

Newsletter

Friday 27th September 2024 Issue 04



Passmores
ACADEMY



Dear Parents/Carers

There were many tired bodies in the building today, after a long but hugely enjoyable Open Evening. As always, the staff showcased their departments in the most positive way, with a range of exciting and memorable activities for the visiting families. Our young people were just amazing! Every year I am blown away by how confident they are and how enthusiastically they talk about Passmores, even the year 7s. From those that helped out in classrooms, the tour guides to those who performed, they were all fantastic ambassadors who we are very proud of.

The number of returning students was probably at an all time high. Every which way a familiar face, reminiscing of their time at Passmores, including those ex-students visiting with their own children. That continuity through the generations is what makes schools such unique places, as we say 'family comes in many forms'.

Here is to some much needed rest before we embark on another busy week.

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

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USEFUL LINKS

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[Clubs and Activities](#)
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[ParentPay](#)



TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVER

Monday 2nd - Thursday 26th September 2024

Adams, Mia	Year 7	43
McNeilly, Millie	Year 7	41
Chatters, Arthur	Year 7	40
McGinley, Lilia	Year 7	40
Rouse, Elijah	Year 7	39
Shraka, Mia	Year 7	39
Spreadbury, Tilly	Year 7	39
Charles, Kai	Year 7	38
Edwards, Joshua	Year 7	38
Enache, Fabio	Year 7	38
Gregory, Lucy	Year 7	38
Laurino, Thomas	Year 7	38

White, Beth	Year 10	36
Francis-Melvin, Sid	Year 10	34
Foster-Gaish, Lily-May	Year 10	28
Honan, Faraya	Year 10	26
Vobe, Daisy	Year 10	25
Dorrington, Ava	Year 10	23
Egbo, Francis	Year 10	23
Gregory-Dean, Kady	Year 10	23
Guiver, Laney	Year 10	23
Guiver, Lilly	Year 10	23

Fleming, Ellie	Year 8	38
Clark, Kayden	Year 8	30
Paraman, Donte	Year 8	30
Smith, Sean	Year 8	30
Beeharry, Alicia	Year 8	28
Golding, Faye	Year 8	28
Theophile, Renee	Year 8	28
Wild, Gracie	Year 8	28
Goodson, Riley	Year 8	27
Mfon, Makiah	Year 8	27
Toku Appleton, Ethan	Year 8	27

Clark, Liam	Year 11	24
Nicholls, Ella	Year 11	22
Vetori, Rileigh	Year 11	22
Downes, Jaidan	Year 11	21
McDonald, Bobby	Year 11	21
Boyce, Jack	Year 11	20
Cliff, Kalan	Year 11	20
Stringer, Lara	Year 11	20
Ellis, Madison	Year 11	19
Gammons, Delilah	Year 11	19

Brown, Charlie	Year 9	32
Watters, Katie	Year 9	27
Parlour, Layton	Year 9	24
Buhaescu, Fabiana	Year 9	23
Burgess, Shay	Year 9	22
Mushtaq, Abeeha	Year 9	22
Tuna, Masal	Year 9	22
Owen, Esme	Year 9	21
Pullum-Ward, Isabella	Year 9	21
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	21

PASTORAL UPDATE

Thought for the Week

This week, Thought for the Week celebrated European Day of Languages, highlighting the importance of learning new languages and the doors it can open for students. Students reflected on how being multilingual can enhance their future opportunities and understanding of different cultures.

In the News

The In the News segment covered the impact of scrolling and social media on mental health. Students explored the balance between positive and negative effects of their scrolling habits, reflecting on how it shapes their well-being. This tied in well with Tuesday's virtual assembly from Kooth.com (for more information visit www.kooth.com). Students should now be aware that they have an NHS, free, safe and anonymous mental health support platform available to them. For more information please visit Kooth.com or watch this parent/carers guide here 10 minute parent and carers session - 2024 on Vimeo

Other News

It was a busy week! Year 7 and 11 students took part in an impactful road safety session through a thought-provoking play, highlighting the importance of being aware and cautious on the roads. Year 11 students also engaged in career research using Careerplod and had a visit from Herts and Essex for an insightful assembly about future pathways. We also kicked off our first House event of the year, hosted by the French department, where students showcased their House spirit through a series of activities. On top of that, we had a bustling atmosphere at our annual Open Evening, where our student helpers shone brightly—thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week is set to be another exciting one. In In the News, we'll begin our Black History Month programme, with the theme "Reclaiming the Narrative". In Thought for the Week, students will celebrate National Poetry Day, focusing on the theme of "Counting".

We're also looking forward to a visit from Harlow College, who will be speaking to Year 11 students about future opportunities.

Keep up the hard work as we move into another engaging week!



Online Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for young people

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware of a service called Kooth. It provides early intervention mental health support to children and young people. Kooth works with schools and professionals across over 90% of the UK.

Kooth is free to access via any internet-connected tablet, computer or smartphone. There are no waiting lists or thresholds to meet and a referral from a medical professional is not needed. Your child can join Kooth anonymously simply by visiting www.kooth.com.

Kooth offers young people a range and choice of support options under one digital roof. It has services that are accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes one to one text based sessions with experienced counsellors and wellbeing practitioners run from midday to 10pm on weekdays, and from 6 -10pm at the weekend. Appointments can be booked in advance or accessed via a drop-in text-based chat. Kooth also provides a fully safeguarded and pre-moderated community with a library of peer and professional created articles. And there are discussion forums too. All content is pre-moderated and age appropriate.

Kooth covers many topics on the website including relationships, LGBTQIA+, exam stress, anxiety, eating difficulties, self harm, suicidal thoughts, body image, social media, bullying and family worries. All of these subjects affecting young peoples' mental health are presenting issues that Kooth and other mental health providers see from all age groups. Kooth is commissioned by the NHS and clinically approved for children from the age of 10, and is the only digital mental health provider to hold a BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) accreditation across the Country.

If you have any questions please let us know. If you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, please email parents@kooth.com.

Kind Regards

Caught Doing Good – 16th – 20th September 2024

YEAR 8 Irina Cures Joseph Barzey Phoebie Saville Lucy Snell Sophia Clark	YEAR 9 Tegan Leiper-Lyons	YEAR 10 Sophie Melville-Taylor Summer Thurgood Hasson Mahmud
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Caught Doing Good – 23rd – 27th September 2024

Year 7 Arthur Chatters Maizie Dingle Teddy Reynolds Summer Payton Taylor Baker	Year 8 Makiah Mfon Darcy Mills Arber Isufi David Postelnicu Megan Wright	Year 9 Nickolas Hearn Grace Spence- Tremayne Charlie Brown Jack Redding	Year 10 Lily Mai Thornton Yasemin Withey- Yilmaz Faraya Honan Gracie Bright Freya Miles	Year 11 Victor Erikume Katie Mahon Dylan Meredith Jaymz Nicholls
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Attendance- some important reminders and information on updated Government regulations regarding attendance.

Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please contact us before 9:15am. You can do this either by:

- Arbor Parent App
- Phone- absence line on **01279 770877** or
- Email attendance@passmoresacademy.com

Please state clearly your child's name, form and reason for absence. If you do not contact us, you will receive a text message/call from us to query your child’s absence.

If you are having difficulties with your child’s school attendance, please contact their tutor in the first instance or, head of house or Mrs Brown (Attendance & Family Liaison Officer) We very much want to work in a supportive capacity to address any barriers or issues.

Punctuality - if your child is going to be late, please call the absence line.

Registers are taken at 8:45 and your child will receive a late mark (L) if they are not in registration by that time.

If your child arrives at school after 8:55, they will need to sign in at Student Services and then go to period 1.

At 9:15, the registers will close, in accordance with government regulations. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive a “U” mark, which is an unauthorised absence.

Sanctions for being late are as follows:

3 x late to registration = lunch detention

3 x missed registration but signed in before 9.15 = after school detention 30 minutes

Arriving after 9.15 = after school detention 60 minutes

Medical Appointments - where possible, please try to make your child’s medical appointments out of school hours, however if you are unable to do this, please email their appointment card/letter/text message to attendance@passmoresacademy.com so that their absence can be authorised.

Holidays - Unless there are exceptional circumstances, holidays will not be authorised. Leave of absence forms are available from the school website or Student Services, these must be submitted **four weeks** prior to the requested leave so that any exceptional circumstances can be considered. Where no leave of absence has been submitted or where a request has been declined but taken anyway, the absences will be unauthorised and a referral made to Essex County Council who may take legal action. Further details on this are below.

Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19th August 2024**.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

SPORTS/PE UPDATES

The Year 9s played their first rugby tournament of the new school year on Tuesday 24th September at Harlow Rugby Club. They played 3 games with 2 defeats and 1 win, but they gave everything on the pitch and showed improvements from game to game. John Adesina scored a couple of full length tries out stripping the opposition for pace, captain Jacob Webb powering over from 5 yards taking out several defenders with him and a special mention to Ayaan Uddin who tackled anyone that dared to come down his channel. Look forward to the next tournament on the 8th October.

Big well done to our under 13 & 14 Girls first football team!
Despite the rain you all played tremendously well.
You all persevered and never gave up, keep up the good work!

Also big well done to our Yr 11 managers, you kept the positive spirits all the way through
Thank you for your hard work!



Duke of Edinburgh



Duke of Edinburgh Announcement

On **Friday 4th October** from **3:15pm – 3:40pm** there is a meeting being held in the sports hall with Miss Riley.

All students who are currently completing their Bronze award must attend.

Meeting Agenda:

- To go through any outstanding documents that need uploading
- Miss Riley to talk through next steps with the silver award

All students who haven't or have completed their award must attend.

For students who still have evidence and assessor reports to upload, please can you ensure you do this.

If you don't upload all documents to be approved, you won't obtain your Bronze Award & Certificate.

CAREERS NEWS

Careers Fair

Don't forget to plan in our careers fair for students in years 10 and 11 at Harlow Study Centre on the 9th October, 5pm-7pm. We have lots of exhibitors including most local colleges and sixth forms, universities, training providers and local employers including Princess Alexandra Hospital, 4 Wall, Border Force, Army, Leisurezone, Avant Garde, and many more. Make sure you add this event to your diaries as it is a great way to find out about the full range of Post 16 options under one roof.

NHS England – South East Nursing Insight Event

Thursday 10 Oct | 18:00 -19:00 - For students in years 10 and 11

Explore Opportunities in the NHS and Healthcare in South East England!

This is your moment to dive into the world of healthcare and discover the amazing opportunities the NHS has to offer! The NHS is one of the largest employers in the world, with 1.3 million staff dedicated to providing exceptional services. Join this free insight event to find out more.

Free sign up: <https://pathwayctm.com/event/nhs-se-insight-3/>



JOINT CAREERS FAIR 2024

WITH **PASSMORES** AND **STEWARDS**



WHO
YEAR 10 & 11

WHEN
Wednesday
9th October
5:00pm -
7:00pm



WHERE
Harlow Study
Centre
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6BW

FEATURING • Harlow College • Hertford Regional College • Princess Alexandra Hospital • Taylor Wimpey • Stansted Airport College • Herts & Essex • Leventhorpe • St. Mark's • The Bishops Stortford High School • CRE8 • Sir Frederick Gibberd • Border Force • Anglia Ruskin • Ashton Roofing • F2 Academy • Army • and loads more...

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 00.00.2024

Our Next Meeting

fop@passmoresacademy.com

Come along to our next
general meeting on the
30th September at 6pm
in the Heart Space



SHOOTERS AND SSA YEAR 7 5 A SIDE TOURNAMENT

31st OCTOBER
2024

- ⚽ 11am start
- ⚽ £5 Per player
- ⚽ Up to 8 players maximum per team
- ⚽ Medals and trophy for winners
- ⚽ Medals for runners-up



Contact for more information and to
enter your team

Anthony: 01992524393

Jack: 07398267338



Location:
Shooters Football
Rayley Lane
CM16 6AR





WARE YOUTH

UNDER 13S

GIRLS

**WARE YOUTH UNDER 13S ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS
FROM SCHOOL YEAR 7-8. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED CALL OR
MESSAGE JASON 07545 776798**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 24 th October 2024	INSET DAY
Friday 25 th October – Friday 1 st November 2024	Half term
Monday 4 th November 2024	Autumn term 2 begins



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