. This will be the final push for our students as they complete their KS3 journey and prepare for the rigors of Year 10.

I wish all of our students and their families a restful and wonderful spring break. See you in the sunshine!

Year 10 Show Remarkable Resilience

A message from Mrs Mannion

As we wrap up the Spring term and head into the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on just how far Year 10 have come. This term is often the "crunch point" where the reality of Key Stage 4 really sets in, and I have been genuinely impressed by the resilience and maturity our students are starting to show. The corridors have felt a bit more purposeful lately, and it's clear that the year group is finding its stride.

In our option subjects, the shift from theory to practice is now in full swing. Students are well under way with their coursework across the board. Whether they are refining a piece of art, recording a performance, or crunching data in a vocational unit, it's been brilliant to see them taking real ownership of their projects.

These "Non-Exam Assessments" are the foundation of their final grades, and seeing the pride many are taking in their portfolios is a highlight of my week.

It's also been a big term for "the bigger picture." Many students have begun their 1-to-1 careers meetings with our career's adviser. I've caught a few students coming out of these sessions looking inspired (and perhaps a little relieved!) to see how their current subjects link to life after Year 11. These conversations are so important for building motivation, and we'll continue rolling these out for the rest of the year group.

When we return after Easter, the atmosphere will shift slightly as we turn our attention to the first set of GCSE mocks. I know "exams" can be a stressful word, but I want to be clear: this is a learning curve. For many, this will be the first time they sit exams formally—in the hall, under the clock, and following all the official regulations.

My advice to students: Don't see these mocks as a final judgment. See them as a "rehearsal." It's about getting used to the silence of the hall and the layout of the papers so that by next year, it feels like second nature.

Before we tackle the Summer term, I hope every student takes some time to properly switch off. You've worked hard, and you need to recharge your batteries. Enjoy the chocolate, get some fresh air, and we will see you refreshed and ready to go for the final stretch of the year.





Year 11

SPRING TERM

The End Of An Era

A message from Mr Fleckney

Well.... Where do I begin? I cannot believe that this will be the last end of term review that I will be writing for our amazing Year 11 cohort. Personally, it has been an absolute pleasure during the last 5 years to be Head of Year 11: to witness each and every student grow during their time at PBA has been a privilege. Some of the students have sailed through their time at PBA, whilst others have faced challenges along the way. However, to be able to form a positive relationship with each and every student has been a delight, and I wish them all the success in their future.

This term has been largely based around preparing the students for the upcoming GCSE Exams. The way the students have been prepared to go the extra mile to success is a credit to themselves. Whether it be intervention sessions, mock exam revision, lunch time clubs or attending school during their holidays all will provide a platform to support with their GCSE Exams.

Whilst the next few weeks will be busy for our Year 11s, there is still much to look forward too. We are currently finalising the plans for end of year celebrations which culminates with the first ever PBA Leavers' Prom at The Cloisters in Letchworth. On that note, final details and ticket prices will be released after the Easter holidays.

There have been many successes this term – including practical exams in Drama and Food and Nutrition. Some of the dishes made were MasterChef worthy! The DT Timbers students have produced some amazing practical work, some of the best I have seen. The PE department have also been working hard to complete coursework and practical assessments.

As we move into the final weeks each student will receive a personalised timetable after Easter. It is vital that students attend school each and every day as the lesson content will be important to support the fast approaching exams.

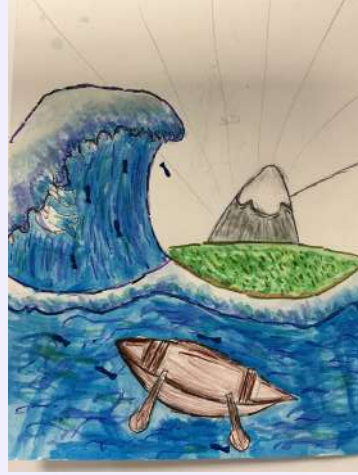
A couple of weeks ago the school held interview practice for Year 11 as part of Careers Week. I must comment on how smart the students presented themselves in their office attire – if only some looked this smart everyday in their school uniform! The feedback from the interviewers was highly complimentary regarding the students' engagement and answers.

I feel the final mention should go to the amazing group of tutors that Year 11 have had over the years – each of them has been the first port of call for any issues and concerns and each have completed those essential daily check-ins with the students. A big thank you to Mr Brooks, Mr Dawson, Mr Stevenson, and not forgetting both Mrs Pearce and Mr Szwajbak for their work previously.

I would like to thank all parents for their amazing support over the last 5 years and I am sure that your son or daughter will transition into the next chapter of their lives with the resilience and perseverance they have shown at PBA.

Spring Term in the Art Department

A message from Mrs Poxson



Year 5 have been looking at traditional and modern Japanese art this term, and have learnt about Hokusai and recreated his famous 'A Great Wave' painting in their sketchbooks. They have also learnt how to draw manga.

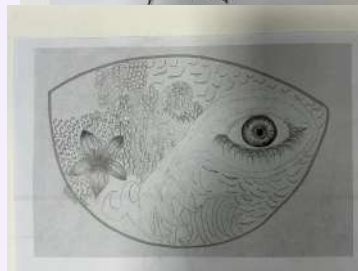
Year 6 have created some beautiful work for their 'fish' project and have created some wonderful mixed media works inspired by Jason Scarpace.



Year 7 have been exploring 'landscapes' this term, and have experimented with chalk pastels, mixed media paintings and micro photography.



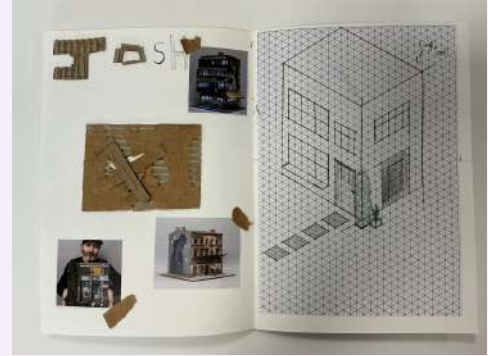
Year 8 have worked so brilliantly building and painting their clay dragon eyes - they look incredible! We will share some photos when they are completed!



Spring Term in the Art Department

A message from Mrs Poxson

Year 9 students have been working in a range of 2D and 3D media throughout their 'Architecture' project. Most recently, they have been designing and building 'miniature' buildings inspired by artist Joshua Smith; some of the attention to detail in these sculptures is amazing!



In Year 10, we started the term with a successful visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to gain inspiration for our 'Identity' projects. The students have been researching artists that they find inspiring, and have been responding to their work using a wide range of media, processes and techniques. The art classrooms have been a hive of creative ideas, and it's wonderful to see such a diverse range of work being explored, including batik, abstract painting.



Year 11 are approaching the end of their exam project, and this year's theme, set by the exam board, is 'Found'. The students will complete their final pieces over two days at the start of next term. I am so proud of the young artists that they have become in the 4 years that I have been teaching them, and can't wait to see all of their work on display at the end of the school year; it will be such a celebration of their talent!

News from our Drama Department

A message from Mrs Jones

It has been a busy old term in Drama! Y7s have created the world of an ancient fictional island that is affected by a severe drought that results in the community going in search of a new island in order to safeguard their survival. Unfortunately, the new island is already inhabited and the islanders have mixed feelings and opinions on what they should do about the new arrivals. This topic has had strong links to Geography, History, Climate Change and Immigration! Students have responded to this topic with imagination and maturity.

Y8 have been studying the story of Ricky Brown, a boy who does something serious at school which has far reaching consequences on his immediate and long term future. This unit of work has enabled students to use empathy as a tool for understanding the motivations of others and they have created some fantastic, thought provoking work, surrounding the potential reasons for Ricky's behaviour.

Y9 have trialled a mock GCSE Component 1 unit where they devise their own work from given stimuli. They were given The Sorrow of the King by Matisse and I'm Not Afraid lyrics by Eminem. From here, they discussed ideas as a starting point, which were then developed over the course of eight lessons in order to achieve some well refined, substantial pieces of performance work. It was interesting to see how groups went from initial ideas about kings mixing with frogs and guitars to complex assassination plots and surreal, magical realms. Hopefully it has given them a taster for what they can expect next year.

Y10 have been working hard on their actual Component 1 exam pieces, using a poem, a song and a picture as their stimuli. Work is still in progress but the pieces are looking good so far and I am very much looking forward to marking the final results of their hard work in May. Y11 have now moved into their revision window before their GCSE exam at the start of May. This follows a very successful set of Component 2 exam pieces performed in March – I was so proud of their hard work and dedication to this process. Fingers crossed they are pleased with their results!

To finish off this busy term, we also held our school production of Do We Ever See Grace? which follows the story of a girl who believes she can fly. Branded as 'crazy', she is placed in an asylum, which she escapes from. The rest of the story follows her plight as a homeless person on the streets of London and society's judgement of that. The cast did an amazing job at bringing this socially conscious piece to life, they have worked so hard and are well deserving of the Easter break!

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Practical Skills and Problem Solving in GCSE DT Timbers

A message from Mr Fleckney

The **Year 10** students have been busy improving their practical skills and problem solving in making their own birdhouse. Each student has spent time researching, designing and making their product. However, with a slight twist... The students were given a pack of material and were responsible to work out the dimensions, joining methods and consider the best way to construct their birdhouse.

There have been some very good birdhouses produced across the cohort, some of the examples can be seen in the pictures.

Away from the practical element the students have been continuing to learn key theory content in preparation for their Mocks later this year.

On the 1st June they non-exam assessment titles will be released from the exam board and I am eagerly anticipating which projects await the Year 10's.

The Year 10 students have shown a fantastic attitude in DT lessons and I look forward to the transition into Year 11.



The **Year 11** students have been busy completing their final prototypes for their non-exam assessment. The students have been working on a wide range of products that relate to keeping children entertained in a restaurant or how to promote socialising in outside spaces. There has been some simply incredible work produced from the Year 11 DT students – I am excited to finally give the impressive finished products their final marks. Some of the products include chessboards, activity cubes, children's table and chairs, train/car sets, birdhouses and park benches.

I have been impressed by the attitude shown by the GCSE students, not only in lesson time, but also during GCSE Interventions and Lunch Time Club with Mr Challis. Also, to have nearly 20 students in during half-term for six hours working on their practical was testament to their willingness to succeed.

The focus now moves onto the design folder deadline on Friday 1st May. Students are now aware of the final pages that require to be completed and this can be accessed through the google classroom pages.

In lesson time after the Easter break we will be busy preparing for the theory exam which will include visiting key content and the all-important practice questions. The theory exam is due to take place on the 10th June.

It has been a genuine pleasure to teach both of the Year 11 GCSE classes over the last 2 years, the attitude to learning has been nothing short of amazing – it is now time to knuckle down with the deadline and revision to ensure that each student achieves the grade they thoroughly deserve.

I am hopeful that I have inspired some of the students to continue in the design and technology field when they leave PBA.

A massive well done on an amazing effort in the last two years – I will miss you all.

Culinary Excellence: Year 11 Food Practical Exams

A message from Ms Kinnear and Mrs Brooker

Our Year 11 Food and Nutrition students have officially turned off their ovens and hung up their aprons after completing their final practical exam. This three-hour marathon was the culmination of nearly two years of hard work, and the results were nothing short of spectacular.

Efficiency Meets Artistry

The kitchen was a hive of focused activity as students worked with impressive precision. It was fantastic to see them fluently demonstrating the complex "high-level" skills they've been honing since Year 10, including:

- **Intricate Knife Work:** Precise julienne and dicing cuts.
- **Complex Reductions:** Creating glossy, depth-filled sauces from scratch.
- **Pastry & Dough:** Handling delicate shortcrust and proving artisan breads.
- **Technical Presentation:** Plating dishes with the flair of professional chefs.

Standout Stars

While every student should be proud of their performance, the department was truly "wowed" by a few standout dishes that looked like they belonged in a fine-dining restaurant. From balanced flavour profiles to experimental textures, the innovation on display was a testament to their dedication.

"The level of calm and professionalism in the room was outstanding. These students didn't just cook; they managed their time and technical skills like seasoned pros." — The Food & Nutrition Team

We would like to congratulate all of Year 11 on their resilience and creativity. We look forward to seeing these final marks contribute to their well-deserved success!



Springing Into English: A Term of Shakespeare, Sleuthing, and Success!

A message from Mr Campbell

As we wrap up the Spring Term, the English Department would like to extend a huge "well done" to all our students. It has been a whirlwind of poetic prose, dramatic tension, and impressive public speaking. We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown across all year groups.

Here are some of the highlights from this term:

Key Stage 3: Drama and Detectives

Year 7: Our youngest students took a bold leap into the world of William Shakespeare. Tackling *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is no small feat, yet they navigated the challenging Elizabethan language with confidence.

Year 8: It has been a term of mystery and logic as Year 8 delved into the archives of Sherlock Holmes. From the scandals of Bohemia to the strange happenings of *The Red Headed League*, students have sharpened their analytical skills to match the great detective himself.

Year 9: Moving from mystery to "star-crossed" tragedy, Year 9 has been exploring the turbulent world of *Romeo and Juliet*. Beyond the page, a handful of students represented the school brilliantly at the **Speak Up Speak Out competition** at Etonbury. Their ability to articulate complex ideas under pressure was nothing short of inspiring.

Key Stage 4: The Road to GCSEs

Year 10: Our Year 10s have made fantastic first steps into their GCSE studies. Their exploration of J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* has been marked by an excellent attitude and thoughtful debate.

Important Reminder for Year 10: After the Easter break, we will be beginning our study of *Macbeth*. If possible, please ensure your child has their own copy of the text to bring to lessons for annotation.

Year 11: The hard work hasn't stopped for a moment in Year 11. Students have been working tirelessly on their revision for the upcoming May and June exams. We've seen great success in our recent Walking Talking Mocks and our whole-year quote revision session. We know the pressure is building, but their resilience is showing!

Easter School: We look forward to seeing as many Year 11s as possible at our upcoming Easter School sessions for that final extra boost.

Thank you to all the parents and guardians for your continued support at home. We hope everyone has a restful and well-deserved Easter break!

Exploring Our World

A message from Miss Pearce

It has been a whirlwind of a term here in the Geography department! From the local landscapes of the UK to the far-reaching corners of Asia, our students have been diving deep into the processes that shape our planet and our societies.

What's Happening in the Classroom?

- **Year 7:** Our newest geographers have truly found their feet. After a fascinating look at the Economy, they are now shifting their gaze to the skies as they begin their new topic on Weather and Climate.
- **Year 8:** It has been a busy term for Year 8, who have been mastering the complexities of Coastal Processes. They have also been sharpening their academic toolkit by learning specific essay-writing techniques. Their next stop? A deep dive into the diverse continent of Asia.
- **Year 9:** Critical thinking has been at the forefront for Year 10. They have been tackling big questions about the future of our planet and the various perspectives on climate change. They are now transitioning into the "Hazardous Earth" unit, beginning with Atmospheric Hazards.
- **Year 10:** Focus is key for our Year 10s as they build their foundational knowledge for Exam Paper 2, covering the breadth of both UK Physical and Human Geography.
- **Year 11:** With exams on the horizon, Year 11 students are working tirelessly to refine their exam techniques across all three papers, ensuring they are prepared for every eventuality.

Staff News & Personal Challenges

We have a special celebration this half-term: **Mrs. Ip recently celebrated her birthday!** On behalf of the whole department, I would like to wish her a very Happy Birthday!

On a personal note, I am thrilled to be back out in the fresh air! After spending some time sidelined with a broken foot, I have finally been able to get back into the countryside. Being back among the hills and fields really makes me appreciate the wonderful geography we have right on our doorstep.

I have two major challenges coming up to test my recovery:

1. A **25-mile hike** from Harpenden to Arlesey.
2. A **108km trek** around the entire perimeter of the Isle of Wight.

A Final Note

I want to say a huge thank you to all our students. Your continued hard work and curiosity this half-term have been brilliant to see. Keep up the fantastic effort!

From Medieval Monarchs to Modern Milestones

A message from Ms Burgin

The Spring term seems to have gone in a blink, with the department (along with the rest of PBA) hurtling towards GCSEs and the Summer term. As we ready students and ourselves for the first GCSE cohort, I do want to take the opportunity to say a massive well done to year 11 History for the hard work and effort they have put in and wish them lots of luck and all the best in all their exams next term!

It has once again been a busy term in the History department, full of new topics, EOTs, trip planning and engagement.

Year 7 have been looking at the power of **Medieval monarchs**, year 8 have been studying the **Transatlantic Slave Trade and Empire** and year 9 have been looking at **20th Century ideas and the Holocaust**.

Our year 10 historians have recently started their **Conflict in Asia** topic, including the wars in Korea and Vietnam, having finally finished the Germany topic! Also, a well-deserved 'you're amazing' to our year 10s, they consistently show so much focus and dedication to every topic.

Year 9 Options was a busy time for the department as we met so many of our lovely year 9s as they discussed the GCSE topics we offer, there have also been some great conversations with students regarding their options choices and we look forward to welcoming our new year 10 cohort in September.

We have been busy planning trips, with year 9 heading the **WW1 Battlefields in July** and **KS4 to Berlin in the next school year**. We are excited with the opportunities that we can offer to students and hope they can help to bring History and the topics we cover alive. We shall also hope to be presenting some student leadership opportunities for students in the form of a subject ambassador.

Finally, as we wish everyone a well-deserved and restful break, a shout out to our **GCSE historians** of the month this term:

Year 10: Emma R, Lucas H-W, Jacob J

Year 11: Andre C, Lacey M, Taylor L

Developing Skills In ICT

A message from Ms Burgin

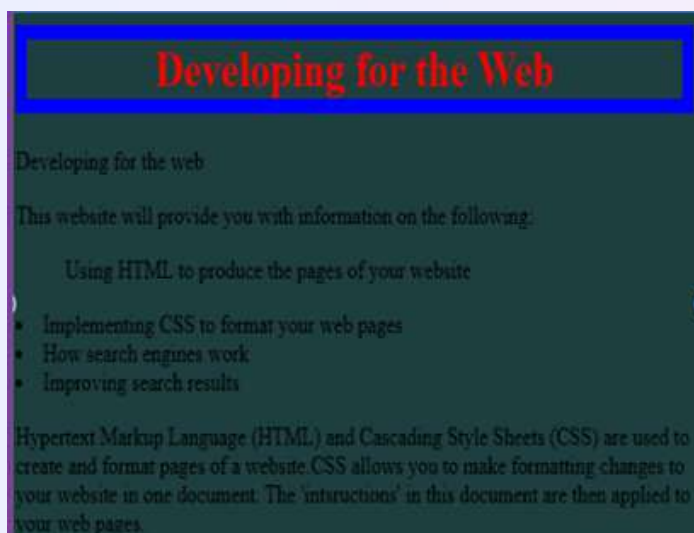
It has been an incredibly busy and productive term in the Computing department! From the foundational logic of spreadsheets to the complexities of network infrastructure and professional digital standards, our students have been developing the skills they need to thrive in an increasingly tech-driven world.

Here is a look at what each year group has been investigating this term:

Year 11: Effective Digital Working Practices Our Year 11 students have been focusing on the "real world" application of IT. They have explored how organisations use technology to communicate and collaborate effectively. This includes understanding shared working spaces, data security protocols, and how to choose the right digital tools for specific professional tasks—essential preparation for both their exams and their future careers.

Year 10: Interface Design Good technology is nothing without a good interface! Year 10 have been acting as User Experience (UX) designers, studying what makes an interface successful. They have explored accessibility, navigation, and design principles to create digital products that are not only functional but intuitive and inclusive for all users.

Years 8 & 9: Networks and Web Development Our Year 8 and 9 students have followed a fascinating journey through the internet! They began the term by looking "under the hood" of the tech we use every day in their Networks unit. We traced the history of communication from physical semaphore signals all the way to the modern internet. Building on that understanding of how data moves, they are now diving into Developing for the Web. Students are currently learning to code using HTML and CSS, transforming plain text into structured, styled websites.



Year 7: Spreadsheets and Digital Media Year 7 have been honing their data literacy skills in Spreadsheets, moving into complex territory by using formulas and functions to perform calculations and creating charts to visualise findings. Additionally, they have completed a creative unit on Creating Media: Digital Messages, where they explored how to design and layout digital content effectively to convey specific messages to an audience.



Year 6: Mastering the Spreadsheet Data literacy is a superpower! Year 6 have focused on the basics of data entry and simple formatting, learning how to organise information clearly and use basic tools to make sense of large amounts of data.



Name	Method of travel	Distance in miles	Duration of journey	Cost of journey
Setos	Car	4.4	0:24:00	£2.58
David	Bus	6.2	0:30:00	£1.48
Yiannis	Bike	2.3	0:15:00	£0.00
Bob	Walking	0.8	0:21:00	£0.00
Amin	Bus	6.2	0:24:00	£1.48
Ammar	Car	5.2	0:39:00	£8.00
Ruby	Car	0.2	0:08:00	£0.00
Candela	Car	6.2	0:07:00	£0.00
Cora	Bike	0.2	0:12:00	£0.00

Year 5: Vector Drawings Our youngest digital learners in Year 5 have been exploring the intersection of art and technology. They have been learning about Vector Drawings, discovering how computers use mathematical paths to create shapes. By layering and manipulating these shapes, they have produced some fantastic, high-quality digital illustrations that don't lose clarity when resized.

It All Adds Up in the Maths Department

A message from Mrs Powell

This term might have been short and chilly, but the Maths Department has been operating at a high temperature! From exam prep to high-stakes competitions, our students have been crunching numbers and tackling logic puzzles with impressive stamina.

Here is a look at what's been happening behind the calculators and what's coming up next.

Competition Season is in Full Swing

Our students have stepped away from the textbooks to prove their skills on the regional and national stage:

- UKMT Intermediate Challenge: Our Year 10 and 11 mathematicians took on this prestigious national challenge. A special shout-out to the four students who performed so well they qualified for the follow-on "Kangaroo Round." We are eagerly awaiting the results after Easter!
- Herts for Learning Team Challenge: Two of our sharpest Year 7 teams represented us in this notoriously difficult event. They showed fantastic teamwork under pressure.
- The BEST Academies Easter Competition: JUST LAUNCHED! This is open to every student in every year group. It's a chance to blend mathematical logic with a bit of creative flair.

How to enter: Check Google Classroom for full details. Let's see what you've got!

The Final GCSE Countdown

The energy in our Year 11 classrooms is palpable. With fewer than 7 weeks until the first GCSE paper, our first-ever cohort is in the "final sprint" phase. We are incredibly proud of the focus they are showing as they drive toward their goals.

Looking Ahead to Next Term

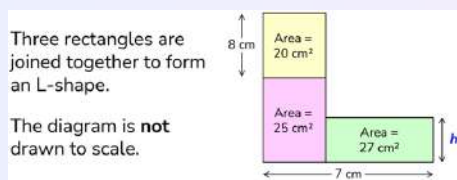
The momentum doesn't stop after the holidays. Next term, we are looking forward to:

- Growing the Team: Welcoming a brand-new member of staff to the Maths Department.
- More Challenges: The Junior UKMT competition and the Year 8 Herts for Learning challenge.
- The Big Push: Final revision sessions and support for our GCSE candidates.

Brain Teasers: Can you solve these?

Don't let your brain go into "hibernation mode" over the break! See how you would have fared in this term's competitions by attempting these three challenge questions:

1. Year 7 HFL Challenge:



Three rectangles are joined together to form an L-shape.

The diagram is **not** drawn to scale.

Work out the length of the line marked h .

3. UKMT Pink Kangaroo:

2. Intermediate UKMT Challenge:

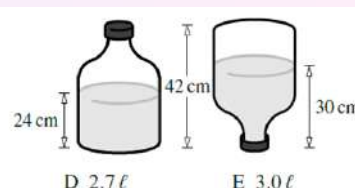
Oliver asked a group of people whether they liked Maths. Exactly 99% answered yes. Teresa asked a different group of people whether they liked Maths and combined her results with Oliver's. Now exactly 98% of the people had answered yes. What is the smallest number of people who could have answered no to Teresa?

- A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5

Michael has a bottle partially filled with water. The figure on the right shows how the height of water in the bottle changes when it is flipped upside down. The bottle's capacity is 4.5 ℓ and the water-filled part in the first diagram is cylindrical.

What is the volume of water in the bottle?

- A 2.1 ℓ B 2.4 ℓ C 2.5 ℓ



See P33 for answers!


Have a wonderful, well-deserved break. Come back ready for a massive final term!

Easter Maths for Year 11

The Year 11s celebrated the last day of term with some Easter-themed maths challenges, fuelled by chocolate eggs and treats. Can you work out the answers to their questions?



Relay Question 16




A Simnel cake is traditionally made and eaten at Easter. It has 11 marzipan balls placed around the top (Do you know why 11?)
How many marzipan balls would be needed for 25 000 cakes?

Answer _____




Relay Question 8



This is a picture of the cross being raised on the Otley Chevin at Easter. It is 36 feet high and the arms measure 20 feet from tip to tip. What is the full length of the 2 sections in inches?


Answer _____

Relay Question 12



These cute baby chicks live in a pentagonal pen with the angles shown. Calculate the value of a .

Relay Question 1



Easter bunnies are a tradition in parts of the UK and often have a wide grin. If the eggs shown dangling are spaced every 10cm and there are 4 eggs what is the diameter of the hot air balloon? (1 disc pi)

Answer _____

Living the Pix Brook Ps in PE!

A message from Mr Nicholl

As we come to the end of a busy and successful spring term, I wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved within Physical Education at our school. There is certainly a great deal to be proud of.

Throughout the term, our students have consistently demonstrated our core values of being **positive, persevering, polite, proud and prepared**. Whether in lessons, fixtures, or competitions, it has been fantastic to see these qualities on display across all year groups.

Within the curriculum, students have engaged in a wide variety of activities including trampolining, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, badminton, outdoor and adventurous activities (OAA), table tennis and tchoukball. It has been particularly pleasing to see the progress made across these schemes of work, with students developing both their skills and their confidence. There have also been occasions where lessons have required adaptation due to weather or other external factors, and it has been encouraging to see so many students respond positively, showing resilience and creativity in overcoming challenges.

Within our extra-curricular programme, we have also introduced reward clubs at lunchtime. These clubs have been designed to celebrate students' success and positive attitudes within lessons, clubs, competitions and fixtures. Staff award selected students with a token, which can then be used to access a reward session. During these sessions, students have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including table tennis, basketball, netball, volleyball, indoor cricket and indoor athletics. This initiative has been a fantastic way to recognise effort, reinforce our school values, and further promote engagement in physical activity.

Beyond lessons, we have enjoyed a packed fixture and competition schedule. We are incredibly proud of the commitment and success shown by our teams:

- **Year 9 and Year 10 boys football** teams have reached the semi-finals of their district competitions
- **Year 7 boys** are preparing for a county cup final against Arnold after Easter
- **Year 7/8 girls** represented the school in the ESFA Cup, a national competition
- **Year 7 and Year 8 rugby teams** both achieved second place in their respective leagues
- **Year 7/8/9 girls** took part in a friendly rugby festival at Chesunt Rugby Club, competing against new opposition
- **Our runners performed exceptionally well** at the Biggleswade AA relays, with Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 boys both achieving third place against a strong field of schools
- **Year 5 and 6 girls football team** have finished 2nd in their league

As always, we continue to challenge our students to perform at the highest level possible while fostering enjoyment and participation.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we are excited to introduce new activities including pickleball, athletics, cricket, rounders, softball, alongside further opportunities in volleyball and ultimate frisbee. A new extra-curricular timetable will also be launched, aligned with both the competition calendar and curriculum, ensuring we continue to offer a broad and inclusive programme.

We are always keen to expand our provision and welcome support from external coaches. If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering, please do get in touch.

The summer term also brings one of the highlights of the school year—Sports Day. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring the whole school community together and celebrate participation, teamwork and school spirit. In addition, we have reward trips, potential 20/20 cricket fixtures, and more exciting opportunities planned.

During the Easter holidays, we are delighted to be launching our first **Sports Tour to Barcelona**. Our Year 9 and 10 students are very much looking forward to experiencing a new culture, exploring the city, and competing against Spanish opposition in football and netball. We hope to make this a regular opportunity for students in future years. A huge thank you to Miss Sidhu for organising such an exciting itinerary.

On that note, I would also like to congratulate Miss Sidhu on successfully completing her teacher training and achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). This is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to her dedication and hard work.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the PE department for their continued commitment and enthusiasm—they consistently go above and beyond to provide the best possible opportunities for our students. Thank you also to our parents and carers for your ongoing support, and to our students, whose energy, determination and willingness to improve continue to drive us forward.

We look forward to another exciting and successful term ahead.

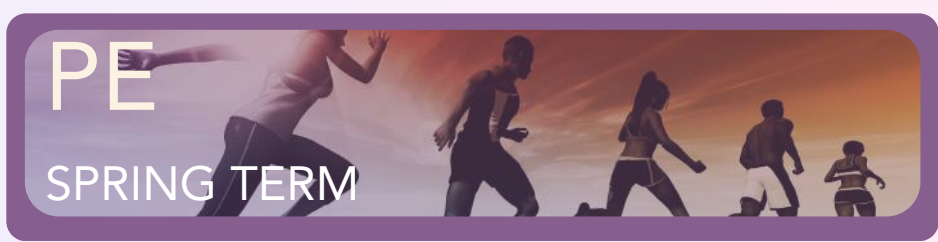
GCSE Moderation

A message from Mr Nicholl

On Friday 17th April, our school will be hosting the GCSE PE moderation day, which is an important part of the GCSE Physical Education assessment process.

During the day, selected students will take part in a range of practical sports activities where they will be observed performing skills, tactics, and decision-making in competitive situations. This forms part of their practical examination. An external moderator will be in school to review and confirm that assessments are accurate and consistent with national standards.

Students involved will receive confirmation via ParentMail. A list of selected students will also be available to view on the screen in the PE department.



Students should come fully prepared with the correct kit for their activities, including any specialist equipment required. They should also ensure they are well-rested and ready to perform at their best.

A schedule for the day is included below to outline timings and activities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the PE department.

Arrival	Reception	08:45am
Football (Girls) Skills Context	Field	09:00 – 10:20 Students come to PE @ 8:30
Break	Brook room Refreshments provided	10:20 – 10:50
Football (Boys) Skills Context	Field	10:50 – 12:10 Students come to PE @ 10:30
Netball Skills Context	Sports hall	12:15 – 13:30 Students come to PE @ 12:00
Lunch Admin / coursework handover	Brook room Refreshments provided	13:30 – 14:00
Table tennis Skills Context	Activities Studio	14:00 – 15:00 Students come to PE @ 13:50

Teachers vs. Celebrities Charity Match

Looking ahead to the summer, we are incredibly proud to announce that two of our very own Pix Brook Academy staff members will be taking to the pitch for a fantastic cause!

Event Details

- What: Teachers vs. Celebrities Charity Football Match
- When: Saturday, 4th July 2026
- Where: Hitchin Town

Cheer on Our Staff! Mr Swzajbak and Mr Nicholl will be lacing up their boots to represent Dan Gaze Services, going head-to-head against a host of celebrities!

Tickets can be purchased for the game, and we would love to see a strong Pix Brook cheering section in the stands. Most importantly, all donations and proceeds from the event will go directly towards supporting the vital local initiatives led by Dan Gaze and his organisation. Come along, enjoy a celeb-studded game, and support a brilliant local cause!

Arlesey Town Match: Mascot Opportunity & Free Tickets!

We are thrilled to share an exciting community sports opportunity for our Pix Brook families this weekend!

Event Details

- What: Arlesey Town FC Football Match
- When: Saturday, 28th March 2026

Year 5 & 6 Mascot Opportunity Football players from our Year 5 and Year 6 school teams have been offered a very special opportunity to represent Pix Brook as official mascots for the game! This is a fantastic chance for our young athletes to step onto the pitch and experience the excitement of match day up close.

Free Tickets for ALL Pix Brook Pupils! In an incredibly generous gesture, Arlesey Town has provided free tickets to every single pupil at Pix Brook! We are hoping for a brilliant turnout from our school community to support the team, cheer on our Year 5 and 6 mascots, and help generate a fantastic atmosphere. Let's get out there and show our Pix Brook pride!

Swimming Championships



In 2026, ESSA are holding their 6th Summer Open Championships. It is open to all school age swimmers from 9 years old, including para swimmers. To register, please visit here: <https://www.essa-schoolswimming.com/events/summer-open>

Girls Cricket Courses

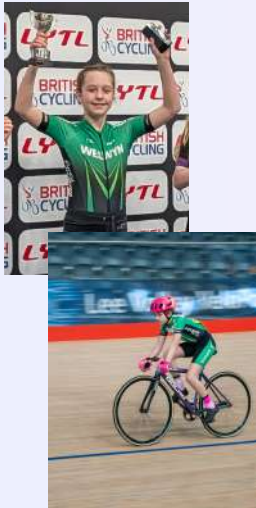


<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket>

A round up of recent achievements and celebrations

Players of the Match for Scarlett and Ivy

Scarlett & Ivy-Lou in Year 5 play on the same netball team outside of school and were awarded Coach's Player and Players' Player of the week. Well done girls!



Cycling To Success

Since October, Elizabeth M, year 6, has been competing in the **London Youth Track League** at the Lee Valley Park Velodrome. Last week, at the season finale, Elizabeth was delighted to finish as the highest scoring girl in her category. What an amazing result!

If any other budding cyclists would like to give track cycling a try, the **first block of Novice Track Sessions** for the year start on April 11th at Gosling Velodrome in Welwyn (Bike hire also included). Find out more and sign up at:

<https://www.welwynwheelers.org.uk/Cms/Spaces/ACTIVITIES/Track+Novice+Sessions>

Life in Technicolor!

Congratulations to Elodie B from Year 7 who recently performed in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat with Ware Musical Theatre, as part of the children's chorus. What a fantastic experience. Well done, Elodie!



Exam Success

Congratulations to Sophie C (year 10) and Freya P (year 8) who took their piano exams recently. Sophie received a Grade 4 Merit and Freya received a Grade 1 Pass. Well done!



Year 9 Vaccinations - BLMK Community Immunisation Service

We are running the following clinics over the Easter school holidays for any teenagers who have not received their MenigitisACWY, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) or Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio (DTP) vaccines. Further information on these vaccines and the childhood immunisation schedule can be found on this link [NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS](#)

All clinics are walk-in between 10am and 2pm

- Monday 30th March – Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, Bedford. MK40 4GP
- Tuesday 31st March – Downside Community Centre, Suffolk Road, Dunstable, LU5 4ES
- Wednesday 1st April – The Dallow Centre, 234 Dallow Road, Luton LU1 1TB
- Thursday 2nd April – Giffard Park Community Centre, Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY
- Tuesday 7th April – Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, Bedford MK40 4GP
- Wednesday 8th April – Giffard Park Community Centre, Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes MK14 5PY
- Thursday 9th April – The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH
- Friday 9th April – Bury Park Community Centre, 161-161B Dunstable Road, Luton, LU1 1BW

Ivel Valley Family Bulletin

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



Online Safeguarding



Mental Health Information



ARFID Webinar for Parents

AUTISM & ARFID
(AVOIDANT RESTRICTIVE FOOD INTAKE DISORDER)
PARENT/CARER WEBINAR
With Ursula Philpot
Clinical Lead (Eating Disorders) NHS England

Join Ursula, Consultant Dietitian and Senior Lecturer, who specialises in eating disorders and disordered eating, with particular expertise in ARFID (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder), including how it can present alongside autism and complex mental health needs.

In this session, Ursula will explore how eating difficulties can affect autistic children and young people, and how parents can best support them.

The session will cover:

- Understanding ARFID and its nutritional impact
- The sensory and psychological factors involved in eating difficulties
- When autistic eating differences may reach the ARFID threshold
- Diagnosis and assessment of ARFID
- Treatment approaches and support strategies
- Nutritional concerns and maintaining health
- Practical tips for supporting your child's food intake

£5 for parents booking in

This session aims to help parents better understand ARFID and feel more confident supporting their child with eating challenges.

When?

- 📅 13th April 2026
- 🕒 6.30-8.30pm
- 📍 Microsoft Teams

To book your place: Click below or scan the QR code to book!

<https://tinyurl.com/3xb6e8w4>



Diary & Term Dates

Useful to know!

2026

March

Friday 27th

Friday 27th

Friday 27th

Culture and Belonging Day

Year 5 & 6 Easter Hunt

End of Term

NB: No PBA Extra. School closes early.

April

Monday 13th

Tuesday 14th

Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd

Thursday 23rd

Whole School Inset Day

Whole School Term Begins

Year 5 Progress Evening

Year 10 Progress Evening

May

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th

Friday 15th

Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd

Friday 23rd

Year 6 SATs

Whole School Non-Uniform Day

Year 8 PGL

Whole School End of Half Term

June

Monday 1st

Friday 26th

Whole School Term begins

Whole School Where's Wally Day

July

Friday 17th

Whole School End of Term

Maths Challenge (see P27)
Answers
6
B - 2
E - 3

Useful to know!

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: 1st September 2025, 2nd September 2025, 5th January 2026 and 13th 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.