Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026 Issue 07



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we're almost at the end of this first half-term! How quickly it has flown by, and with the end in sight, there is certainly plenty to reflect upon.

Since the start of this academic year, I've been welcoming Year 6 families from our local primary schools for tours of Passmores which is always such a pleasure. The overwhelmingly positive feedback we have been receiving from visitors has been fantastic. The fact that our tours have been fully booked every week is a real testament to the positive reputation we have built within our town. Let's keep this momentum going right up until we finish at the end of the day on Wednesday!

2 TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

4 PASTORAL UPDATE

10 SUBJECT INFORMATION / UPDATES

14 CAREERS NEWS

21 ANY OTHER INFORMATION

22 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Of course, I know there is always more we can do to improve, and that is why I value opportunities to hear your thoughts, ideas and feedback so much. Creating regular, informal opportunities for us to come together and have those conversations is really important to me, and I am very much looking forward to Monday's *Chit Chat, Coffee and Croissant* session with those of you who have signed up to attend.

In other news, after what must have felt like an incredibly long wait for our Student Leadership applicants, we are delighted to announce our new Deputy Head Students: **Ethan Toku-Appleton and Makiah Mfon!**

The student voting process was a wonderful example of democracy in action, with every student having the opportunity to cast their vote. It was a very closely fought contest, which makes this achievement all the more special. Congratulations to them both! I look forward to seeing what they bring to their new roles.

And finally, what better way to round off the week than with a sweet treat. Our wonderful Friends of Passmores treated students (and staff!) to an array of cakes to purchase at the end of the day. There were plenty of tempting treats on offer, and I can confirm they were delicious! A huge thank you to Friends of Passmores for organising this and for their continued support of our school.

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Friday 9th to Thursday 15th October 2026

Ucer, Berzan	Year 7	145
Adejare, Tiwalola	Year 7	134
Spiers, Leonardo	Year 7	132
Godolja, Flavjo	Year 7	131
Siaulaityte, Emilija	Year 7	129
Wagstaff, Heath	Year 7	129
Papp, Oliver	Year 7	128
Madana, Erina	Year 7	126
Matthews, Spencer	Year 7	125
Anderton, Nathan	Year 7	124
Guiver-kirk, Amber	Year 7	124
Richards, Kaylee	Year 7	124

Rollinson, Ava	Year 8	141
Bartram, Indie	Year 8	131
Uzdonas, Deinas	Year 8	131
Burgess, Cian	Year 8	128
Smith, Millie	Year 8	128
Capiron, Harrison	Year 8	126
Hoy, Rachel	Year 8	126
Ward, Ryan	Year 8	126
Wallace, Molly	Year 8	125
Woodington, Isla	Year 8	124

Ford, Grayson	Year 9	132
Mimms, Joshua	Year 9	129
Stoker, Sidney	Year 9	125
Moore, Poppy	Year 9	123
Thompson, Corey	Year 9	121
Seip, Joshua	Year 9	120
Mahon, Charlie	Year 9	119
Mahon, Olly	Year 9	119
Sava-Luchian, Eric	Year 9	119
Wilcox, Luke	Year 9	114

Osagie-Ighodaro, Jennifer	Year 10	131
Ozimek, Filip	Year 10	130
Brown, William	Year 10	129
Beckwith, Olivia	Year 10	127
Harding, Oliver	Year 10	126
Salter, Ruby-Mae	Year 10	124
Kundrotaite, Evita	Year 10	123
Serpytis, Aaron	Year 10	123
Maylen, David	Year 10	122
Mfon, Makiah	Year 10	122

Gunter, Noah	Year 11	111
Owen, Esme	Year 11	106
Renker, Grace	Year 11	106
Cerek, Krystian	Year 11	101
Frimpong, Abena	Year 11	101
Hills, Ronnie	Year 11	101
Lambert, George	Year 11	100
Andersons, Erik	Year 11	97
Quick, Teddy	Year 11	96
Cairns, Eryn	Year 11	95
Windeler, Emylei	Year 11	95

Year Group Attendance w/c 12th October 2026

Year 7	96.28%
Year 8	91.9%
Year 9	91.43%
Year 10	87.52%
Year 11	87.66%
All Students	**91.03%**

Attendance Counts
Attendance = Rewards!

Be in. Be on time. Be in with a chance to WIN!
Monday 12 - Friday 16 October 2026

Most improved house

Griffin - improved by 0.84%

Weekly Tutor Group Challenge

Congratulations to the following form groups for the top attendance

Dragon - D5 98.46%
Griffin - G4 97.41%
Lion - L6 96.90%
Unicorn - U7 99.17%

Keep up the good work! We hope you enjoy your sweets.

House Attendance Challenge

Griffin House - 91.66% - WINNERS!!
Dragon House - 90.64%
Lion House - 90.76%
Unicorn House - 90.85%





Every day counts. Every lesson counts.
Every student makes a difference!

PASTORAL UPDATES

Pastoral Curriculum Round-Up…

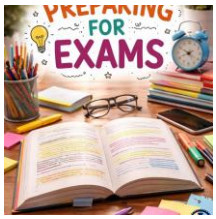
It has been another productive week across our pastoral curriculum, with students focusing on their emotional wellbeing, preparation for the future and developing the skills they need to succeed.

Students in Years 7–9 have taken part in our Time to Talk sessions, providing them with the opportunity to express how they are feeling, talk openly with their peers and reflect on their emotional wellbeing. These sessions are an important part of helping students develop positive relationships and ensuring they feel listened to and supported in school.

Year 7 have also attended an assembly about the upcoming Mersea sports trip. This gave students important information about the trip, what they can expect and how to prepare for the experience. We are looking forward to seeing our Year 7 students get involved and make the most of this opportunity.



Year 10 have also participated in Time to Talk sessions, giving students the opportunity to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and reflect on their wellbeing. As students continue to navigate the demands of their GCSE courses, these sessions provide a valuable opportunity to check in with one another and access support where needed.



Year 11 have had a strong focus on revision and exam preparation this week as they begin their mock examinations. Students have been exploring effective revision strategies to help them prepare confidently and make the most of their independent study time.

Our Rising Stars programme has also continued during Pastoral Curriculum Time, providing targeted revision and additional learning opportunities for selected students. This support is designed to help students address gaps in their knowledge, build confidence and maximise their potential as they work towards their GCSE examinations.

Continues on the next page…

Weekly Winners
Week Commencing: 12th October 2026

Sophie Addison

Zac Grieve

Harrison Mehmet

Jude Ashman

Christopher Watkins

Megan Labalpiny

Kingsley Chui

Ben Fuller

Sini Demleka

Harlow Pride 2026

The Harlow Pride 2026 event is taking place at Passmores Academy on Saturday 17th October between 12pm & 6pm. We have 20 students, across years 8-11 in the Passmores Academy Pride Group who will be volunteering at the event.

They will be supporting with setting up beforehand, packing down afterwards, welcoming the general public to the event, and helping stall holders and the main acts throughout the day.

Many are returning to volunteer again after they enjoyed it so much last year!

FROM AFTER HALF-TERM, ALL STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE BY 8:45AM. LATE ARRIVALS WILL RECEIVE A SAME-DAY DETENTION.



PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!

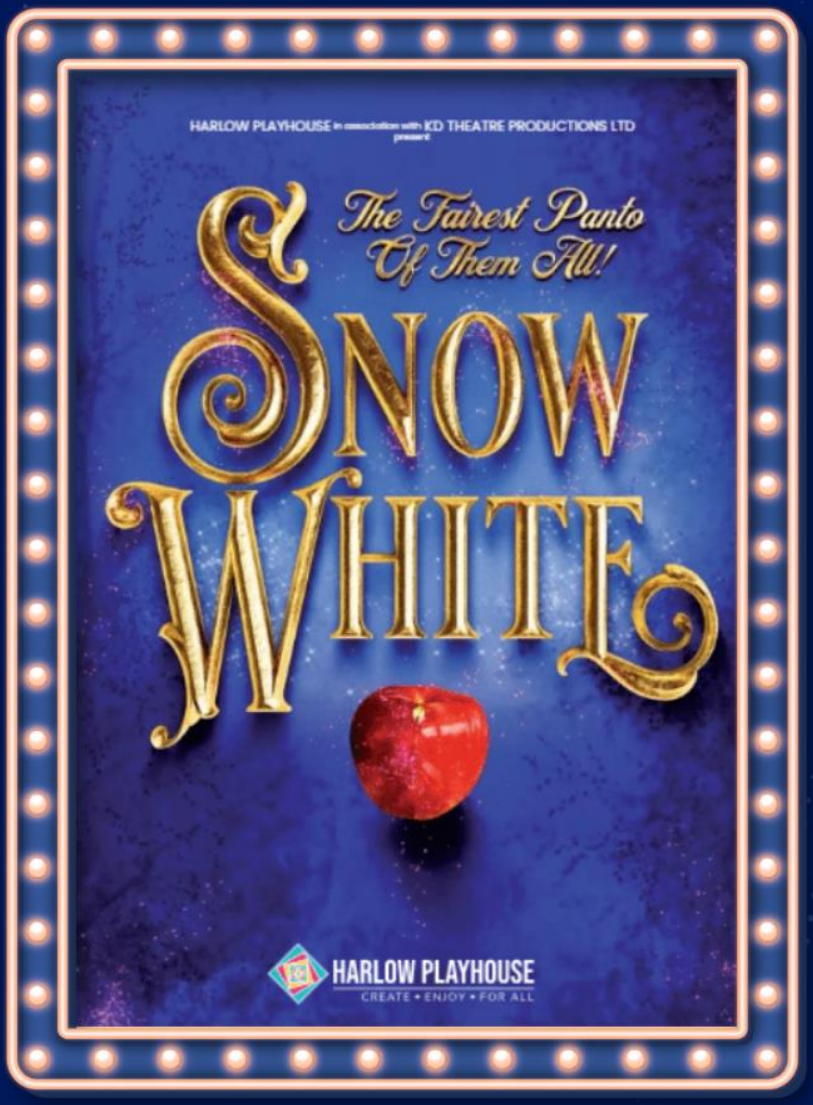
Year 7 Trips

We have 2 fantastic trip opportunities for our Year 7s...

Trip Name	Date	Closing Date	Amount
Panto at the Harlow Playhouse	Wednesday 2nd December 2026	Friday 13th November 2026	£13
Essex Outdoors Mersea	Sunday 20th June to Wednesday 23rd June 2027	Deposit of £55 by Monday 3rd November 2026 (final deadline of Monday 1st June 2027)	£305



PASSMORES ACADEMY (YEAR 7&8)
PANTO VISIT TO THE HARLOW PLAYHOUSE



WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2026

Purchase Tickets Via Arbor under Trips

Our School Needs You!

VACANCY
PARENT OR COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Who we are:

The Governing Body currently consists of the principal, staff members, parent governors and community governors. We are a friendly team that work with each other and the staff to ensure the students can reach their full potential whilst at Passmores Academy.

What we do:

The governors are interested in ensuring the students at the school get the best possible education, and we work towards this by volunteering in a variety of ways. One of our main duties is to meet as a team to discuss and review school policies and other school business. These meetings take place during the evening several times a term and are face to face at the school.

Each of us are linked with specific areas and subjects within the school and we monitor these throughout the academic year by communicating with the staff responsible for these areas, and by spending time in school.

We also support the school and students in other ways, for example being present at school events such as school events, sports days, and the recruitment of new staff.

What makes a good Governor:

School governors can be employed part time or full time, self-employed, a stay-at-home parent or retired. Formal qualifications are not necessary, just the ability to work as part of a team, have an interest in how the school runs, and be able to ask questions. Training is provided, and the team are friendly and supportive to new members.

Interested in joining the team:

If you would like more information about being a governor at Passmores Academy or are interested in joining the team, please contact k.townsend@pclc.co.uk

SUBJECT / INFORMATION UPDATES

French



Phonics Learning Through Songs and Rhymes

Our pupils are continuing to develop their French phonics skills at Key Stage 3, building confidence in recognising and producing the sounds of the French language.

Songs and rhymes are a fun and memorable way for pupils to practise pronunciation, helping them make connections between sounds, spelling and meaning. Regular repetition also helps new sounds become more familiar and easier to use when speaking, reading and spelling French.

Here is this week's *Song of the Week:* French Colours - Couleurs



Why not have a listen and see if you can join in at home...

Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages
University of Oxford

French Flash Fiction Competition... win £100!

Our annual French Flash Fiction competition invites secondary school students learning French to send us a *very* short story written in French to be in with a chance of winning up to £100. We're looking for a complete story using no more than **100 words.**

Our panel of academic judges assess stories on their imagination and narrative flair, as well as linguistic accuracy. Your use of French is considered in the context of your age and year group: in other words, we don't expect younger pupils to compete against older pupils linguistically. The judges award a top prize of £100 in each category, as well as prizes of £25 to a maximum of two runners up.

To enter, please e mail your short story to y.corkery@passmoresacademy.com

Bonne chance!

Ms Corkery
Head of French
Passmores Academy

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES

BOTTLE LIDS WE NEED YOU!

Small lids make a BIG difference!

RECYCLE
RE-USE
CREATE
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE!



2 HDPE

Our Design and Technology students are collecting plastic bottle lids (HDPE) which we melt down and turn into recycled plastic sheets for projects.

It's a brilliant way to show real life recycling and re-purposing!

COLLECT THEM!

CLEAN THEM!

BRING THEM IN!



NO GREEN LIDS PLEASE!
We have tons of those already!

WE CAN TAKE:

- Milk bottle lids
- Drink bottle lids
- Sauce bottle lids
- Shampoo lids
- Any HDPE plastic lids in any colour (except green!)

PLEASE DROP THEM TO:

The lid drop box in downstairs Dragon, D002, D003 or the Technicians Office.

THANK YOU!

Together we can make a difference!

REDUCE ♥ REUSE ♥ RECYCLE ♥ CREATE

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE
SEPT-OCT 2026

Dept.	Club	Day	Time	Room	Staff	Duration
Music	Steel Pans Student Group 1	Monday	3.30-4.30	L19	DBK/JDE	Termly
Music	Steel Pans Student Group 2	Monday	4.30-5.30	L19	DBK/JDE	Termly
Music	Steel Pans Adult Group	Monday	5.30-6.30	L19	DBK/JDE	N/A
Music	Passmores Music School Tuition	Tuesday	3.30-9.00	Music Dept	LHD	N/A
Science	Youth Club	Tuesday	3.30-5.00	Heartspace	AOS/AMT	Termly
Computer Science	Computing Club	Tuesday	3.25-4.15	tbc	AHN	Termly
Music	Year 11 Band	Wednesday	3.20-4.00	L19	DBR	Termly
Music	Piano Keyboard Club	Wednesday	3.20-3.50	L110	DBR	Termly
Drama	Year 9 - 11 Excellence Club	Wednesday	3.30-4.30	L107/L106	JGR	Termly
Music	Soul Band	Thursday	3.20-4.00	L19	DBR	Termly
Music	GCSE Booster Session	Thursday	3.20-4.00	L110	DBR	Termly
Geography	Geography Film Club	Thursday	3.20-4.20	U005	VNS	Weekly
Drama	KS3 Drama Club	Thursday	3.30-4.30	L107/L107/Hall	JGR/PTG	Termly
Art	GCSE Art Club	Thursday	3.15-4.15	L106	GHS	Termly
Science	STEM CLUB	Thursday	3:20-4.20	L02	AOS	Termly
Music	Samba Band	Thursday & Friday	Break	L106	GAN	Termly

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SEPT-OCT 2026				
DAY	**BREAK 10:55 – 11:15**	**STAFF**	**AFTERSCHOOL 3:30 – 4:15**	**STAFF**
MONDAY	**BASKETBALL SPORTS HALL**	**EAD**		
	FOOTBALL ASTRO TURF	**JKG**		
TUESDAY	**BASKETBALL SPORTS HALL**	**ADN**	**NETBALL - COURTS**	**OWY GCI ADN**
	FOOTBALL ASTRO TURF	**JWR**	**GYM**	**AMN JKG**
WEDNESDAY	**BASKETBALL SPORTS HALL**	**OWY**	**FOOTBALL – ASTRO TURF**	**AMN JKG JWR**
	FOOTBALL ASTRO TURF	**BBS**	**GYM**	**GCI AND**
THURSDAY	**BASKETBALL SPORTS HALL**	**GCI**	**BASKETBALL – SPORTS HALL**	**EAD**
	FOOTBALL ASTRO TURF	**BMY**	**GYM**	**OWY JWR**
FRIDAY	**BASKETBALL - SPORTS HALL**	**DLN**	**BTEC COURSEWORK CATCH UP**	
	FOOTBALL ASTRO TURF	**AMN**	**PE DETENTIONS**	

CAREERS NEWS

Work Experience – WE NEED YOU!



At Passmores Academy, we want every student to leave school with a better understanding of the opportunities available to them and the confidence to pursue them. We are therefore now offering work experience to our year 10 students during the week of the 8th-12th February 2027.

Ideally, we would love students to complete a 5-day placement, and we are reaching out to you as parents/carers/employers to ask if you can help us by offering placements.

This is such a great opportunity for our students to develop confidence and workplace awareness, understand the skills needed for future success to help them to make more informed decisions about future study and careers. Every workplace has something valuable to offer, and every experience can help shape a student's future.

Parents and carers are often a young person's biggest source of career inspiration, and we'd love to hear from you, do you work for an organisation that could support our students. If you, your employer, or someone in your network could support this initiative, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Sara Simpson, Work Experience Co-ordinator, s.simpson@passmoresacademy.com.

Year 11 College & Sixth Form Open Dates…

Braintree College, Mon 19th October, 5.00pm-7.00pm

Cambridge Regional College, Weds 21st October, 4.30pm-7.00pm

Leventhorpe Sixth Form, Tues 3rd November

Epping St Johns Sixth Form, Weds 4th November

The Bishops Stortford High School, Thurs 5th November, 5.45pm-8.30pm

Presdales Sixth Form, Thurs 12th November, 6.00pm-8.00pm

Live online Career Experience Days for students aged 13–18

Experience days in a range of sectors during Oct, Nov and Dec. The cost of these is £79. Sectors represented include Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Computer Science, Performing Arts, Midwifery, Psychology, Architecture, Engineering, Law and Business.

They are all online and include a certificate of completion. To find out more and book, click on this link: **CareerDays.co.uk**

CRE8 – Creative Industry Academy - Campuses in Bishop's Stortford & Broxbourne

Students can explore areas including:

- Graphic, digital, fashion and product design
- Photography
- Film, TV & video production
- Social media & content creation
- Branding, advertising & marketing
- Animation, motion graphics & VFX
- Journalism & digital media
- Audio, podcasting & music production

The main post-16 pathway is a **Level 3 qualification equivalent to three A-Levels.** Explore their 2027 prospectus: CRE8 Prospectus AY27

ONLINE INTRODUCTION EVENING, Monday 19 October. Register for the online event here

ON-CAMPUS TASTER EVENTS:
Monday 26 October, Bishops Stortford & Wednesday 28th October, Broxbourne.
Book here

Hockerill Anglo European School offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma, the IB Career-related Programme, and A Level's.

To learn more join a live Microsoft Teams event on **Tuesday 20th October at 18:00, 'IB or A Levels - what is your future?'.** To register, use the following link **IB Virtual event at 18:00 on Tuesday 20th October**. Alternatively, copy the link below into your browser:

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/371624496939545?p=zg3jbQ4kVLdm8KZB8q

Meeting ID: 371 624 496 939 545
Passcode: KX7wM23w

They are holding Morning Tours between October and December. To book, go to:

https://www.aesessex.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions/open-evening-and-tours/

Future Doctors Month

Four free, live online medical work experience sessions for students aged 14–18. Students can join doctors each Sunday and work through a different interactive medical scenario:

18 October — Inside the Operating Theatre: Anaesthetics
Explore anaesthesia, airway management, monitoring and how patients are kept safe during surgery.

25 October — The Diagnosis Challenge: Medical Detective
Students investigate a mystery patient, interpret the evidence and work towards a diagnosis.

1 November — Outbreak: Can You Stop the Spread?
Investigate an infectious disease outbreak and make clinical and public-health decisions.

All sessions are **live online at 2pm UK time** and recordings will be available afterwards, so students don't need to attend live. At the end of the programme, students can take their **Future Doctors Knowledge Test**, with those achieving 80% or above receiving a personalised certificate.

It's completely free and students only need to register once for all four sessions.
Register free for Future Doctors Month - www.premedprojects.co.uk/free

Harlow College Supported Studies Open Event - Wednesday 21st October – 6pm to 7.30pm

The Supported Studies team at Harlow College are running a bespoke Open Event aimed at learners in Year 10 or 11 who have an EHCP.

Parents and learners will be able to meet the Supported Studies team and find out all about their programmes. They will be able to:

- Attend a presentation that demonstrates the wide variety of activities they do.
- Meet current students and hear about their experiences at college.
- View the classrooms, Sensory Room and their new kitchen
- Say 'hello' to Lula, their therapy dog

Meet in main Reception at 6pm for a 6.30pm. No need to book. Free parking is available on the campus, on a first come basis.

INVESTIN

What's it like to be a...?

FREE ONLINE CAREER TASTERS, 6PM UK TIME

Free Career Tasters

Interactive Online Workshops for Students

We are pleased to announce our new interactive workshop series! Students will hear directly from practising professionals on day-to-day life in their roles.

Many students lack the industry connections required to get their questions answered, so we hope to give them direct access to the people who can help.

Please share this information with your students and their parents by forwarding this email, sharing the example text or sharing this poster.

We'd love to see students join the workshops live so that they can contribute to discussions. However, if they can't make it, they can still sign up to receive the recording.

Upcoming Online Workshops...

6 of our most popular careers will feature in this workshop series. They'll cover:

✅ A typical day in that role

✅ The needed skills and potential challenges

✅ Salary, career progression and some myth-busting

Then, students will get stuck in with an interactive simulation!







BSFC Academy Year 11 Introduction & Taster Event

Monday 26th October, 10:00am to 1:30pm

Bishop's Stortford FC, Dunmow Road, CM23 5RG

BSFC Academy is a full-time post-16 football and education programme.

Alongside their playing pathway, they offer a range of **non-playing opportunities:**

- Sports Coaching
- Photography
- Journalism
- Graphic Design
- Commentary
- Sports Media
- Creative Media

Whether a student sees their future on the pitch, behind the camera, on the touchline or in the media team, BSFC Academy gives them the opportunity to develop within a real football club environment. Places must be booked in advance. Sign up here

Open Events 2026-2027

Colleges & Sixth Forms	Contact No.	Open Date
Birchwood High School www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk	01279 655936	Thurs 22nd Oct 5-7.30pm
The Bishop's Stortford High School www.tbshs.org	01279 868686	Thurs 5th Nov, 5.45-8.30pm
Bishops Stortford Football Academy academy@bsfc.co.uk		Awaiting date
BMAT STEM Academy www.bmatstemacademy.org	01279 621570	Thurs 15th Oct 5pm-8pm
The College at Braintree (Now part of Colchester Institute) www.colchester.ac.uk	01206 814000	Mon 19th Oct, 5pm-7pm Sat 14th Nov, 10am-12pm
Cambridge Regional College www.camre.ac.uk	01223 418200	Weds 21st Oct, 4.30-7pm Sat 14th Nov, 9.30-12.30pm Sat 23rd Jan, 10-12.30pm
Capel Manor College, Enfield www.capel.ac.uk	08456 122122	Weds 16th Sept, 5.30pm-7pm Sat 10th Oct, 10am-3pm
Chelmsford College www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk	01245 265611	Weds 7th Oct, 6pm-8.30pm Weds 4th Nov, 6pm-8.30pm Weds 3rd Feb, 6pm-8.30pm
CRE8 apply@learntocre8.com		Awaiting date
Epping St Johns 6th Form www.eppingstjohnsschool.org/	01992 573028	Weds 4th Nov
Fashion Retail Academy www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk	0207 3072345	Sat 17th October Sat 28th November Sat 16th January
Harlow College www.harlow-college.ac.uk	01279 868000	Thurs 15th Oct, 5pm-8pm Tues 2nd March, 5pm-8pm
Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge www.hrsfc.ac.uk	01223 247251	Open date in the summer term for year 10 students
Hertford Regional College www.hertreg.ac.uk	01992 411400	Thurs 24th Sept, 5.30pm-8pm Tues 24th Nov, 5.30pm-8pm Thursday 4th February Tuesday 27th April
Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk	01279 654127	Tues 10th Nov

Open Events 2026-2027

Colleges & Sixth Forms	Contact No.	Open Date
Hockerill Anglo-European School, Bishop's Stortford www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk	01279 658451	Sat 21st Nov, 8.30am-12.30pm
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge www.longroad.ac.uk	01223 631100	Open date in the summer term for year 10 students
Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth www.leventhorpe.net	01279 836633	Tues 3rd November
New City College (Epping Forest), www.ncclondon.ac.uk	0208 508 8311	Sat 21st Nov, 10am-2pm Sat 30th Jan,10am-2pm
Presdales Sixth Form www.presdales.herts.sch.uk	01920 462210	Thurs 12th Nov, 6-8pm
Sir Frederick Gibberd www.sirfrederickgibberdcollege.org	01279 307235	Weds 7th Oct, 5pm-8pm
St Marks School, Harlow www.st-marks.essex.sch.uk	01279 421267	Thurs 12th Nov
St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford www.stmarys.net	01279 654901	Awaiting date
Stansted Airport College www.harlow-college.ac.uk	01799 513030	Sat 10th Oct, 10am-2pm Thurs 11th March
Writtle College www.writtle.ac.uk	01245 424200	Sat 10th Oct, 10am Sat 21st Nov, 10am

Please contact the institutions to check details and times before attending.
Also, be advised that most ask for you to book a place for these events online.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 22nd October	INSET Day
Friday 23rd October to Friday 30th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December	Autumn Term 2
Monday 30th November	INSET Day
Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January	Christmas Holiday
Monday 4th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January to Friday 12th February	Spring Term 1
Friday 29th January	INSET Day
Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February	Half Term
Monday 22nd February to Thursday 25th March	Spring Term 2
Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April	Easter Holiday

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION	
School Address Passmores Academy, Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JH	
Main Telephone 01279 770800 passmores@passmoresacademy.com	**Student Absence** Report via the Arbor app
Change of Contact Details h.day@passmoresacademy.com	
Student Services pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com	
First Aid pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com	
Extra-Curricular Clubs h.day@passmoresacademy.com	
Account / Trips s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com	
Homework datateam@passmoresacademy.com	
Free School Meals pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com	

For a full list of staff contact details, click **here**

Reporting An Absence

If you need to report your child absent from school, please ensure you are following the correct procedure on Arbor.

If notifying us via the app:

- Click on the 3 lines (at the bottom left of the dashboard).
- Log Absence (green bar at the top)
- Complete the information and click 'Log Absence'

If notifying us from a web browser:

- Click on the 'Quick Actions' button
- Click 'Attendance'

FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

CHRISTMAS MARKET

4TH DECEMBER 2026

6PM-8PM



THE GRINCH IS BACK



£1 ADULT

50P U16 & OVER 60

FREE UNDER 5

FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

CHRISTMAS MARKET

4TH DECEMBER 2026

6PM-8PM



We are looking for stallholders.

Please email

fop@passmoresacademy.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school - such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026

hcrg Care Group

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

BARNARDO'S

Health Advice Drop-in for 5-19 year olds

Day and Time: Every Wednesday, 3pm-4:30pm

Location: Harvey Centre, 1st Floor-opposite Burger King
Harlow CM20 1XR

Advice and support for children and young people aged 5–19 from a member of our school Health team, providing a safe space to discuss any worries or concerns they may have.

Areas of support

- Managing worries, low mood, stress or anger issues
- Bullying and friendship issues
- Diet / Nutritional support
- Improving sleep
- Day and night wetting
- Behavioural concerns
- Personal hygiene
- Sexual health
- Information and signposting regarding medical conditions

t: 0300 247 0122 Option 1- School Nurse

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

BOUNTY CLUB

Commissioned by

Essex County Council

NHS

HARLOW R.U.F.C.

GIVE RUGBY A TRY!

HARLOW RUGBY CLUB



SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

10:00AM – 12:00 NOON

BOYS & GIRLS

AGES 12 - 16

FREE EVENT

BEGINNERS WELCOME

Come along, have fun, meet new people and give rugby a try!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

NO NEED TO BOOK

Free courses for parents & carers

19th - 30th October 2026

Gain practical **tips and techniques** you can use straight away.

Be around others that 'get it' in our **supportive and friendly** sessions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19th October	20th October	21st October	22nd October	23rd October
Managing Anger in Young People Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separtation Anxiety (Primary)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separation Anxiety (Early Years)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Managing Conflict at Home** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Building Better Routines** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am
26th October	27th October	28th October	29th October	30th October

Half Term Week! Visit aclessex.com to see what's starting soon.

To book, please visit **aclessex.com** and search the course name or give us a call on **0345 603 7635**.

Essex County Council

Youth Unity CIC

SUPPORTED BY

The Safer Harlow Partnership

Working together for a safer community

HARLOW OUTREACH

Unity Hub on your estate

Free drop-in youth sessions from our mobile hub. No booking, no cost — just turn up.



WHAT'S ON · A SAFE SPACE

01 Gaming
Xbox and PS5

02 Multi Sports
ie. football, table tennis

03 Chess
Learn and play

04 Music
Decks and speakers

DATES & VENUES

EVERY THURSDAY · 3:15 – 5:45PM

SEP 17 The Stow CM20 3AN	SEP 24 Bush Fair CM18 6NZ	OCT 01 Sumners CM19 5RD	OCT 08 The Stow CM20 3AN
OCT 15 Bush Fair CM18 6NZ	OCT 22 Sumners CM19 5RD	OCT 29 TBC	AGES **11 to 18 years** Free to attend Just turn up

Scan for what we do and who you will meet
youthunity.org

YOUTHUNITY.ORG

FREE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING POOL TABLE, DARTS, TABLE TENNIS, COOKING & CRAFTS



EVERY MONDAY FROM 21 SEPTEMBER 4:00PM-6:00PM

Rainbow services

HARLOW

TYE GREEN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB, TILEGATE ROAD, HARLOW, ESSEX, CM18 6LU

TEL: 01279 308150
EMAIL: INFO@RAINBOWSERVICES.ORG.UK

YOUTH SERVICE | Inspire Enable Achieve

junior parkrun – where everyone is



welcome

junior parkrun is a free, fun, friendly, weekly, community event organised by volunteers of all ages for children aged 4 to 14.

2k junior parkrun events take place on Sunday mornings and are for the whole community to come together to walk, jog, run and volunteer. Join in on the fun at junior parkrun!

junior parkrun



IT'S ILLEGAL

TO RIDE PRIVATELY OWNED E-SCOOTERS IN ALL PUBLIC SPACES

✗ ROADS ✗ PAVEMENTS ✗ PARKS

YOU COULD RECEIVE A FINE OR POINTS ON YOUR LICENCE

YOUR E-SCOOTER COULD BE SEIZED BY POLICE

YOU CAN ONLY RIDE ON PRIVATE LAND WITH PERMISSION

SCAN QR CODE
TO FIND OUT MORE

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex



Multi-Agency Centre Harlow

Everyone needs a little support sometimes.
MAC Harlow is your one-stop shop for practical support, advice and guidance - whatever you're dealing with.
It's free and open to everyone - no referral needed.

- **Housing, rent and council tax**
- **Budgeting and debt**
- **Work, education and training**
- **Volunteering**
- **Drugs and alcohol**
- **Benefits**
- **Social care**
- **Mental health**
- **Homelessness**
- **Domestic abuse**

When: Last Thursday of each month, 10am-12pm, **starting 27th August**
Where: Harlow Jobcentre CM20 1NA

Essex County Council
Department for Work & Pensions
citizens advice Harlow
mind in West Essex
Rainbow services
Changing Pathways
HARLOW BUILDING HARLOW'S FUTURE.
Safer Places
S2H Streets2Homes
Peabody
PHOENIX FUTURES
openroad your journey to recovery
ESSEX POLICE Protecting and serving Essex

FREQUENCY MACHINE

DJ SKILLS DROP-IN

Learn • Connect • Repeat

Every Friday

4.30 - 6.30pm

Ages 11-16

Hare Street Youth Club

Come and learn new DJ skills. Play music, collaborate on playlists, express yourself through art or dance the evening away.....

Sign-Up at

frequencymachineharlow@gmail.com



YOUTH SERVICE

Essex County Council