



# @PCSA

SPRING TERM EDITION 2023



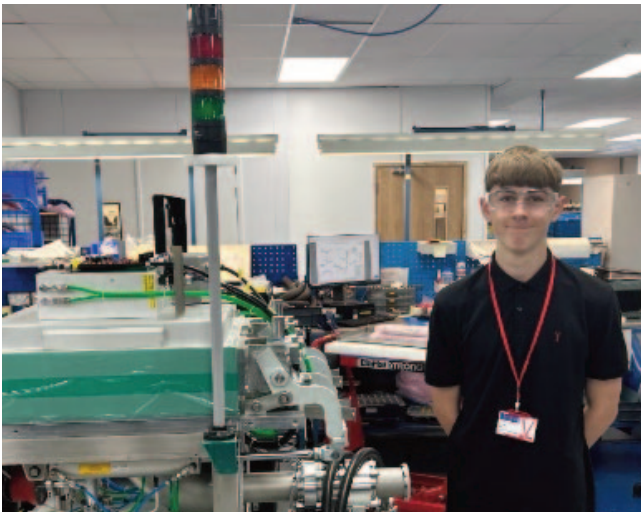
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest edition of the PCSA newsletter.

I want to start by wishing our Year 11s the very best of luck with their GCSE exams. They have been fantastic with the effort they have been putting in so far. I really do hope this pays off for them on GCSE Results Day in August.

We have been very busy here recently at PCSA. 40 Year 8 and Year 9 students had the opportunity to go to Madrid on a Football Tour Trip. A big thank you to Mr. Clark and the members of staff who made the trip possible. We hope the students had a wonderful time and made memories they will remember for life.

Furthermore, our Year 10s have just completed their Work Experience Week. The students were brilliant and we could not have been prouder of their work ethic, conduct and attitude during the experience. We received so many lovely photos and amazing feedback from employers throughout the week. Thank you to Miss Silmon and Mr Wilmot for all their hard work in making Work Experience Week possible.



We have recently recruited some amazing Value Ambassadors to represent values and character across the school and in the wider community. Using the pastoral tutor programme, assemblies and lessons, the ambassadors aim to change the culture of the school for the better.

Along with our Value Ambassadors, we have also recruited Year 10 Reading Mentors to support our Year 7 Super Readers! What fantastic role models we have for our school and community!



At this point I would like to extend a warm welcome to our 300 new PCSA students who will join us in September 2023. I would also like to thank the parents and carers that once again have chosen PCSA for their child's education. As always, my pledge is that all PCSA staff are committed to the safety, progress and well-being of your children.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our PCSA parents and carers for your support to our school.

Best Wishes

Angelos Markoutsas, Principal  
[angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk)

*The Priory Learning Trust is an educational charity. Our purpose is to advance education for public benefit. TPLT will facilitate knowledge building for all through professional development, with a determination to improve curriculum and pedagogy.*

## STUDENTS FIRST - CHERISHING STAFF - SERVING COMMUNITIES

### STUDENTS FIRST:

The mission of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) is to develop happy, confident and successful young people. Our underpinning values are respect for each other, creating an environment for successful learning and giving everyone the tools to maximise their potential. Our primary focus is providing great student outcomes whilst also thinking about the holistic welfare of our students.



### CHERISHING STAFF:

TPLT is committed to social equality and the principles of fair access and opportunity. The priority is local families and we will retain a local focus. TPLT values its employees. It is committed to staff development and to fair and transparent dealings with all employees. Our employees are precious and they must be deployed for maximum gain for our students and their welfare.



### SERVING COMMUNITIES:

TPLT intends to wisely grow its family of schools. There will be measured growth as we must maintain outstanding outcomes. Growth, therefore, will be intentionally designed. TPLT will extend business services to support great teaching and learning. All our academies will deliver a 'world class' modular curriculum that is relevant, dynamic, forward-looking and balanced.



Following a successful first year following COVID, the Duke of Edinburgh is back this year. Our cohort of 45 Bronze participants and 11 Silver participants are set up on eDofE and have started their volunteering, physical and skills activities. We are now building up to our expedition season with the following upcoming trips:

- **Silver Practice Expedition (Exmoor) - 19-21 May 2023**
- **Silver Assessed Expedition (Dartmoor) - 24-26 June 2023**
- **Bronze Expedition (Quantocks) - 3-5 July 2023**

If you are due to go on an expedition this year and have any queries then please read the extensive expedition FAQ here: <https://pcsa.org.uk/s/DofE-Expeditions-FAQ.pdf>

If you are curious about the Duke of Edinburgh award and are considering taking part in Bronze at Year 9 or Silver at Year 10 then you can find more information here: <https://pcsa.org.uk/duke-of-edinburgh-d-of-e>

Finally, if you want even more incentive to take part then have a look at some of our successful trips from the 2022 season:

**Mr. J Brand**

Teacher of Computing and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator  
[joe.brand@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:joe.brand@pcsa.org.uk)



As Head of Year 7, I continue to be impressed by the positive attitude the year group has shown. Ella (7B4) is the first student to receive 1000+ achievement points and no behavior points, with Roza (7B6), Crystal (7A6), Lola (7B2) and Oliver (7B1) close by with over 900 !

I was privileged to be part of Weston AFCs [www.wsmafcacademy.co.uk/](http://www.wsmafcacademy.co.uk/) annual presentation this year and watching Jamie (7B6) receive U12s Manager's Player of the Season.

During Term 5, we were pleased to welcome Rich Cottell <http://www.richcottellmusic.com/> back to PCSA. He wowed the students with his performance singing and talking to the year group about life, education and keeping themselves safe online and in person.

Mr Wilmot will be leading the upcoming Year 7 Interview Challenge, encouraging students to think ahead, and seek opportunities to further their understanding of expectations for College, University and employers. Students will have the opportunity to meet employers and experience a real life interview.

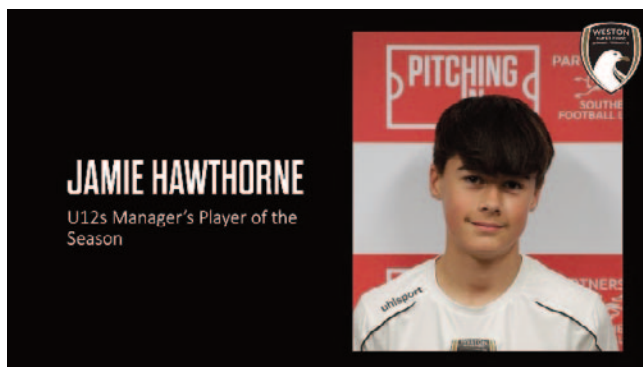
I have thoroughly enjoyed being Head of Year 7, and witnessing the transition from primary to secondary school. The determination and resilience demonstrated by the year group in the face of change is pleasing so early on in their next stage of their education journey.

My final note, as I say in assembly is always be kind, and be the change you want to see in the world.

**Miss Dodson**

Head of Year 7

[lee.dodson@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:lee.dodson@pcsa.org.uk)



Year 8 have built on their strong start to the school year. As a year group they have shown an outstanding shift in how they present themselves and are positioning themselves well to move into Year 9. There has been a noticeable improvement in maturity as they consider the example they want to set for those lower in the school.

It has been an exceptionally busy term with most students now hitting at least 400 positive points and many now also moving on to 600. This has meant a significant amount of Head of Year reward certificates have been completed leading to a very proud Mr Green. Well done Year 8! Within the year group, there are incredible examples of individual efforts from Gracie Thorne, Nikole Howell and Violet White.

A key focus for the year group has been improving their revision skills. We have introduced further sessions within tutor time and the Year 8s have risen to the challenge. This term they have been learning how to build a revision timetable and how to use the subject knowledge organisers. We know that if students develop strong revision habits now, they will make a significant impact when it comes to their exams in Year 10 and 11!

We were thoroughly impressed by the Year 8s concentration during their life saving course. The students learnt how to respond to a first aid situation and conduct CPR! Feedback from the course provider was that our students listened well and asked thoughtful and considerate questions, many going on to 'save the life' of the dummies they were working on. Well done Year 8.

As per usual, there are some fantastic examples of student success in lessons with some super creations coming from cooking as well as design tech.

As we move forwards into the summer term, this is a particularly important part of the key stage. Our students in Year 8 should now be in a position where they are thinking about Year 9. What are the subjects they enjoy and which might they consider taking for GCSE. Additionally, moving into Year 9 will see two year groups (Year 7 and 8) looking up to them. Our students should be thinking about their conduct around the school and how they may be looking to lead others when September comes around.

**Mr. Green**

Head of Year 8

[luke.green@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:luke.green@pcsa.org.uk)



Well what can I say? I am so proud to be the Head of Year 9 and feel privileged to be a small piece of their journey.

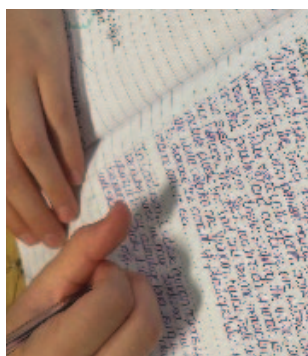
Year 9 have gone from strength to strength and have really strived to be the best versions of themselves as they move closer to KS4 and GCSEs.

Many of the students are consistently demonstrating the values of the school and I am very proud of the various achievements we have celebrated as a year group in our weekly assemblies.

The number of positives students are achieving continues to increase and this has resulted in the vast majority of students being in receipt of Tutor, Head of Year and Principal certificates.



An amazing accolade that those who have received and one that they should be very proud of. Students have also been celebrated for their successes by being added to our Wonder Wall.

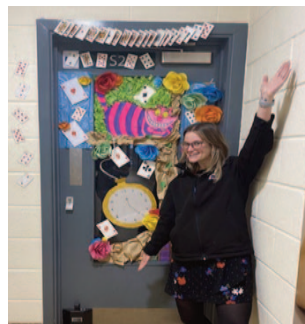


Many Year 9 students have started on the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) journey and have started contributing to the school and the wider community by completing activities such as litter picking and becoming role models within the school.

There has been a real buzz around the option choosing process and this brought about a clear thirst from the students to start thinking, not only about their KS4 journey but their life beyond Priory.

As I complete learning walks and I am welcomed into the classrooms with the students I continue to see successful outcomes in terms of strong attitudes to learning and academic progress being observed on a day to day, lesson by lesson basis with many students receiving Friday positive phone calls.

Students continue to build their confidence and expand their character education through the PSHE programme, this is evident as I drop into tutor sessions and students are keen to share their ideas and opinions with their peers.



With the extra-curricular activities on the horizon, I look forward to seeing the students immerse themselves in events that are being planned for them. As tutors joined forces to decorate their doors for World Book Day, it was 9B4 that scooped the winning prize!

Outside of the classroom, Year 9 continue to excel with many victorious sporting events, and even in the event of a lack of victory the students continue to demonstrate excellent sportsmanship, discipline and loyalty to not only their sport but to their team.



I absolutely love hearing the stories from the students about their lives outside of Priory and really enjoyed taking my youngest son to watch the U14s rugby. I was so proud of all involved, and as such I

welcome invites to these sorts of events as I am keen to celebrate all areas of my year group.

I look forward to the rest of the year to watch, support and encourage the growth and progress of the Year 9 cohort. I will continue to champion their voice and ensure that when they demonstrate the values of the school they are rewarded, with positivity and praise.

**Mrs V Bush**  
Head of Year 9  
[vicky.bush@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:vicky.bush@pcsa.org.uk)

Year 10 students have made an outstanding start to the Spring term and we are all thrilled to see how well they have risen to the challenge and demands of GCSE academic rigour. Once students have settled into their option subjects it is wonderful to see their enjoyment and successes in subjects they clearly have a passion for. I have enjoyed popping into DT and sampling the delicious foods cooked by students, watching our Engineering students learn new and practical skills and feel very proud to receive outstanding feedback from a local primary school about our students in Child Development who went to visit a primary school recently and observe KS1 students. Each and every day your children make me feel proud to be part of their educational journey as they are learning so much, both inside and outside of the classroom.

This year we have launched the role of 'Reading Mentors' and have interviewed a very strong set of applicants from Year 10. Their roles have been specifically designed to nurture and support our younger students with the aim to improve their reading and literacy skills.

I am thrilled to announce the following individuals were successfully selected after a challenging and rigorous interview process. Well done to you all and thank you for volunteering not only your time but your support to our younger students.

- S Robertson
- S Kingston
- S Stoyanova
- E Williamson
- R Beamish
- G Ramsey
- S Johnston
- G Peneva
- E Knight
- M Ncube

In regards to Work Experience, I know that James Wilmot, our Director of Careers, has been working tirelessly with Jodie Silmon to help support your child secure a placement. We cannot wait to be out visiting our Year 10s when they enter the world of work. I hope each and every one of our students has a memorable and worthwhile experience. Please look out for news and pictures on twitter and do feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Since we have been back at school we have had a number of students who have been presented with the Principal's Award. These students have been awarded over 800 positives for their excellent attitude to learning, outstanding contributions to lessons and homework to name but a few!

Well done to the following:

- B Gifford 10B1
- M Beramsingh 10B2
- M Ncube 10B2
- F Jackson 10B2
- E Williamson 10A2
- R Wilson 10B1
- M Lenart 10C3

Our teachers run additional revision sessions for our students after school called 'Prep for Success' and these have already begun for Year 11 and will soon roll out to our Year 10s. Thank you to those that are already attending P6 sessions, and to those of you who have yet to attend, come along! We have lots of clubs and activities available to you after school - look on our website or twitter pages for more information.

As we move into the final months of Year 10 we will be holding End of Year Assessments in a very similar style to formal GCSE Exams. The purpose of this is twofold; firstly to be able to assess your child's current academic progress in GCSE subjects and secondly to be able to introduce examination settings to our students to help familiarise them with this environment. We know that exams can be stressful and, with this in mind, we will be carefully planning both in class assessments and also more formal assessments. An information letter will be shared shortly with dates and subject information.

Finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to all our parents at PCSA - we are aware that, working as a team, we can support your child(ren) to achieve their potential. Thank you for all your continued support as we move into the final term of Year 10.

**Mrs. R Petrou**  
Head of Year 10  
[rhian.petrou@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:rhian.petrou@pcsa.org.uk)



This is my final newsletter that I will write about my wonderful year group. I have had the pleasure of being their Head of Year for the last year. And what a journey it has been! I started at PCSA the same time that this year group joined in Year 7. I've seen this year group flourish and mature over the last five years. How time flies!

Year 11 students have continued their lessons with determination and eagerness with many successes, with the majority of pupils accumulating a considerable amount of achievement points. Particular recognition must go to the following pupils who have gained the most achievement points for their hard work and positive attitude to learning. All these pupils are excellent role models for the rest of the year group.

- Leo Chivers (11A1)
- Mia Lindsay (11A3)
- Samuel Elms (11A6)
- Kieran Morgan (11A1)
- Hannah Fowler (11A4)

Final countdown to the GCSEs has begun. I have been impressed with the outstanding work that students have managed to achieve in this academic year. Prep for Success sessions have continued for our Year 11 students. All subjects that have taken place have had a high number of pupils attend. This has demonstrated the commitment that Year 11 have towards their education and upcoming GCSEs.

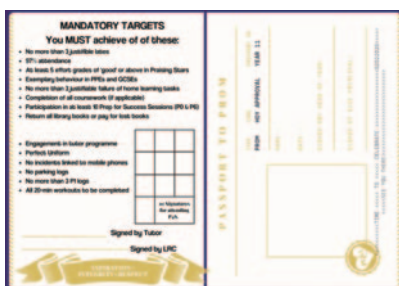
As announced to you earlier in the term, we have now completed the final arrangements and are pleased to announce that there will be a Prom for Year 11 students. It will take place on Thursday 29th June 2023 at the Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol.

Year 11 have been completing their Passports to Prom. We will be informing parents of the itinerary for the evening in due course.

We can't wait and look forward to sharing an enjoyable evening for pupils to celebrate their time at PCSA.

As Year 11 students enter the next phase of their lives, I hope they have an incredible journey filled with happiness and exciting opportunities.

**Miss A Rees**  
Head of Year 11  
[abigail.rees@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:abigail.rees@pcsa.org.uk)





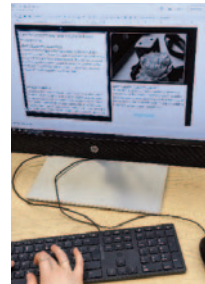
## Art, Photography, Drama & Music

### ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Year 7 Mythical Creatures

Our wonderful Year 7 art students have been working with clay in their most recent learning cycle. They have shown great skills, ownership of learning and creativity.

We are delighted with the outcomes and can see how much they enjoyed the project.



#### Year 9 'In the News'

Year 9 students have been developing important collage and composition skills during this cycle. The theme was 'In the News' and pupils have had the opportunity to present a personal response to the themes of cost of living crisis, climate change and conflict. Robert Rauschenberg has provided their main source of inspiration for this project. We are delighted that our students responded in a mature and respectful way to such current and important topics.



#### Year 11 Photography

Students have been working hard and collating their digital sketchbooks ready for their exams, we are so proud of their strong work ethic and creativity and wish them all the best.



### MUSIC & DRAMA

In the Drama department the cast of our whole school production 'Grease' are busy rehearsing.

The dates of the performance are 11th, 12th, 13th of July 2023 - 6pm start.

Tickets will be available to purchase via Parent Pay on our return from the half term break, Monday 5 June 2023. They will be priced at £8 each..

The rehearsals are looking good, so save the dates and book your tickets!



In the music department our talented Year 11 music students have now completed their controlled assessment, performing a 10 minute set in front of a live audience.

**Mr. J Stanley**  
Central Leader for the Creative Arts  
[james.stanley@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:james.stanley@pcsa.org.uk)

## KS3 Curriculum

What an excellent few months in English with so many exciting events!

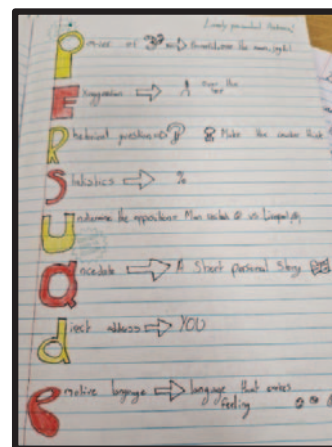
Firstly, our fantastic Year 11 students stunned an audience of parents, carers and their peers with the speeches they delivered in 'The Edvocate Programme' - all being awarded High Level Distinctions for their impressive presentations. Alex Soch was awarded the trophy for delivering the speech which heralded the highest level of professionalism- an brilliant accolade for a brilliant student. Another memorable event was our celebration of World Book Day which included several competitions: 'Decorate your Door'; 'Bake a Book' and 'Vertical Writing Relay'. It was wonderful to have the whole school get involved and channel their competitive spirits. Special mentions go to Tommy Travis (7B3), who won the 'Bake a Book'; 7A6, 8A2, 9B4, 10B2 and 11A4 for their outstanding classroom doors and finally to 11B4 who won the 'Vertical Writing Relay'. Finally, we were thrilled to reveal our 'Take a Leaf from Our Book'



tree in the courtyard which is filled with inspirational quotations from all of our staff at PCSA. The tree continues to stand proud.

## KS3 Update

KS3 have been busy practising the craft of writing. All students read regularly in English and then analyse the writers' language choices. We use two acronyms ACOMPASS and PERSUADE. ACOMPASS is a way of remembering the techniques used in creative and descriptive writing; PERSUADE is the techniques needed to elevate opinion writing. We have added a Google Slide to Google Classroom to help our students learn this.



We have just completed Cycle Three's learning looking at War Poetry, especially Jessie Pope, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. It is the first time Y7 will have attempted poetry analysis, and we have been impressed with their resolve and open mindset. This will serve them well in KS4 when they need to analyse poetry as part of their GCSE. New for Cycle Four is a more modern and diverse novel,



Freedom 1783. Catherine Johnson tells the fictional story of Nat, a Jamaican slave sent to England. We will sensitively study this important topic on the Transatlantic Slave Trade and learn the many historical and human lessons. It is the perfect book to study the craft of storytelling and writing.



Once every two weeks we have an hour 'Just Write' session. This academic year we have pushed 'What does EXCELLENT writing look like' with teachers and students providing many exemplar writings for our cohort to peruse and enjoy. We celebrate and practise all genres: storytelling, playwriting, concrete poems, short stories; fiction; nonfiction; slam poetry; war poetry; newspaper articles; and autobiographical writing. We want as many students' writings as possible to be celebrated. Just Write is giving

students the space to try new writing that they may not have previously considered. Just Write provides a non-judgemental space for mistakes making, drafting and experimenting with the craft of writing.



Year 8 have been immersed in the novel *Trash* by Andy Mulligan. This is always a popular book. *Trash* examines the lives of the dumpsite kids in fictional Belhala.

Looking at how real children survive by collecting items to sell from the dumpsite is always a reminder to our cohort of the relative comforts we have in England - even if it sometimes feels tricky. Mulligan used to be a secondary school teacher so the book is perfectly pitched. Our Student Voice reported enjoying this novel.

Finally, Year 9. Year 9 have also been looking at poetry, delving into the exciting world of Slam Poetry in particular. The students examine poetic techniques and watch modern poets such as Holly McNish and Benjamin Zephaniah. This year we had five finalists as the students' Slam poems were so strong!

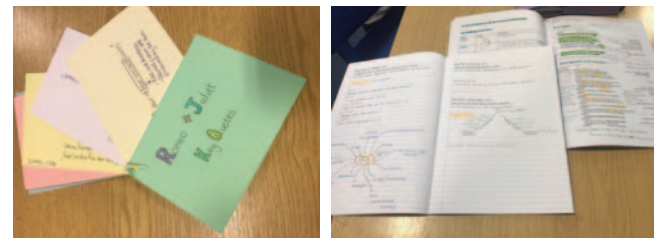


Thank you for supporting your child at home with their weekly digital homeworks, too. As a faculty we love teaching English and feel it is a privilege to teach such hardworking and motivated students. Please do feel free to email with any feedback you might have.

[Tara.morse@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Tara.morse@pcsa.org.uk),  
**KS4 Update**

With just weeks to go until the first of the English Literature GCSE exams, Year 11 are stepping up their revision! They are working hard to learn key quotations, plan essays and complete past papers for their teachers to provide feedback. It was great to see many students attending Easter Revision school and coming to our after-school 'Prep For Success' sessions. The next couple of months will be busy, but we look forward to Year 11 having the opportunity to show off their skills and knowledge in their final exams.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have been enjoying a newly refreshed 'Romeo and Juliet' Learning Cycle. They began by watching a fantastic recorded performance from The Globe theatre in London, allowing them to see Shakespeare's words brought to life on the stage. They have enjoyed studying key scenes using a new workbook, which has supported them in their exploration of the language and context of the play. It is lovely to see them developing their confidence as analytical essay writers; these skills will set them up nicely for the demands of Year 11. The images below show some of their fantastic work!



Outside of the classroom, the Key Stage Four book club has been meeting regularly to eat biscuits...and, of course, to have some lively discussions about the texts we've been reading! So far this year we've covered 'Animal Farm', 'The Catcher in the Rye', 'The Great Gatsby', 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and 'Good Omens' - quite the range! The book club was established this year and is open to anyone in Year 10 and Year 11. Whether you're a keen reader, or feel you'd like to read a bit more, come along!

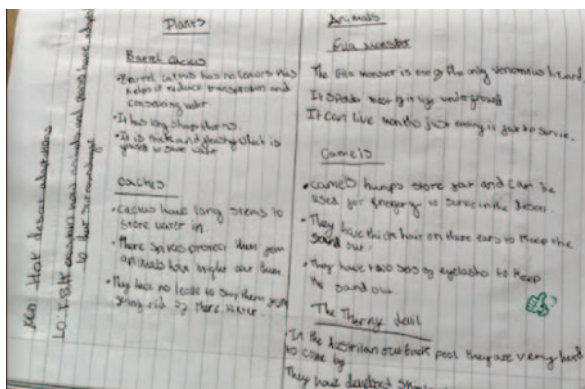
**Mr. P Dodd**  
Central Leader for English  
[philip.dodd@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:philip.dodd@pcsa.org.uk)

Over the spring, the curriculum has taken centre stage in Humanities. For example, in Religious Education, Year 7 and 8 students have been building on their foundational knowledge of the world's most influential religions whilst Year 9 have been engaging with challenging philosophical questions such as, "Can we provide evidence for God's existence?" Comparing and contrasting both religious and non-religious worldviews have allowed students to consider what makes a strong argument and to develop their own perspectives in response.

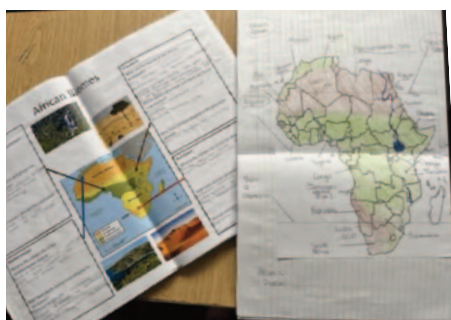
Meanwhile, Head of Religious Education Mrs Collins has been very impressed with the development of the new GCSE Religious Studies options course, saying, "Students have shown an impressive range of knowledge of the beliefs and practices of Christianity. Recent work on Hinduism has provoked meaningful debates about the moral implications of reincarnation – if your soul does return to a new body, is it fair to be held responsible for something that was done in a previous life?" Meanwhile, all Year 10 students have invested in their Core RE lessons, which have explored complex Human Rights issues from both a philosophical and societal perspective before moving onto looking at the interesting concepts with Medical ethics and religious opinions on those ethical problems.

There has also been really interesting work taking place in and around History lessons this year. Most recently, students have been completing topics on The Tudors, World Wars, Afghanistan and Early Elizabethan England. These topics have been really engaging and have allowed our students to shine a new light on how we study history – bringing it into the modern era.

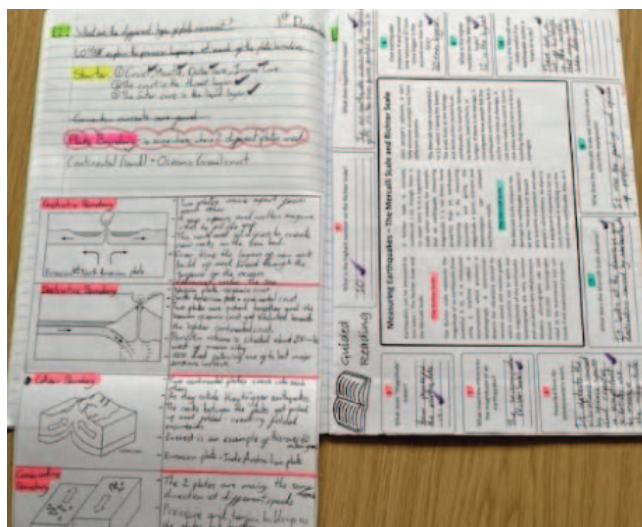
In Geography this year KS3 students have continued with the enquiry led approach to their learning by exploring fertile questions. These are intriguing questions that each lesson is seeking to help to answer and to tie all the lessons in a topic together. Some examples of the topics they have covered are:



YR7 – Is it possible to survive in hostile environments?

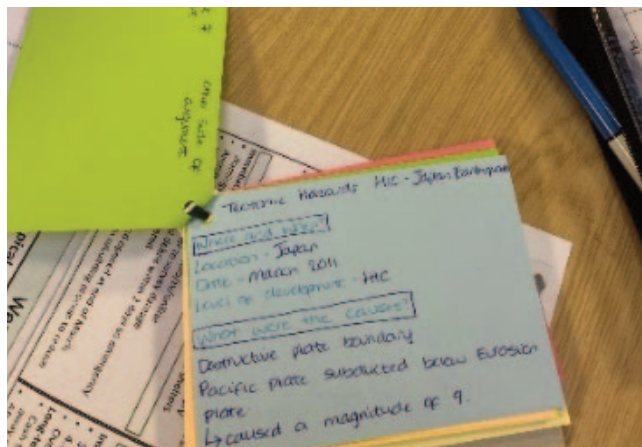


YR8 Geography – How and why is Africa a diverse continent?



YR9 Geography – Why are some volcanoes and earthquakes more deadly than others?

We have also been delighted with the start Year 10 have made to their GCSE course. They have shown an excellent, mature attitude to their learning which is a delight to see. The effort of the Year 11s has also been exceptional and they have shown fantastic determination to succeed. In March, they visited Bristol harbourside to complete a fieldwork enquiry on the regeneration of the area. Despite the snow and freezing temperatures they students conducted themselves fantastically.



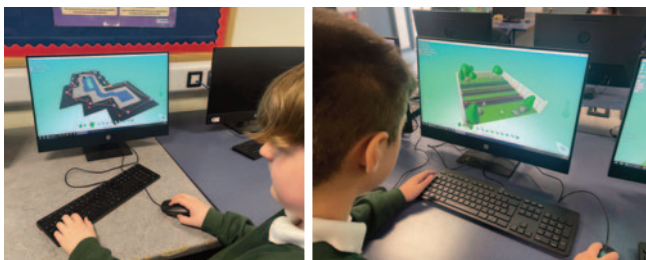
YR11 Geography - Case study flash cards

As Year 11 near their exams, Priory students have been revising hard in lessons. We had a great turn out for Easter School with students attending both sessions and demonstrating a fantastic attitude to approach their upcoming exams. After school Prep for Success session have focussed on both knowledge and exam skills to further support them in their road to achievement. The staff involved in all of these sessions have been so impressed with the attitude to learning displayed by the students who attended. We wish them all the best in their upcoming exams.

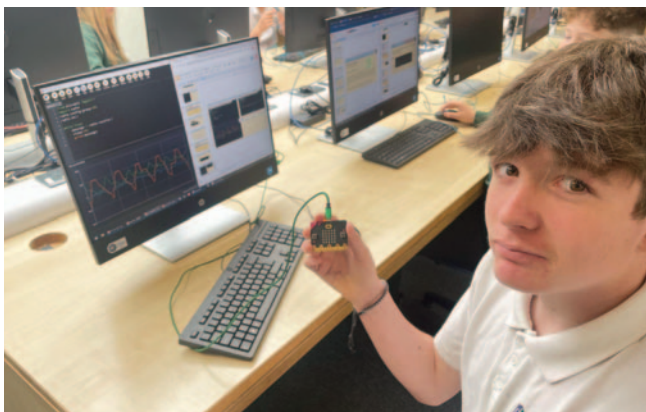
**Mr. M Gray**  
Central Leader for Humanities  
[matthew.gray@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:matthew.gray@pcsa.org.uk)

## Kodu - Year 7

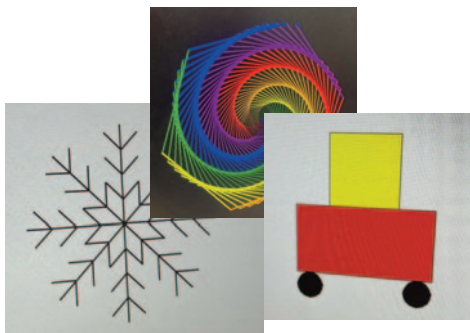
Since learning about computer components in the previous cycle the Year 7 students have moved on to programming. In this topic they have been developing their understanding of programming concepts using Kodu. This initial introduction to programming has given the students the fundamental building blocks of programming so they can develop that knowledge further in our final cycle and beyond. In Cycle 4 they are programming using Micro:bits which will give students the opportunity to program physical devices that can relate to real world applications.



## Python Turtle and Micro:Bits – Year 8



Moving on from block programming in our Thinkable topic the Year 8 students have been learning the high level programming language of Python. They have used Python to create drawings by utilising the Turtle library. We then continued to use Python but to program the Micro:Bits that the students had used in Year 7. Within this cycle they have mastered some of the basic skills developed in Year 7 and added new programming concepts to push their knowledge to the next level and beyond. The next topic is a leap away from computing as we give the students a taster of what business could offer them.



## Advanced Computer Systems - Year 9

Continuing with the principle of setting the Year 9 students up for a future in computing we have been looking at advanced computer systems. For those students moving on to Computer Science or IT in Key Stage 4 this topic has introduced many key elements that will help them in their future studies. For those students who are not moving onto a computing qualification the topic allows them to have an understanding of computer requirements so if they are in a position in the future to purchase a new computer system, they can apply their knowledge to help them choose the best option for their requirements. This ideal will continue throughout the next cycle where we will be learning about the impact of living in a digital world.

## Year 10 & 11

Our Year 10 IT students have been focussing on their Human Computer Interfaces using Excel and have produced some excellent work. The Computer Scientists have moved on from Computer Systems where they were focusing on how the computer systems work at a component level to Computational thinking and programming which is at the other end of the spectrum.



Both Year 10 and 11 Enterprise and Marketing students have been working on their coursework with the Year 11 students presenting their new pizza ideas to industry leaders and the Year 10 starting to design the new bags.

Our P6 enrichment sessions have continued to run and allow the students to develop their computing skills in whatever direction they choose.



## Mr. M Hodder

Central leader of Computing, ICT & Business  
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## Students of the Cycle

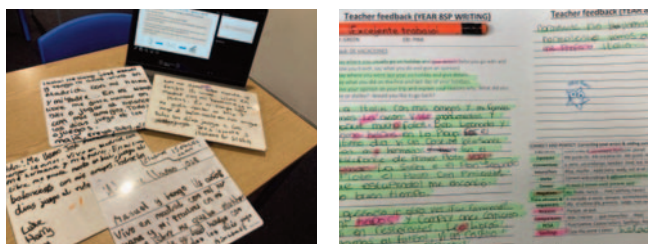
Each cycle, teachers nominate one student for French and one student for Spanish to receive a “Student of the Cycle” award. Reasons for nomination could be effort, resilience or excellence in the subject as well as significant improvement, excellent attitude for learning or exemplar character. It is always a privilege to give out the certificates and reward our lovely students.



This year, Learning Cycle 2 nominations were: Ruby Dixon, Zak Tonks, Joe Christie, Izzy Walser, Imogen Richards, Josh Elliott, Ella Renhard, Annabel Livesey, Matthew Constable, Adrian Grzybowski, David Khella, Migle Venckauskaite. Well done to all! We are very proud of you!

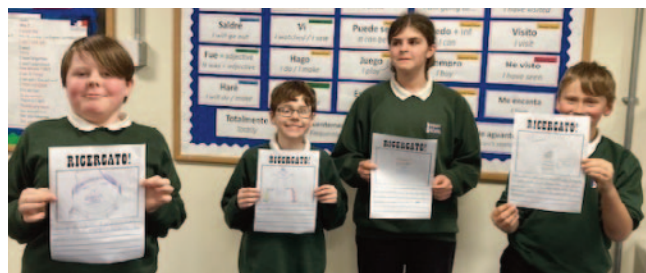
## Creative Writing and Developing Languages Skills:

Every cycle and every lesson is an opportunity for students to develop languages skills and to show what they can do in French and Spanish. Whether they undertake translation tasks on their own or in groups, take part in running dictation games to further practise speaking and reading skills as well as writing, or even show off their creative skills through writing tasks and assessments, we are increasingly overwhelmed with the effort and linguistic ability our students consistently display. We are grateful to all parents and carers who continue to encourage our young people to further their languages skills and abilities.



## P6 Enrichment Clubs

Our enrichment clubs continue to be popular and run mainly on Tuesdays after school in the LGU block. Mindfulness is regularly attended and our new Italian club is also very popular with KS3 students. Every Friday, a group of students attend the French club to practise speaking skills. We also have chess club and Memrise club for students who wish to seek help or advice with our home learning platform. Further information available from your language teacher.



## Where can languages take me?



In February, the language faculty was able to discuss languages opportunities beyond the classroom during assemblies. For students who are interested in a career pursuing languages, there are many jobs where linguistic skills are important, but it is also worth noting that being able to speak a language can sometimes give you the edge when it comes to job interviews and this is a skill that is more and more appreciated by employers. Let's also remember that one of the benefits of language learning is the travel opportunities it can bring. We encourage our young people to be curious of the world around them and are always happy to hear stories of their visits to various countries.

**Mrs. C Parsons**

Central Leader for LGU  
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- Here are some of the most important benefits of traveling:
- Travel Makes You Happier. ...
- Travel Lets You Disconnect & Recharge.
- Traveling Relieves Stress and Anxiety. ...
- Travel Exposes You to New Things. ...
- Travel Exposes Others to New Things. ...
- Travel Makes You Physically Healthier.
- Traveling Can Boost Your Creativity.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do” ~ H. Jackson Brown Jr.

## Year 11

What can we say about the huge effort the Year 11s put in for all of their exams. We had students in over half term and Prep for Success. We managed to complete Walking Talking Mocks (WTM) for all predicted papers to help support in the exams.

Thank you to all the students who worked so hard, all parents who support their son/daughter and to all staff who went above and beyond to ensure all our students were given the greatest opportunity.

Now we all wait for the Results Day in August and whatever the outcome, we know that students did everything they could and we could not have asked for more.

I would also like to celebrate the students who completed their AQA Further Maths Level 2 qualification. This is a dramatic increase from last year and we hope for some great results.



## Year 10

Well done to Year 10s who have worked so hard over the last couple of months to prepare for their GCSE Statistics. We have students coming regularly every week to the Tuesday sessions and the sessions we ran over Easter and half term. All of this will help prepare students for their GCSEs in Year 11 and specifically in their maths. I look forward to seeing the results .

## Maths Clubs

This year has seen the enrichment opportunities for all year groups growing in maths. On Wednesday we have held a regular home learning club for all year groups with teachers available to help with any issues that students have faced in maths. Mr Ennis has had great fun running the Dungeons and Dragons sessions on Wednesday. What has this got to do with maths? Well it has a lot of rolling of dice and potential to understand probability. The dice are also a little



different as you can see below. In February we started the GCSE Statistic session for Year 10s on the Tuesday.

## UK Junior Maths Challenge

It has been a busy year this year with regards to Year 7 and Year 8 mathematics. We have had the opportunity to enter about 80 students into this year's UK Junior Math Challenge where we had success of many students. We do not have the results yet, but I will let you know in the next newsletter.



## UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

We had a great turn out for the Intermediate Maths Challenge back in February. We love these style of activities which celebrate our great mathematicians. We now have the results from this challenge which saw 19 of our Year 10s achieving a Bronze Medal and 4 achieving a Silver. In Year 9 we had 1 Bronze and 1 Silver awarded. I know that the current Year 9s will go on to be successful in this next year. A special mention to Mia Wickens who was best in school and in Year 10 and Henry Jones who was best in Year 9.

## Maths Week

This year we ran our maths week in the final week of term 4. This involved many activities for students to take part in. The focus this year was careers in maths and to celebrate how maths is all around us. Mr Gilbert created and performed a great assembly illustrating the uses of maths over time and we had the pleasure of Jade Urch who talked to students about maths in industry.

We also ran several competitions, the main one being our Pi Challenge. Students have to recall as many digits of Pi (in the right order) and will receive, £31.41 for 1st place, £3.14 for 2nd and 31p for 3rd place. Hopefully you can work out why these amounts are significant. It was a close run, but the winners were Rebecca Mawbey (Y10), recalling a staggering 262 digits of Pi, followed by Emily Knight (Y10) on 162 and Spencer Morley (Y9) on 119. Special mentions to Mia Bliss in Y7 on 62 and Lacey Richardson in Y8 on 115 who were top of their year. I look forward to seeing you getting better over the years. Rebecca's amazing effort puts her 46th in the country out of 196 on the official website and 510th in the world out of 2486 people who have officially recorded their times.



## STUDENT OF THE CYCLE

The following students were nominated by their teachers as Student of the Cycle. Congratulations to them!!!  
 Libby Hadley, Rhys Southcombe, Sophia Alden, Ellie Bavin,  
 Dylan Carter, Mia Romano, Eleanor Stoddart, Anna Niec  
 Adam Barringer, Aidan Hedges, Connor Fisher, Olivia Page

**Mrs. L Kerrison**

Central Leader for Maths  
[lois.kerrison@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:lois.kerrison@pcsa.org.uk)

## Y7 Football

The Year 7 squad have made an amazing start. We have had lots of numbers at P6 and everyone has had an opportunity to represent the school. The boys have worked together as a team and supported each other well. We play friendlies in Year 7 and then enter the cup competitions from Year 8. The boys were exceptional in all their games and were undefeated in their friendlies. We then entered two teams into the local tournament with one of the teams winning the competition. They have been an absolute pleasure to take to fixtures and are always polite and helpful. The department is really excited to see how well this group of boys progress in the coming years.



## Y8 Football

The Year 8 football team have had another successful season with plenty of fixtures. They are improving every year and are a pleasure to manage. They try to play football the right way and as they get bigger and stronger will find it easier to compete.



## Y9 Football

The Year 9 football team have exceeded all expectations this season whilst being on an outstanding cup run in the Somerset Schools cup. Victories against Crispin, Courtfields and a close defeat to Westfield Academy lead to the boys being knocked out in the Quarter-final. With regular P6 numbers for Year 9 football reaching 30-35 students, we have been impressed with the way the boys have responded to squad rotations in order to give everyone an equal chance to represent the school. A special mention must go to Harrison Pinfield who has been the most consistent player and who has played a vital role in the central defensive position. Well done on an outstanding season!



## Y10 Football

The Year 10s this year have been brilliant. We were competitive in our cup competitions and have used our local games to provide all students that came training the opportunity to represent the school. The boys have shown amazing aspiration and integrity within their performances and have ensured that all players are welcome and supported. The respect they have demonstrated towards each other, the opposition and officials has been amazing. A special thanks to Mr Hames, or the 'Gaffer' as he is now called, for stepping in at short notice to take the team.



## Swimming Gala

The swimming gala this year was another resounding success! We had lots of students represent the school for the first time this year which is a tremendous achievement with some going outside their comfort zone to do so! The gala would be nowhere near as slick and organised without the expertise of Mrs Gilmore who volunteers her time to plan and organise the gala. Having achieved a bronze medal last year we were not sure if we would be renewing her contract but she assured us that we would go one better this year. The team swam exceptionally well and achieved second place overall, missing out narrowly to Gordano. Well done to all involved and thanks once again to Mrs Gilmore.

## Year 7 Hockey

The Year 7s have turned up in numbers to afterschool hockey and for home matches we have been able to field 3 teams which has been fantastic, unfortunately due to some inclement weather several matches have had to be cancelled, but the games we have played have showed great promise.



### Results

PCSA	v	Worle	0-0	POM	Jess W
PCSA	v	Sidcot	lost 1-0	POM	Ruby F
PCSA	v	Clevedon	won 6-1	POM	Courtney W
PCSA	v	Winterstoke 100	won 6-1		

We played three thirds with 3 separate teams so three POM: Lauren G, Courtney W, Tegan H

## Year 8 Hockey

Some good results for the Year 8s and have trained well together as a squad and it's great to see a number of the team carry on their hockey at club level with Weston super Mare Hockey Club.



### Results

PCSA	v	Worle	won 11-0	POM	Jess W
PCSA	v	Sidcot	drew 5-5	POM	Ava J
PCSA	v	Clevedon	won 2-0	POM	Ava J
PCSA	v	Winterstoke 100	lost 3-2	POM	Megan B





### Year 9 Hockey

The Year 9 hockey squad have adapted well to the 11 aside format of the game and have shown great levels of fitness and skills, we have also found a new goalkeeper in Izzy who has enjoyed the role, although she has been a little cold at times. Again the bad weather has cancelled some of our matches but the games we have managed to play have been very promising and I hope the girls will continue into Year 10 in the same manner.

#### Results

PCSA	v	Churchill	won 3 - 0	POM	Gabi N
PCSA	v	Sidcot	won 1 - 0	POM	Emma H



### Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netballers won the North Somerset tournament and so were lucky enough to go through to the Level 3 Netball School semi-finals against Winterbourne Academy and unfortunately after a well battled game they lost. However, they did PCSA proud and are raring to go next year.

### Year 11 Netball

The Year 11 netballers have played their last games for PCSA and again did well within the tournament coming mid-table at 6th out of 12 teams that entered. Having to steal some Year 10s to fill some gaps where unfortunately not all were available. Its been an absolute pleasure to have these students play in the team over their 5 years at PCSA.

### LC2 and LC3 House Matches

Students actively taking part in a mixture of basketball, hockey, benchball and fitness challenges. As always, the atmosphere was fantastic and the effort from all year groups could not have been questioned. Holmes had some strong hockey and basketball performances but Tweddle overall came on top.

LC3 was slightly different. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions and saturated football pitches, we were unable to carry out house matches as originally planned. Nevertheless, the students still took part in competitive activities and showed plenty of leadership, resilience and respect to the other team members and opposition. With only 1 learning cycle left, it will be interesting to see who will be crowned sports champions and the overall house cup winners! Good luck everyone.



**Mr. C Coombs**  
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**Mr. T Allcoat**  
Teacher of PE  
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We have had a wonderful Spring in Science. We welcomed a busy and engaging Science Week with hands on activities for all year groups. Our Year 10 Triple Science students had a fantastic opportunity to work with lecturers and students from UCW. Getting hands on with two workshops using lab equipment to separate mixtures using gel electrophoresis, and a whole organism frog dissection, allowing students to see what university lectures could be like. We hope that these have allowed students to engage in Science beyond the classroom.

## British Science Week - Miss Kyriakou

In March we celebrated British Science Week and the students took part in many fun “hands on” experiments; making their own elephant’s toothpaste, constructing circuits and creating methane bubbles.

We had a number of competitions running throughout the week; well done to all who took part and massive congratulations to Imogen Chambers, Eliza Small, Reuben Fealey and Logan Henley who carried away the prizes.

If you are in Years 7 or 8 and would like to get a more hands on experience on Science, come along and join our Science Club. The club runs from 15.10pm – 16.00pm on Wednesdays in S13.



## Child Development Mrs Bush

The students in Child Development are going from strength to strength, with progress being made evident on a lesson by lesson basis. The students have completed their formal observation which focussed on making up a formula feed.

Those students that have their coursework, have now completed 50% of their overall coursework for the course, such a fantastic achievement .

The reality babies have now been to the majority of students, with results that showed varying success!

We will be welcoming visitors from the medical and educational fields to discuss their careers and involvement in the development and support of children aged 0-5 years.

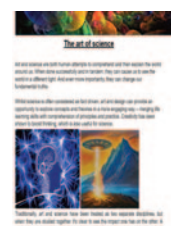
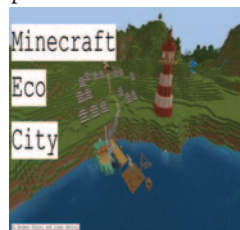
We will also be working on more practical elements of the course which is an area that the students continue to excel in.

The students continue to show enthusiasm which leads to a wonderful learning environment. I thoroughly enjoy delivering the course and I look forward to continuing to celebrate the students’ success.



## KS4 - Mrs Gunningham

We have been so immensely proud of the work ethic of our Year 11 students this year; so many students are working tirelessly both in and out of lessons. The vast majority of students are electing to put extra time towards their work to ensure that they are confident with the content as well as exam skills. We had over 100 Year 11 students attend Easter school to enhance their scientific skills. We wish our students every success in their summer exams and look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on results day in August. Students in Year 10 are showing real promise for their final year at PCSA and have been learning about diseases, including how vaccinations work and how new drugs are developed, as well as a topic on organic chemistry and how we use hydrocarbons as fuels – all incredibly relevant topics!



Students are continuing to develop and demonstrate their scientific skills, leadership, organisation, and communication skills when completing practical work, all important skills which will equip our students for work or further study in the future. We continue to see big success on our home learning platforms. Years 10-11 are busy “growing” their trees as they progress through their Tassomai course. One of the great benefits of Tassomai is that it encourages students to learn independently, and take control of the learning process. Students gain instant feedback on this “low stakes” frequent quizzing which really helps to embed knowledge.

Finally, a massive well done to all who have earned the prestigious science student of the week award, you have shown a fantastic attitude to your studies in science.

**Mrs. K Roberts**  
Central Leader for Science  
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## PCSA Better By DESIGN

### Savoy Educational Trust



SAVOY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Recently the faculty was successful in securing funding from the Savoy Educational Trust to allow further investment in technology and resources within Food and Catering following the recent refurbishment of the food rooms in the summer of 2022.

The successful bid aimed to enhance our learning environments to cater for increased numbers of students who study KS3 Food Technology and KS4 Hospitality & Catering by providing key catering equipment and IT equipment for our students.

By purchasing an industrial blast chiller to be used by both Food rooms and provide additional chromebooks and a charging / storage trolley to support KS4 students in their lessons / learning and critically when completing their Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action coursework.

We are grateful for the support of the Savoy Educational Trust and the equipment is already having a positive impact on our students and their learning.



### CHARTER FOR THE SAVOY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The core purpose of the Trust is the advancement and development of education and learning within the hospitality industry. The Trust aims to adopt good practice at all times and invest in worthwhile projects that have other well-known and respected partners.

The Trust can do this in a number of ways by:-

- Establishing and maintaining contacts with schools, colleges, universities and other providers of recognised qualifications for those studying for careers in the hospitality industry.
- Promoting and providing scholarships to help develop and enhance education, training and continual professional development.
- Recognising and rewarding the achievement of specific skills by supporting the leading industry competitions with educational scholarships/prizes.
- Encouraging and sponsoring further learning opportunities relevant to the industry by all modern forms of technology and communication.
- Working closely with a network of key people on current matters affecting education, training and issues such as skills development, recruitment and retention.

### World Book Day

The DT faculty has a strong tradition of participating in World Book Day. Can you tell which characters they are?



### Year 10 Vocational Award in Construction

Year 10 have continued to develop their skills in this new course. Students have started to develop their electrical installation knowledge and skills using new tools and equipment.



### KS3 D&T

Students continue to enjoy designing and making products as part of their studies whether it be in Food Technology or in the workshops. They continue to impress us with their skills.



### Mr. D Clay

Central Leader for Design and Technology  
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**PSHE, Citizenship & Character Education**

Every student's Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) has been at the forefront for most tutor time discussions. Each year group has had a separate focus this term making sure that the discussion has been age appropriate and useful for our students personal development. We aim to provide all of our students with the toolbox and per-

sonal skills in order to succeed, not only when at Priory but also beyond 16 years of age.

**Term 5 and 6 topics**

- Year 7 Inclusion and identity/Healthy living and responsible choices
- Year 8 Families and relationships/Drug alcohol and substance awareness
- Year 9 Substance abuse/Basic first aid
- Year 10 Mental health and wellbeing/Identify and sexuality
- Year 11 Mental health and wellbeing

We are extremely grateful for the fantastic relationships that we have when working with organisations from our local community. A range of assemblies have been delivered on LGBTQ+ identity, managing basic finances, violence against women within Somerset, mental health, CPR awareness and many more! At PCSA, we are strong believers that this type of education is crucial in developing well rounded individuals.



**Citizenship**

Citizenship and character education plays a fundamental role within the tutor programme at PCSA, as well as playing a significant part of the wider curriculum and culture. Our core values as a school are aspiration, integrity and respect and these form the basis of all discussions around learning and conduct. We celebrate students who showcase values in and around school with praise postcards and our new 'Wonder wall' in the main school courtyard.



Our weekly Citizenship sessions during Tutor time focused on the following over the last full term:

- Understanding protest
- Human Rights
- Understanding strikes
- Good Mental wellbeing
- Climate Change, pollution and travel - led by the PCSA Eco Committee
- Social Action and volunteering



Last term we welcomed 13 new Value Ambassadors who applied, interviewed and were selected to represent our core values as a school. Since then, they have been carrying out valuable work around the school and in the community. For example, delivering assemblies on character, advertising volunteering opportunities and getting involved with visits in the community. The group has been working with Alliance Dementia Day Care Centre in Worle which has proved an enriching experience for all. Acting as role models, the passion for volunteering and being kind is spreading through their examples, with many other students now joining PCSA's 'Social Action Squad' and another student applying to become an ambassador.

**Mr. T Allcoat**  
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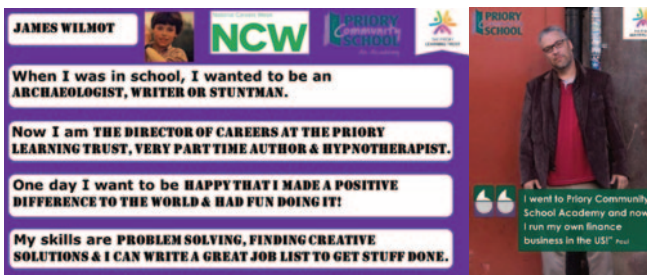
Year 10 have worked extremely hard this term to source work experience placements for May. 350 students will be out on placement with hundreds of employers building their confidence and developing employability skills.



National Apprenticeship Week a great success in February with visiting employers and apprentices from PD&CL Building Services, Thatcher's and Weston College calling in to meet students to talk about work based learning. We also held an evening apprenticeship information session for families hosted by Donna and Alex from The Western Training Provider Network.



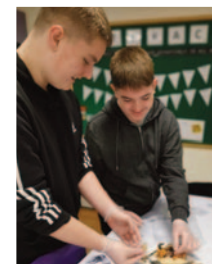
Apprenticeship week was swiftly followed by National Careers Week! This year staff filled out posters to show students where they have been, where they are and where they plan to go with the skills they have picked up along the way. We had really interesting conversations with students all through the week. Previous student Paul zoomed into tutor time to talk about his squiggly career that took him from Tesco, the MOD and now to his own finance business in Washington DC. Year 11 students planning on studying A levels at King Alfred Sixth Form jumped on the train to Highbridge to be Sixth Formers for the day. Chloe also visited school to talk to Health & Social Care students about her career.



National Careers Week was then followed by National Science Week! Our friends from University Centre Weston came to PCSA and spent the morning with triple science students conducted degree level experiments.

Our students tell us that they really benefit from different people coming to school to tell their stories.

Jade called back to school to meet every student in a week of assemblies to bust some stereotypes and talk about her career in construction. Jeff dropped in to talk about his career and adventures as a SCUBA Diver.

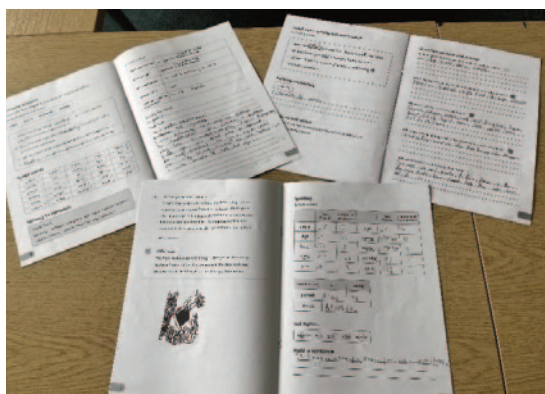


Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we are really looking forward to seeing Year 10 students attend work experience, a college taster day and our annual mock interview day.

And while we wave goodbye to our Year 11 students, our Year 7 students will be put through their paces in June with their interview challenge.

**Mr. Wilmot**  
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**Miss Silmon**  
Careers Advisor  
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Hello! We have now reached an important and busy time of year for the SEN team. We are doing all we can to support our Year 11s as they approach their final GCSE assessments. We are also working with our local primary schools so that we can meet Year 6 students who are joining us in September in order to help them with their transition.

Students have been really busy learning new skills in our interventions classes. In Year 7 Phonics intervention we are working our way through the Read Write Inc series of work books. The students have been reading the stories in the books and have to find the different sounds and separate root and ending words in various words. They also have to write a sentence that is verbally told to them and find the spelling and punctuation errors in a set piece of writing. Questions are also answered on the story and they have to write a piece of writing based on the story at the end of each workbook

We have been working really hard with many students on social skills intervention. We have been doing fantastic work this past term developing strategies to support emotional regulation for our students. We look at a wide range of practical solutions to promote positive interactions. This gives our young adults a chance to own their feelings and strategies, creating bespoke support and helping them through into adulthood.

Finally, we are really proud of SEND Manager, Jane Griffiths who received a Priority Learning Trust Star award. She was nominated by a colleague who said

“Jane has never lost her enthusiasm to put the students first, after years of working here. She is always dedicating herself to the students’ needs and trying to think of ways we can do more to help them achieve. She also supports our team to make sure we are all using PACE, zones of regulation, inclusive practice and most importantly that we are keeping all our students safe at school. Nothing is ever too much, despite everything she has been through personally in the past year. She is gentle and kind and patient towards all of our students, whilst never sacrificing their learning. She is an inspiration.”

### We all agree that Ms Griffiths is exceptional!

Year 9s in cycle 3 have read the thriller Stone Cold. This is very different to other books we have read and we have all really enjoyed it. We have followed the story of Link becoming homeless and being chased by a killer. Through this book we have developed our work on picking out quotes and then building PEE paragraph structures. Using chrome books we have also been doing independent research focusing on important subjects such as homelessness.

**Miss L Smith**  
Assistant Principal and SENDCO  
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On Wednesday 1st March, PCSA celebrated World Book Day. Many of our staff dressed up as their favourite characters from much loved books and this is always a huge hit with our students. Tutor groups decorated their tutor group doors and in the Library we had 250 of the £1.00 World Book Day books which we gave away during break time. We were full of students from all Year groups and a small group of our Year 11 students happily stopped for a photograph to mark the day.

This year Dragon Realm was the favourite book amongst our students – an action packed adventure full of dragons and Kay’s Brilliant Brains proved very popular too.

On Monday 6th March we held an Upper School Book Swap for Years 9, 10 and 11. Our students were invited to bring along a preloved book from home and then swap it for a brand new book to them from a selection of books that other students had donated. Similarly to our Lower School Book Swap back in December last year it was really well attended and here is Grace, one of our Year 11 students proudly showing the books she chose.

We are also going to be holding a staff Book Swap during term 6 which we are really looking forward to.

Two more of our Library raffle winners can be seen here happily showing off their prizes. We hold a raffle every week and we really do have some great books for our students to choose from.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

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**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

Dear Tutors and Students

**World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March 2023 - £1 Book Token**

Thanks to National Book Tokens and lots of lovely publishers and booksellers, we are giving a **World Book Day** £1 book token to every student at Priory Community School.

This year the book tokens are in digital format. You access your token via Weduc and you can use it at participating bookshops and swap it for one of the specially written £1 **World Book Day** books. Alternatively you can use your token to get £1 off any full price book as long as it costs at least £2.99. The **World Book Day** books are fantastic with something to appeal to everybody.

This year the LRC has managed to obtain 250 copies of some of the £1 **World Book Day** books! They will be available from the library during break time on **Wednesday 1st March**. If you would like a **FREE** book, please bring a PCSA book token along with you as you **WILL** need to have this to exchange it for a book. This is on a first come, first served basis and one book token per student. *The in-house tokens cannot be used in bookshops, only in the school library.* The books are:

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

**World Book Day** book tokens are valid until Sunday 26th March 2023

**Don't miss out!**

★ These are the books that are available in the library

We have a wonderful culture of reading at Priory and it is such a lovely, relaxing and motivational way of improving literacy. All our students are welcome in the library where we are very happy to help them to choose a book to read.



Follow us on Twitter



## TEACHER TRAINING

If you are looking to train as a teacher, The Priory Learning Trust offers an alternative to traditional university-based teacher training at both primary and secondary level. With our School Direct teacher training programme you train in two schools in the Weston and Burnham area, learning on the job, while working towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).



If you'd like to find out more please contact  
Denise Hurr, Head of Training School via email: [tsa@theplt.org.uk](mailto:tsa@theplt.org.uk)



Our enthusiastic group continue to spread positive news stories from Worle to the World! Students have enjoyed working on a range of local, community based stories and researching global phenomena to report on with the aim of cheering up the news channels!

At Jill Dando News we meet every Wednesday to build interviewing, editing and photography skills!

We participated in a special Priory Learning Trust event on Wednesday 26th April when journalists were lucky enough to learn from prolific TV presenter Nick Ross in a special keynote speaker conference and Q&A session. Students impressed a number of BBC, Business Leader and TPLT representatives with their own professional presentations covering their top stories and achievements from the year. Take a look at the event news piece here.

Moving forward, we will look to boost recruitment across all year groups to ensure that students are engaging with news as much as possible and considering the impact of news and media consumption.

Our team is looking forward to delivering an assembly on the importance of 'press freedom' to mark Press Freedom Day in May. We are also working closely with PCSA's newly appointed Values Ambassadors and Social Action Squad who are working hard to carry out brilliant school and community based work.



**Miss S O'Gorman**  
Teacher of English  
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**Mr S Dean**  
TPLT Jill Dando News Centre  
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## Jill Dando Highlights - 2023



[goodnewspost.co.uk](http://goodnewspost.co.uk)



Our top priority as a school is the safety of your child and their personal development from a young child in Year 7 to a young adult in Year 11. We are very proud of the work that we are doing to create an atmosphere of safety and excellence where children can thrive and excel.

However, having looked at many different ways to create this atmosphere of excellence we have consistently come up against a major obstacle - the use of mobile phones. For the last two years we have tried to be a mobile free zone in school, however, this has not worked in the way that we hoped it would have. Having dealt with several incidents the last month alone, the common denominator is the use of mobile phones in school.

Furthermore, all the research that we have looked at and the recommendations from many experts indicates that mobile phones are an unnecessary obstruction to students' attention and concentration, thus making them detrimental to their progress overall. Equally importantly, all the latest advice has indicated that mobile phones, especially the use of social media, have an adverse impact on childrens' mental health and well-being.

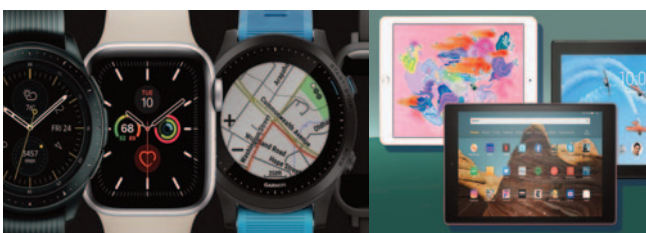
Ultimately, students do not need their phones in the classroom nor at social times. We genuinely believe that without mobile phones, PCSA will be a better place for our students and that this daily digital detox will be extremely beneficial to them.

Therefore, PCSA will be a no mobile phone school at all times. All students will have to put their phones in a safe box when entering morning tutor time. Phones will be safely locked in their tutor room for the day. At the end of the afternoon tutor time, 14:55, the tutors will unlock the safe box and students can have their phones back.

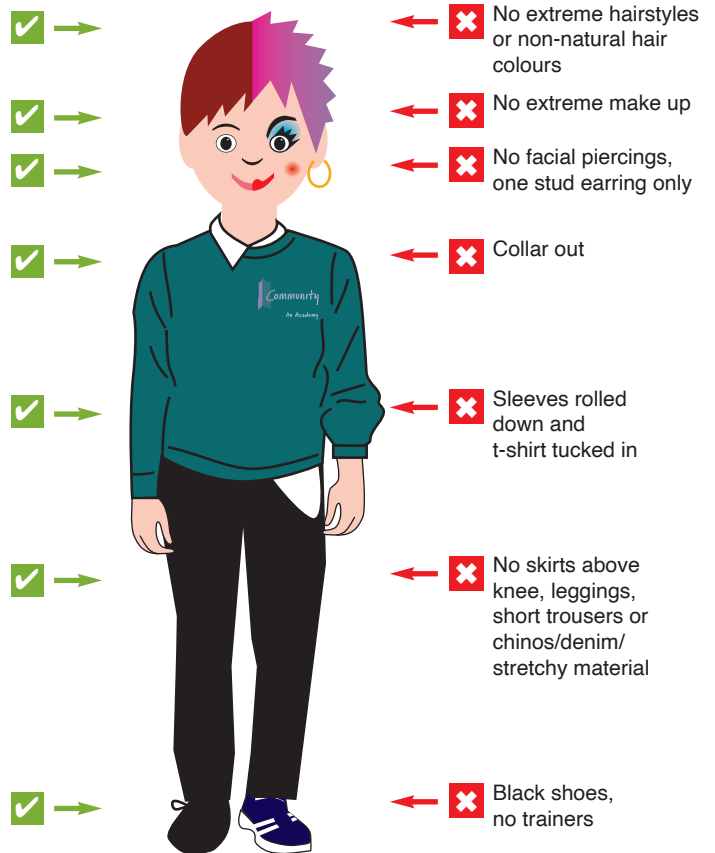
If at any point you need to contact your child, please do so through Student Services. Similarly, if your child or the school needs to contact you we will use the same channels.

We appreciate your full support with this measure in our attempt to create an even happier and healthier environment for our students.

Many thanks for your continued support of PCSA.

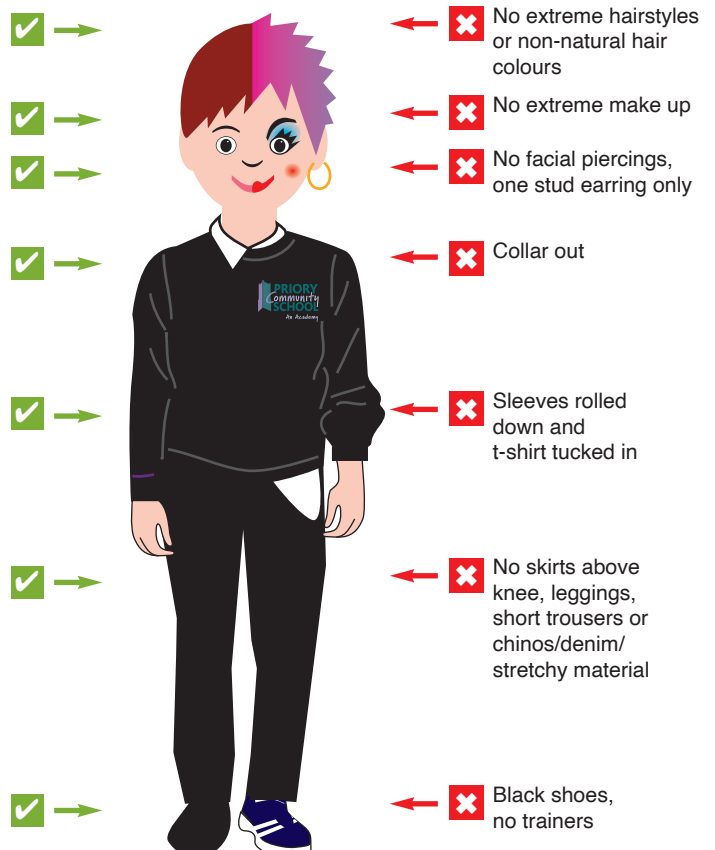


## KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 AND 9)



- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✗ ← No extreme hairstyles or non-natural hair colours
- ✗ ← No extreme make up
- ✗ ← No facial piercings, one stud earring only
- ✗ ← Collar out
- ✗ ← Sleeves rolled down and t-shirt tucked in
- ✗ ← No skirts above knee, leggings, short trousers or chinos/denim/stretchy material
- ✗ ← Black shoes, no trainers

## KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 AND 11)



- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✗ ← No extreme hairstyles or non-natural hair colours
- ✗ ← No extreme make up
- ✗ ← No facial piercings, one stud earring only
- ✗ ← Collar out
- ✗ ← Sleeves rolled down and t-shirt tucked in
- ✗ ← No skirts above knee, leggings, short trousers or chinos/denim/stretchy material
- ✗ ← Black shoes, no trainers


## SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

### Footwear that we allow at PCSA




- School shoes should be **ALL BLACK** (no white or coloured logos)

### Footwear that is not permitted at PCSA



- Shoes should be polishable and must not be made of fabric, suede or canvas.

### Trousers, shorts and skirts allowed at PCSA





- Trousers should be plain black and tailored
- Skirts should be knee length, plain black and tailored
- Knee length tailored black shorts are allowed

### Trousers and skirts not permitted at PCSA





- Denim, jeans or jegging style trousers including jeggings or other trousers with stud detailing should not be worn
- Leggings or Hareem pants should not be worn
- Mini skirts, skirts with slits or high waisted skirts should not be worn

### Earrings and Jewellery



- One stud in each ear lobe may be worn.
- Students may wear a watch.
- ✘ No other piercing is permitted. If a student comes to school with any other piercing, they must be taken out immediately.
- ✘ No other jewellery should be worn.



### False or acrylic nails



- False or acrylic nails must not be worn. Students with such nails must remove them.



Clothing in 'School Uniform' departments in shops may not be compatible with PCSA expectations. To avoid purchasing incorrect clothing, please follow the PCSA uniform policy only

2023

■ Term Days    
 ■ INSET Days    
 ■ Holidays    
 ■ Bank Holidays

JANUARY 2023							FEBRUARY 2023							MARCH 2023							APRIL 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																										

MAY 2023							JUNE 2023							JULY 2023							AUGUST 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
														31													

SEPTEMBER 2023							OCTOBER 2023							NOVEMBER 2023							DECEMBER 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			

## Academic Year 2023/24

<b>TERM 1</b>	Starts Monday 4 September 2023 Ends Friday 13 October 2023 Monday 4 September and Tuesday 5 September are Staff Training Days. Please check with individual schools for arrangements for these days Friday 13 October 2023 is a Staff Training Day
<b>Term 2</b>	Starts Monday 30 October 2023 Ends Wednesday 20 December 2023
<b>Term 3</b>	Starts Thursday 4 January 2024 Ends Friday 9 February 2024
<b>Term 4</b>	Starts Monday 19 February 2024 Ends Thursday 28 March 2024
<b>Term 5</b>	Starts Monday 15 April 2024 Ends Friday 24 May 2024
<b>Term 6</b>	Starts Monday 3 June 2024 Ends Wednesday 24 July 2024

### STAFF TRAINING DAYS:

- Monday 4 September 2023
- Tuesday 5 September 2023
- Friday 13 October 2023

Term dates have been set for 2023 and once again, we will be having a two week break in October, to give parents an opportunity to take holiday time away from the more expensive traditional half-term week.