

Principal Letter

Spring Term 2024

Week Ending Friday 16 February 2024

Issue 20



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Today has definitely been a 'feel good Friday'. We always look forward to our holidays, but this one even more so after the last couple of days. We knew that Ofsted were going to visit at some point this year, to be honest the waiting is the most stressful part of the process! They have seen us for what we are, a busy, vibrant school offering trips (three on Wednesday), prepping year 11s for their exams, sharing Valentine's love, hosting primary school sports festivals along with lots of learning and focus within lessons. They commented on what inspiring young people we have and thanked us for making them feel so welcome. Our students have been amazing, and all of those that were spoken to did so with confidence and clarity.

There is now a time frame before the final report is published, so I cannot comment on the outcome, but will of course let you know when this happens in about a month's time. I would like to say thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the parent view survey, it was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the comments were so lovely. We appreciate that in such a large school, it is going to be difficult to please everyone all the time, and we will reflect on what some of you have said that will help us to improve.

Last week we attended the Harlow Education Awards, celebrating with our nominated students and staff. Two of our students were selected as overall winners, which was just amazing – Leyton Parlour for his Outstanding Act of Kindness and Evan Mortimer for Overcoming Adversity. You may have seen the link in Your Harlow last week. Congratulations!

Have a wonderful half term.

Quick links

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TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERSFriday 9th February - Thursday 15th February 2024

Bobby Paxton	Year 7	54
Anyia-Joan Addison	Year 7	52
Lucas Andrews	Year 7	52
Sonny Dzingel	Year 7	50
James Afram	Year 7	49
Mason Crouch	Year 7	49
Fin Hodson	Year 7	47
Megan Wright	Year 7	46
Louis Monaghan	Year 7	45
Maisey Shurman	Year 7	45

Charlie Brown	Year 8	57
Poppy Houghton	Year 8	57
John Adesina	Year 8	51
Heath White	Year 8	49
Melody Everett	Year 8	48
Olivia Lamplough	Year 8	48
Scarlet Aylwin	Year 8	46
Ryan Youens	Year 8	42
Lucy Stratford	Year 8	41
Molly Mooney	Year 8	41
William Ward	Year 8	41
Zak Kearney	Year 8	41

Lana Stevic	Year 9	54
Rio Ramadan	Year 9	52
Freddie Gardner	Year 9	49
Aron Ingram	Year 9	48
Elissa Morris	Year 9	48
Benjamin Dack	Year 9	45
Lewis Dean	Year 9	45
Josh Norris	Year 9	41
Rebecca Goody	Year 9	41
Phoebe Miles	Year 9	40

Ryan Salberg	Year 10	54
Angel Fernandes	Year 10	37
Bobby McDonald	Year 10	37
Charlie Brandle	Year 10	37

Bryony Kelso	Year 10	33
Charlie Horton	Year 10	31
Harry Dorrington	Year 10	31
Mario Olaru	Year 10	31
Senan Phelan	Year 10	31
Ryan Gerty	Year 10	30

Huey Lai	Year 11	32
Maisie Peacock	Year 11	23
Brais Bici Casas	Year 11	22
Charlie Johnson	Year 11	21
Faith Horn	Year 11	21
Tristan Thira	Year 11	21
Freddie Pannell	Year 11	19
Harry New	Year 11	19
Ruby Guinness	Year 11	19
Ruby Holmes	Year 11	18
Tony Johnson	Year 11	18

HOUSE PASSMORES POINTS

Monday 8th January – Thursday 15th February 2024

Dragon	37344
Griffin	35805
Lion	36083
Unicorn	35470

YEAR GROUP ATTENDANCE

Friday 9th February – Thursday 15th February 2024

	Average Attendance
Y7	93.72%
Y8	88.00%
Y9	91.27%
Y10	89.33%
Y11	88.92%
Whole School Attendance	90.27%

PASTORAL UPDATE

Thought for the Week: Exploring Democracy

As part of our "Thought for the Week," students delved into the British value of democracy. Through discussions and activities, they explored the principles of democracy, including equality, representation, and the rule of law. The highlight of the week was the chance for students to participate in the UK Youth Parliament elections, where they experienced firsthand the democratic process and exercised their right to vote. Students learned about the significance of youth representation in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives. The opportunity to witness democracy in action provided students with a tangible example of civic engagement and the power of their voices in creating positive change.

In the News: Lent

During this week's "In the News" segment, students learned about Lent, a significant period observed by many Christians around the world. They explored the traditions, practices, and significance of Lent, including fasting, prayer, and acts of self-reflection. Understanding the cultural and religious aspects of Lent fosters respect for diversity and promotes awareness of different traditions within our school community.

Peer Dialogue: Reflecting on Goals

During peer dialogue sessions, students engaged in reflective discussions about their goals for the half-term. They evaluated their successes and challenges, sharing their achievements and areas for improvement with their peers. These sessions provide valuable support and accountability, encouraging students to set meaningful goals, track their progress, and collaborate with their peers to overcome obstacles.

Other highlights this week

Love was in the air this Valentine's Day as students had the opportunity to spread kindness and appreciation to those they care about most in the school community. Valentine's Day cards and sweet treats were available to purchase all week and our Cupid's Angels, delivered these heartfelt messages and goodies on Wednesday, creating smiles and warm feelings throughout the halls. Not only did this event foster a sense of camaraderie and appreciation, but it also served as a fundraiser for a worthy cause. All money raised from this initiative will benefit No Child Without, further demonstrating our commitment to supporting those in need within our community.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate the winning House in each year group for their outstanding efforts throughout this half-term. Their dedication, teamwork, and positive contributions have truly shone through. As a token of recognition for their achievements, these winning Houses were rewarded with a well-deserved non-uniform day on Friday. This celebration not only acknowledges their hard work but also encourages a sense of pride and unity within our House system.

Looking Ahead: Empathy Week

Looking ahead to after half-term, students can anticipate engaging activities as part of Empathy Week. As we join a nationwide movement to build the empathy generation, students will participate in various activities aimed at fostering empathy, compassion, and understanding towards others. Through empathy-building exercises and discussions, students will develop essential social and emotional skills that contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate school community.

The Pastoral Team hopes everyone has a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all back on the 26th February which will be week two on your timetable cycle.

SPORT / PE UPDATES

Match Report:

Harlow School cup final yr11 - [Passmores Academy - Sports Reports](#)

SUBJECT INFORMATION / UPDATES

Year 11 revision/booster sessions

Year 11 revision/booster sessions over half term are detailed below. Please note that there are no catering facilities during half term so if students want to eat during the 30 minute break, they will need to bring a packed lunch

Day/Time	Monday 19th	Tuesday 20th	Wednesday 21st	Thursday 22nd	Friday 23rd
AM session 10am - 12.30pm	ENGLISH NVH U105	ART AHN L104	TEXTILES GES D103		
	ART AHN L104	DRAMA JGR L106/7/Hall			
	MATHS BPR G104				
	D&T GHN D002				
Lunch Break	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm
PM session 12.30pm - 3pm	ART** AHN L104	ART** AHN L104	TEXTILES GES D103		
	MATHS BPR G104				
	D&T GHN D002				

MATHS* Starts at 11am and ends at 2pm - a drop in session for those needing help with both Foundation and Higher Maths

ART** Ends at 4pm

Disneyland Newsletter

At the start of the month, our computer science department took 47 GCSE students to the Computing LIVE! Event in Disneyland Paris. Students heard from leading experts in Artificial Intelligence, Gaming and Business on how the material they cover within their curriculum is applied to the world. In addition, they were able to hear about the different careers and were shown the many different paths a career in computing could take them.



In addition to the conference, we were able to enjoy the Disneyland theme parks where we conquered rides such as Hyperspace Mountain, Avengers Flight Force and Indiana Jones' Temple of Peril and enjoyed both the Stars on Parade and the Electric Parade.



London Winter Run

For some of our students, this would not be possible without the funds given from our charity No Child Without. The No Child Without charity believe that no child should miss out on any opportunity within their education due to financial circumstances that are out of their control.

On February 25th, 17 staff from across Passmores Academy and Stewards Academy are embracing the cold and taking part in the [London Winter Run](#). We are asking all those in our community to see if they can contribute however big or small to the No Child Without charity on this link to help us continue to be able to fund these incredible experiences for our young people.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/pclclondonwinterrun2024>

Music Opportunity to Join the Passmores Academy Steel Pans Music Groups

There are currently spaces available for pupils in years 7-11 to join the Passmores Academy Steel Pans groups. Rehearsals take place after school on Monday afternoons in L109 in the Passmores music department. Group 1 is from 3.30pm-4.30pm and Group 2 is from 4.30pm-5.30pm. Rehearsals are taken by former Passmores music students Daniel Barwick and Jasmine Devine. All sessions are free to attend and there is no need to be able to read music - you just need enthusiasm, energy and a little bit of rhythm! To join, just turn up on Monday at 3.30pm or for further details email Mr. Butler (Head of Music) at d.butler@passmoresacademy.com

This link shows a recent performance at the Passmores Academy Christmas concert:

https://youtu.be/G17Qkz73_T8?feature=shared

GCSE drama trip to Metamorphosis

On Wednesday this week we took our Year 9, 10 & 11 drama students to The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith to see Frantic Assembly's adaptation of Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis. The tale of a young man who is gradually worn down by the responsibility he carries to keep his family afloat against ever changing work targets and societal pressure.

Frantic Assembly are a well-established physical theatre company who are most well known for their adaptation of Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, which ran in the West End for a number of years and did much to highlight issues and understanding around autism.

On entry to the busy auditorium, we took our seats in the upper circle and immediately took in the set showing Gregor Samsa's sparse and dismal room. Pupils were quick to analyse and discuss the set and what possible meaning could be extracted from what they could see, even before the action started.

Frantic's physical presentation of Gregor Samsa's decline from breadwinner to burden was both engaging and emotive. The novella, adapted for stage by Lemn Sissay and Scott Graham, has been sensitively adapted to include monologues where we get to hear each of the Samsa family's stories intersected by physical sequences that show the family unit gradually break down and Gregor become an alien in his own home. Pupils were impressed by the strength and agility of the core cast, as characters were passed around, elevated through the air and quite literally hung from the walls and light fixtures. The piece was powerful and pupils came out buzzing with ideas of how Frantic's physical work could influence their own pieces.



All drama pupils in Year 10 and 11 will be referencing this production in their written exam later this year. Thanks to all parents for supporting this trip and helping your wonderful children expand their cultural boundaries. All pupils on the trip were an absolute credit to our school and we cannot wait to get them out on another trip soon.

Maths Problem of the week

Maths Riddle 1:

There are 3 positive numbers. You can either add these numbers or multiply them together, getting the same result. Which are the numbers?

Maths Riddle 2:

What will you get if you multiply all the numbers on the number pad of a telephone?

CAREERS NEWS

Careers website for parents/carers

Talking Futures is a great website for parents and carers to access information about post 16 opportunities. It also gives advice on how to start conversations with your young person about their next steps. Go to [Parents Advice for Career Conversations - Talking Futures](#) for more information.

Year 10 Work Shadowing Day

We have been getting a lot of interest in the work shadowing day, which will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2024. This is an opportunity for students to gain a real insight into the world of work and to be given the chance to observe a job role which may be of specific interest for future career choices. We have told the students that they will need to work with family or a close friend of the family. The deadline to find a placement is Thursday 28th of March 2024. Students can collect a parent consent form from Mrs Kay's desk, near the Heads of Houses offices or we have attached it to the newsletter.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

Passmores Academy Charity
No Child Without
Registered Charity No: 1152609

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

- Passmores Academy established our charity, No Child Without in 2013
- **No Child Without aims to provide financial support for young people across Harlow in order to help them access educational and extra-curricular opportunities that may usually be beyond their means.**
- No Child Without believes that no child should miss out on any opportunity within their education due to financial circumstances that are out of their control.
 - **No Child Without exists to aid young people to achieve their potential.**
- **Providing a young person with an opportunity can make a huge difference to their lives. It can provide them with motivation and inspiration which, in turn, will lead them to having improved aspirations.**

ESSEX residents are being invited to nominate a charity to receive £1,000

Now in it's sixth year, the BENEFACT GROUP's Movement for Good Awards has given charities across the UK and Ireland more than £5million since 2019, with winners drawn randomly from online nominations.

Therefore, the MORE times NO CHILD WITHOUT is nominated, the greater it's chance of success.

Nominations can be submitted online as follows:

Google: www.movementforgood.com
Click On: Nominate Now
Then Click On: Nominate a Charity for £1000
Type In: No Child Without (Press Search)
This Will Appear: 115609 NO CHILD WITHOUT
Select Charity Type: POVERTY
Fill in: Full Name:
Email Address:
Location = (Select) Essex
Age:
Who Are You = (Select) Supporter

The Next Draw is on Monday 18th March 2024
Nominations will also roll over to Future Draws
THANK YOU!

YEARS 10 & 11
A NIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD
WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH
6:00pm-8:30pm

Sweets
DJ Bell
Casino
Mocktails
Prizes
Photos

Tickets cost £3 – buy yours from 12th February (Student Services)

KAZEN KAI MARTIAL ARTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ACTIVE ESSEX FOUNDATION

TRY OUR EXCITING, HIGH ENERGY
KICK BOXING CLASS AT OUR
FULLY EQUIPPED MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE
FULLY FUNDED BY ACTIVE ESSEX
INCLUDING HEALTHY SNACK AND DRINK

MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2PM-4PM

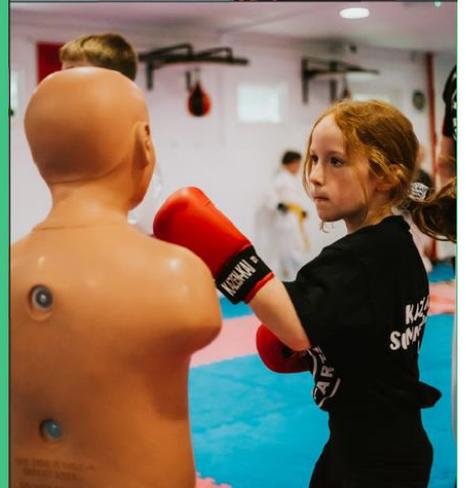
AND

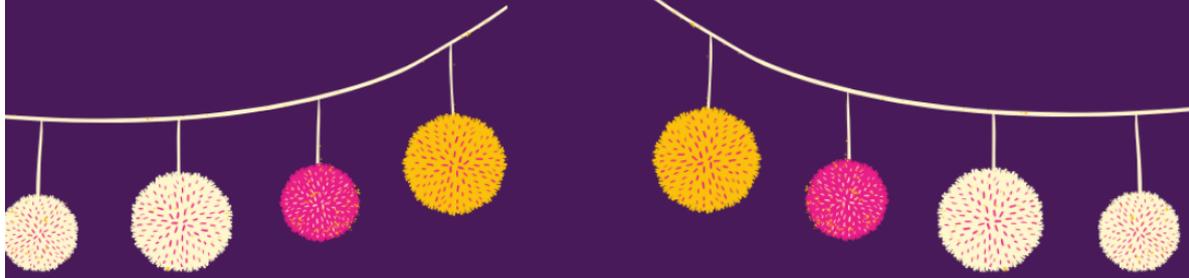
FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2PM-4PM

THE MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE,
NICHOLLS FIELD, HARLOW,
CM18 6DY



SPACES LIMITED
SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
OR CALL 01277 262800





fop@passmoresacademy.com



HARLOW



WE NEED YOU!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BUSINESSES FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- **RAFFLE PRIZES FOR OUR EASTER RAFFLE
- MARCH.**
- **FOOD STALLS FOR OUR MULTI-CULTURAL
FOOD FESTIVAL
- 4TH MAY.**
- **SPIRITUAL OR WELLBEING STALLS FOR
OUR SUMMER EVENT
- 29TH JUNE.**



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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Most online dating apps claim to be for over-18s only but, in some cases, relaxed age verification also allows children to access them. What's more, some popular social media platforms use similar design features to many dating sites – blurring the line between why a young person initially downloads an app and what they *actually* end up using it for.

ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone forms a connection with a child in the digital world and carefully cultivates this relationship with the intention of manipulating the child into doing something sexual or illegal. The process involves gaining the young person's confidence – which can make them far less likely to tell a trusted adult about their new online 'friend', or to recognise what is even happening.

WEBCAM BLACKMAIL

Some young people have been coaxed into getting nude or semi-nude on a video chat with someone they met on a dating platform. They're then told that, unless they hand over a certain amount of money, a recording of the video will be posted online (or possibly sent to their contacts). This can be hugely traumatic for a young person and, in extreme cases, has resulted in self-harm and even suicide.

DAMAGE TO SELF ESTEEM

Many dating platforms encourage users to rate the images that people upload; this has clear potential to negatively impact a young person's self esteem. On some apps, pictures of a user's face and body can be rated anonymously, with notifications informing them if someone has then declined to match with them. This form of rejection can feel extremely hurtful and degrading.

CATFISHING AND SCAMS

Creating a false identity to deliberately lure people into a relationship (whether romantic or platonic) online is known as catfishing. Commonly, someone pretends to share interests or beliefs with their victim and gradually gains their trust. A young person's feelings for this fake 'friend' may cloud their judgement and can lead to them surrendering money, personal images, passwords and so on.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Stalking is obsessive behaviour by a fixated individual which disrupts their victim's life; it can bring severe distress and even the fear of violence. There have been frequent reports of stalking cases that originated on dating apps, with perpetrators creating new accounts in response to being reported or blocked. It's a particular cause for concern if a young person has ever given out personal details (such as their street or school name) online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything online that's worried them. Emphasise that if they're being sent unwanted images – or if they've shared images or video content themselves – they should tell you straight away. Discuss the potential risks of online dating and check in with them frequently to ensure that they're feeling comfortable about their online relationships.

TAKE A 'SAFETY FIRST' STANDPOINT

Encourage young people to be careful about who they send invitations to – and accept them from – on dating sites and apps. Familiarise yourself with how to adjust the privacy settings on your child's devices and apps to help them control who can access their profiles and information. Talk to your child about why it's unwise to share any sensitive, private or confidential information in their profile.

PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS

If a young person is interested in using online dating sites or apps, strongly encourage them to choose one that offers the facility to conceal both parties' email addresses when messaging prospective dates. If that's not possible, ensure that the young person sets up a separate email address which doesn't include their real name. This is easy to do via providers like Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail or gmail.

HIGHLIGHT COMMON DANGER SIGNS

Talk to your child about some of the obvious red flags in online dating: requests for money, for instance, should always ring alarm bells. Likewise, if a young person is in contact with someone who they feel is pressuring them into providing personal or financial information – or who they suspect is trying to trick them into it – they should end communication immediately and contact the dating service provider.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), as well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.02.2024

Online Parent Groups



Challenging Behaviour

Suitable for parents of children aged 4-11 years. This course is run over 6 weeks.

This will focus on an issue you are experiencing with your child and will work on strategies and ways to help deal with the issue/behaviour.

14th February - Session 1
 HALF TERM

28th February - Session 2
 6th March - Session 3
 13th March - Session 4
 20th March - Session 5
 27th March - Session 6

Wednesdays 13.00-14.30 via Zoom

FULLY BOOKED!

Helping your Child Manage their Fears and Worries

Suitable for parents of children aged 4-11 years. This course is run over 4 weeks. This will help parents work on a focussed issue they are experiencing with their child and work out strategies to help.

29th February - Session 1
 7th March - Session 2
 14th March - Session 3
 21st March - Session 4

Thursdays 13.00-14.30 via Zoom



Supporting Teenagers Emotion Wellbeing

Suitable for parents of children aged 12-19 years.

This course is run over 4 weeks. This will look at ways to help your teenager manage their emotional wellbeing.

27th February - Session 1
 5th March - Session 2
 12th March - Session 3
 19th March - Session 4 (optional)

Tuesdays 17.30-19.00



To access this FREE service you must:

- Have a child attending an school that our Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are currently working with in Harlow, Epping Forest District and Uttlesford.
- Have access to Zoom
- Able to attend ALL pre-planned sessions

If you are interested, please complete the application form by scanning the QR code



If the course you are interested in is not showing, this is because it has reached full capacity of attendees.

We will send you an email to confirm a place on the course along with joining instructions approx. 1 week prior to the course start date. Please check your mailbox regularly including your Junk/Spam folders.

If you have any queries, please contact your area admin:
 Harlow - mhstharlow@mindinwestessex.org.uk
 Epping Forest - mhsteppingforest@mindinwestessex.org.uk
 Uttlesford - mhstuttlesford@mindinwestessex.org.uk

There are limited places available so please book your place as soon as possible. If you would like to access the course, but do not have access to the internet, please see your school or contact our team (see above)

Forthcoming Events:

Monday 11 th - Friday 1 st March	Year 11 Mocks
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February	Half term
Wednesday 28 th February	Year 10 – Tomorrow’s Teachers Programme
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 9 KS4 Options Evening 5.30 – 8.00pm
Thursday 28 th March	End of term



Natalie Christie

Principal of Passmores Academy

TEACHarlow

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