

Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2026 Issue 01

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

What a brilliant start to the new academic year! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back this week, and a particularly warm welcome to all of our new Year 7 parents and carers as you officially become part of the Passmores family.

The school has certainly come back to life! After the quiet of the summer holidays, the noise, energy and laughter of our young people have been very welcome indeed. It has been lovely to see so many students looking smart, settled and ready for the year ahead. They have made a really positive start, and we are very proud of them.

One of the biggest changes this year has been our new school day structure, and it has been fantastic to see how quickly students and staff have adapted to the changes. The introduction of a whole-school break has been particularly positive. It has created a real buzz around the school, with a wide range of clubs, activities and opportunities that will be available for students to get involved in.

Our PCT (Personal Curriculum Time) is also now positioned later in the day, either before or after lunch. This has been a really useful change for tutors, giving them a valuable opportunity to check in with their tutees, share important information and have those conversations that are sometimes difficult to fit in first thing in the morning when everyone is still waking up!

Our partnership with parents and carers is hugely important to us, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks at our Parent/Carer Information Evenings (PIEs). Letters have already been sent for the Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 evenings taking place next week, with information for Years 8 and 9 following shortly. These evenings are a great opportunity to find out more about the year ahead, meet key members of staff and ensure that we are all working together to support our young people.

We are also looking ahead to one of the biggest events in our calendar — our Open Evening on Thursday 17th September.

This is always such a special evening at Passmores, and while there is lots of work that goes on behind the scenes to make it happen, it is our young people who really bring the evening to life. Our students are the best ambassadors for our school, and we love seeing them proudly showing visitors around, talking about their experiences and sharing what makes Passmores so special. Letters will be going out next week inviting students to volunteer, so please do encourage your young person to get involved. We would love to have as many of our students as possible helping us to showcase our school.

And finally, we have finished the first week on a high, although the British weather certainly tried its best to test us this morning! A heavy downpour just as students were arriving — on school photograph day of all days — was perhaps not quite the start to the day we had hoped for!

Nevertheless, it has been a fantastic first week and we couldn't have asked for a better start. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us to get the new academic year off to such a positive beginning.

We are already looking forward to next week and all that it will bring!



Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy



www.passmoresacademy.com

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

What an incredible start to the year for Passmores Points! This week alone, our students have collectively earned a staggering **15,429** Passmores Achievement Points — what a fantastic accomplishment!

From next week, we'll be sharing our Top 10 Passmores Points achievers from each year group, so there is plenty of opportunity for some friendly competition as students see who can make the newsletter each week.

As a reminder, every week parents and carers receive an update showing your child's Passmores Points, behaviour points, late-to-lesson marks and attendance for that week. We hope this gives you a useful snapshot of how your child is getting on and provides an opportunity to celebrate the positives together.

It's brilliant to see so many students making such a positive start. Let's keep the momentum going!

Who will be topping the leaderboards next week? Watch this space...

Year Group Attendance w/c 2 nd September 2026	
Year 7	95.94%
Year 8	93.14%
Year 9	92.15%
Year 10	90.82%
Year 11	88.32%
All Students	92.74%

A Positive Start to the New School Year

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to Passmores this week and to see the school once again full of energy, enthusiasm and the familiar buzz of a new academic year.

The start of a school year is an important opportunity to set the tone for everything that follows. This week, our Pastoral Curriculum Time sessions, Thought for the Week and *In the News* have all focused on one simple but important theme: welcoming each other back and starting the year positively.

For many of our students, this has also meant getting to know a new tutor group. We know that taking the time to get to know the people around us is an important part of feeling comfortable and confident in school. A tutor group should become a student's 'home base' – a place where they feel that they belong, know the people around them and have adults and peers they can turn to for support.

Building these relationships early in the year helps students to feel safe and settled, particularly when they are adapting to a new year group, new tutor or new environment. It also provides opportunities for friendships to develop and for students to discover shared interests, strengths and experiences.

Getting to know one another also helps us to build a culture of respect, empathy and inclusion. Understanding a little more about the people around us can help us to appreciate differences, avoid misunderstandings and recognise the strengths that each individual brings to our school community.

Alongside this focus on relationships and belonging, all year groups have attended assemblies this week. These have provided an opportunity to reiterate our school values, expectations and key policies, as well as highlighting some of the important changes and developments for the year ahead.

Most importantly, the assemblies have helped us to establish the tone we want for the year: high expectations, positive relationships, respect for others and a shared commitment to making Passmores a place where everyone can thrive.

A strong start matters. The routines, relationships and attitudes we establish in these first few days will provide the foundations for the months ahead. We are therefore encouraging every student to make the most of this opportunity – to get to know the people around them, to be welcoming, to show respect and to take pride in being part of our school community.

Welcome back, Passmores. Here's to a positive and successful year ahead!

Staff Spotlight...

On Sunday 25th April 2027, Miss Riley (PE Teacher) will be taking part in this years London Marathon, proudly running for the Down Syndrome Association; a charity very close to her heart.

When I line up at the start of the London Marathon 2027, I won't just be running 26.2 miles - I'll be running for my incredible little girl, Elsie.

Elsie is almost four years old and has Down Syndrome. During my pregnancy, we were told she had a high chance of having Down Syndrome. We decided not to have any further invasive testing because, to us, it didn't matter. She was our baby, and we were going to love her unconditionally.

The Down's Syndrome Association has been a wonderful source of support, information and advocacy for families like ours. They work tirelessly to help people with Down Syndrome have every opportunity to thrive, be included and live fulfilling lives.

That is why I'm taking on the challenge of running the London Marathon 2027.

Every mile I run will be for Elsie - for everything she has already overcome, for the challenges she may still face, and for every other child and family walking a similar path.

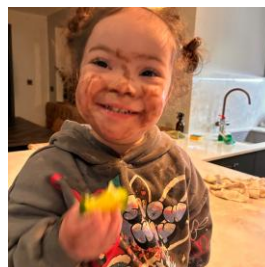
If you're able to donate, no matter how big or small, you will be helping the Down's Syndrome Association continue their incredible work supporting people with Down Syndrome and their families.

Thank you for supporting me, supporting Elsie, and helping to make a difference. Every donation, every share and every word of encouragement means more than you know.

To read Abbie's story in full, or to make a contribution to her fundraising, please click the link below:

[Fundraiser by Abbie Riley : Every Mile for My Little Girl and the Down's Syndrome Association](#)

Thank you,





SCHOOL TOURS

Thinking about joining us in Year 7?

Year 6 Tours run every Thursday at 9:00am &
10:00am this September & October 2026!

Call Miss Stearn or email

k.stearn@passmoresacademy.com
to book your place.

We can't wait to meet you!





ATTENDANCE DROP IN

WHERE? Y103 ATTENDANCE OFFICE (OPPOSITE L101)

WHEN? EVERY WEDNESDAY BREAK TIME

WHO WITH? MRS LAWSON, MRS EKE & MRS SAVIDGE

**COME AND JOIN US TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR
ATTENDANCE AND WHAT IT MEANS.**

**ARE YOU WONDERING HOW CLOSE YOU MIGHT BE FOR A
REWARD TRIP?**

DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL GOAL?

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES AROUND ATTENDANCE?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



Year 11 – Important Dates...

The following assemblies have been arranged for you; all students will attend the Harlow & Writtle College presentations, but the sixth forms will be your choice.

The assemblies will be from 1.15pm - 1.45pm in the main hall.

- Wednesday 16th September, St Marks 6th form
- Thursday 17th September, Epping St. John's 6th form
- Wednesday 23rd September, Harlow College
- Thursday 24th September, Hertford Regional College
- Wednesday 30th September, CRE8
- Thursday 1st October, Sir Frederick Gibberd 6th form
- Wednesday 7th October, Writtle College
- Thursday 8th October, Stansted Airport College
- Wednesday 21st October, Leventhorpe 6th Form

Our Careers Fair is being held on Thursday 8th October, 4.30pm - 7:00pm at Stewards Academy. We really would like to see as many of our students there possible. (See poster attached on the next page).

Julie Kay
Careers Advisor

Year 11 College & Sixth Form Open Dates...

Capel Manor College, Weds 16th September, 5.30pm-7.00pm

Hertford Regional College, Thurs 24th September, 5.30pm-8.00pm

Fashion Retail Academy, Sat 26th September

Sir Frederick Gibberd Sixth Form, Weds 7th October, 5.00pm-8.00pm

Stansted Airport College, Sat 10th October, 10am-2.00pm

Writtle College, Sat 10th October, 10.00am

Harlow College, Thurs 15th October, 5.00pm-8.00pm

Braintree College, Mon 19th October, 5.00pm-7.00pm

Cambridge Regional College, Weds 21st October, 4.30pm-7.00pm

Leventhorpe Sixth Form, Tues 3rd November

Epping St Johns Sixth Form, Weds 4th November

The Bishops Stortford High School, Thurs 5th November, 5.45pm-8.30pm

Presdales Sixth Form, Thurs 12th November, 6.00pm-8.00pm



**Oct
8th**

Stewards and Passmores

Careers Fair

When: 4:30pm-7:00pm

Who: Year 10 & 11

Where:

**Stewards Academy
Parnall Road,
Harlow, CM18 7NQ**



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 9 th September	Year 7 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Thursday 10 th September	Year 10 & 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Thursday 17 th September	Open Evening 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Friday 18 th September	Late Start for All Students 9:55am
Thursday 24 th September	Year 8 & 9 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Thursday 22 nd October	INSET Day
Friday 23 rd October to Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	School Opens for Autumn Term 2

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

School Address

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

Main Telephone

01279 770800

passmores@passmoresacademy.com

Student Absence

Report via the  Arbor app

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](#)

Reporting An Absence

If you need to report your child absent from school, please ensure you are following the correct procedure on Arbor.



If notifying us via the app:

- Click on the 3 lines (at the bottom left of the dashboard).
- Log Absence (green bar at the top)
- Complete the information and click 'Log Absence'

If notifying us from a web browser:

- Click on the 'Quick Actions' button
- Click 'Attendance'



Raising money to enhance your young person's education

OUR EVENTS

CHRISTMAS AND SUMMER FETES

Our Christmas Market Night brings in an array of outside stall holders selling lots of gifts and Christmas treats.

PASSMORES' GOT TALENT

We have now held two Talent shows. We doubled the amount of acts this year and introduced staff judges. The students involved can not wait to enter again in 2027

CAKE SALES/BINGO/QUIZ

These events get the brain working and the belly full! Packed with fun and laughter, there's something for everyone.

REFRESHMENTS AT SCHOOL EVENTS

During the year we support different events at the school to sell refreshments. These include: Parents/Carers and Information evenings, music and drama concerts and discos.

ABOUT US

Friends of Passmores is made up of staff and parents/carers of Passmores Academy, we work together to raise money to put back into the school, purchasing products to enhance the education of our students.

We try to hold an event each half term, from fetes, to cake sales, and talent shows.



WHY CHOOSE US?

• Parents/Carers and Staff



A great chance to work with your wider school community and to make a difference in your school.

• A small time commitment – a big impact



You can choose how much time you put into the team, but any time spent will make a big impact to your young persons education.

• Educational Opportunities



The money raised helps your child to enhance their education with new equipment or knowledge.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact us for more information or to join our team.

Email:



fop@passmoresacademy.com

Facebook: passmoresseasonalevents

Instagram: passmores_community



Friends of PASSMORES



AGM

*Have your say. Support our school.
Make a difference together. ♥*



DATE

1st October
2026



TIME

6pm



MEETING HELD IN

The Heart
Space



TOGETHER,
we can do great things!



FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

CHRISTMAS MARKET

4TH
DECEMBER
2026
6PM - 8PM

THE GRINCH IS
BACK



£1 ADULT

50P U16 & OVER 60

FREE UNDER 5



FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

CHRISTMAS MARKET

4TH
DECEMBER
2026
6PM - 8PM

We are looking for stallholders.

Please email

fop@passmoresacademy.com

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.

2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.

3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.

4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.

5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.

WELCOME BACK!

6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.

7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.

8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.

9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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Fire Cadets

Essex Fire Cadet applications are now open for the 2026-2027 programme!

Our Fire Cadet programme is a nationally recognised three-year programme delivered at seven fire stations across Essex. The programme is for young people aged 13 - 17.

We currently have Fire Cadet Units at Clacton, Dovercourt, Great Baddow, Harlow, Orsett, Southend* and Halstead.

*Cadets applying for Southend - please note that the unit has been temporarily relocated to Rayleigh Weir fire station.

Applications will close on 15 September 2026



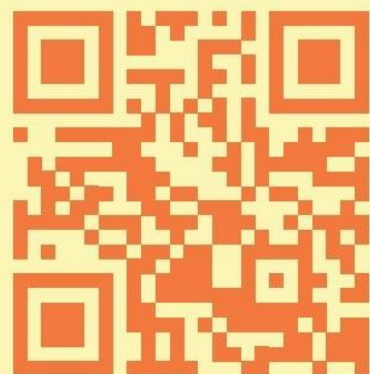
junior parkrun - where everyone is



welcome

junior parkrun is a free, fun, friendly, weekly, community event organised by volunteers of all ages for children aged 4 to 14.

2k junior parkrun events take place on Sunday mornings and are for the whole community to come together to walk, jog, run and volunteer. Join in on the fun at junior parkrun!



junior parkrun