

Newsletter



23rd January 2026 Issue 16



Dear Parent/Carers,

This week has been a busy and positive one, highlighted by the Year 11 college interviews, which we have received great feedback on. Students approached the process with maturity and enthusiasm, and we are so proud of the way they represented themselves and our school.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to join us this week at our Chit, Chat & Coffee sessions where we enjoyed open discussions around topics including views on school uniform, and how best to support our Year 11s in the lead-up to exams. Your input and engagement are greatly valued; these sessions really highlight the importance of working in partnership with our families and we look forward to hosting more opportunities for collaboration in the next term.

Tickets are now available to purchase on Arbor for our much anticipated Year 10 & 11 Passchella Festival, the buzz around the school is tangible... and that's just the staff!

And finally, just a reminder that next week is a four-day week for students, as the school will be closed on Friday 30th January for an INSET day.

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

2

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

3

PASTORAL UPDATE

6

SUBJECT INFORMATION/UPDATES

13

SPORT/PE UPDATES

14

CAREERS NEWS

15

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

17

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

USEFUL LINKS

[Parents/Carers Letters](#)
[Clubs and Activities](#)
[School Calendar](#)
[ParentPay](#)



www.passmoresacademy.com

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Friday 16th to Thursday 22nd January 2026

Taylor, Freddie	Year 7	77
Connor Fry, Amira-Shai	Year 7	73
Marsh, Sadie	Year 7	69
Craig, Calum	Year 7	68
Luca, Daria	Year 7	66
Donovan, Jamie	Year 7	64
Richards, Sophia	Year 7	64
Mustafa, Maya	Year 7	63
Souter, Jaimie	Year 7	62
Akers, Lexi	Year 7	61
Newberry, Gracie	Year 7	61
Olasunkanmi, Fareedah	Year 7	61
Rees, Talulah	Year 7	61
Tohill, Nyla	Year 7	61

Morgan, Tori	Year 8	53
Jablonski, Lucas	Year 8	52
Kwofie, Farrell	Year 8	51
Mahon, Olly	Year 8	50
Boughlalah, Adam	Year 8	49
Long, Immy	Year 8	48
Rouse, Elijah	Year 8	48
Shraka, Mia	Year 8	48
Karout, Nour	Year 8	47
Moore, Heidi	Year 8	45
Unwin, Reece	Year 8	45

Hanks, Liara	Year 9	99
Wright, Megan	Year 9	90
Ricketts, Rachel	Year 9	85
Greenhalgh, Ella	Year 9	81
Paxton, Bobby	Year 9	80
Lloyd, Samuel	Year 9	79
Forde, Lawrence	Year 9	78
Crutchlow, Sam	Year 9	76
Man, Rosie	Year 9	76
McGill, Harry	Year 9	76
Wing, Lacey-Mae	Year 9	76

Benge, Maddie	Year 10	66
Norburn, Amber	Year 10	56
Perez-Dusza, Cherry	Year 10	54
Frimpong, Abena	Year 10	52
Windeler, Emylei	Year 10	50
Jocas, Kajus	Year 10	47
French, Harrison	Year 10	44
Potgieter, Demar	Year 10	43
Denkewicz, Jan	Year 10	42
Essafri, Nora	Year 10	42

Kamara, Abdul	Year 11	54
Clemente, Brian	Year 11	44
Dinnell, Louis	Year 11	43
Zalinski, Adrian	Year 11	43
Martin, Lewis	Year 11	40
Vobe, Daisy	Year 11	40
Vobe, Evie	Year 11	40
Chindris, Stefan	Year 11	39
Applegate, Ronnie	Year 11	38
Burns, Jayden	Year 11	38
Cracknell, Lily	Year 11	38
Edwards, Melissa	Year 11	38
Guiver, Laney	Year 11	38
Guiver, Lilly	Year 11	38
Thornton, Lily-Mai	Year 11	38

Year Group Attendance w/c 19 th January 2026	
Year 7	92.06%
Year 8	87.94%
Year 9	85.97%
Year 10	85.33%
Year 11	85.9%
All Students	87.45%

Thought for the Week – Mind Matters & Time to Talk (Session 4)

This week, *Thought for the Week* reviewed Sessions 1-4 of our 'Mind Matters' and 'Time to Talk' programme, an initiative designed to help students better understand themselves and make more informed choices. The programme aims to empower students with knowledge that supports both their wellbeing and personal development.



The session this week reviewed brain development, zones of regulation, and the Window of Tolerance. Students explored a simple but powerful framework for understanding emotions, behaviour, and self-regulation. This shared language also supports positive staff–student communication and aligns with our trauma-informed, relational approach to behaviour and wellbeing.

In the News – World Religion Day



This week's *In the News* marked World Religion Day, encouraging students to explore and appreciate the diversity of beliefs and worldviews within our school community and beyond.

Students learned how understanding different faiths:

- Promotes respect, tolerance, and empathy
- Reduces prejudice, stereotyping, and faith-based bullying
- Strengthens community cohesion
- Supports British Values such as mutual respect, tolerance, and individual liberty

The session enhanced students' cultural literacy and encouraged thoughtful discussion about identity, belief, and ethical values. Students were also given space to share their own experiences and traditions, reinforcing inclusion so that pupils of all faiths—and none—feel recognised and valued.

Other News



This week, Year 11 students spent time preparing for their upcoming Harlow College interviews. They focused on developing key skills such as confidence, communication, self-reflection, professionalism, and goal setting. Learning how to prepare effectively for interviews supports students' employability, emotional intelligence, and readiness for the next stage of their education and future careers.

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

Next week, *Thought for the Week* will continue with Session 5 of the 'Mind Matters' and 'Time to Talk' programme, further strengthening students' emotional literacy and self-awareness.

In *The News*, students will mark Holocaust Memorial Day, reflecting on the importance of remembrance, empathy, and standing against prejudice and discrimination.



Week Commencing 19/01/26
Weekly Winners

Isobella Stewart
Jazmyn Taylor
Heath White
Elsiemay Cooper
Zain Abbas
Riley Mulligan
Ryan Hall
Stan Smith
Goodluck Okeke
Leja Sestavickaite

CALLING ALL YEAR 10 & 11 STUDENTS!

PASSCHELLA

MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES

Thursday 5th March | 6PM - 8:30PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY

Jerk Chicken
Shack

Burger Shack

Braiding
Station

★ Face Gems &
Hair Glitter

MAIN STAGE

DJ BELL

FROM 6PM

YOU CHOOSE THE SONGS!

Mocktails



Photobooths

Festival Games!

BUY YOUR TICKETS/FOOD ON ARBOR NOW

Spanish and Art trip to Barcelona – 6th - 8th March 2026

¡Hola!

We hope you are all as excited as we are to be going to Barcelona next year!

If your young person is going on this trip, could you please forward a copy of their passport details to the following addresses:

a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com

g.harris@passmoresacademy.com

Also, if you haven't done so already, please apply for free healthcare cover abroad (GHIC) on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

We would also like to invite parents and carers and their young person to a Parents Information Evening on Tuesday, 2nd February at 5.30pm (L104). We will be going through the itinerary and other important information regarding the trip too.

We look forward to seeing you then!



Year 11 Harlow College Interviews

On Wednesday 21st January, Harlow College came into Passmores to interview 98 year 11 students for a place to start college in September. Our students were amazing! They arrived on time and were well prepared for conversations with course tutors; they showed maturity and interest and were an absolute credit to the school. They all left with conditional offers!

Well done year 11, we are super proud of you! Now, you need to continue your hard work to achieve the grades you need.



ADAPT

To Parents & Carers of Year 11...

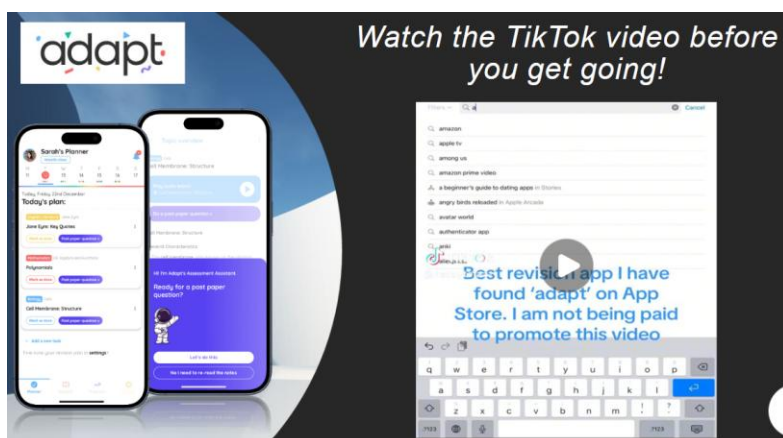
Reminder that all Year 11 have now created an ADAPT account and should have revision tasks set that can be accessed on their phones from home. Tasks are marked and are a super way to support with exam technique. Students will be working on these tasks in Pastoral Curriculum Time, if they don't have English, Maths or Science mentoring.

Year 11 are working really hard at the moment, we had over 100 students at English P6 this week - fabulous!

Monday Assemblies are full of student names given by staff to say how proud they are of them and their efforts. We are expecting great results in the February mocks - two weeks until they start! Students will receive their individualised timetable soon.


Please contact me if I can help with anything.

Jo Connolly
Assistant Principal



How to access your premium Adapt student account.

- 1) Go to getadapt.co.uk to set up your account in school. This is the web portal, but when you have your mobile phone outside of school you can download the mobile app from the App Store or Play Store.
- 2) Tap "Get started" and add your subjects and choose your preferences – You must select at least **3 sessions** and **5 days** a week or more – you can find the names of your subjects, exam board and topic on the print outs along with some hints and tips.
- 3) Create your new premium account using your school email address - This would be the year you joined along with your surname and first letter of your forename in lower case - 21bloggsf@passmoresacademy.com
- 4) Your password will be: **ADAPT2425teacherstudent**
Please change this when you have logged in.



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



ENGLISH PERIOD 6

TUESDAY

EBG, EPE, BPS, LKG,
MMR, DLM, NVH, RKG
SKS (Y11)

WEDNESDAY

SKS (Y10)

FRIDAY

ALL



ENGLISH

HOMework CLUB

WHEN

EVERY TUESDAY - 3.15PM TO 3.45PM

WHERE

Y101

Essex County Cross Country Championships – Junior Boys Representation

On Saturday 17th January, the Essex County Cross Country Championships took place at Writtle College. We were delighted to have **Bobby Paxton** representing West Essex in the junior boys team at this prestigious event.

Conditions on the day were bright and clear, providing perfect visibility, although the cold temperatures and heavy ground—caused by a week of persistent rain—made the course especially challenging. Bobby made a strong start, but the demanding terrain and several testing inclines took their toll as the race progressed.

Despite the tough conditions and a highly experienced field of competitors, Bobby finished in a very respectable position. We are incredibly proud of his determination, resilience, and commitment.

Well done, Bobby—an excellent effort and a fantastic representation of our school!



CAREERS NEWS

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](#)

Free Online Courses...

Are you age 19+?



The UK Government fund a wide range of free courses for adults, in a wide range of sectors.

To learn more go to [Free online courses with certificates UK - Free Courses in England](#).

Fantastic courses to enhance your own skills and qualifications.

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](#)

TEACHarlow

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

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'

Exam Invigilators... We're Hiring!

Would you like to become an Exam Invigilator?

We have dates available throughout the year with hours to suit you. The hourly rate is £13.03.

If you would like to apply, or would like more information, please contact Sally Beatty: s.beatty@passmoresacademy.com

What is an Exam Invigilator?

An exam invigilator is someone appointed by an educational institution to maintain proper conduct in an examination in accordance with exam regulations. Typically, the main duty of an exam invigilator is to watch examination candidates to prevent cheating. The purpose of exam invigilating is to ensure each candidate sits the examination under equal conditions.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of publication 01.01.2022



THE FUTURE SKILLS PROGRAMME: CAREERS IN STEM

For Yr 9 &
Yr 10/S3
and S4



Explore STEM careers in four key pathways during February half term!



What is involved?

- A comprehensive experience **delivered virtually in February.**
- **Live Q&A sessions with STEM professionals** in Net Zero futures, Digital AI futures, Health and Life Sciences, Engineering & Infrastructure and Manufacturing futures.
- **CV, applications and interview support.**
- Interactive panel **Q&A sessions with universities & apprentices.**
- Learn how to succeed in the workplace, including **how to ask questions, network and write professional emails.**
- Achieve the **Bronze Industrial Cadet Award.**

Dates

- 20 hours of study to complete flexibly over 5 days in February.
- Monday 16th – Friday 21st February.

Cost/Funding

- £50 (bursaries available, click [here](#) for bursary criteria and availability).

How to register or find out more

To register, please visit our website [here](#) or scan the QR code!





STRIKE ACADEMY



SA FOUNDATION

FREE AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB

FOOTBALL

&

MULTI-SPORT

STARTING
MONDAY 26TH JAN

PASSMORES
ACADEMY,
CM18 6JH

YEAR 7 -
YEAR 11

Free after school football and multi-sport club, e.g. dodgeball
Ages 15-16 can enroll on free FA Referee and Level 1 Coaching
courses

REGISTER
BEFORE
ATTENDING



WWW.SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK
HELLO@SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK
07877 321859



Harlow Poetry Open 2026 Competition

Celebrate World Poetry Day 2026

Theme: Memory

Deadline: March 1st, 2026

**For adults, young people and children
who live, work or learn in Harlow**

Categories: 7 - 10, 11 - 17, 18+

To enter and find out more go to:

