



@PCSA

AUTUMN/WINTER TERM EDITION 2021



**Dear Parents / Carers and Students,**

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2021/22 academic year. It has been great to have our students back in school and back to "normal" without the use of any year group

bubbles. I hope our Year 7 students have enjoyed the first few terms of their secondary school journey.

It has been wonderful for our students to, once again, experience the full curriculum including all practical and vocational learning as well as academic.

We were able to hold two great community events towards the start of the year; our Community Breakfast on Saturday 16 October and our Remembrance Tree Planting Service on Saturday 13 November. It was lovely to have so many members of the community attend these events. We had lots of children from local primary schools attend the Community Breakfast event with their families – we hope to see them join the PCSA family over the next few years!

We had planned to hold a further two events prior to the Christmas break; the PCSA Christmas Fayre and our Awards Evening. Unfortunately, as previously communicated, we had to make the decision to cancel these events in light of the current situation with COVID-19 and the rise in case numbers. However, these events will still go ahead in 2022! We will be moving the fayre to April and renaming it the PCSA Easter Fayre – we look forward to seeing you all there. I want to thank the small and local businesses, who were involved, for their support and understanding. Similarly, our Awards Evening will be postponed to Term 3. We will share details for this event closer to the time.

You will have recently received a letter which lays out the plans for the start of Term 3 in regards to COVID-19 testing. On 26 November 2021, the government made a statement that in January every secondary school in England will have access to rapid COVID-19 testing. As before, the testing is optional and only those for whom we have consent can receive the test. Please ensure that you are familiar with the information in the letter as it provides details on the phased return for students.

On the topic of COVID-19 testing, the lateral flow test kits have proved useful in identifying COVID-19 asymptomatic cases. We will continue to issue these test kits, so please contact us if you require a kit. We ask that your child continues to test twice weekly during the Christmas break and following the on-site test in January. Please also continue to record your test results using the links found on our website.

We have recently put in place another additional safety measure by placing a CO2 monitor across our classrooms. This will ensure that there is enough ventilation through the rooms at all times. In terms of ventilation, we appreciate during the winter months some areas can get colder. Students are able to wear their coats where it is safe to do so.

Furthermore, we are always happy to help and support at any point. If you need to come into the school, please do contact us prior to coming to ensure the member of staff you wish to speak to is available. Contact details for all members of staff are also available on our website.

At this point, I would like to thank our parents/carers and students for the ongoing support and understanding. Also, a huge thank you to my colleagues at PCSA who, as always, go above and beyond to give our students a safe learning environment to thrive to the best of their ability.

Have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year with your loved ones.

Best wishes,

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



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





The first two terms of the school year have really flown by – it seems it was only yesterday when we returned from the two-week October break; because of this system and as you will know there will be no more 'one-off' INSET days this year across our Trust.

To keep up with all our news please do follow our schools on Twitter – we have lots of 'news and views' on Twitter and we also have our excellent website - <https://goodnewspost.co.uk/>. Here you will find all the great things we have been involved with from September to December; such as visiting COP26, our Remembrance Day activities and the Sovereign Centre Art Exhibition – see image on the right. Please do have a look – we have been very busy.

We have been moving forward quickly with more site development thinking – for example, we have planned our '**Appropriate Provision Centres**' (APCs) which will hopefully be in place for September 2022. These two new centres will meet the needs of more of our learners in a more appropriate way – behaviourally, socially and emotionally. We are also working on plans to relocate the Priory Pre-School (currently at PCSA) to our Castle Batch site. This will be branded as '**Little Learners @Castle Batch**' and will be set up in the same way as our current provision. We are very fortunate to be in a really strong financial position to make all these projects happen; our end of year accounts showed again some very healthy reserves. All our reserves are now 'pooled' centrally to allow these bigger projects to happen more easily. Great work by our central finance team and especially by our Chief Operations Officer – Mark Antoine.

**Our main aim into 2022 will be to again relentlessly focus on excellent classroom practice across all our schools – sometimes called 'quality first teaching'.**

This is the main route for our children in 'catching up' for any lost learning – effective teaching and effective feedback in classrooms has always been the key to educational success. Mr. Jenkins (Head of School Improvement) and Mrs. Dadds (Deputy Head of School Improvement) are continuing to work very closely with all our Principals to drive our schools forward – even with, and despite the pandemic. You might not be aware, but we have three excellent 'Directors of Subject' – Mrs. Sharon Goddard-Lock (Maths), Mrs. Louise Daniels



(Science) and Mr. Tom Walker (English) – these superb colleagues work across all our TPLT schools on curriculum development and assessment. They also coach our subject leaders and get involved in coaching great classroom practice. In recent times they have also been directly teaching within our schools. We also have a brilliant central Director of Careers in Mr. James Wilmot; we are very passionate in the view that effective careers education is a right for all students across TPLT. Careers Education is a real strength of TPLT. So, we have a really strong team of school improvement professionals working alongside our school leaders.

Some people news; in Term 1 we were delighted to appoint **Mr. Dan Milford** as the substantive and permanent Principal at TKASA. Dan has previously worked with us at WCSA and will continue the great work at TKASA into the future. He has recently been our Acting Principal at TKASA. Lastly, and on a personal note I will be moving on from TPLT at the end of March 2022 after around 20 years working in W-s-M at PCS, PCSA and latterly as CEO of TPLT. Our Trust Board (Governing Body led by our Chair Katie Dominy) will be taking the lead and appointing a new CEO in due course; it will be an exciting time for all. This will clearly bring another perspective that I am sure will take TPLT into the next stage of its development. The future is very, very bright. I end by noting we have already recruited another 28 colleagues to 'train to teach' within our Trust next year. We are very much a 'doing' Trust – many of these great new colleagues will stay with us and then teach our children in North Somerset and Somerset. Please have a great Christmas break and once again – **thank you** for all your super support.

Best wishes,

**Neville Coles**

CEO and Accounting Officer - The Priory Learning Trust  
neville.coles@theplt.org.uk

We've always championed positive characters at PCSA but this year we are elevating our Character Education to new heights! Students from all year groups worked hard to enter into our special competition to design postcards to represent our five core values: kindness, integrity, respect, confidence and aspiration.

Here are the five brilliant designs which will be sent home by teachers, staff and students to celebrate anyone who has shown one of the values. If students collect all five, they will receive a special letter from our Principal, Mr. Markoutsas. You can find our colourful Character Education post box in Student Services now!

This is just the start. Students will learn how to develop their character through our tutor sessions and we have plans to create a bright, powerful mural to represent our values. Throughout the year we look forward to celebrating the impressive characters who make up PCSA!



**Our five amazing winners were**

**Amy Hawkes (Year 7)**

**Lilly-May Dewhurst (Year 8)**

**Libby Boneham (Year 9)**

**Kornelia Sunshine (Year 10)**

**Isabel Powell (Year 11)**

Miss O'Gorman  
Teacher of English  
& Character Education Lead  
sarah.o'gorman@pcsa.org.uk



## 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)





The Paula Radcliffe Centre (PRC) is a gym and fitness facility open to the public based at Priory Community School. We have a selection of high end equipment available for your use, as well as professional fitness instructors to help and advise you.

Please take a look around our website [www.theprc.org.uk](http://www.theprc.org.uk), and check out our facilities available and our membership packages. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our friendly staff.

Mrs. Mawford  
Manager of The PRC Fitness Suite  
[vanessa.mawford@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:vanessa.mawford@pcsa.org.uk)



Follow us on Twitter:  
[@prioryprc](https://twitter.com/prioryprc)



**THE PRC CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS:**  
Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd December  
6am -10am and 3pm 9pm  
Weekend Opening 8am - 1pm  
Friday 24th December  
6am - 12pm  
7.30am Christmas Workout  
Followed by Breakfast  
(Book your place via the App)  
**THE PRC WILL BE CLOSED FROM**  
**SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER-MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 2022**  
**TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022 ONWARDS NORMAL HOURS.**

# New Year, New You!

## Start your personal fitness journey at the PRC in 2022

For more information please visit [www.theprc.org.uk](http://www.theprc.org.uk)

**Opening Hours:**

**Monday – Friday 06.00 – 07.30 & 17:00 – 21:00. Saturday – Sunday 08:00 – 13.00**

School holiday times may be different. Please see a member of staff for more information.

I would like to start my Christmas message by saying how proud Year 7 have made me through their sheer determination to succeed and their positive outlook in the face of an ever changing world. Their resilience and effort is a testament to a generation with the ability to overcome adversity and achieve greatness.



During Terms 1 and 2, students have built good relationships with staff and peers as well as having guest speakers during assemblies and talks about E-Safety, mental health and wellbeing.

Period 6 activities have become increasingly popular with students representing the school and building new friendships with like-minded peers. Home Learning Club has been a great success with students accessing the library regularly to complete work and build upon their classroom knowledge. It has been great to see many students taking responsibility for their education and broadening their horizons.

I continue to receive numerous nominations for Student of the Week and it is wonderful to hear of students' achievements outside of school as well. Please do let me know of any external shows / competitions or awards received so we can celebrate these in school as well.

I continue to be impressed with the attitude to learning from the year group and how determined they are to succeed. 159 students have no behaviour points. 12 students have already reached over 400 achievement points since September.



## ★ YEAR 7 STARS ★

**Top Achievement Points:**  
**Julian Uvero - 486**  
**Jolie Eyre - 466**

### LC1 FUN FACTS

- Most Friday positive calls (50 points) = Y7 Daley
- Most 300 club members/300 positive in LC1 (100 points) = Y7 Holmes
- Most individual FPC
- 9 - Sydney Smith - Y7 Daley
- 8 - Charlie Davie - Y7 Daley



It is a pleasure to be part of their learning journey and I look forward to being part of their future successes. 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

Year 8 have had a wonderful start to the year. The students have been working hard getting into the stride of a 'normal' school year after a tricky 18 months. Year 8 have really shown a fantastic amount of resilience with all the changes they have experienced and I am very impressed with all their effort. As Head of Year 8 I have really enjoyed getting to know each student and helping celebrate their successes both academic and personal.

Year 8 have accumulated a considerable amount of achievement points in terms 1 and 2. This is great to see, and I would like to celebrate those students who are excelling.

The top achievers for Year 8 are:

## ★ YEAR 8 STARS ★

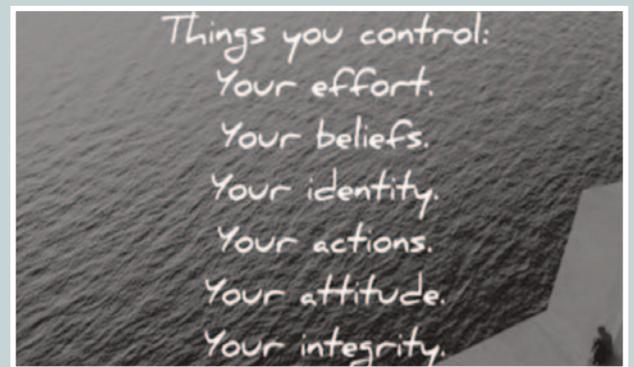
**Niamh O'Rourke – 404 positives**

**Spencer Craig – 398 Positives**

**Amie March – 395 Positives**

**Summer Bishop – 390 Positives**

**Cody Warner - 390 Positives**



I'm sure you will agree that these students are super stars and fantastic role models to the rest of Year 8. There have been so many wonderful achievements so far this year.

Year 8 have taken an active role in participating in the PSHE and Careers activities. It has been lovely to see students' contributions being displayed in tutor rooms. I have witnessed some wonderful class discussions which have been enlightening and truly purposeful.

**Mrs. Collins, Head of Year 8,**  
[elizabeth.collins@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.collins@pcsa.org.uk)

**Y**ear 9 has enjoyed a hugely positive start to the school year. Students have returned to PCSA determined to do their best and eager to impress. As Head of Year 9 I have enjoyed getting to know all the students in the year and been impressed with the considerable amount they have achieved in a short space of time, which as a result, has fostered a positive atmosphere within the year group.



Year 9 have accumulated a considerable amount of achievements points in terms 1 and 2. This demonstrates that Year 9 students are taking pride in their learning, being punctual to lessons and are ready for learning. This is great to see, and I would like to celebrate those students who are excelling.

The top achievers for Year 9 (at the time of writing this) are:

## ★ YEAR 9 STARS ★

**Shannon Kingston 9B3 - 588 points**

**Mia Wickens 9B3 - 469 points**

**Rebecca Mawbey 9B3 - 468 points**

**James Horlick 9B2 - 461 points**

**Daisy Fielding 9B1 - 453 points**

I'm sure you will agree that these students are excellent role models for other students in the year.

Year 9 have taken an active role in participating in the PSHE and Careers activities. It has been lovely to see students' contributions being displayed in tutor rooms.

I have heard from across several different faculties the high standard of classwork that is being produced by students. This demonstrates to me that students are completing work to high standards and they are taking pride in their learning. I am also very proud to hear how a number of Year 9 students took part in the Remembrance Day parade in the local area. Likewise, many Year 9 students participate in numerous sporting events, both in school and for local teams.

I am happy to announce that Luis Bobadilla, Bradley Kendall and Koi Garrard have been selected to play for Bristol Bears. What wonderful news!



The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award was launched for Year 9 students. A number of students have registered to take part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh. I have no doubt that all students who participated in the training are more than capable of completing the award.

I am encouraged that Year 9 students maintain their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. I look forward to celebrating further achievements in the year ahead. Thank you all for your continued support, it is much appreciated.



**Miss Rees,  
Head of Year 9  
abigail.rees@pcsa.org.uk**

It has been a tremendous start to the year and I have been immensely proud in seeing how Year 10 have shown maturity and positivity in starting GCSEs. Attitudes to learning have been fantastic and it has been a real pleasure visiting lessons and seeing the superb effort and progress our learners have been making. At the start of the term we recognised that 149 students had a perfect first cycle and not received one negative learning point. To celebrate we sent postcards home and hope you enjoyed celebrating this achievement with us.



Year 10 are also amongst the highest achieving year groups and special recognition goes to the five listed below who have gained the most achievement points to date for their hard work and positive attitude to learning. All these students are excellent role models for the rest of the year group.

**★ YEAR 10 STARS ★**

**Adam Barringer**

**Emilia Frisby**

**Kaitlyn Burden**

**Joshua Riley**

**Divine Agho**



As you will be aware, Year 10 will be sitting their GCSE RE examination this summer. This will allow them to sit a GCSE a year early and gain valuable experience on how best to succeed. To help prepare them, all students completed a PPE in November and are all aware of how they performed. Teachers took time to go through areas of strength as well as how to improve. Leading up to the exam we will be sharing more information with parents and carers on ways to best support their children in preparation for this exam.

Finally it's been a delight to hear students talk with excitement about the work experience opportunities they have started to arrange for Work Experience Week in May (3 – 6th May 2022). Our Careers Team have been extremely busy meeting with all learners to discuss ideas and now is the time to start completing the relevant forms and finalising ideas. This has always been an extremely important opportunity in helping students to prepare for life after PCSA and we love visiting our students in the real world of work.

**Mr. Shopland**  
**Assistant Principal and KS4 Pastoral Lead**  
[ian.shopland@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:ian.shopland@pcsa.org.uk)

**Y**ear 11 students have made an excellent start to the new academic year and we are all thrilled to see them back in school. It is wonderful to see how mature the year group have become over the summer and have returned with a positive attitude to learning with this important year ahead.

It was great to leave the school site and head off to the various Weston College Taster Day sessions. Here our students were given the opportunity to join in with some AS and A Level lessons (I went to the Law class and now I am hooked!) at Weston Sixth Form, to attend construction and engineering courses at the South West Skills Campus and many more! Weston College reported back to us that our students were absolutely wonderful, polite and mature. All staff who were involved in the Taster Day said that it was an absolute pleasure to watch our young adults take their next educational steps!

When we return in January I know our students will be gearing up for their second set of PPE exams which will begin in February. Therefore, I would absolutely encourage them to be looking at the extracurricular sessions available, following the tremendous success of our extra sessions 'Prep for Success' and these have

already begun for Year 11. Thank you to those that have attended already, and to those of you who have yet to attend, come along! Look out for our New Year timetable in January.

Not everything in January will be bleak...hoodies will be handed out to the Year group and I am very much looking forward to seeing them all looking so smart! I can honestly say it has been a pleasure to look after your children at school and guide them through their academic journey.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to a New Year of hard work and exam success for all our Year 11s.

Happy Christmas,

**Mrs. Petrou and Mrs. Brown**  
**Head of Year 11 - Pastoral Assistant to KS4**  
[rhian.petrou@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:rhian.petrou@pcsa.org.uk)  
[becki.brown@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:becki.brown@pcsa.org.uk)

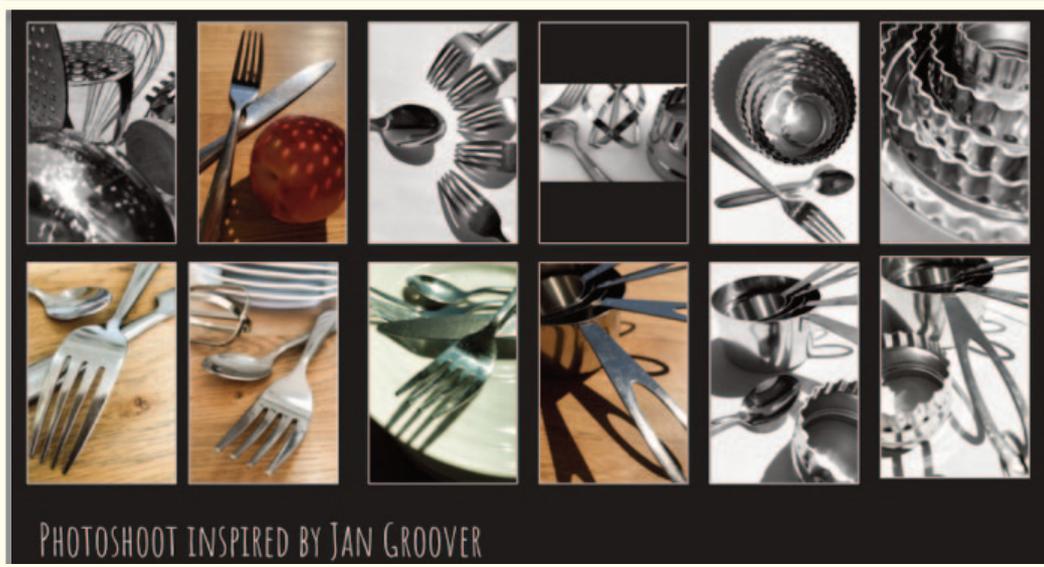
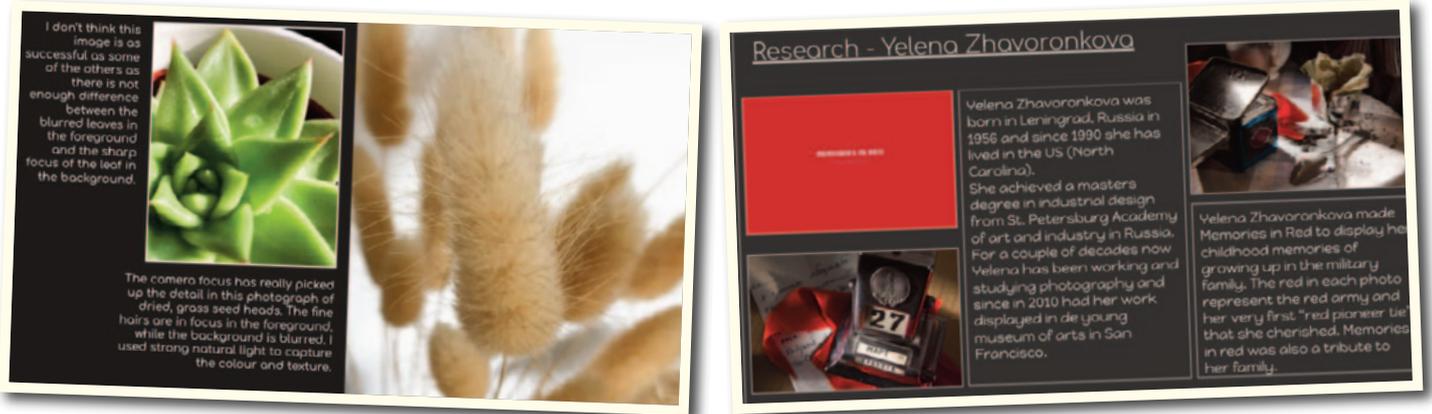


## ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

### GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY Year 11

Photography students have been working brilliantly on their coursework. The theme is nostalgia. Students have the task of looking back on memories of the past taking photographs that connect in a personal and meaningful way.

We have been delighted with the outcomes that have started to develop.

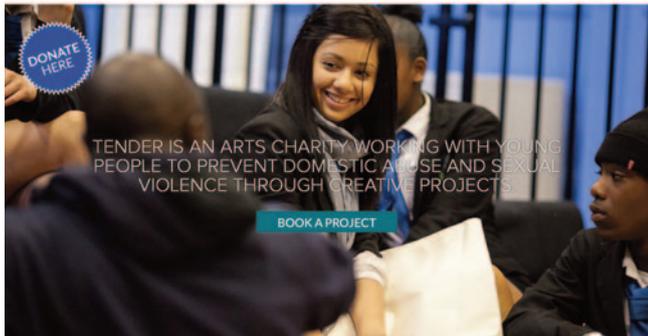


### ART

The Art Department continues to promote diversity and equality in the curriculum. We have already covered British Values, the BLM movement and the LGBTQ+ community.



## DRAMA & MUSIC



### Tender Project:

Our Year 11 Drama students have recently had the wonderful opportunity to work with The Tender Project, an external agency that focuses on healthy relationships and acting to end abuse.

The project has given them an understanding of healthy relationships and the skills to support others.

The students were amazing, showing compassion, maturity and a level of understanding and sensitivity.

We are so proud of them. They are all now Youth Ambassadors for supporting others in healthy relationships.

It was such a beneficial project.



### School Production – Little Shop of Horrors:

Auditions for our whole school show are taking place in December to help us choose the cast for our eagerly anticipated production of the 'Little Shop of Horrors'!

The Drama and Music Departments are very excited to be able to offer the opportunity for our students to be able to perform in front of a live audience and show off their acting skills this academic year.

The show is scheduled to take place on 13th and 14th July 2022. Put the date in your diary!



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

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

It has been very busy in D&T since the start of the new school year in September. Staff and students have enjoyed being able to teach in our specialist rooms together, along with being able to do our full range of practical projects and skills, as can be seen in these photos.

We have been working hard to make sure everyone is engaged in their lessons and a high proportion of our lessons are devoted to practical skill development. Our students have been great and have risen to the challenge, producing some very high quality and imaginative work.



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FANATICS®**



### P6 Enrichment

This term we have provided after school P6 enrichment activities opportunities through our Food Fanatics and DT Demons Club. This has allowed students to practice and refine their practical skills. Great fun has been had in these sessions and we certainly have some talented D&T students.



**demons**

## Future Chef Competition 2021

An annual feature at PCSA is our participation in the Future Chef Competition. Earlier this term we had our own competition to select students who would represent us at the Regional competition in Bath.

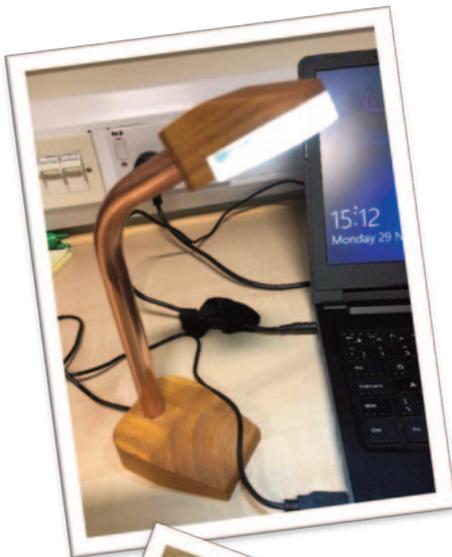
Congratulations to Tilly (Y9) and Libby (Y9) who were selected with these delicious hand made dishes. We wish them well for the regional competition.



## KS3 Product Design & Engineering

In Year 9 Product Design, students are given the opportunity to work with a range of materials to design and make a working USB powered LED desk lamp. This project is aimed at developing students' creativity and problem-solving skills as well as being introduced to working with copper and pipe bending. Here we have some great examples.

In Year 8 Engineering, students have been developing their engineering skills. Learning to interpret an engineering drawing; working to a tolerance; how to use taps and dies to create screw threads and how to polish metals using the buffing machine to produce an elegant product to safely store your keys.



## D&T Excellence Awards 2021

I was delighted to accept on behalf of D&T staff and PCSA a Design & Technology Association Excellence Award earlier this term recognising the social impact ourselves and other D&T departments nationally had during the first lockdown, when D&T staff used their knowledge, skills and expertise to produce a huge number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items for our local community, care homes, hospices and GP surgeries.



Mr. Clay  
Central Leader for DT  
david.clay@pcsa.org.uk



As you can see below from our KS3 and KS4 news, we've had a busy and purposeful start to our year here in the English faculty. I've been very impressed with the work ethic that Year 10 are displaying, as they really get to grips with their first taste of GCSE level literature. We've seen some fantastic responses to A Christmas Carol, which show that they have really understood the text and the messages behind it. We have been equally impressed by Year 11's PPE responses about Romeo and Juliet, which were the strongest we've ever had at this point in the year.

Most of KS3 have started the year getting their teeth stuck into some Shakespeare and have risen to the challenge. I'm passionate about giving all of our students as many chances as possible to experience the greatest English playwright, which is why we study one of his plays a year in KS3. Hopefully the students will enjoy moving on from this and onto more modern texts (and doing their own writing) as the year progresses.

Finally, we welcomed Miss Wray back from her maternity leave at the beginning of term 2 and she has really hit the ground running. She is an excellent addition to the team and I hope that her classes are enjoying her enthusiasm and expertise in their lessons.



## KS3 English

KS3 have all been focusing on new Cycles of learning. Either The Tempest, Much Ado About Nothing or they have been busy exploring the classics. We have focused a lot of energy and attention on their writing skills with a scheme we are calling, Just Write. This new focus on writing is in response to feedback we regularly get from students and parents that they wished there were more chances to write in our lessons. Just Write gives students a whole lesson to 'Just Write', practising their writing techniques that will have been taught and discussed in lesson one and the lesson beforehand.

This is still a work in progress but the feedback that we have had from parents, students and staff members

makes us feel that 'Just Write' is being enjoyed and the students are gaining in both writing stamina and upgrading their writing skills each time. If you have any questions or feedback regarding Just Write, please email [Tara.Morse@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Tara.Morse@pcsa.org.uk) as I am collating a working document where we review and amend our KS3 offering as we go. Thank you!

**Year 7** have been looking at autobiographical writing as their Cycle Two focus, looking at examples from figures as diverse as David Walliams, Nadia Hussain and Marcus Rashford. Next, we practise writing our own sections in the Just Write lesson – teachers too! We have seen some wonderful examples of writing already, and are looking forward to reading the final pieces at the end of the cycle.

**Year 8** have been learning about how Shakespeare uses language to convey meaning. We have examined the Shakespearean play Much Ado About Nothing and considered how Shakespeare uses various literary devices to show details about each character in a 'Show Don't Tell' way – an important skill the students need to develop for preparation for future success in KS4.

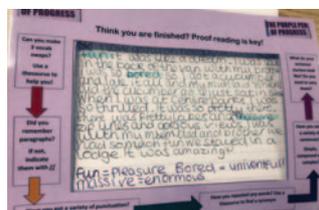
Finally, Year 9 have been exploring the classics. Collectively we entered the world of Zeus, Hera and Hades! We examined many forms of storytelling: playwriting, audio stories, short stories and the novel. We then crafted many superb Just Writes that retold the legends of Hera, Hades and Pandora. What a gift.

## KS4 English

KS4 students have thrown themselves back in to their studies since they have returned in September. We have been so impressed with their determination and dedication. In these strange times, all that we can control is our attitude.

Our Year 11s have risen to their first challenge of the year and sat their PPEs in November on Creative Writing and Romeo and Juliet. We are really pleased with how they have responded to this challenge and it has helped them set their revision targets for the coming months as we move our focus to A Christmas Carol. Year 11s have also been busily preparing their speeches for their Speaking and Listening presentations on a topic that interests them. So many interesting topics covered this year, from wage equality in sport to whether electric cars are the future of transport. Public speaking is such a vital skill for our students to build confidence in.

In Year 10, we have been reading Dicken's A Christmas Carol charting Scrooge's road to redemption. We are totally ready to embrace the magic of Christmas: no more "Bah humbug!" this year.



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

## NEW TO THE TEAM

This year has seen the maths faculty continue to grow and I have the pleasure of introducing to new members of the team, one who will be a maternity cover teacher whilst Miss Harding is spending time with her baby (no news of the arrival at time of writing!).



### Jock Fairlie

Before joining PCSA, I completed my PGCE at Exeter University where I had also studied for my undergraduate in Economics. I have aspired to be a teacher since leaving school. Primarily for the difference that can be made to students lives as well as the joy that learning in the classroom can bring. It was the great teachers during my time at school that inspired in me a love of learning that I have since sought to pass on to my students.



### Azmi Yafi

I have worked in Marketing Communication in a wide variety of posts for a number of years in many international markets before returning permanently to the UK and decided to embark on a career in education. I completed my Secondary Maths PGCE at the University of Gloucestershire. Working in industry made me realise the untapped potential of young people going into business who were lacking a strong grounding in mathematics, and as a result had a slower career progression. Apart from the pleasure I get from teaching maths, I wanted to give back to the community and promote the love of mathematics in young minds and demonstrate to them that maths touches every single part of their life.

### Home Learning

A little bit about how home learning has changed in maths. All year groups now hand their home learning in on the same day; Monday is Year 9, Tuesday is Year 7 and 8, Wednesday is Year 10 and Thursday is Year 11.

We are also increasing the use of Hegarty Maths across all the year groups. In Year 7 and 8 there is a minimum of one task per week and in Year 9, 10 and 11 it is a minimum of two tasks per week. Your child is expected to aim for 100% otherwise they will need to watch the video again and have ONE more go. If they struggle or have any problems make sure they talk to their teacher who will be happy to help. These tasks are set by your teacher on a weekly basis and relate to the topics they are learning in the classroom. The benefit here is that tasks can be set on an individual basis making the homework more tailored to the needs of the individual.

In addition, Year 9s will also work through one Method maths paper per cycle, Year 10s two per cycle and Year 11s three per

### Extra Help

We have two after school home learning sessions. Tuesday is our Maths Attack sessions for KS4 and Wednesday is our Maths Adventure for KS3. There are teachers available and iPads that can be used to help with home learning for both Hegarty maths and Method Maths.



cycle. These are all past papers and the software marks the papers and provides helpful hints and tips. Students are not expected to answer all the questions but have a go at as many as they can.

### Enrichment opportunities

As well as help with home learning we are also running termly enrichment challenges. This term we have been recreating the school in miniature. For our KS3 students this has involved measuring out the whole school and then scaling this down into a diagram. Once the blue print had been created it was then created in a 3D scale model. This has involved many cardboard boxes, news paper and paint. Here are just some of the pictures of the progress made. Finished results will be shown in the next newsletter.

For KS4 we also did the same project, but with a twist. The students still went out with their measures and measured the school and created a scale diagram, but this time we are going to print a 3D scale model using the 3D printer. We are hoping that we can display these around the school for all to see one of the many applications of mathematics. If your child is interested in these events they are on Tuesday for KS4 and Wednesday for KS3, just head over to the maths faculty.



### Hegarty Maths



This cycle we, as a school, have attempted nearly 190,000 questions so far, watched over 700 hours of videos and given over 3000 pieces of feedback. This is a phenomenal start to the year.

We do reward students each week for being our top three Hegarty Maths champions and for Hegarty Maths champions of the cycle. If you want to make the list you can always request more work from your teacher as well, you just ask in Hegarty Maths.

### Hegarty Maths Champions of the cycle

Year 7	Olivia Bryant		
Year 8	Chioma Nwachukwu	Year 10	Ryan Lewcock
Year 9	Shannon Kingston	Year 11	Morgan Craig



### Student of the cycle

Every cycle each teacher in the maths faculty nominates one student who has been outstanding throughout the cycle. Below is the list for cycle 1. Congratulations to all the students, you will be getting a certificate and chocolate as well contributing to your house with many house points.

**Amy Edwards, Callum Graham, Kieran Morgan, Shauna Cook, Thomas Day, Hannah Fowler, Divine Agho, Alfie Aylott, Levi Collins, Kyle Harvey, Lacey Richardson, Harsha Koiparampathu Joji, Cameron Fraser and Josh Harding**

Mrs. Kerrison – Central Leader of Maths  
lois.kerrison@pcsa.org.uk

Since we have returned to school we have been so impressed with the way all year groups have worked in their Humanities' lessons and we would like to thank you all for your hard work. It has been fantastic to get back to our teaching and learning.

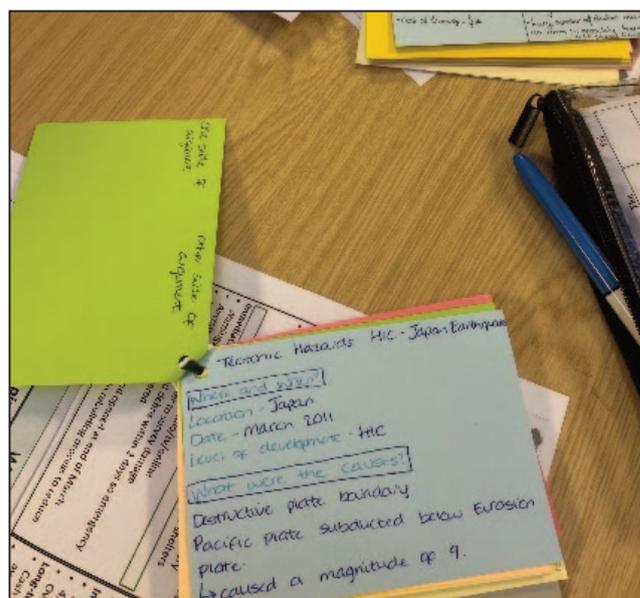
**In Humanities** this year KS3 students are taking an enquiry led approach to their learning by exploring fertile questions. These are intriguing questions that each lesson is seeking to help to answer and to tie all the lessons in a topic together.

**In History** this term, Year 7 have been learning about William the Conqueror, whilst the Year 8s and 9s have shown great maturity in their studies of empire and slavery and the Holocaust respectively. These issues are so important for students to learn about and we hope they have taken away some important messages from learning about these topics.

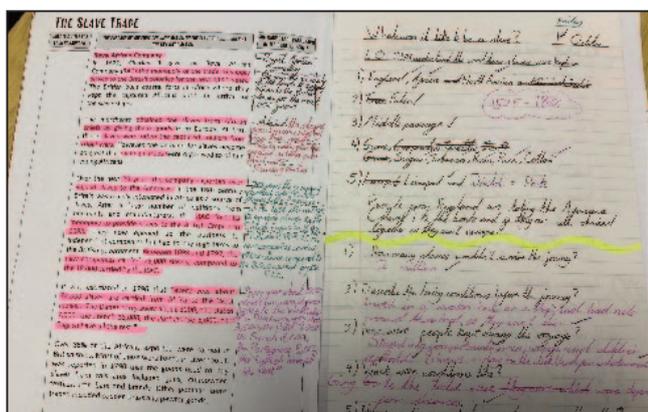
**In Geography**, Year 7 have been learning about their place in the world through an introductory skills-based unit whilst Year 8 have been looking at development in Ghana. Year 9 have been studying resources.

**In RE**, Year 7 and 8 have been studying Judaism and Hinduism respectively. Below are some examples of the work they have produced this term.

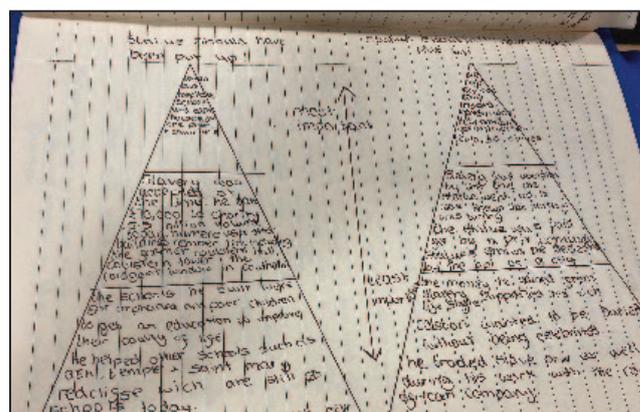
We have also been delighted with the start Year 10 have made to their GCSE courses in History, Geography, RE and Sociology. They have shown an excellent, mature attitude to their learning which is a delight to see. The effort of the Year 11s has also been exceptional and they have shown fantastic determination to succeed in their GCSEs in our subjects.



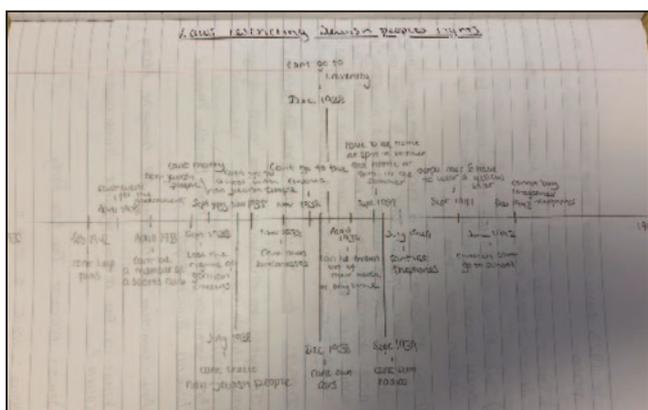
Year 11 Geography, Case study flash cards



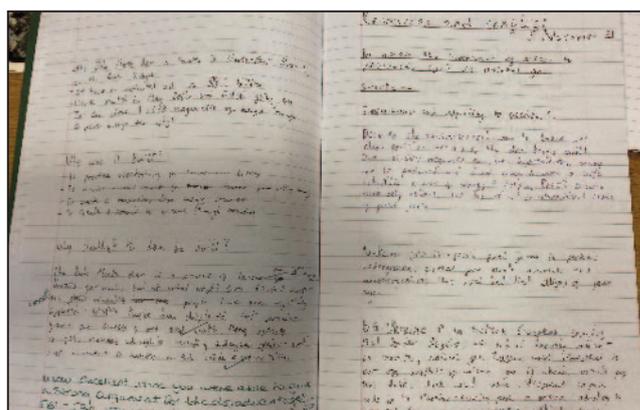
Year 8 History – The History of the Slave Trade



Year 8 History – The History of the Slave Trade



Year 9 History – Timeline of the Nuremburg Laws



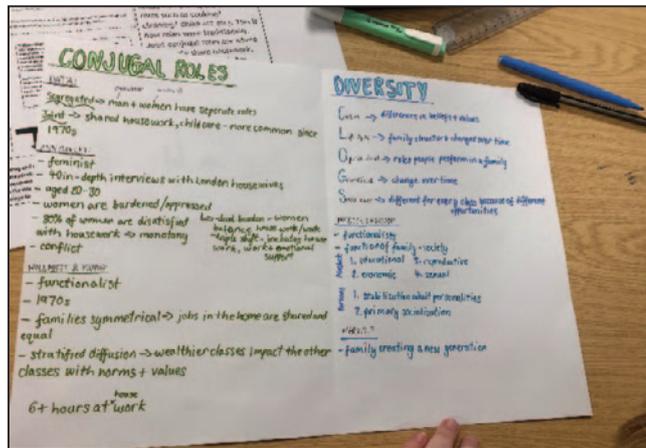
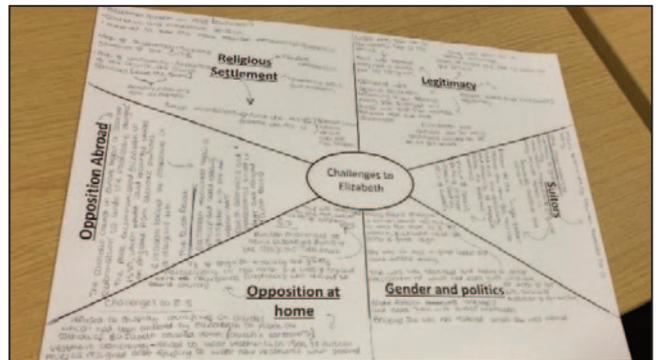
Year 9 Geography – Natural Resources

## Open Evening

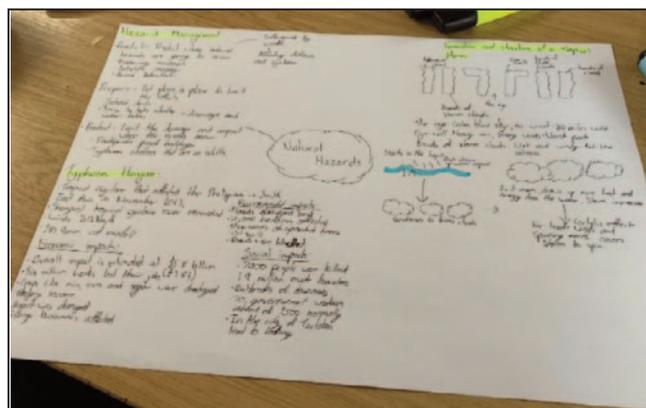
Open Evening was a fantastic opportunity for the Humanities Team to welcome prospective students and parents/carers to the department. It was lovely to meet students and give them a taster of all the fantastic things they will learn during their humanities lessons.

## Prep for Success

In order to support Year 10 and 11 in their learning, after school Prep for Success sessions have been taking place over the last two terms and will continue in the new year. During November approximately 60 Year 11s attended sessions after school for History, Geography and Sociology; whilst about 20 Year 10s attended an excellent session for RE. These sessions have been focusing 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. Below are some photos of some of the resources students produced to enhance their learning. Further Year 10 and 11 sessions will also take place in term 3.



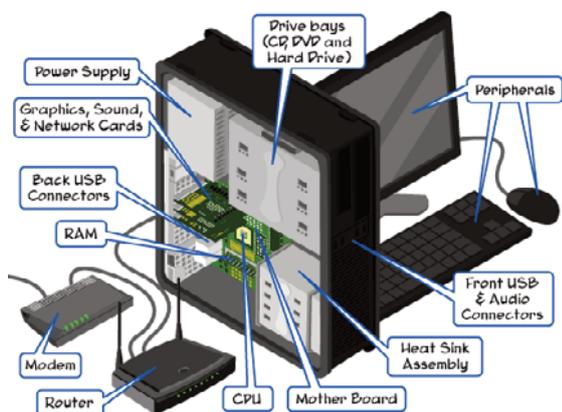
Year 11 Sociology – Revision notes



Year 11 Geography – Hazards revision notes

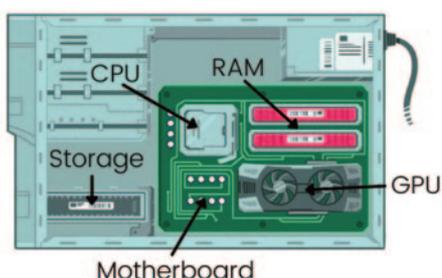
Year 11 History - Elizabeth revision notes

Mrs. Empson, Head of Geography  
kate.empson@pcsa.org.uk



## Computer Systems - Year 7

After starting Year 7 by learning all about E-Safety, our Year 7 groups have progressed in cycle 2 to studying computer systems.



In this unit, students find out all about computer components and their functions as well as gaining an understanding about input and output peripherals for computers. They are shortly moving on to look at how computer systems can be embedded into everyday household appliances, including the concept of 'The Internet of Things' where even a fridge freezer can communicate with its owner online.

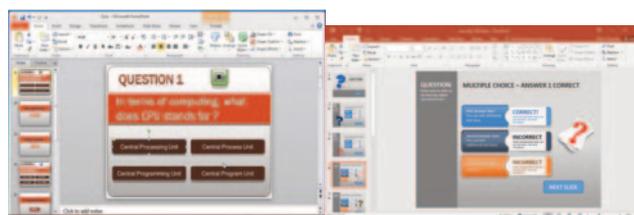


## Year 8 - Thinkable (App Development)

Year 8 were very excited to start their new year at Priory by having access for the first time to our computer suites for their computing & ICT lessons. They are currently working through an app development unit where they use the 'Thinkable' platform to create their own app using block programming techniques. They have learned the principles of good app design as well as how to format their different app screens. On the programming side, they have added images, navigation, and sounds as well as learning how to add loading screens and different app modules such as 'Text to Speech', 'Translator' and 'Image Recognition'.

## Interactive PowerPoint Quiz - Year 9

Having had a year away from being in computer rooms, Year 9 students were keen to return to the computer rooms and started their Year 9 learning journey by working through a Python programming project. They have now moved on to learning to use PowerPoint to create an interactive multimedia quiz based on a topic of their choice. In this unit, students have been adding hyperlinks, videos and sounds to their question slides to make their quizzes work in an interactive way.

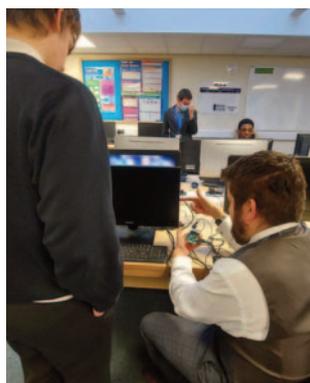


## Year 10 & 11 P6 Activities

Year 10 and 11 students are enthusiastically participating in our re-launched P6 enrichment activities now that we are back in our computer suites. There are lots of 'hands on' activities as well as Python programming challenges. As you can see from the pictures below, the students are finding out how to program our new Lego Mindstorm robots. Also students are learning how to use our set of raspberry pi mini computers.

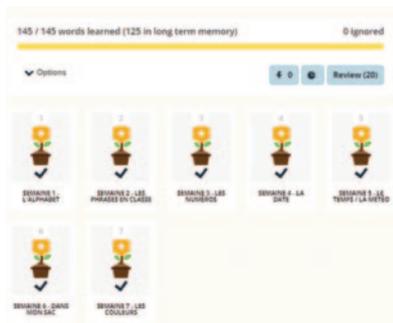
Miss Whitham

Central Leader for Computing, ICT & Business  
jo.whitham@pcsa.org.uk



What a busy term it has been and how much we have enjoyed being back in specialist classrooms and back to our usual routines! Our students have had a fantastic start to the new school year – well done to all!

Year 7 have very quickly got to grips with our Learning Cycles and learning their words weekly and it was wonderful to see their achievements in their first ever assessment week – well done everyone!



They also have, along with all other year groups, embraced online home learning, learning vocabulary using Memrise. This is a fantastic way of learning the words and we are seeing the benefits already. Students can keep track of their points and there has been some good interclass competition!

From Learning Cycle 2, students will consolidate their learning with a final Google quiz to be completed once they have learnt their words. This is excellent preparation for the weekly vocabulary test. We are so proud of our students' efforts to learn and recall key vocabulary and it is always so rewarding so see the progress students make in their learning when they put in the effort into remembering vocabulary.

KS4 are also using Seneca which gives students the opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt in class. If you have any queries regarding this please do not hesitate to get in contact with your child's classroom teacher or the Head of Faculty.

Following our assessment week in week 8, our Super Learning week was a great opportunity to undertake some creative work and Year 8 have produced some beautiful work on 'Día de los Muertos' with some lovely designs of the traditional sugar skulls.



With Year 11 expecting to take final exams for the first time in two years, it has been great to see so many students attending our Prep for Success sessions after school. Students have been focusing on exam skills and speaking. We have just finished our PPEs and Year 11 have approached them with such maturity and it was a great opportunity to see how much progress they have made. It was especially good to see how well students did in their practice speaking exams – well done everyone! There will be another chance to do a run through practice in February, when our next PPE window will give students the chance to show off their learning!

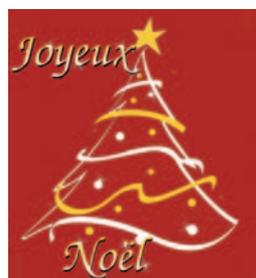
Students across both key stages have also had the opportunity to experience other languages such as Italian, Portuguese and Arabic (so far) in our after school KS3 club – more languages to come, giving everyone the chance to embrace the Global Understanding side of the faculty.



It was brilliant to be able to award our first certificates and prizes to our 'LGU Students of the Cycle'. These students, nominated by their teachers, have demonstrated fantastic resilience and have been putting a lot of effort into their work both at home and at school. Well done everyone!!

We finished the term with our now annual LGU Christmas card competition giving students the opportunity to design a Christmas card in a foreign language and win House points. Another chance for students to showcase their creative side alongside excellent languages skills!

We wish all our students and parents and carers an excellent Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone back in January.



Mrs. Parsons  
Central Leader for LGU  
christelle.parsons@pcsa.org.uk



**Year 7 Rugby**

The Year 7 rugby team have been nothing short of amazing during their time so far at PCSA. The improvements that every single student has made has been brilliant to see. The squad have faced tough competition in the form of WCSA, Churchill Academy, St Katherine's, Winterstoke Hundred and Hans Price which have all been exciting fixtures with attacking rugby on display. With 25 regular attendees at Year 7 rugby enrichment every Thursday, we hope to schedule more fixtures in for term 3 and 4 and continue to develop the skill set of the entire group. A special mention needs to be given to captain Tom Massey who has led the group with maturity beyond his years and gains the deserved respect from the group. Well done boys and keep up the good work!



**Year 8 Rugby (Mr. Coombs)**

Year 8s have really engaged with rugby this year after the disruption of last year. We are amazed to see at least 25 students attend extra-curricular rugby each week with each student having the opportunity to represent PCSA. We have played Hans Price, Winterstoke Hundred, WCSA, Churchill Academy and St Katherine's. They have also played in the North Somerset tournament. We are so pleased to hear of students that have now decided to join local rugby clubs after their first experience of competitive rugby. The boys have had some tough results but have improved game on game and keep turning out to train each week. Mr. Holyday has run the team this year putting his calculator down in maths each week to take training and attend fixtures.



**Year 7 Netball**

The Year 7 netball girls have shown great determination and resilience since starting their netball journey at PCSA. They have improved massively as a team where we have seen on average 20 students every Tuesday and Thursday for training. The girls are not only a pleasure at training but have shown great sportsmanship at away fixtures. The girls have taken home some brilliant wins against Winterstoke Hundred and Wydean School too! We look forward to seeing the students perform in the Year 7 Netball Tournament in the coming weeks. Well done girls, keep it up!



**Year 8 Football (Mr. Allcoat)**

The Year 8 footballers have had a difficult start to their season by being drawn against two very strong sides in both the English Schools and Somerset Cups. Unfortunately they weren't able to progress in either but were able to showcase their wide range of skills in preparation for the football season that continues until the end of term 4. With an A, B and C team block fixture soon to be played at WCSA, it will be a good opportunity to see all of the boys play in a competitive environment. Well done to everyone who continues to attend sport enrichment every Tuesday. I look forward to seeing how you all develop over the next few months.



### Year 8 Netball

The Year 8 netballers showed amazing determination after a very difficult National Cup game away to Badminton School. The girls saw this loss as an opportunity to develop their areas for improvement and become stronger as a team and win their two plate games where they are through to round 3! Not only this but their performances against local schools has been phenomenal where they have meshed well as a team knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses. Not only have we been seeing 25 students at sports enrichment on a Tuesday and Thursday but the students have been attending PO sessions every Friday morning to be coached by Weston College's netball coach. A big well done to the Year 8 girls, your dedication has not gone unnoticed!



### Year 9 Rugby (Mr. Allcoat)

The Year 9 rugby squad have experienced a range of challenges in their season so far. With wins against St Katherine's, WCSA and Churchill Academy this prepared them very well for the North Somerset Tournament. However, the boys struggled to gain momentum during the tournament and didn't make it out of the group stages. Zach Coombs has led this group with the utmost maturity along with Charlie Calcutt, Fin Simpson and Luis Bobadilla all acting as brilliant role models within the team too. It has been nice to see a new crop of boys start to play more often and we would like to give a collective thanks to James Fortune from Weston College who has been giving up his time to help coach and develop these boys every Tuesday at rugby enrichment.



### Year 9 Football (Mr Coombs / Mr Owen)

A mixed start to the football season with Year 9. The boys were humbled by our friends at WCSA in the National Cup but bounced back tremendously in the Somerset Cup beating Courtfields 2-1 to go into round 3. Numbers at training have been exceptionally high and the boys work together each week to improve. Mr. Owens has given up his time to lead the team and take training this year which has been a great help to the PE team. The boys are improving week on week and unlike Man Utd have stuck by their manager and worked hard to get the win before the board were due to step in! We aim to get everyone that wants to represent the school the opportunity to do so and with the friendlies and North Somerset tournament being scheduled after Christmas there will be many opportunities to do so.



### Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 netballers have shown dedication to training sessions and fixtures from the offset where the team have embraced new players, changes and sports enrichment. They played a very challenging game against Clevedon but kept their heads high and took away positives from the game. This positive attitude enabled them to secure a solid fifth place in the Year 9 Netball Tournament where they went on to win two matches and draw three. Well done girls, you are great role models to the younger players!

### Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 netballers were entered into the Sister for Sport National League where they travelled great distances to play fixtures. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the National plate to Farmor's School but it was a very close game with lots of great netball on display. We look forward to the Year 10s starting netball sports enrichment in the New Year and to see new and old faces!



### Year 10 Football (Mr. Clark)

The Year 10 boys are a group of talented footballers who play some very attractive football. They are at their best when they get the ball down and play, particularly when playing on 4G. I am so pleased to be able to take these boys on fixtures again this year. I hope they show the same commitment to training this year as they have in previous years, as they have the potential to go very far in some of the cup competitions. They will have lots of fixtures after Christmas; their only game to date has been a 4-2 win against Beechen Cliff.

### Year 11 Football (Mr. Clark)

I am so pleased to be able to take these boys on fixtures again after a long period without any due to COVID. They had a good run in the ESFA Schools Cup and are currently in the 3rd round of the Somerset Schools cup against Nailsea School after beating St Katherine's 4-2. They are always a pleasure to manage and I will miss them when they leave at the end of the year.

### Year 10 & 11 Hockey

The Year 10 and 11s have been involved in a few games this year and have been dedicated to training on a Tuesday and Thursday after school. They have had a good run of fixtures this term. Winning 5-0 to WCSA, drawing 1-1 to Churchill Academy and losing 1-0 to Clevedon. The Year 11 tournament has been played and the team came runners up after 3 wins, a draw and 1 defeat. The Year 11s have been a pleasure to coach and we will certainly miss them next year.

### Indoor Athletics/Cross Country (Mr. Clark)

This year's indoor athletics teams had a lot to live up to after we had 3 teams represent the school regionally in 2019 which was the last time the competition ran. They did not disappoint, performing superbly. The attitude and team spirit on show from all teams was absolutely stunning and I am looking forward to seeing how they progress in the coming years.

The North Somerset Cross Country Trials were held on 17th November at Backwell on an extremely wet and muddy course. Our students represented the school well and a special mention goes to Leah Perry who came 3rd, Jacob Forsbrook 4th, Coby Littledike 9th, Kerensa Main 14th, Jessica Deacon 16th, Lexie Dearing 17th and Jude Wait 18th.



### U13 Girls Football (Mrs. Spence)

Our U13 team consisting of Year 7 and Year 8 are having such a successful season in the National PlayStation Cup. The team are through to the fourth round which is such an achievement and we are so proud of their efforts.

**Round 1 - Wydean School 1 v 2 PCSA**

**Round 2 - Castle School 2 v 5 PCSA**

**Round 3 - Tiverton 1 v 1 PCSA**



### U15 Girls Football (Mrs. Spence)

Our U15 team consisting of Year 9 and Year 10 are just about to start their first round of the Somerset Cup. In the National PlayStation Cup their journey sadly ended in round 2. PCSA were defeated by Abbeywood School in a nail-biting penalty shootout.

Our numbers at football enrichment remain strong and it is great to see new players joining every week and enjoying the sport.

### Learning Cycle 1 House Matches

Well done to Daley who came out on top after the first round of house matches this year. A mixture of fantastic rugby, football, netball and hockey was on display all week and the PE team were very proud of everyone who conducted themselves in the 'house match spirit'. A special thanks to our Year 10 and Year 11 student officials and house captains in every year group as they were able to demonstrate a brilliant set of leadership skills and qualities which will have huge benefits for them in the future. We are already looking forward to the next round of house matches that are due to take place in Learning Cycle 2.9 (week of Jan 31st)



**Mr. Coombs**  
Central Leader for PE  
chris.coombs@pcsa.org.uk

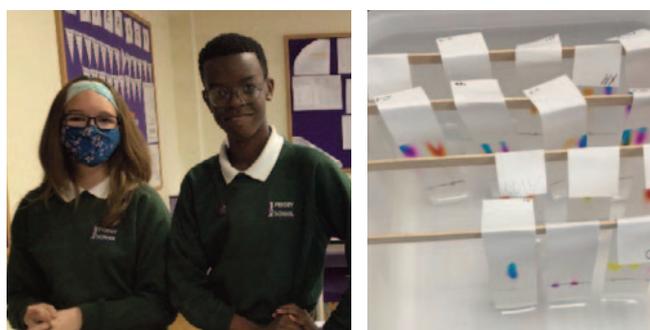
What a fantastic start to this academic year in Science. Students have been welcomed back into the labs and lessons have been bursting with practical work once more – dissections and thermite explosions have been a theme across the last cycle of learning as teachers have been just as excited as our students to get back into our labs; it is wonderful to see our students so engaged in their learning. A massive congratulations to all students who have been awarded science student of the week, you have all demonstrated some of the very best qualities of a being a scientist.



### KS3 and STEM

This year has enabled our KS3 students to be immersed in our Mastery Curriculum by applying their acquired knowledge to real life contexts. Year 7 have explored Forces and Cell Structure whilst Year 8 have deepened their understanding by investigating Light and Tissues and Organs.

The scientists of the future have been problem solving in our popular Science Club. It has been a hive of activity with students using skills and reasoning to solve a complex array of problems.



### Home Learning

We have seen high levels of engagement and success on Tassomai. Many of our KS4 students are going above and beyond by completing more than 4 daily goals per week. One of the great benefits of Tassomai is that it encourages students to learn independently, and take control of their learning journey. Students gain instant feedback on this “low stakes” testing that helps to embed knowledge.

KS3 students have completed a variety of quizzes as part of their home learning. These enable students to embed scientific language, recall knowledge and recognise the skills they are developing.

It is great to see our students equipped, completing home learning tasks on time and with maximum effort. Well done Science Superstars!

### KS4

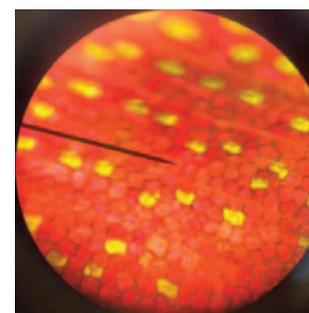
Team Science are very proud of our Year 11 students, who have worked hard in the build up to their first series of PPE's. Many students have worked tirelessly in and out of lessons as well as attending Science Prep for Success sessions to enhance their skills. Our students efforts have been rewarded with fantastic results.

Students should continue with their independent work outside the classroom, we have provided all Year 11 students with a revision guide to help support. There are a multitude of free online resources such as Tassomai, Seneca Learning, GCSE pod and many excellent YouTube channels such as Cognito and Free Science Lessons.

There has been a buzz throughout Science lessons with Class Practicals. Year 10 students have explored Plant transport, Chemical Changes and Radioactivity. Year 9 students have started the GCSE syllabus by using separation techniques and learning about the development of the Periodic table. We are delighted with their focus and determination.

**Mrs. Bedford, Central Leader for Science**

**amy.bedford@pcsa.org.uk**





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.

### Learning Cycle 1 topics

**Year 7 - E-safety**

**Year 8 - Body image**

**Year 9 - Achieving with good mental wellbeing**

**Year 10 - Financial Awareness**

**Year 11 - Money, economy and impacts upon me**

We would also like to give a massive thank you to all of our guest speakers who delivered to our students during week 9 of learning cycle 1. Key messages and conversations were had based around gang and knife crime and how to stay safe online when using social media.

#### Google Classroom codes

Y7, 8, 9 – oxohe7o

Y10, 11 – n6knicf

### Citizenship

Citizenship plays a fundamental role within the tutor programme at PCSA, as well as playing a significant part of the wider curriculum. During tutor time students have been focusing on current affairs, understanding citizenship themes through the prism of real live events, that are relevant to the students today. Each year group has also had a specific Citizenship focused session this cycle. These were as follows:

**Year 7 - British Citizenship**

**Year 8 - Sexuality and Homophobia**

**Year 9 - Criminal Justice**

**Year 10 - How Democracy Works**

**Year 11 - Our Environment**

Each of these specifically designed sessions provoked thoughtful discussions amongst the students on these important topics, a key aim of Citizenship provision at PCSA.

PCSA is also excited to announce that from the start of the 2022/23 academic year, Citizenship will be offered to students as an optional GCSE. More information concerning this will be available at the upcoming options evening for Year 9.

**Mr. Allcoat**  
Teacher of PE  
and PSHE Co-ordinator  
tom.allcoat@pcsa.org.uk

**Mr. Hames**  
Teacher of Humanities and  
Citizenship Co-ordinator  
chris.hames@pcsa.org.uk

## JILL DANDO STUDENT JOURNALISTS

The Jill Dando Student Journalists can be found interviewing, researching and editing away on the latest stories every Wednesday after school. Our P6 club trains students in a relaxed and student-led environment in key journalism skills. From writing to fact-checking to tweeting – our journalists take exciting raw ideas and turn them into published stories.

You can find the latest student stories here on The Good News Post.

Incredibly, two of our experienced young journalists from WCSA recently represented the voice of the youth at COP26.

We look forward to working across the Trust, attending a number of events and high profile interview – both virtual and real – which allow our young journalists to report on the best local, national and international stories!



**Miss O'Gorman, Teacher of English**  
sarah.o'gorman@pcsa.org.uk

**Mr. Dean, TPLT Jill Dando News Centre**  
shane.dean@theplt.org.uk



This term has had a significant focus on Year 11 students to help them explore their further education options and plan their next steps beyond PCSA.

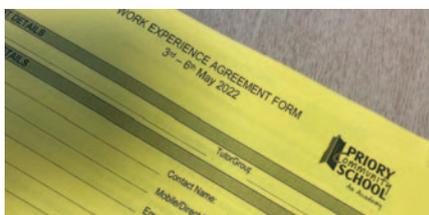
Students attended short and snappy 1:1s before half term to help them start the process.

Students also attended online assemblies every Thursday afternoon to meet with different colleges and sixth forms.

During half term, students attended a skills booster with The National Citizenship Service (NCS) to help build their leadership, communication and employability skills. Many students also went on a number of mini trips to SGS College, Boomsatsuma, Access Creative, Bristol Robins Foundation, Churchill Sixth Form and The Winterstoke Hundred Academy for campus tours and course information.

Year 11 student 1:1s resumed after PPEs to offer further help and support.

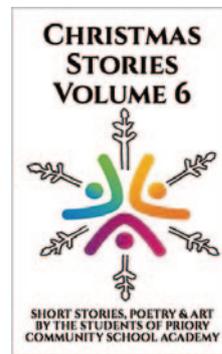
We launched the Year 10 Work Experience Week in November with assemblies and 1:1s. The whole year group are really on board with the opportunity and we are looking forward to seeing every Year 10 student leave school in May for four valuable days in the workplace.



The Weston College Taster Day for all Year 11 students ran really well at the end of November. Students explored vocational courses as well as A levels. Student participation and behaviour was excellent with one tutor saying "Every one of them were a credit to the school.

Firstly, the work they produced was great and they engaged brilliantly with the activity, but more importantly, the questions they asked and interest they showed around the course, their options, career choices and college life were brilliant. Really lovely group who were really well behaved whilst still being fun! Best taster I've done to date and hoping to see lots of them on the course next year!"

Students in all year groups continue to take part in careers related activities in tutor time every Thursday afternoon.



A great tradition at PCSA is our annual Christmas Stories eBook filled with short stories, poetry, art and photography produced by our students. Volume 6 was published this year and I was delighted to see it climb the bestseller chart on Amazon. Well done to our creative and inspiring students.

We also rewarded our student heroes in December for their acts of kindness and bravery at home, in school and in the community. Lots of praise for good deeds... and prizes from The Grand Pier too.



Looking ahead to after Christmas break, we will continue to support Year 11 students with their progression plans and continue to meet with Year 10 students to help plan work experience. We also have lots planned with Year 7 students with

their spring Interview Challenge and Year 8 students will take part in a business Invention Challenge and we hope to give Year 9 students a taste of university!

Please keep checking your emails from school and watch out for the monthly careers events and activities bulletin – this is also available on the Careers Team page on our website. We also regularly post across PCSA's social media platforms about upcoming events so keep an eye on them.

Happy Christmas!

**Mr. Wilmot**  
 Director of Careers  
 james.wilmot@pcsa.org.uk

**Miss Silmon**  
 Careers Advisor  
 jodie.silmon@pcsa.org.uk

## NEWS FROM THE SRB

Hello! As always we have had an incredibly busy few months in the SRB (Sir Richard Branson Centre). In September we welcomed our brilliant new Year 7s and quickly screened them to check if they would need some support in lessons. Since then we have been testing to see if our Year 10 and 11 students are eligible for exam concessions. If you have any concerns at all about any student's ability to access the lessons or exams please contact Miss Smith.

In Year 7 some of our students have started phonics intervention. This uses Fresh Start from Read Write Inc. Ollie said "Phonics have really helped me as my spelling is so much better. It makes my other lessons easier".

In Year 8 intervention they have just finished reading *Fantastic Mr Fox* which they all enjoyed, and are now moving onto a *Sheep Pig*, this is a new and interesting one for them as they have not seen or heard of the book. We have been enjoying using a mixture of writing in our books, as well as using computers to complete our work. Once a week we are still working on our phonics books so that we can improve our sounds, spelling and understanding. We are also having fun doing culture starters. Last cycle, to go in line with *Fantastic Mr Fox*, we focused on finding out different characters



(fox, badger, rat, rabbit and farmer) and foods that the farmers ate (chicken, ducks, apples, doughnuts) in French, Spanish, German and Italian. We also have some Year 8s that have extra maths support so we have been looking at fractions and algebra.

A favourite activity for the students was pretending that Mr Markoutsas had asked them to create a mindfulness garden for the students' mental health. They were given grid paper to draw up a plan. They then needed to work out what fraction of the garden was dedicated to what. Charlie decided she wanted a big dolphin water feature in her garden which was  $\frac{4}{36}$  of her whole plan.



Miss Smith,  
Assistant Principal and SENDCo  
lisa.smith@pcsa.org.uk



THE PRIORY  
LEARNING TRUST

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.

## THE PCSA ACADEMY COUNCIL

### the PCSA Academy Council

Governance is an important aspect of school life and our governors represent many aspects of the local community. Our Full Academy Council (Governing Body) meet six times throughout the academic year, and governors may also be asked to sit on panels or committees including the Principal's Appraisal Panel, School Admissions Panel, Pay Committee and the Complaints/Disciplinary panel. Governors also visit the school regularly to do learning walks with the Principal.

### The responsibilities of the Academy Council include:

- To work with the Principal and other staff to ensure a safe, stimulating, supportive, challenging and fulfilling school experience for all students and for them to attain the highest standards and outcomes possible so they can become the positive, contributing citizens of the future
- To provide advice, feedback and performance data to Trustees on the functioning of the Academy
- To work effectively alongside the Trust Executive to ensure effective governance and high standards, including improvement in performance as necessary
- To assist the decision making of the Principal and Academy Leadership team in pursuit of Trust and Academy objectives, ethos and strategy and to hold the Principal accountable for performance
- To ensure compliance with legislation, statutory regulations, Trust directives and Trust policies and identify and report on any risks to the Trust
- To act, on behalf of Trustees and with the Trust Executive and Principal, as proxy employer of staff working at the Academy in all matters delegated through the Scheme of Delegation.
- To receive, review and challenge student performance data and other information provided either by the Academy or Academy Council committees/sub-committees and/or the Trust Executive and request, commission or require action as a result
- Review the impact of the Academy on student outcomes in line with Trust targets and to inform Trustees of any risks arising from this scrutiny
- Act as a link between the Academy and its stakeholders

## So who are the PCSA Academy Council?

### Denise Hurr

I studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama before qualifying as a teacher. I have taught students aged 11 - 18 in Bristol, Weston Super Mare, Newport (Wales) and Burnham on Sea. I have also been Headteacher of two secondary schools.

I strongly believe in the importance of Governance and having been involved with PCSA for over 20 years, as a teacher and now training our next generation of teachers, I am delighted to be working with the Academy Council.

### Marie Cox

I am so pleased to have been elected as a Parent Governor in March 2021. I have two children at PCSA – Emily who is in Year 10, and Harry in Year 8.

My professional background lies mainly within health and social care. I trained as a nurse, and then moved into the community where I managed a number of services for people with a learning disability. I currently work for the Care Quality Commission who are the regulator of Health and Social Care in England, as an Inspection Manager.

I am passionate about representing the unique vantage point that parents have when discussions are held about education. I ask lots of questions – my expertise does not lie in education, but I'm pretty clued up on what parenting a teenager through their secondary education is all about and I'd like to think that insight will enable me to be an effective governor.

When I have spare time I enjoy baking, and when the weather permits, getting out in the garden. I'm no expert at either really but it feeds my wellbeing no-end.

### Hugh Eckett

I moved to Weston-super-Mare in 1974 from London and have lived here ever since. My wife and children went to school locally and my brother taught for many years at Priory School as it was then.

I have worked in the construction industry all my career and, specialising in the insurance sector for nearly 30 years. I now run my own small surveying practice in the town. I have worked on a number of insurance related school refurbishment projects.

I had considered trying to give something back to the community I have lived in all my adult life and so when the opportunity to become a governor arose I was delighted to take on this role. I hope I can bring my skills and experience of over 40 years in business to help in some small way.

### Fiona Waters

It is a privilege to be an Academy Council Member for Priory Community School and to be able to contribute to the exemplary educational environment the school offers. I am the link governor for Safeguarding at PCSA which is an area of particular interest and expertise for me.

Nearly 30 years of my working life has been spent in the education sector (FE and HE) with a short period prior to that

at the BBC in their Music Library. I have an MBA in Industrial Economics and extensive experience in Safeguarding and the PREVENT agenda, Student Funding, course IAG as well as a particular interest in maths. I am a member of the Met Police Counter Terrorism Advisory Board as well as the local PREVENT Partnership Board.

Outside of working life I am an active member of Victoria Bowling Club, a member of the English Bowls Umpires Association having undertaken the national umpires exams and a keen supporter of Cats Protection.

### Lizzie Wormald-Kelly

I have been a Teacher of English since 2017, working at TKASA - a sister TPLT secondary school. I hold a BA Hons in English Literature and Education from the University of the West of England and a PGCE from Bath Spa University (where one of my placements was at PCSA in 2016). I love working with young people to help them fulfil their potential.

Prior to education I was a Senior Manager in Fashion and Retail overseeing operations (HR, marketing, stock control, PR, finances and Health and Safety) across stores and concessions across the South for the Fashion brand Jigsaw.

Outside of work I am a keen volunteer with the Scout Association and as such have held many International, National and local roles; currently, I am an Explorer Scout Leader in Clevedon and County Appointment Secretary. I also founded Clevedon's COVID-19 response as the Director and Team Lead of Clevedon Aid; post-pandemic I maintain a role on North Somerset Together working with North Somerset Council to shape community matters. I wanted to be a governor to help positively influence and support the development of the young people at PCSA.

### Graham Morrissey

As an ex-PCSA student and having lived in the local community most of my life I wanted to contribute to the successes of the academy through my experience in business and jumped at the opportunity to become a school governor when it was presented to me.

I am married to Adriana and we have twins in Year 4 at Worlebury Primary School. Their education is paramount to their future successes and through being a governor I can contribute first-hand what success looks like in an achieving local academy school.

I am an Engineer with over 30 years' experience and work as a Specialist Consultant to the UK Atomic Energy Authority and hold a leadership position in Civil Nuclear. I have worked in senior management for an international engineering consultancy and for many years had my own engineering consultancy practice in specialist industries.

I am dedicated in my support to PCSA and to encourage the best in all areas from all of its teaching staff and its students and as a STEM ambassador. I am also currently holding the position of Vice Chair.

### Victoria Hart

I am delighted to have recently been appointed as a Parent

Governor within the Academy Council, I have a daughter at PCSA currently in Year 9 and a son who will join PCSA next year.

I am a regular volunteer as an employer at the PCSA Year 10 Interview Day and have experienced the benefit this exercise provides to students, learning the path of identifying job opportunities to preparing and attending an interview, highlighting the importance of social and transferable skills alongside academic achievement.

I have worked in the Financial Services sector for 30 years and at present work as a consultant in the Chief Controls Office. I am passionate around ensuring all students are given the right support and direction to fulfil their educational opportunities and look forward to my skills and experience to be a positive influence within the governor role. In my spare time I enjoy reading and try to keep fit by running.

### **Tabitha Sandy**

I have worked at PCSA now for 12 years in a variety of different roles, all of which I have enjoyed. PCSA is a great school to work at and being appointed as Non-Teaching Staff Governor is a great opportunity for me to give something back.

I wanted to be a Non-Teaching Staff Governor on the Academy Council as I am interested and care about the decisions which impact our students' future.

### **Angelos Markoutsas**

In March 2019 I was appointed Principal of PCSA, after having been asked by the CEO of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) to take on the position of Acting Principal since November 2018. I have been with the TPLT family for over 14 years now. I started my career as a teacher of humanities at PCSA in 2006 and stayed with the school for a number of years. Prior to coming back to PCSA I was the Vice Principal at Worle Community School.

I feel honoured and humbled by the trust and faith placed upon me by the TPLT, our parents and carers and most importantly the students. I am putting all of my effort into making PCSA the best experience for our young learners.

### **Lois Kerrison**

I studied to become a teacher after previous careers in computing and as a professional photographer, so that I could give something back to our next generation. I have worked within the Priory Learning Trust for 8 years and at PCSA as Central Leader of Maths for 4 years. I have always aimed to provide the best opportunities for all our students and feel privileged to work at a school that has the same purpose.

I feel that being part of the Academy Council as a Teaching-Staff governor will provide me the opportunity to continue to have an impact on our students learning and to give something back to our school.

### **Cheryl Warhurst**

I attended Priory back in the 1980s. My daughter is at school here now and is in Year 10. I love reading, all of the time if I

can! Due to my love of reading came my desire to help encourage young people to develop their own love. This is how I entered school governance. Everybody has the right to the best education, reading is a great stepping stone to success.

When this role came up, I jumped at the chance. I work part-time in the local community where I have taken up the role of Wellbeing Mentor. Wellbeing is so important for everyone and I think as we are slowly coming back to normal, Wellbeing will be even more important. I am so excited to be joining the team

### **Sean McCreadie**

I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given as school governor and will endeavour to ensure that the voices of both parents and students are heard, whilst maintaining the integrity of the school's reputation. Having a daughter in Year 10, I'm passionate about helping young people to achieve the best they can.

I have dedicated my career to protecting both young adults and the most vulnerable in our society. I have skills in finance, training and development, social media including the impact it has on our young. I enjoy contributing to developing individuals as well as supporting the learning environment for all students.

I offer commitment and determination to make a difference: striving for academic excellence and an inclusive environment in which all students have an opportunity to learn and reach their potential.

### **David Watson**

I've lived in Weston-super-Mare most of my life, since my father had his final posting to Locking Camp near Weston. I had a fantastic experience personally working through the school, leaving in 1980 the first year group to go through the school beginning in the prefab huts at Worle School.

I've worked in retail all of my life, leaving PCSA to join Debenhams in Bristol as a Trainee Manager. I spent 20 years travelling around the country developing my career working at various businesses at various levels. Most of my recent working life has been spent with Leekes Limited, the Welsh-based department store, as their Regional Manager.

I have two children at PCSA currently in Years 8 and 10, with my youngest hopefully arriving in 2022. After such a good time myself and now my children working through the school I felt it was time to give something back.

I hope that some of the skills I've picked up over my years working as Store Manager, Regional Manager and Divisional Controller will benefit the school in the role of Parent Governor.

Please feel free to get in touch with the Academy Council at PCSA any time by contacting the Clerk to the Academy Council,

Stephanie Munro on 01934 511411  
or email on [stephanie.munro@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.munro@pcsa.org.uk)

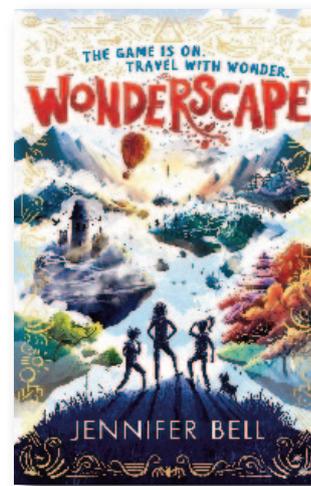
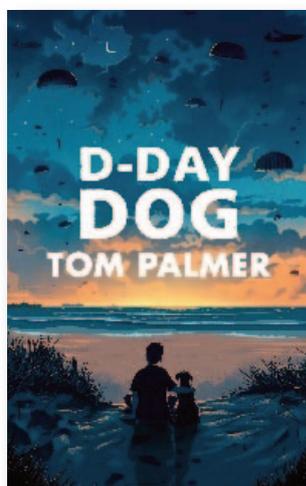
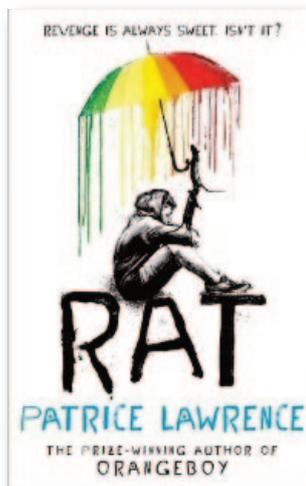


It's been a fantastic first two terms in the PCSA library and we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students. It has become immediately apparent that our lower school students in particular are avid readers and the Manga and graphic novels have been especially popular.

As you can see from the photo above, Victor, Issac and Alfie were very quickly engrossed in their books and at breaktimes the library is full of students reading.



through Book Trust. However, this year for the first year ever we have extended this program to our Year 8s too. All Year 7s and 8s have chosen their books and when they arrive in school students will be invited into the library to collect them. There were 17 titles to choose from this year and there was a tie for first place for the most popular choice. There were 81 requests for both 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones' and 'Rat' and 53 requests for 'D-Day Dog'. 'Wonderscape' was close behind with 49 requests. We really hope they enjoy reading their



Every English group throughout Years 7 to 11 have had a library lesson and induction during terms 1 and 2 to give them the opportunity to see what the library has to offer. All students have been encouraged to borrow books and our KS4 students have taken full advantage of our "Young Adult" section with books that are a little more mature in content. To date we have loaned out 965 books and as we are placing new fiction and non-fiction books on our shelves all the time that number will steadily rise as we progress through the academic year.

Every year we enrol onto the BookBuzz program where every student in Year 7 is able to choose a free book for themselves from a fantastic array of titles made available

books and every title will be available from the library should they wish to read some of the other titles too.

If you would like your son or daughter to attend P6 homework club we run sessions in the library from 3pm to 4pm Monday – Friday.

**Mrs. Watts, Learning Resources Leader**  
rachel.watts@pcsa.org.uk

 Follow us on Twitter: @PCSA\_LRC where you can follow all the latest news from the library.



As with last academic year, we will continue with the policy of not allowing mobile devices (phones, watches, tablet devices) to be seen during the school day. This is in reaction to research showing students' usage of mobile technology having a directly detrimental effect on their health and well-being as well as on their academic progress. We have been incredibly pleased with the impact of this on the young people at PCSA and we thank both you and your children for their contribution to the success of this initiative. Seeing and hearing students talking to each other rather than being buried in their phones has, quite honestly, been a joy.

To once again clarify our stance, mobile devices (phones, watches and tablet devices) must be switched off and out of sight from the time students arrive on site in the morning until they leave the school at the end of the school day – this is inclusive of break and lunch time.

If you urgently need to contact your child during the school day please call the school on 01934 511411 and we will pass the message to them. If your child needs to contact home we will ask them to call from the reception at break or lunchtime, unless it is an emergency.

Should a mobile device be visible or clearly switched on (for example listening to music) then:

- in the first instance, the device will be confiscated by a member of staff and kept locked away in Student Services for collection after the final bell at 2.55pm.
- On the second occurrence of a phone being confiscated, it will require collection by a parent/carer after school at their next convenience. Should this be required, you will be informed by the school as soon as possible.

We continue to monitor the effect of mobile devices on student safety, wellbeing and academic progress and will continue to educate our community on safe and regulated usage. Support for parents/carers around digital wellbeing and managing mobile phone use is available from the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Many thanks for your continued support of PCSA.

## 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, shorts and skirts not permitted** ✗

Denim, jeans or joggling style trousers including jeggings or other trousers with stud detailing should not be worn

Leggings or Harem pants should not be worn

Mini skirts, skirts with slits or high waisted skirts should not be worn

• 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 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

- ✓ 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 3**  
(Years 7, 8 and 9)

**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

Term Days
  INSET Days
  Holidays
  Bank Holidays

JANUARY 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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31						

FEBRUARY 2022						
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28						

MARCH 2022						
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APRIL 2022						
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MAY 2022						
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JUNE 2022						
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JULY 2022						
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AUGUST 2022						
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SEPTEMBER 2022						
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OCTOBER 2022						
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31						

NOVEMBER 2022						
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DECEMBER 2022						
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## Academic Year 2021/2022

<b>TERM 3</b>	Starts Tuesday 4th January 2022 Ends Friday 18th February 2022
<b>TERM 4</b>	Starts Monday 28th February 2022 Ends Friday 8th April 2022
<b>TERM 5</b>	Starts Monday 25th April 2022 Ends Friday 27th May 2022
<b>TERM 6</b>	Starts Monday 6th June 2022 Ends Friday 22nd July 2022 21 July and 22 July 2022 are INSET days

Term dates have been set for 2022-2023 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.

## Academic Year 2022/2023

<b>TERM 1</b>	Starts Thursday 1 September 2022 Ends Friday 14 October 2022 Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September and Friday 14th October are INSET days
<b>TERM 2</b>	Starts Monday 31 October 2022 Friday 16 December 2022
<b>TERM 3</b>	Starts Tuesday 3 January 2023 Ends Friday 10 February 2023
<b>TERM 4</b>	Starts Monday 20 February 2023 Ends Friday 31 March 2023
<b>TERM 5</b>	Starts Monday 17 April 2023 Ends Friday 26 May 2023
<b>TERM 6</b>	Starts Monday 5 June 2023 Ends Friday 21 July 2023