

# Newsletter



6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Issue 18



Dear Parent/Carers,

As we enter the penultimate week of this half-term we show no signs of slowing down!

Thank you to all those that attended our online Year 9 Parent & Carer Evening on Thursday. These evenings are always such a valuable opportunity to discuss student progress, celebrate achievements, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Due to poor weather conditions, today's Colour Run was unfortunately postponed. However, pupils remained enthusiastic and brought plenty of colour to the school in their sportswear. The mile walk or run will now be completed during PE lessons in the coming weeks.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our Year 11 students, who will begin the final round of their mock GCSE examinations on Monday. These exams are an important step in preparing for their upcoming exams in May, and I want to wish them all the very best as they approach this milestone.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We look forward to another positive week ahead.

**Natalie Christie**  
**Principal of Passmores Academy**

2

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

3

PASTORAL UPDATE

7

SUBJECT INFORMATION/UPDATES

19

CAREERS NEWS

23

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

25

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## USEFUL LINKS

[Parents/Carers Letters](#)

[Clubs and Activities](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[ParentPay](#)



[www.passmoresacademy.com](http://www.passmoresacademy.com)

# TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Horey, Luke	Year 7	82
Woodington, Isla	Year 7	75
Ward, Ryan	Year 7	70
Donovan, Jamie	Year 7	68
Babrauskaite, Amelia	Year 7	66
Green, Cassius	Year 7	61
Taylor, Freddie	Year 7	61
Richards, Sophia	Year 7	60
Patchcott, Izzy	Year 7	59
Ellice, Lucas	Year 7	58
Futers, Aoife	Year 7	58
Kasakci, Aleks	Year 7	58
Souter, Jaimie	Year 7	58
Thomson, Elliot	Year 7	58

Layer, James	Year 8	63
Mahon, Charlie	Year 8	62
Mimms, Joshua	Year 8	62
Seip, Joshua	Year 8	59
Ford, Grayson	Year 8	57
Karout, Nour	Year 8	57
Mahon, Olly	Year 8	57
Rouse, Elijah	Year 8	54
Harding, Lucas	Year 8	53
McIntosh, Jack	Year 8	53
Unwin, Reece	Year 8	53

Gjoni, Leart	Year 9	59
Toku Appleton, Ethan	Year 9	59
Butterfield, Harriet	Year 9	53
Crutchlow, Sam	Year 9	51
Wright, Megan	Year 9	51
Lavall, Archie	Year 9	50
Paxton, Bobby	Year 9	50
May, Lily	Year 9	48
Brown, William	Year 9	47
Forde, Lawrence	Year 9	47
Man, Rosie	Year 9	47

Norburn, Amber	Year 10	78
Andersons, Erik	Year 10	65
Owen, Esme	Year 10	63
Zuna, Hayden	Year 10	63
Blackham, Ella	Year 10	61
Uddin, Ayaan	Year 10	59
Burgess, Shay	Year 10	58
Gunter, Noah	Year 10	56
Hogg, Sophie	Year 10	56
Silva Magri, Nicolas	Year 10	55

Humphries, Jessie	Year 11	36
Man, Charlotte	Year 11	36
Reid, Maisie	Year 11	35
Wejman, Dawid	Year 11	34
Walker, Rose	Year 11	33
Chindris, Stefan	Year 11	30
Clemente, Brian	Year 11	30
Cruikshank, Beau	Year 11	30
Dorrington, Ava	Year 11	30
Hymas, Harvey	Year 11	30
Kamara, Abdul	Year 11	30
Ozimek, Roksana	Year 11	30
Saunders, Lillie	Year 11	30
Swann, Ronnie	Year 11	30

## Year Group Attendance w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Year 7	90.07%
Year 8	89.42%
Year 9	85.46%
Year 10	83.23%
Year 11	85.78%
<b>All Students</b>	<b>86.83%</b>

## Thought for the Week – World Hijab Day

This week, our *Thought for the Week* celebrated World Hijab Day, providing students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of faith, identity, and respect.



Students learned that the Hijab is a head covering worn by many Muslim women as part of their religious practice, as an expression of modesty, or as a symbol of their religious identity. They explored the idea that there are many different reasons why someone might choose to wear—or not wear—a Hijab or other head covering, and that each person’s decision is unique to them.

A key message of the session was that whether or not to wear the Hijab is a deeply personal choice. Respecting and supporting people’s choices, without judgment or pressure, is essential in creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive school community where everyone feels valued.

---

## In the News – How Do We Experience Joy?

This week’s *In the News* explored the thought-provoking question: “How do we experience joy?”



Students reflected on the idea that happiness is not one single feeling, but something that can take many forms. Some pleasurable experiences give us quick bursts of dopamine—such as scrolling on social media or watching short videos—but these often fade quickly.

By contrast, deeper and more meaningful joy tends to come from offline experiences such as building relationships, being creative, helping others, or working towards a personal goal. Students discussed the importance of balance: dopamine itself is not bad, but relying too heavily on quick rewards can leave us feeling drained rather than fulfilled.

The session encouraged students to reflect on how different activities make them feel, helping them to make more intentional choices about how they spend their time in ways that genuinely support their wellbeing.

---

## Other News

It has been another busy and positive week at Passmores.

Year 11 students received their mock exam timetables as they complete their final preparations ahead of mock exams starting on Monday. We wish them the very best of luck—hard work truly does pay off.

On Monday after school, it was wonderful to see so many students proudly representing their Houses in the Spelling Bee House Competition. Congratulations to all who took part for their enthusiasm, effort, and team spirit.

On Friday, the school was a vibrant sea of House colours as students and staff took part in a Colour Run to launch our celebration of Children’s Mental Health Week—a fantastic way to promote wellbeing and community spirit.

---

## Looking Ahead to Next Week...

Next week, *Thought for the Week* will mark Children’s Mental Health Week, with a focus on wellbeing, resilience, and looking after ourselves and each other.

In *The News*, we will highlight National Apprenticeship Week, helping students understand the range of post-16 pathways available to them.

As we reach the final week of term, we will also celebrate achievement with Golden Ticket Week. There will be a non-uniform day for all students who successfully attended all of their lessons on time during the challenge window—well done to those who met the criteria!

We look forward to a strong, positive, and celebratory end to the half-term.



**Week Commencing 26/01/26**  
**Weekly Winners**

Kingsley Chui  
Hollie Bradford  
Callie Fitten  
James Babb  
Luke Horey  
Jazmyn Taylor  
William Hynd  
Maizie Dingle  
Oakley Neal

CALLING ALL YEAR 10 & 11 STUDENTS!

# PASSCHELLA

MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March | 6PM - 8:30PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY

Jerk Chicken Shack

Burger Shack

Braiding Station

★ Face Gems & Hair Glitter

MAIN STAGE

DJ BELL

FROM 6PM

YOU CHOOSE THE SONGS!

Mocktails



Photobooths

Festival Games!

BUY YOUR TICKETS/FOOD ON ARBOR NOW

FRIENDS OF PASSMORES  
PRESENT

**PASSMORES'**  
**GOT**  
**TALENT**

**FRIDAY**

**13 MARCH | 6 PM**

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK  
/FRIENDS-OF-PASSMORES](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FRIENDS-OF-PASSMORES)



### Drama Department News

It's been a busy few weeks for the Drama department.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, the year 10 GCSE drama group performed their set text, Gizmo to friends and family. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the casts comedic timing and the evening left the students with a new found sense of confidence and accomplishment.

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 54 drama club students from Year 7 - 11 performed to an audience of 200! They showcased a variety of talent from comedy to melodrama to emotive stylised pieces. We were all blown away by your support and, on behalf of all involved, I would like to thank you.

Our next adventure saw us in Chelmsford, where the GCSE students watched The Woman in Black, a gothic thriller and well-loved feature of London's West End for over 3 decades. They were frightened and wowed by the performance and will be using it as preparation for their written exams.

Now... what you've all been waiting for... the eagerly anticipated School Production Announcement! This year, for your entertainment and delight, Passmores Academy, will be performing...

# Matilda

THE MUSICAL JR

Auditions will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February with callbacks on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please see the next page for further information...

# Auditions: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

Alan Simpson Memorial Hall  
3.20 - 5.30

Come prepared:  
Learn 'Revolting Children'  
from 30sec – 106 sec

Songs available on Youtube –  
search 'Matilda Jr'



# Call backs: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb

Call back songs:  
Quiet – Whole song  
The Hammer – start – 58sec  
This Little Girl – Whole song

L109 3.20 - 5.30

You Tube link for Thursday's Call  
Backs.

Matilda Auditions

You Tube links for Wednesday  
rehearsal song.

Revolting Children  
[Revolting Children - Matilda, Jr.](#)  
- [YouTube](#)

30sec – 106 sec



Quiet – Matilda  
[Quiet - Matilda, Jr. - YouTube](#) -  
Whole song

Hammer – Miss Trunchball  
[The Hammer - Matilda, Jr. -](#)  
[YouTube](#) - Start – 58 secs

[This Little Girl – Miss Honey](#)  
[This Little Girl - Matilda, Jr. -](#)  
Whole song

## Spelling Bee Brings Our Houses Together

This week, pupils represented their Houses in our annual Spelling Bee, stepping up with confidence and determination.

The competition wasn't just about correct spellings—it was about courage, pride, and contributing to something bigger than yourself. By taking part for their Houses, pupils showed what *belonging* looks like in action: being part of a team, giving your best, and feeling connected to our school community.



## Spanish and Art trip to Barcelona – 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

¡Hola!

We hope you are all as excited as we are to be going to Barcelona next year!

If your young person is going on this trip, could you please forward a copy of their passport details to the following addresses:

a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com

g.harris@passmoresacademy.com

Also, if you haven't done so already, please apply for free healthcare cover abroad (GHIC) on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

We would also like to invite parents and carers and their young person to a Parents Information Evening on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 5.30pm (L104). We will be going through the itinerary and other important information regarding the trip too.

We look forward to seeing you then!



## Ramadan

The holy month of Ramadan will begin during the half term. This is a very special time for our students from the Muslim community.

If you would like your child to have access to a prayer room during Ramadan, please email **Mrs Goddard** on [l.goddard@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:l.goddard@passmoresacademy.com). We will then make the necessary arrangements.



# VALENTINE'S DAY



**CHARITY COFFEE  
CUPS**

## **✦ VALENTINE'S CHARITY COFFEE CUPS ✦**

**OUR CHARITY REPS WILL BE SELLING 50P COFFEE CUPS  
IN AID OF VALENTINE'S DAY.**

**EACH CUP INCLUDES A THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE INSIDE  
AND A VOUCHER FOR A FREE HOT DRINK.**

**WHEN: BREAK TIME FROM TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY TO  
THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: NEAR DOWNSTAIRS DRAGON**

**WHEN PURCHASING A CUP, PLEASE TELL THE CHARITY  
REPS WHO IT IS FOR AND THE MESSAGE YOU'D LIKE  
INSIDE.**

**ON FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, OUR CHARITY REPS WILL BE  
DELIVERING THE COFFEE CUPS TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
BEEN BOUGHT ONE DURING P1 & P2.**

**ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO OUR SCHOOL CHARITY –  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## Year 9 Options

As we move into the final stage of the Year 9 GCSE Options process, we would like to remind families of two key dates coming up:

### Year 9 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 5th February

This is an important opportunity for students and parents/carers to speak directly with subject teachers about GCSE courses, curriculum content, and suitability. These conversations can help students make informed decisions before submitting their final options.

### Options Deadline – Thursday 13th February

All GCSE option choices must be submitted by this date.

We encourage students to take the time to reflect on their strengths, interests, and long-term goals before completing their forms.

Thank you for your support in helping students approach the next stage of their learning with confidence and clarity. If you have any questions about the options process, please contact the school.

Please use this link to complete the final choices:

<https://www.studentoptions.co/passmores2>

(Usernames and Passwords have been emailed out)



## Year 8 Mini Options

As we approach the next stage of the Year 8 curriculum, we would like to remind families about the upcoming Mini Options process.

From Year 9, students will study three practical/creative subjects for three hours a fortnight across the whole year. This gives them more time to develop skills, explore different courses.

Students are being asked to rank their preferred subjects in order of preference. While we aim to give as many first choices as possible, some courses have limited spaces (for example: Catering and Design Technology). In these cases, reserve lists will be used.

Thank you for supporting your child to make informed and thoughtful decisions.

Please use this link to rank your preferences:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2f3z1NM0z2>

(Usernames and Passwords are students email address and password they use to log in to the computers in school)



## ADAPT

To Parents & Carers of Year 11...

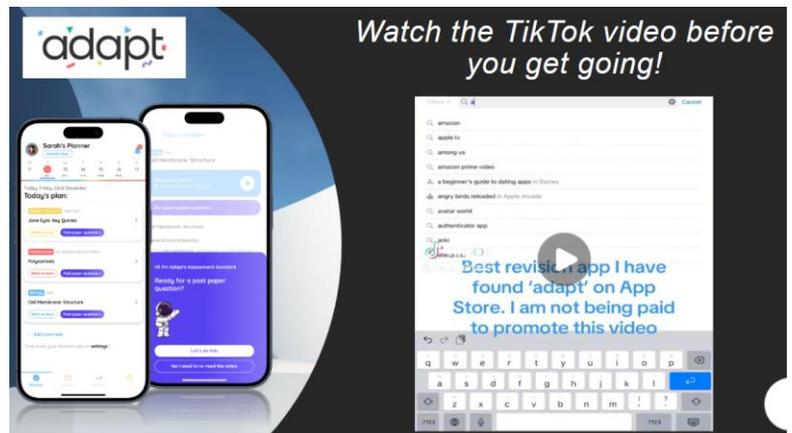
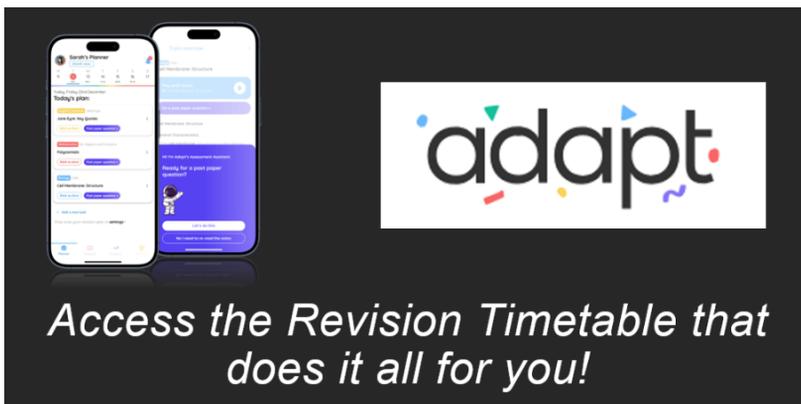
Reminder that all Year 11 have now created an ADAPT account and should have revision tasks set that can be accessed on their phones from home. Tasks are marked and are a super way to support with exam technique. Students will be working on these tasks in Pastoral Curriculum Time, if they don't have English, Maths or Science mentoring.

Year 11 are working really hard at the moment, we had over 100 students at English P6 this week - fabulous!

Monday Assemblies are full of student names given by staff to say how proud they are of them and their efforts. We are expecting great results in the February mocks - two weeks until they start! Students will receive their individualised timetable soon.

Please contact me if I can help with anything.

**Jo Connolly**  
Assistant Principal



### How to access your premium Adapt student account.

- 1) Go to [getadapt.co.uk](https://getadapt.co.uk) to set up your account in school. This is the web portal, but when you have your mobile phone outside of school you can download the mobile app from the App Store or Play Store.
- 2) Tap "Get started" and add your subjects and choose your preferences – You must select at least **3 sessions** and **5 days** a week or more – you can find the names of your subjects, exam board and topic on the print outs along with some hints and tips.
- 3) Create your new premium account using your school email address - This would be the year you joined along with your surname and first letter of your forename in lower case - 21bloggsf@passmoresacademy.com
- 4) Your password will be: **ADAPT2425teacherstudent**  
Please change this when you have logged in.



**Extra-Curricular Clubs  
January – March 2026**

<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Art	KS4 Art & Design GCSE Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:15	L104 / L105	GHA / VFX
Drama	Excellence Club Years 9, 10 & 11	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
Drama	Year 7 & 8 Drama Club	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
English	Year 11 Homework Support	Tuesday (Week A)	1:45 – 2:15	English Corridor	LKG
English	Book Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	English Corridor	English Dept.
English	Creative Writing Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	U107	EBG / EPE
English	KS4 Drop-In Support	Friday (Week B)	3:20 – 4:20	U103	LKG
French	French Homework Club	Wednesday	3:15 – 4:00	Y101	CFY
Geography	Geography Film Club	Thursday	3:20 – 4:15	U004	VNS
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 1	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 2	Monday	4:30 – 5:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	African Drumming	Wednesday	3:20 – 3:50	L10	DBR
Music	Glee Vocal Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	PTG
Music	Soul Band	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	DBR
Music	Piano Club & Music Technology	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L110	DBR
Science	Gardening Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:15	L006 / Science Garden	SWT
Study Club	Study Club	Tuesday - Friday	3:15 – 4:15	G102 / G105	Various
Youth Club	Youth Club	Tuesday	3:30 – 5:00	Heart Space	AOS

**Extra-Curricular Clubs  
January – March 2026**

<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Staff</b>
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	MGD
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	GCI
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JWD
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	OWY
PE	Indoor Athletics	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	OWY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	KGD
PE	Badminton	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Dance	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Dance Studio	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	JWB
PE	Girls Basketball	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	GCI

# Maths Homework Club

Join us for any help,  
questions or a quiet  
space to get your maths  
homework done!

Tuesdays



3:15-4 pm



Y005



# ENGLISH PERIOD 6

TUESDAY

EBG, EPE, BPS, LKG,  
MMR, DLM, NVH, RKG  
SKS (Y11)

WEDNESDAY

SKS (Y10)

FRIDAY

ALL



# ENGLISH

## HOMework CLUB

WHEN

**EVERY TUESDAY - 3.15PM TO 3.45PM**

WHERE

**Y101**

### Harlow College Open Evening - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 5pm - 8pm

Showcasing their Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, SEND and Adult & Part-time courses.



Tickets for Harlow College event are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-dlodxy>

### Bishops Stortford Football Academy February Introduction Presentations

**BSFC Academy** are a launchpad for future careers across sport and the creative industries. Alongside their football pathway, students can immerse themselves in a range of non-playing routes, including:

➤ **Coaching & leadership; Media, content creation & digital production; Sports journalism & communications**

#### February Event Details

**Location:** Woodside Stadium, Dunmow Road, CM23 5RG, Monday 16th February, 9:00am – 9:45am

**Talent ID Session,** Woodside Stadium, Dunmow Road, CM23 5RG

**Male Players:** 10:00am – 11:30am

**Female Players:** 11:30am – 1:00pm



#### What to Expect

➤ Meet their coaching and academy staff, showcase football ability, learn about the programmes & progression. To confirm attendance, please click [here](#) to complete the registration form prior to the event.

### Are you interested in Medicine or Dentistry?

If you're a student with aspirations of becoming a doctor or dentist, then the Medic Mentor Virtual Work Experience Programme is an incredible opportunity that you won't want to miss.



Developed in partnership with the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, this programme provides a comprehensive and immersive virtual experience that will give you a real insight into the world of medicine and/or dentistry.

All you need to do is attend a **Get Into Medicine Conference** to start accessing the Virtual Work Experience straight away!

This is free and can lead to free virtual work experience. Students can find out more and register on:

[University Hospitals Birmingham Trust Virtual Work Experience - Medic Mentor](#)

### Free Online Courses...

Are you age 19+?

The UK Government fund a wide range of free courses for adults, in a wide range of sectors.

To learn more go to [Free online courses with certificates UK - Free Courses in England](#).

Fantastic courses to enhance your own skills and qualifications.



## Explore Careers In the NHS - FREE In Person Events During Half-Term

The Health and Care Academy is providing a fantastic hands-on workshop where young people can explore careers in the NHS as well as step into the shoes of healthcare professionals and try some practical skills.



### Activities include...

- Record and print an ECG from your heart
- Use a needle to take fake blood from a dummy arm
- Try your hand at keyhole surgery
- See inside your body with an ultrasound machine.
- Scan your retina with an ophthalmoscope.
- Listen to your pulse with a pulse doppler.
- See your veins under a vein scanner.
- Take basic medical obs.

This opportunity is available to young people in Years 10 - 13 and is being held on the training ward at Brentwood Community Hospital. *Participants can book to attend one of the following sessions:*

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Morning session: 9:30 am – 12pm. [Register here for 17/02/26 - AM Session](#)

Afternoon session: 1pm – 3:30pm. [Register here for 17/02/26 - PM Session](#)

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Morning session: 9:30 am – 12pm. [Register here for 18/02/26 - AM Session](#)

Afternoon session: 1pm – 3:30pm. [Register here for 18/02/26 - PM Session](#)

## Introduction & Taster Events at CRE8

Designed for students considering post-16 pathways in the creative industries. CRE8 is a specialist **post-16 Creative Media College Programme**. The programme is designed to equip students with the technical, creative, and professional skills required for industry, higher education, and apprenticeships.

Our February events provide an opportunity to gain a clear understanding of:

- Our industry-focused Creative Media programme; How learning is delivered through real-world, practical projects; Progression routes into creative careers, apprenticeships, and higher education.

The online introduction evening will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm. There will also be an on-campus taster workshop on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February:

### Bishops Stortford – 10:00am

Woodside Stadium, CM23 5RG

### Ware – 1:30pm

Wodson Park Sports Centre, SG12 0UQ



To attend any of the above sessions, please [click here](#) to complete the registration form.

## National Apprenticeship Week 9th – 13th February 2026

This is a week celebrating all that is linked to apprenticeships, to help raise awareness of the exciting opportunities that are available. With the growing cost of higher education, more students are considering apprenticeships, not only at 16, but at 18, exploring higher and degree apprenticeships.

The following opportunities are available for students during this week to learn more...

### Warner Bros. Discovery Webinar

Warner Bros is hosting a virtual event on apprenticeships, Tuesday 10th February at 6pm. Hear from current apprentices about their experiences and projects they have worked on.

Register at: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).



### Kickstart your career in Audit

Learn what it is like to work for the National Audit Office, the UK's independent public spending watchdog, who scrutinise public spending for Parliament and hold government to account for how public money is spent - shaping decisions that impact healthcare, education and more. Join on Tuesday 10th February 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

### Apprenticeships in Law

Learn about solicitor apprenticeships, opportunities and insights at TLT. Hear from current apprentices and have a mini application masterclass.

The event is on Wednesday 11th February, 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#).



### Careers in Health & Safety

From film sets, festival stages and arenas, find out what it is like to work as a health and safety expert. There are opportunities to travel, work in a wide range of industries, and earn while you learn. The event is on Thursday 12th February 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



## Land Your Dream Apprenticeship in Law

Hear from law apprentices about their roles, from paralegals to solicitors. Learn how they prepared, and what advice they wish they'd had before applying. Thursday 5th March 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#).

## Your Guide To Apprenticeships

This guide has been designed to help parents & carers explore the exciting world of apprenticeships with their young person, to understand the range of resources and support services available to them, and how to access them. Hints and Tips for Parents and Carers. Apprenticeships: Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers - Amazing Apprenticeships

## British Army Careers

A chance to explore the range of career opportunities within the Army. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm.

British Military Berets

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



## Choices Magazine

The monthly choices magazine features information and resources to help you to support and guide your child with apprenticeship and technical education decisions.

[Choices Magazine – November Parent & Carers Guide - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



## Do you need help to find an apprenticeship?

Louise Fry is an employability and careers lead at Essex County Council. Her team are offering some face-to-face appointments in person or online where they can go through how your apprenticeship search is going and where you might need some help on CV's, interviews, assessment centres, where is the best place to search for apprenticeships, etc.



Please see the dates below if you'd like to book an appointment. This service is completely free and you can book by emailing them on [apprenticeship.hub@essex.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeship.hub@essex.gov.uk).

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Online 9-4pm

Harlow at Hare Street Youth Hub 10-2pm

Chelmsford Library 10-2pm

## ANY OTHER INFORMATION

### KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

#### School Address

Passmores Academy, Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JH

#### Main Telephone

01279 770800

[passmores@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:passmores@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Student Absence

Report via the  Arbor app

#### Change of Contact Details

[h.day@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:h.day@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Student Services

[pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com)

#### First Aid

[pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Extra-Curricular Clubs

[h.day@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:h.day@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Account / Trips

[s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Homework

[datateam@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:datateam@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Free School Meals

[pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com)

For a full list of staff contact details, click [here](#)

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?  
Contact Gareth Walsh on [g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com)

## 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'

## Exam Invigilators... We're Hiring!

### *Would you like to become an Exam Invigilator?*

We have dates available throughout the year with hours to suit you. The hourly rate is £13.03.

If you would like to apply, or would like more information, please contact Sally Beatty: [s.beatty@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:s.beatty@passmoresacademy.com)



### *What is an Exam Invigilator?*

An exam invigilator is someone appointed by an educational institution to maintain proper conduct in an examination in accordance with exam regulations. Typically, the main duty of an exam invigilator is to watch examination candidates to prevent cheating. The purpose of exam invigilating is to ensure each candidate sits the examination under equal conditions.



Lost property will be left out on the tables in the **Heart Space** on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

Anything unclaimed will be going to charity.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half-Term</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Friends of Passmores Event <i>Passmores Got Talent</i>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Term 2
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Early Finish for Students 12:30pm</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term 1
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorials
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half-Term</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term 2
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>End of Term Early Finish for Students</b>



# THE FUTURE SKILLS PROGRAMME: CAREERS IN STEM

For Yr 9 &  
Yr 10/S3  
and S4

Explore STEM careers in four key pathways during February half term!



## What is involved?

- A comprehensive experience **delivered virtually in February.**
- **Live Q&A sessions with STEM professionals** in Net Zero futures, Digital AI futures, Health and Life Sciences, Engineering & Infrastructure and Manufacturing futures.
- **CV, applications and interview support.**
- Interactive panel **Q&A sessions with universities & apprentices.**
- Learn how to succeed in the workplace, including **how to ask questions, network and write professional emails.**
- Achieve the **Bronze Industrial Cadet Award.**

## Dates

- 20 hours of study to complete flexibly over 5 days in February.
- Monday 16th – Friday 21st February.

## Cost/Funding

- £50 (bursaries available, click [here](#) for bursary criteria and availability).

## How to register or find out more

To register, please visit our website [here](#) or scan the QR code!



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

### 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

### 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

### 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

### 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

### 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

### 6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

### 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

### 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

### 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

### 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



STRIKE ACADEMY



SA FOUNDATION



# FREE AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB

**FOOTBALL**

&

**MULTI-SPORT**

STARTING  
MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JAN

PASSMORES  
ACADEMY,  
CM18 6JH

YEAR 7 -  
YEAR 11

Free after school football and multi-sport club, e.g. dodgeball  
Ages 15-16 can enroll on free FA Referee and Level 1 Coaching courses

**REGISTER  
BEFORE  
ATTENDING**



WWW.SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK  
HELLO@SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK  
07877 321859



# Harlow Poetry Open 2026 Competition

Celebrate World Poetry Day 2026

**Theme: Memory**

**Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**For adults, young people and children  
who live, work or learn in Harlow**

Categories: 7 - 10, 11 - 17, 18+

To enter and find out more go to:



# Essex Fire Museum

## Open Day

2026



17th and 22nd Of February

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS



**Book Now**   
**Free Entry**



[Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

# Work-Life Balance: Managing Workplace Stress and Burnout

**Do You Find It Hard to Switch Off After Work?**

**Do you worry about work when you want to focus on other things?**

**Feel burned out or want to make the most of your time at home?**

**This course is designed for you.**

## **Engage in What You Value**

Discover practical ways to focus on what truly matters outside of work.

## **Control Worry & Overthinking**

Learn techniques to manage racing thoughts and reduce mental clutter.

## **Manage Self-Critical Thoughts**

Build strategies to quiet your inner critic and boost your well-being.

## **Why Join?**

Improve work-life balance

Reduce stress and burnout

Maximise quality time at home

**Take the first step toward a calmer, more fulfilling life.** *Start reclaiming your time and peace of mind.*

Length of Course: 4-week/4-session course Free NHS Treatment

Session Length: 1.5 hours (camera's will be off)



# Calm the Mind: Managing Worry & Overthinking

## Do You Find It Hard to Stop Your Mind from Racing?

Do you worry about things when you're trying to relax?

Do you find yourself going over the day, the past, or what might happen in the future?

Do you struggle to be 'present' or to concentrate and focus?

## What You'll Get from This Course

### Understand the Habit of Rumination, Overthinking & Worry

Learn why these patterns happen and how they affect your wellbeing.

### Break the Cycle & Build Healthier Habits

Practical strategies to calm the mind and create space for rest and activities you value.

### Shift 'Why' and 'What If' Thinking

Replace unhelpful thought patterns with techniques that give you respite and clarity.

### Transform Self-Critical Talk

Move from harsh inner dialogue to kind, motivating self-talk.

### Channel an Unfocused Mind

Learn how to stay on task and be present in the moment.

**Take the first step toward peace of mind and better focus.** *Sign up today and start reclaiming your mental space.*

Length of Course: 6-week/6-session course and is **FREE NHS Treatment offer**

Session Length: 1.5 hours (Cameras will be off)

