

Newsletter



9th January 2026 Issue 14



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026 and to the end of our first week. We have braved the sub-zero temperatures but disappointingly (or not?) haven't had to face the snow. Thankfully, the building is nice and warm, so we haven't felt the impact too much.

It was lovely to start the new term talking to students and parents/carers of year 11 last night. With exams looming ever closer, this was an opportunity to discuss how to make the most of the remaining weeks to ensure success. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. If you couldn't, please be sure to contact teaching staff, they will be happy to give you an update.

There are plenty of opportunities for young people to get involved with this term. Check out the clubs and activities on pages 6 and 7 to see what may be of interest. The lighter evenings are on their way, so let's encourage participation and even trying out something new.

We have sent you all an invite to our Chit, Chat, Coffee and Cake and have had a great response so far. Don't let a new year's resolution get in the way of coming along! If you would like to join us, [Click here](#).

Keep warm and dry, until next week.

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

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[Clubs and Activities](#)
[School Calendar](#)
[ParentPay](#)



www.passmoresacademy.com

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th January 2026

Souter, Jaimie	Year 7	56
Horey, Luke	Year 7	42
Kozikowska, Ola	Year 7	41
Richards, Sophia	Year 7	40
Tutka, Alicia	Year 7	38
Craig, Calum	Year 7	36
Futers, Aoife	Year 7	36
Aken, Harry	Year 7	34
Pugh, Kadie	Year 7	34
Donovan, Jamie	Year 7	33
Sidorencu, Emma	Year 7	33

Knox, Blake	Year 8	32
Root, Riley	Year 8	31
Lefevre-Cobby, Kai	Year 8	27
Reynolds, Adam	Year 8	26
Jezzard, Imani-Saoirse	Year 8	25
Krajicek, Grace	Year 8	24
Neal, Trai	Year 8	24
Bailey, Lucas	Year 8	23
Jakielska, Lena	Year 8	23
Spiewak, Filip	Year 8	23

Kuszyk, Patrycja	Year 9	43
Wejman, Adrian	Year 9	43
Postelnicu, David	Year 9	36
Goswami, Shubh	Year 9	34
Mati, Alvin	Year 9	34
Wright, Megan	Year 9	34
Bartram, Mason	Year 9	31
Forde, Lawrence	Year 9	31
Hanks, Liara	Year 9	31
Hards, Isabella	Year 9	31
Paxton, Bobby	Year 9	31
Ricketts, Rachel	Year 9	31
Roberts, Olly	Year 9	31
Yusuf, Zahra	Year 9	31

Rees, Mason	Year 10	33
Babb, James	Year 10	31
Butler, Patrick	Year 10	29
Arber, Matthew	Year 10	28
Zuna, Hayden	Year 10	28
Dixon, Naavah	Year 10	23
Norris, Noah	Year 10	23
Jocas, Kajus	Year 10	21
Norton, Mary	Year 10	21
Miller, Kieran	Year 10	20
Owen, Esme	Year 10	20

Hymas, Harvey	Year 11	25
Kamara, Abdul	Year 11	22
Cracknell, Lily	Year 11	21
Dinnell, Louis	Year 11	21
Man, Charlotte	Year 11	21
Chindris, Stefan	Year 11	18
Dorrington, Ava	Year 11	18
Wheatley, Joshua	Year 11	18
Yordanov, Teodosi	Year 11	18
Dack, Benjamin	Year 11	17

Year Group Attendance w/c 5 th January 2026	
Year 7	92.99%
Year 8	90.38%
Year 9	89.51%
Year 10	86.75%
Year 11	89.61%
All Students	89.85%

Thought for the Week – New Year, New Term, A Fresh Start

This week, *Thought for the Week* was framed around the theme of “New year, new term, and a fresh start for everyone.”

The start of a new year and a new term offers the perfect opportunity to pause, reflect, and set ourselves up for positive change. Students were encouraged to think carefully about how they want to approach the term ahead and the choices they can make to support their success.

Students reflected on key questions, including:

- What will you do this term to make the most of your fresh start?
- What habits from last term will you leave behind in 2025?
- What positive habits will you develop in 2026 to help you succeed?



Students were reminded that they begin this term with a blank page and the power to write their own story. By setting high expectations for themselves and committing to improvement, everyone has the opportunity to be more successful than last term.

In the News – New Year’s Resolutions and Goals

In *The News*, students explored New Year’s resolutions and how to set meaningful goals for 2026.

They discussed how the New Year can feel like a “blank slate,” making it a natural time to reflect on what we want to achieve and how we want to spend our time. At the same time, students considered the pressure that resolutions can create, particularly when goals are unrealistic or too vague.



Key messages included:

- Goals should extend beyond school and include wellbeing, personal development, and relationships.
- Breaking goals down into smaller, achievable steps makes success more likely.
- Daily habits matter—what we do consistently over time adds up and leads to real change.

Students were encouraged to focus on progress rather than perfection and to set goals that are supportive, realistic, and motivating.

Other News

It was wonderful to welcome Year 11 parents and carers to our online information evening this week. This provided a valuable opportunity, ahead of mock examinations, to discuss progress, expectations, and areas for improvement, ensuring students feel well supported as they prepare for this important stage.

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

Next week, *Thought for the Week* will build on the theme of “New year, new term, and a fresh start for everyone” by exploring ambitions and goal-setting in more detail, helping students think about both short- and long-term aspirations.

In *The News*, students will take part in a session titled “Where is the good news?”, encouraging them to reflect on positivity, perspective, and balance when engaging with current events.

A strong and thoughtful start to the term—let’s continue this positive momentum into the weeks ahead



Chit, Chat & Coffee

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to invite you to join us for a cup of tea or coffee, cake and a chat with Natalie Christie and other members of staff from the Leadership, Pastoral and SEND teams.

As well as giving you an opportunity to share your current news, we will be discussing uniform and next steps following the Trust survey.

Please let us know by Friday 16th January if you are able to attend either 9.30am-10.30am, 1.30pm-2.30pm or 5pm-6pm.

So that we know how many people to cater for, please

[CLICK HERE](#)



05/01/26
Weekly Winners

Damian Gligor
Indie Bartram
Amelia Godfrey
Scott Maynard-Eve
Harrison Mehmet
Mia Wilson
Lucas Harding
Sully Warren
Lilly Hogg

SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES

Extra-Curricular Clubs January – March 2026					
Dept.	Club	Day	Time	Room	Staff
Art	KS4 Art & Design GCSE Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:15	L104 / L105	GHA / VFX
Drama	Excellence Club Years 9, 10 & 11	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
Drama	Year 7 & 8 Drama Club	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
English	Year 11 Homework Support	Tuesday (Week A)	1:45 – 2:15	English Corridor	LKG
English	Book Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	English Corridor	English Dept.
English	Creative Writing Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	U107	EBG / EPE
English	KS4 Drop-In Support	Friday (Week B)	3:20 – 4:20	U103	LKG
French	French Homework Club	Wednesday	3:15 – 4:00	Y101	CFY
Geography	Geography Film Club	Thursday	3:20 – 4:15	U004	VNS
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 1	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 2	Monday	4:30 – 5:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	African Drumming	Wednesday	3:20 – 3:50	L10	DBR
Music	Glee Vocal Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	PTG
Music	Soul Band	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	DBR
Music	Piano Club & Music Technology	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L110	DBR
Science	Gardening Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:15	L006 / Science Garden	SWT
Study Club	Study Club	Tuesday - Friday	3:15 – 4:15	G102 / G105	Various
Youth Club	Youth Club	Tuesday	3:30 – 5:00	Heart Space	AOS

**Extra-Curricular Clubs
January – March 2026**

Dept.	Club	Day	Time	Room	Staff
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	MGD
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	GCI
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JWD
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	OWY
PE	Indoor Athletics	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	OWY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	KGD
PE	Badminton	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Dance	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Dance Studio	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	JWB
PE	Girls Basketball	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	GCI

Maths Homework Club

Join us for any help,
questions or a quiet
space to get your maths
homework done!

Tuesdays

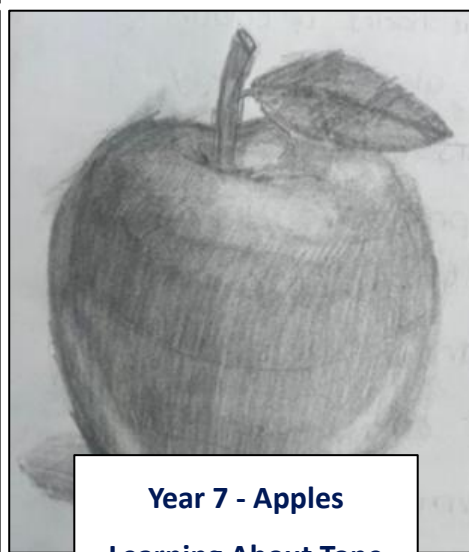
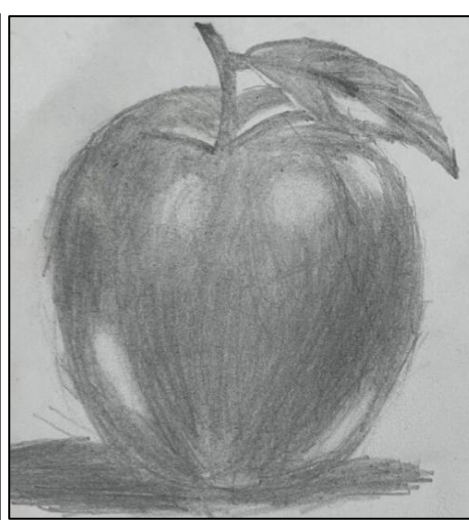


3:15-4 pm

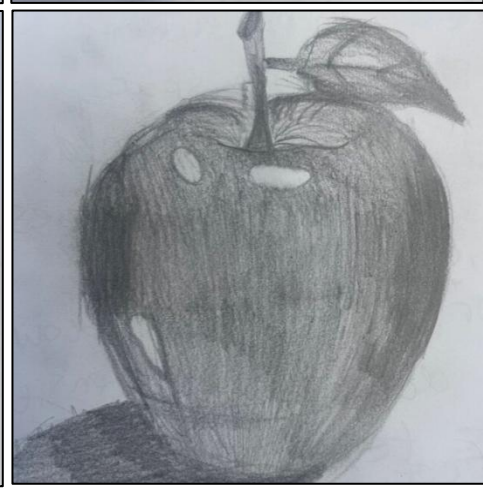
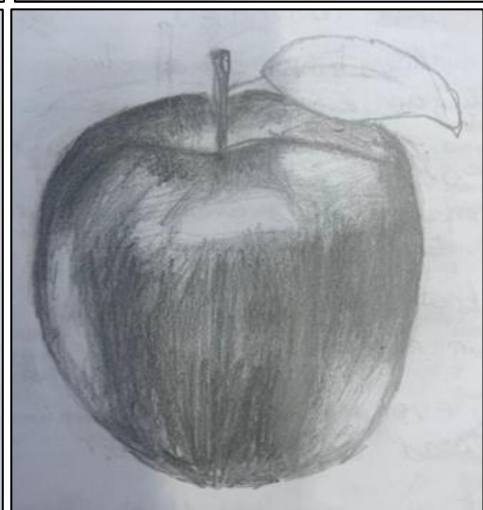
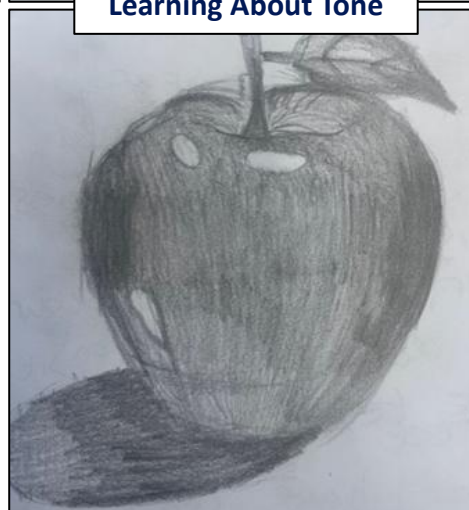
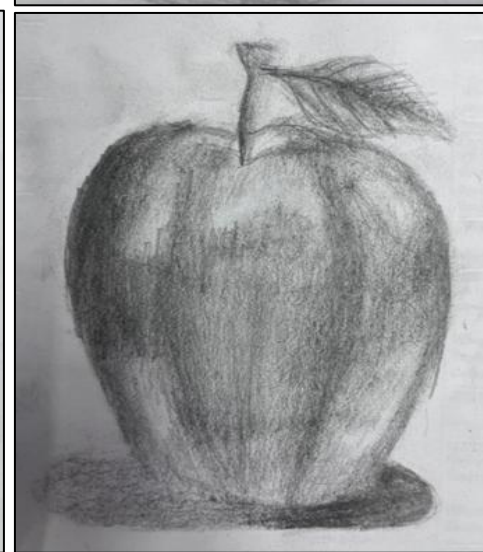


Y005





Year 7 - Apples
Learning About Tone



CAREERS NEWS

Year 11s

Harlow College will be coming into Passmores on Wednesday 21st January to interview students who have applied to study at the college in September.

Students will have already been informed of their interview time via email. Some courses require students to attend the college for their meetings, so do not worry if they are not on the list for the 21st.

Students should attend in their school uniform. Parents are welcome to attend and will just need to sign in to reception on the day and ask their young person to collect them.

Stansted Airport College Open Evening – Thursday 22nd January, 5pm - 8pm

Witness the sights and sounds of a new campus located in the hustle and bustle of a busy Airport whilst meeting tutors and trainees.

Tickets for STAC event are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e->



Hertford Regional College open event on Tuesday 3rd February 5.30pm - 8pm

[Open Event - Hertford Regional College](#)



Harlow College Open Evening - Tuesday 10th February, 5pm - 8pm

Showcasing their Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, SEND and Adult & Part-time courses.



Tickets for Harlow College event are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-dlodxv>

Are you interested in the Army?

Free online webinar to discover the exciting opportunities offered by **British Army apprenticeships**.

Tuesday, 3rd February 2026

16:00 – 17:00

Online Event

Why attend?

- Explore a wide range of roles: engineering, logistics, healthcare, IT, and more
- Learn how students can **earn while they learn**
- Hear first-hand from soldiers and apprentices about training, career journeys, and day-to-day Army life



[Register Here](#)

Any year 11's looking for an apprenticeship... The Apprenticeship Hub are running this free online session to prepare them.

Online event, 14th January 2026 6:15pm – 7:00pm

The Apprenticeship Hub Live: Interview Preparation and Developing Resilience.

This session is designed to help Year 10 - 13 students:

- ☐ Understand what employers are really looking for
- ☐ Build strong, authentic answers to common interview questions
- ☐ Showcase skills, strengths, and personality with clarity
- ☐ Learn techniques to stay calm and confident
- ☐ How to build resilience



It's ideal for students applying this year or simply exploring future options.

Register here: <https://pathwayctm.com/event/apprenticeship-hub-live-interview-preparation/>

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

School Address

Passmores Academy, Tracys Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JH

Main Telephone

01279 770800

passmores@passmoresacademy.com

Student Absence

01279 770877

attendance@passmoresacademy.com

Change of Contact Details

h.day@passmoresacademy.com

Student Services

pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com

First Aid

pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com

Extra-Curricular Clubs

h.day@passmoresacademy.com

Account / Trips

s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com

Homework

datateam@passmoresacademy.com

Free School Meals

pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com

For a full list of staff contact details, click [here](#)

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?
Contact Gareth Walsh on g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 6 th January – Friday 13 th February	Spring Term 1
Thursday 8 th January	Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening
Friday 30th January	INSET Day (5)
Thursday 5 th February	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	Half-Term
Friday 13 th March	Friends of Passmores Event <i>Passmores Got Talent</i>
Monday 23 rd February – Friday 27 th March	Spring Term 2
Friday 27th March	Early Finish for Students 12:30pm
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April – Friday 22 nd May	Summer Term 1
Thursday 16 th April	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 14 th May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorials
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	Half-Term
Monday 1 st June – Friday 17 th July	Summer Term 2
Friday 17th July	End of Term Early Finish for Students

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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