



Principal Letter – Autumn Term Week Ending 1 December 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Welcome back after our mini-Friday break last week, a much-needed interlude in this, the longest of terms. Coming back after the long weekend, always brings with it a change in spirit as we now head into December (pinch and a punch!) and Christmas being ever closer. Our Christmas tree is up, a wonderful spectacle to behold in the heart space and perfectly timed for the Christmas Fayre tonight. I do hope that you are able to come along, Friends of Passmores have, as always, excelled in pulling it all together. I am sure that there will be some wonderful delights to buy, maybe things to help with your festive preparations or possible gifts and of course games and food to make the evening even more enjoyable. Have a wonderful time if you are able to brave the cold to join us from 6.00pm.

Our year 11s are coming to the end of their mock window. A stressful few weeks for sure, but they have been amazing and have approached the exams with maturity and commitment. We are very proud of their efforts. They have even embraced a new lining up system outside the front of school before entering the sports hall. Getting settled in the heart space is a challenge when other students are moving around, this new method has helped to focus the students and has vastly improved the start to the exams. Results are being given out in lessons as and when staff / departments have marked and moderated the papers. The next round of Booster sessions will begin next week, and you will be informed if your child has been identified. This is in effect free tutoring so please encourage your young person to make the most of the offer, staff are keen to provide additional, targeted support to help.

Year 7 and 8 are off the pantomime next week. "Oh no they're not! Oh yes, they are!" We have pre-purchased as many tickets as possible to make it a truly Passmores afternoon of fun and entertainment watching Beauty and the Beast. There are a handful of tickets left, so if you would like your young person to go then do get in touch. Please do not let financial constraints be a reason, this time of year is always busy, and we are here to help. If we can help in any way, we will do what we can to support you.

Wrap up warm people it is chilly!

Top Passmores Points Achievers – 17th November – 30th November 2023:

Amelia Surtees	Year 7	129
Sophia Clark	Year 7	121
Rosie Stacey-Bocking	Year 7	116
Isobel Baynes	Year 7	107
Anyia-Joan Addison	Year 7	102
Fin Hodson	Year 7	102
Isabelle Boorman	Year 7	93
Lana Urman	Year 7	93
Annie Jackson	Year 7	92
Aashnee Luchmun	Year 7	89

Nicolas Silva Magri	Year 8	102
George Lambert	Year 8	99
Ronnie Hills	Year 8	93
Oleh Melnyk	Year 8	92
Riley Tohill	Year 8	91
Ella Irons	Year 8	88
Alisha Ramalingum	Year 8	87
Harrison Morgan	Year 8	87
Ryan Youens	Year 8	87
Krystian Cerek	Year 8	86

Brayden Rouse	Year 9	83
Dylan Theophil	Year 9	78
Pj Sunshine	Year 9	74
Daniel Evans	Year 9	72
Lewis Dean	Year 9	72
Lily-May Foster-Gaish	Year 9	72
Stan Hills	Year 9	72
Frankie Fearon	Year 9	70
Abdul Kamara	Year 9	69
Tanaka Tawonezvi	Year 9	68

Chloe Green	Year 10	78
Emily Beckett	Year 10	78
Kelsey Horey	Year 10	73
Izzy Cobie	Year 10	71
Ellie Blake	Year 10	70
Connie Kearns	Year 10	65
Emma Edwards	Year 10	65
Mckenzie Laney	Year 10	65

Amy Kwok	Year 10	63
Delilah Gammons	Year 10	63

Karys Bailey	Year 11	59
Maisie Peacock	Year 11	59
Gemma McAusland	Year 11	52
Eloisa Bellamy	Year 11	51
Lucy Martin	Year 11	45
Chloe Collins	Year 11	42
Sophie Hegarty	Year 11	42
Ruby Guinness	Year 11	41
Heidi Peppard	Year 11	37
Jackson Iona	Year 11	35
Razvan-Stefan Jipa	Year 11	35
Sonny Brooks	Year 11	35

House Passmores Points – 30th October – 30th November 2023:

Dragon	30270
Griffin	28607
Lion	29416
Unicorn	28147

House Attendance – 30th October – 30th November 2023:

Dragon	94.49%
Griffin	93.54%
Lion	93.82%
Unicorn	93.44%

Absence procedure, reminder to parents/carers

Please make sure you text, call or email on each day that your child is absent. Please remember to state the child's name, registration group, a brief reason for the absence and when we can expect them back in school.

You can either:

Call- 01279 770877

Text- 07908 671042

Email- attendance@passmoresacademy.com

Jack Petchey Award

Congratulations to our winners of the Jack Petchey award:

- Lucy Martin – September 2023
- Megan Wright – November 2023

Passmores Academy Christmas Concert

The Passmores Academy Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday 14th December 2023. This is a festive celebration and showcase of students' work in the music department, including both curriculum and extra-curricular clubs. The evening will include a variety of music and dance items.

We would very much like to see you at the Christmas Concert to celebrate and support our students' endeavours in the performing arts. Tickets are available from The Data Team Office at a cost of £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for students/OAPs/primary school children. The doors open at 6.30pm and the concert will commence at 7.00pm.

Refreshments will be available at the interval in the heart space.

David Butler, ASLT & Head of Music

Barcelona 2024

If your young person is going on the Barcelona trip (1st - 3rd March 2023), could you send their passport details to Mr Farmery or Mrs Friedner please to the following addresses:

a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com

c.friedner@passmoresacademy.com

Essex Fire Service

On Monday 27th November all yr7 & Yr8 students had an assembly on Hate Crime.

Someone from Essex Fire Service came in to present to the students this was in collaboration with Essex Police who want all young people to understand what it is and how it can affect someone or some people.

Year 10 GCSE Drama trip to Pleasance Theatre, Islington.

On Thursday 23rd November a small number of Year 10 GCSE drama students jumped in the minibus and took an adventure to the Pleasance Theatre in Islington with Miss Warncken.

The Pleasance is a fringe venue (associated with the famous Pleasance at the Edinburgh Fringe festival) that offers lesser known and new companies a space to share work and engage with audiences. We were there to see Splendid Productions' version of 'The Government Inspector', a play originally written in 1835 by Ukranian playwright Nickolai Gogol. The play is a satirical prod at power, privilege, corruption and classism set in a small provincial town whose public servants – including an untrustworthy mayor – are told they are to be assessed by an anonymous official.

This adaptation of the play involved just three actors playing numerous roles throughout. There was direct address to the audience and an opening sequence that took some members of the audience by surprise as the actors appeared to be doing a survey about bribery with the audience.

The piece was funny, engaging and fast-moving, landing several relevant political punches as it hurtled along, growing increasingly silly and showing ever greater corruption as the story unfolded. The company used several Brechtian techniques to force the audience to think rather than become embroiled with the characters. Use of live music and silly songs was also used to add humour and embed the V-effect (the intentional alienation effect so audience clearly view the characters as contrived for a reason as opposed to seeing the characters as real people). The theatre itself was a

wonderful venue, small and intimate with tables and chairs, far more like a cabaret club than the usual rows of red velvet seats we are more used to seeing in an auditorium.

It was a lovely evening, pupils represented the school beautifully in a sophisticated and alien environment and enjoyed the evening.

In other drama news, we look forward to Succulent Theatre coming in to work with our Year 9s this week and will let you know how Year 7 and 8 get on at Harlow Playhouse for the pantomime next week. There are still a small number of tickets left for this local trip (12 for Y7, 17 for Y8) – all details can be found on Parentmail and tickets paid for on Parentpay. Alternatively, letters and consent forms can be collected from the Expressive Arts office in Lion corridor.

Careers News

Year 11 - Sixth Form Application Deadline dates:

- Presdales sixth form Monday 4th Dec
- Epping St Johns - Fri 15th Dec
- The Bishops Stortford High School - Fri 15th Dec
- Leventhorpe - Weds 20th Dec
- Birchwood - Weds 20th Dec

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments, pornography, and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to soon encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Ukai Romain is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@natonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/natonlinesafety)

[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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Online Parent Groups



Supporting Teenagers Emotional Wellbeing

Suitable for parents of children aged 12-19 years. This course is run over 3 weeks, with an optional fourth session.

This will look at ways to help your teenager manage their emotional wellbeing.

Monday 6th November 2023
Monday 13th November 2023
Monday 20th November 2023
Monday 27th November 2023 (optional)

5:30-7pm via Zoom

Challenging Behaviour (at home)

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

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

Tuesday 7th November 2023
Tuesday 14th November 2023
Tuesday 21st November 2023
Tuesday 28th November 2023
Tuesday 5th December 2023
Tuesday 12th December 2023

7-8:30pm via Zoom



Helping your Child Manage their Fears and Worries

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

This will help parents work on a focussed issue they are experiencing with their child and work out strategies to help.

Thursday 9th November 2023
Thursday 16th November 2023
Thursday 23rd November 2023
Thursday 30th November 2023

1-2:30pm via Zoom



To access this FREE service you must:

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

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



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

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

If you have any queries, please contact your area admin:

Harlow - mhstharlow@mindinwestessex.org.uk

Epping Forest - mhsteppingforest@mindinwestessex.org.uk

Uttlesford - mhstuttlesford@mindinwestessex.org.uk

There are limited places available so please book your place as soon as possible.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, MUSIC
AND DELICIOUS TREATS!

1ST DECEMBER 2023

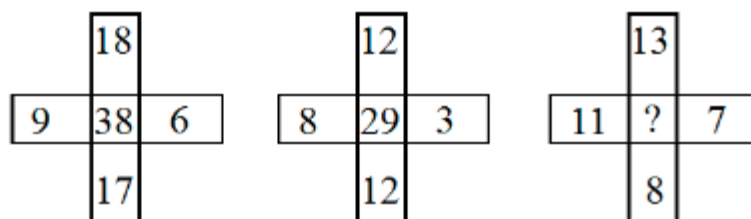
6-8:30PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY
TRACYES ROAD
HARLOW

ENTRANCE FEE
ADULT: £1
CHILD: 50P
OVER 60: 50P
UNDER 5: FREE

Maths Problem of the week:

Fill in the question mark



Answer to the last Maths Problem:

	Error	Correct answer
1	Did not round to one decimal place.	25.6 cm ²
2	3 hours 20 minutes is $3\frac{1}{3}$, not 3.2.	£20
3	Wrong formula. Speed = distance \div time.	50 mph

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 1 st December	FOPs Xmas Fayre
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th December	Christmas Dinner week
Thursday 7 th December	Year 7 Harlow Playhouse Pantomime 2.15pm
Friday 8 th December	Year 8 Harlow Playhouse Pantomime 2.00pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Principal's Challenge Trip
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Concert 7pm

Natalie Christie

Principal of Passmores Academy

TEACHarlow

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