

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024, we hope that you enjoy the new layout and find it more user friendly and easier to navigate.

We have had a really lovely first week back; the change to the lunch times has been seamless and the new mix of year groups has worked well. Our MDAs have been on the look-out for any students being ‘caught doing good’ during social time to help reinforce expectations and to recognise those young people who are doing the right thing. Spotted students are given a slip, a bit like a raffle ticket. One part is torn off to keep and take home, whilst the other half then goes into a draw. The draw will be conducted at 3.10pm every Friday with a range of rewards being given to the successful students. The more entries a student can get during the week, the more chance they have of being selected. The ‘Being caught doing good’ slips have sparked lots of conversations with staff so hopefully we see more and more students being recognised each week.

With a general election looming this year, the Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is seeking feedback from children and parents and to find out what is important to them to help drive policy decisions in the future. The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January. You will find a poster at the end of the newsletter, get involved and have your say, now more than ever it is important that everyone has chance to be heard.

Have a good weekend.

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**TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS****Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Fin Hodson	Year 7	58
Mason Bartram	Year 7	55
Lana Urman	Year 7	54
Florence Norton	Year 7	50
Rosie Stacey-Bocking	Year 7	49
Lisa Brempong	Year 7	48
Sophia Clark	Year 7	47
Filip Borsuk	Year 7	46
Oscar Julian	Year 7	46
Rosie Aken	Year 7	46

Layton Parlour	Year 8	60
Lilly White	Year 8	60
Charlie Brown	Year 8	57
Ronel Sowunmi	Year 8	57
Katie Watters	Year 8	52
Ryan Youens	Year 8	51
Lola Wickes	Year 8	48
Kye Barnes	Year 8	45
Oleh Melnyk	Year 8	45
Hayden Zuna	Year 8	44

Haydn Woodall	Year 9	39
Frankie Fearon	Year 9	34
Daisy Vobe	Year 9	33
Evie Vobe	Year 9	33
Jennifer Wan	Year 9	33
Lily Cracknell	Year 9	33
Jessie Humphries	Year 9	32
Harvey Hymas	Year 9	31
Joshua Wheatley	Year 9	31
Ronnie Applegate	Year 9	31
Stan Hills	Year 9	31

George Champ	Year 10	51
Emily Howe	Year 10	44
Ella Nicholls	Year 10	41
Bobby McDonald	Year 10	40
Mckenzie Laney	Year 10	40

Rileigh Vetori	Year 10	40
Emma Edwards	Year 10	39
Izzy Cobie	Year 10	39
Amy Kwok	Year 10	38
Darcie Wilkinson	Year 10	38
Maya Connell	Year 10	38

Gemma McAusland	Year 11	49
Karys Bailey	Year 11	45
Maisie Peacock	Year 11	41
Freya Nash	Year 11	39
Maya Pearce	Year 11	39
Madeleine Hooker	Year 11	38
Amelia Wator	Year 11	37
Sophie Hegarty	Year 11	37
Ruby Holmes	Year 11	36
Eloisa Bellamy	Year 11	35

## HOUSE PASSMORES POINTS

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<b>Dragon</b>	<b>6079</b>
<b>Griffin</b>	<b>5943</b>
<b>Lion</b>	<b>6269</b>
<b>Unicorn</b>	<b>6225</b>

## PASTORAL UPDATE

In this week's edition of the newsletter, we are delighted to reintroduce our weekly Pastoral Update. Within these weekly updates we will aim to share the enriching experiences students have during their tutor time pastoral programme.

This week we welcomed back the Passmores family after the Christmas break. A New Year offered the perfect opportunity to press the reset button and reflect on our goals for the coming term. With this in mind, our students delved into the core values that define our school community, emphasising the importance of kindness, safety, and respect. Additionally, they engaged in thoughtful discussions on strategies for personal success in the new year.

We are constantly seeking to refine and develop our practice to ensure every student that attends our school has a positive Passmores experience. Responding to valuable feedback received through our student voice initiative, we are excited to announce the re-introduction of non-sporting house events. The inaugural event, the Passmores Bake Off, is set to captivate our students' creativity and culinary skills on 7<sup>th</sup> February. As always, we are committed to fostering a positive and inclusive school environment that nurtures both personal growth and collective spirit.

**Uniform**

This is a kind reminder to all parents and students that blazers and ties are still required and part of their everyday uniform. There have been a few students needing to borrow a blazer because they have forgotten it and at times, the school cannot cater to such a quantity of blazers, nor are they returned. If you have borrowed a blazer or tie in the past, then please do return it to your Head of House.

Due to the Christmas break, students may have had their nails done but just a reminder, students are not permitted to wear coloured nail varnish, however a short French manicure is allowed. Nails should not be above the tops of the fingers to ensure health and safety rules and advice is adhered to. This is particularly important in practical subjects.

Thank you for your support with this.

**Pass News**

Check out the latest from some of the news from the last half term, brought to you by the wonderful Pass News Team! [Pass News: Autumn 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Tune in next week for another Pastoral Update!

**SPORT / PE UPDATES**

		<b>PE Extra Curricular Timetable</b>		
	<b>Break</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Afterschool 3.30pm - 4.15pm</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Basketball/Netball shooting	Break 1 - JEL Break 2 - ASA		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Basketball/Netball shooting	Break 1 - RON Break 2- AMN	Girls Basketball (All Years)	<b>RON/OWY</b>
			Trampolining (All Years)	<b>ASA/SBS</b>
			Table Tennis (Activity studio)	<b>JWB</b>
			Fitness (Gym)	<b>JEL</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Basketball/Netball shooting	Break 1 - SBS Break 2- JKG	Boys Football (All Years)	<b>JWB/JKG</b>
			Girls Cricket (All Years)	<b>ASA/RON/GRACE</b>
			Fitness (Gym)	<b>AMN</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Basketball/Netball shooting	Break 1 - OWY Break 2 - JWB	Kung Fu	<b>Outside Provider/AMN</b>
			Boys Cricket (All Years)	<b>JEL/JKG</b>
			Fitness (Gym)	<b>OWY/SBS</b>
<b>Friday</b>			<b>BTEC coursework catch up/PE Detentions</b>	

A great start to the year for our U15 Girls indoor cricket team who won the preliminary Tier 2 Essex competition. The girls showed excellent teamwork and a competitive nature which saw them battle through to the final. In the final Katie Mahon set the team off to a good start with her opening spell picking up two wickets in the first over. The opposition Harris Academy posted a total score of 23-4 which the Passmores team were confident in chasing. Passmores batting innings was started with opening batters Emilia Allen and Darcie Wilkinson. They showed clear intent to score runs as they dispatched the bowling to pick up runs for the team quickly. Passmores continued in similar fashion keeping the run rate high chasing the oppositions total to win the game. Overall, an excellent performance from all involved and we look forward to further success throughout the rest of the season.

**Match Report:**

Harlow Tournament Qualifier - [Passmores Academy - Sports Reports](#)

## SUBJECT INFORMATION / UPDATES

**Year Ten Reading Tests**

The next two weeks (beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January) will see around half of the year group complete an online reading test during one of their lessons. This is to ensure we have data for every student. We have already tested all Year 11 and Year 8 students, and those who needed extra support have received personalised 1-2-1 intervention to ensure that their reading is at their chronological age or above. As this is a finite resource, we hope that all students will try their hardest on the test, so that those in most need of support can receive it as soon as possible.

**Barcelona trip**

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who have already sent me this information, but if your young person is going on the Barcelona trip (1st - 3rd March 2023), could you send their passport details to Mr Farmery or Mrs Friedner please to the following addresses:

[a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com)    [c.friedner@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:c.friedner@passmoresacademy.com)

**Textiles**

Calling all GCSE students.

If you would like to enter the Student Textile Artist 2024 competition, please see Mrs Evans in D103 for more details.



**TEXTILES**  
SKILLS CENTRE

*Love Sewing*  
**LOVE JANOME**

**D**  
DRYAD

### STUDENT COMPETITION

#### STUDENT TEXTILE ARTIST 2024

An exciting opportunity to showcase your creative talents!

➤ A Janome Sewing Machine for the winner in each category!!!!!!

➤ Dryad Goody bags for 2nd & 3rd places.

➤ Free TSC online course for both teachers of the winning schools & a £50 Dryad Education voucher

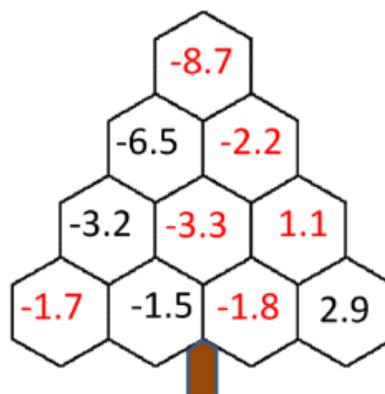
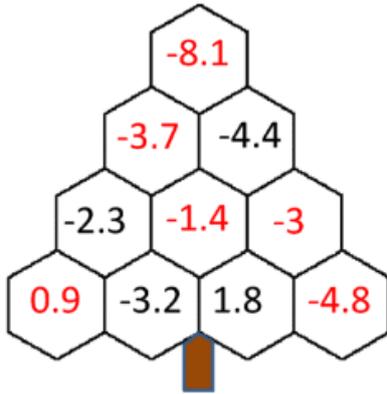
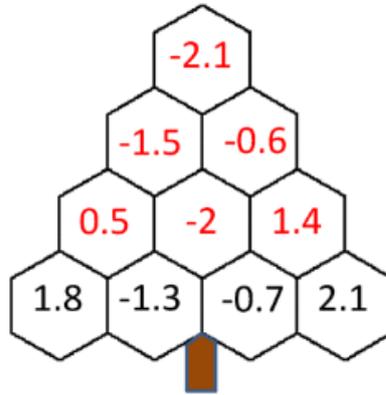
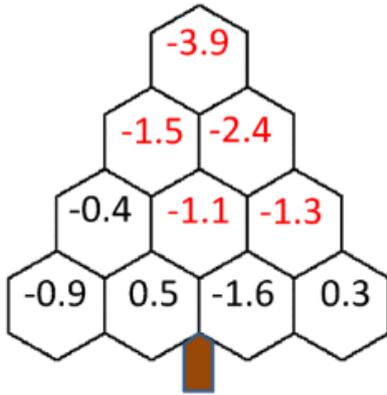
Trophy given to the winner of each category

➤ Closing date: End April 2024  
Entries will be judged in 2 categories, KS4 & KS5



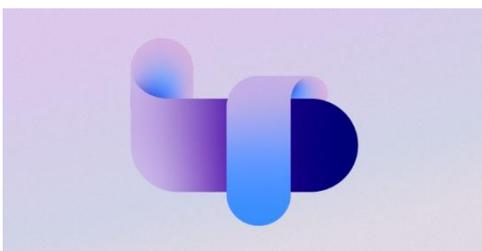
Answer to the last Maths Problem:

**CHRISTMAS TREE ADDING PUZZLE 4  
ANSWERS**



**CAREERS NEWS**

Free Webinar - **Apprenticeships and Scholarships with the British Army**, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm-7.30pm. Register on [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](https://events.teams.microsoft.com).



[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](https://events.teams.microsoft.com)

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[events.teams.microsoft.com](https://events.teams.microsoft.com)

### **College Open Events**

- Writtle College, Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10am-3pm
- Fashion Retail Academy, Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Braintree College, Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 5pm-7pm
- Stansted Airport College, Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 5pm-8pm
- Cambridge Regional College, Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am -12.30pm

### **Apprenticeships**

If your young person is interested in an apprenticeship, here are some opportunities currently being advertised for school leavers in Essex:

Search for apprenticeship opportunities in Essex ([essexopportunities.co.uk](http://essexopportunities.co.uk))

**ANY OTHER INFORMATION**



**The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.**

**We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.**

**This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.**

Scan the QR code to  
take part



[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Children & Young People Need to Know about FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

## Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.



National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/42/schedule/11/rt1.html> - EVeryjane%20has%20the%20right%20to%20freedom%20of%20expression



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**Forthcoming Events:**

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents/Carers On-line Evening 4pm to 7pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Non uniform day – winning house in each year
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Half term



Natalie Christie

**Principal of Passmores Academy**

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?

Contact Gareth Walsh on [g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com)