

Newsletter

Friday 2nd May 2025 Issue 28



Dear Parents/Carers,

I don't know about you, and I am probably showing my age, but when I left school, shirt signing was very low key. Take a white shirt, get it signed, job done! Not anymore, and for those of you who haven't experienced year 11 yet, this is something to keep in your mind!

The planning must start weeks in advance. No longer is a plain white shirt acceptable for many, it has to be designed and decorated, a very personal touch for everyone. Elaborately drawn names on the back has been common for the last couple of years, but this week we have seen complex drawings, feather adornments on the sleeves and frills edging the shirts. The time the students take is unbelievable and some have even taken to getting their shirts printed at design shops!

Of course this is all part of capturing memories, and the rest of the school have loved seeing the traditions and have watched intently. Today, with the Year 11 Celebration Assembly, we have seen the very best of our young people making the most of this special occasion. The building was eerily quiet this afternoon, but to be honest, with over 200 less students, it did help with the heat and humidity.

And so the cycle continues, as we now begin welcoming our new intake. We tried something new this week, with a Chit, Chat, Coffee and Cake introduction session. It was lovely to welcome current parents as well as new, the feedback was really positive. Watch this space as we will look to do something similar in the very near future.

Wishing you all a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend!

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

- 2 TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS
- 3 PASTORAL UPDATE
- 5 SUBJECT INFORMATION/UPDATES
- 6 SPORT/PE UPDATES
- 8 CAREERS NEWS
- 9 ANY OTHER INFORMATION
- 11 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

USEFUL LINKS

[Parents/Carers Letters](#)
[Clubs and Activities](#)
[School Calendar](#)
[ParentPay](#)



TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

28th April to 1st May 2025

Howe, Tate	Year 7	41
Labdon, Cian	Year 7	40
Sooka, Rayane	Year 7	39
Mimms, Joshua	Year 7	38
Morris, Archie	Year 7	38
Stoker, Sidney	Year 7	38
Krajicek, Grace	Year 7	37
Morgan, Tori	Year 7	37
Wilcox, Luke	Year 7	37
Crook, Fenton	Year 7	36
Root, Riley	Year 7	36

Travers-Knott, George	Year 8	34
Ozimek, Filip	Year 8	33
Gallagher, Daniel	Year 8	29
Paxton, Bobby	Year 8	28
Green, Lewis	Year 8	26
Fleming, Ellie	Year 8	25
Mirza, Casey	Year 8	24
Brempong, Lisa	Year 8	23
Lloyd, Samuel	Year 8	23

Yokoo-Laurence, Noah	Year 9	31
Norris, Noah	Year 9	30
Zborowski, Oskar	Year 9	28
Brown, Charlie	Year 9	27
White, Heath	Year 9	24
Blackburn-Curpen, Logan	Year 9	23
Casey, Jack	Year 9	22
Doran, Conall	Year 9	22
Paraman Humes, Sarayah	Year 9	22
Rocha Santos, Enzo	Year 9	22
Salter, Billy	Year 9	22
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	22

Ball-Parrish, Maizie	Year 10	46
Ozimek, Roksana	Year 10	39
Dack, Benjamin	Year 10	34
Francis-Melvin, Sid	Year 10	33
Bennett, George	Year 10	32
Dolling, Tommy	Year 10	31
Honan, Faraya	Year 10	30
Laska, Wiktorja	Year 10	30
Cruickshank, Beau	Year 10	29
Raykov, Pavel	Year 10	29

Kasa, Yourdana	Year 11	23
Croome, Molly	Year 11	18
Golding, Hannah	Year 11	17
Stringer, Lara	Year 11	16
Holmes, Katie	Year 11	14
Mahon, Katie	Year 11	14
Adesina, Rhoda	Year 11	13
Richardson, Ollie	Year 11	13
Mustafa, Emin	Year 11	12
Roberts, Callum	Year 11	12
Sherif, Ahmed	Year 11	12

Year Group Attendance (31st March to 4th April 2025)

Year 7	90.93%
Year 8	89.83%
Year 9	89.81%
Year 10	90.57%
Year 11	85.01%
All Students	89.25%

Thought for the Week: British Values – Building a Better Future

This week, students reflected on the importance of *British Values* and their role in shaping respectful, inclusive communities.

The focus was on five key areas: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Students explored how living by these values helps them become responsible citizens, prepares them for life in modern Britain, builds stronger school communities, and equips them to challenge discrimination and extremism.

It was an important reminder that by embracing these values, we all contribute to a safer, fairer and more supportive society.

In the News: Celebrating British Sign Language Day

In tutor time, students marked *British Sign Language (BSL) Day*, learning about the significance of BSL as one of the UK's official languages and its vital role within the Deaf community. Students discovered that BSL is a complete language with its own rich culture, including poetry, theatre and other forms of expression. The message was clear: learning even a little BSL shows respect, builds inclusion, and strengthens connections — just like learning a few phrases when visiting another country.

Understanding and celebrating BSL is another important step in building a more inclusive and understanding society.

Other News: A Week of Celebration for Year 11

It was a big and emotional week for Year 11!

On Wednesday and Thursday, students enjoyed the cherished tradition of shirt signing — a rite of passage filled with smiles, memories, and messages that will no doubt become treasured keepsakes.

The celebrations continued on Friday with the *Year 11 Celebration Assembly*. Students and staff came together to reflect on five incredible years of memories, experiences, growth, and achievement. It was a heart-warming event that recognised the special journey the students have been on and the exciting futures that lie ahead.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 11s and wish them every success in the weeks to come.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

After a well-deserved long weekend (we hope the sun shines for the Bank Holiday Monday!), we're back for another busy and important week:

- **Thought for the Week:** Students will discuss the impact of *cannabis use* on health and success, focusing on making informed choices to support their wellbeing and future aspirations.
- **In the News:** Students will review local, national, and global news stories, continuing to develop their understanding of the world around them.
- **Exciting Opportunity:** The *first-ever Computer Science House Event* will take place! Students will have the chance to represent their House and year group — a fantastic opportunity to showcase their creativity, technical skills and House spirit.

Have a wonderful, restful long weekend — we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another exciting week at Passmores!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Ronnie Wall Peyton Poole Lilly Johnson Bailey Howe Archie Hardwidge	Sophia Clark Shakil Surer Bradley Harrison Sianna Kelly Samuel Lloyd	Mary Norton Gracie Morris Nora Essafri Mylo Devereux Mason Coe	Able Joes-Adom Freya Miles Faraya Honan Yasemin Withey-Yilmaz Phoebe Miles



As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are excited to introduce a new addition to our new rewards system - **All Star Champion Tickets!**

This initiative is designed to give students even more ownership over their rewards journey. Whether it's earning 50 Passmores Points, achieving 100% attendance, participating in House events, or showing consistent positive behaviour, students will be awarded an 'All Star' Champion Ticket.

What makes this system extra special is the element of choice and risk: students decide whether to enter their ticket into a weekly, half-termly, or termly prize draw. The bigger the wait, the greater the prize!

This week's lucky recipients of the weekly prize draw are...

Phoebe Lewis

Luke Wilcox

Chloe Theophil

Sofia Awda

Bella Paraman

SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES



Year 11 Football - Boys

On Thursday 24th April the year 11 football team made the short journey across to Mark Hall sports centre to play Burnt Mill in the Harlow District football final.

The game was a very tight affair, and it was clear that it was going to be decided by the smallest of margins and thankfully Harry Smith popped up near the end of the match to get the vital winner and send them through to the West Essex Final on Thursday 8th May against Roding Valley at Debden Park.



Year 9 Football – Boys

On Friday 25th April the year 9 football team also travelled across town to Mark Hall sports centre to play SFG in the Harlow District football final.

The start of the game wasn't how the boys had planned it and found themselves down 2-0 within 5 minutes. They managed to get one back just before half term to go in 2-1. We spoke at half term about starting the second half at a quick pace and try and get an early goal and then we could go on to win it.

The boys did exactly that and then proceeded to score another 3 more to come out as 5-2 winners.

They will play Davenport on Thursday 1st May at Roding Valley high school in the West Essex final.



PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE				
	BREAK	STAFF	AFTERSCHOOL 3:30PM- 4:15PM	STAFF
MONDAY	Cricket Batting/Bowling (Astro Turf)	Break 1 CLO Break 2 OWY		
TUESDAY	Cricket Batting/Bowling (Astro Turf)	Break 1 AMN	Boys Cricket (Astro Turf)	JKG AMN
		Break 2 MGD	Girls Cricket (Astro Turf)	GCI CLO
WEDNESDAY	Cricket Batting/Bowling (Astro Turf)	Break 1 JKG Break 2 GCI	Rounders (Astro Turf)	OWY ARY
			Softball (Astro Turf)	MGD
			Tennis (Tennis Courts)	JWB
THURSDAY	Cricket Batting/Bowling (Astro Turf)	Break 1 JWB Break 2 ARY	Athletics	All Staff
FRIDAY			BTEC Coursework Catch-Up & PE Detentions	

Year 10

Reminder of the Work Shadowing Day, Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Work shadowing is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a real insight into the world of work and to be given the chance to observe a job role which may be of specific interest for future career choices. We have told the students that they will need to work with family or a close friend of the family.

The deadline to find a placement is Friday 23rd May 2025. Any student who has not got a placement by this date will take part in the community day.

The link to the parent consent form is: **[Work Shadowing Parental Consent Form](#)**

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Mrs Kay, at j.kay@passmoresacademy.com.

Harlow College Open Evening

Harlow College are holding an **Open Evening on Wednesday 30 April 5-8pm** showcasing their Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, SEND and Adult & Part-time courses.

Tickets are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-pvkaba>

Harlow Schools Careers Fair

On the same day, the College is also hosting the annual **Harlow Careers Fair from 4.30pm – 8:00pm**. The Fair will bring together employers and national organisations from across the region, who will be joined by careers experts and training providers with information and advice covering apprenticeships, university and career opportunities.

Tickets are available to book here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-ajxpbe>

You are welcome to attend both events, but please note you will need to book both events separately.

Hertford Regional College Open Event

1st May, 5.30pm - 8pm, [Open Event - Hertford Regional College](#)

Apprenticeships

Advertised on [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)

Hairdressing apprenticeships at Avant Garde, Harlow, HOBs Salon in Epping and Loughton. Salary £15,704 pa.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

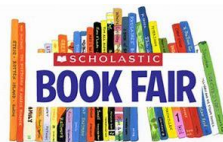
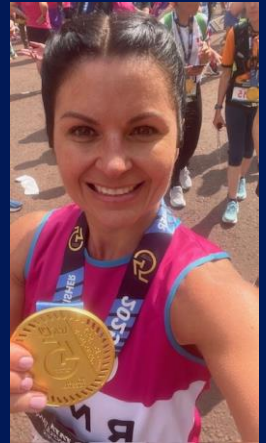
London Marathon 2025 – A Huge Thank You from Miss Richards!

Last Sunday, I took on the incredible challenge of the London Marathon in support of the RNIB, a charity that has supported my family and does amazing work for people living with sight loss. It was a hot day and a tough run, but the incredible support from my family and friends who came to watch, along with the nonstop cheering from the crowds, kept me going. I'm proud to say I crossed the finish line in 04:19:04.

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and colleagues who so kindly donated, your generosity means a great deal and has helped raise vital funds for a cause very close to my heart. I've raised an incredible £3,635, well beyond my original £2,000 target. Donations are still open until the end of May, so there's still time if you'd like to support this important cause. You can donate here:

<https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/carolyn-richards>

Thank you again for all your kindness and encouragement, it truly made a difference.



Thank you to all parents, carers and students who supported our book fair and purchased books. The school raised **£83.75** in commission, which we will spend on books for our library.

The sun has got his hat on... make sure you do too!

With the warmer weather that we are currently enjoying, it comes as a timely reminder to please ensure that you're staying hydrated and out of the sun where possible.



Harlow Community Lottery

A few months ago, Jo Busson, our Alternative Education Lead, registered the charity 'No Child Without' with the Harlow Community Lottery, which means they will now benefit from a cut of all lottery tickets sold.

The local lottery has been set up by Harlow Council in a bid to raise money for charities such as No Child Without and other good causes throughout Harlow.

Tickets are available to buy online at the [Harlow Community Lottery website](https://www.harrowcommunitylottery.co.uk/) at a cost of £1 each, and winners could scoop up to £25,000. Draw take place every Saturday at 8pm and the lucky winners are informed by email and will have the money transferred automatically into their bank account.

At least 60% from each ticket sold goes to support Harlow, and there's a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot every week!

For more information about No Child Without, click the link below:

<https://www.nochildwithout.co.uk/>



We would like you to design
a poster for our Summer
Fete.



Make it bright and colourful.

Must include the following:

28th June 2025

11am-3pm

£1 Entry Fee

**Held at Passmores Academy,
Tracyes Road.**

fop@passmoresacademy.com



**Closing date
16th May.
Hand to Mrs
Cooper in Y030**



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorial Evening
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2 nd June	Summer Term 2 Begins
Wednesday 11 th June	Sports Presentation Evening
Thursday 26 th June	Year 11 Prom

Please can you remember to let us know if any of your contact details have changed, so that so that we can update our records.

You can do this easily by emailing our Data Team:
datateam@passmoresacademy.com or via the Arbor app.



TEACHarlow

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

Enhancing Parenting Skills to Support your Children and Teens



Dear Parents,

Are you looking to take your parenting skills to the next level? Do you want to better support your children and teens in managing their emotions and stress? We are excited to introduce a series of courses designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to help your children thrive emotionally and mentally.

Examples of our Courses Highlights:

- ❖ Emotional Regulation Techniques
- ❖ Active Listening
- ❖ Problem-Solving Skills
- ❖ Stress Management for Teens
- ❖ Open Communication
- ❖ Positive Reinforcement
- ❖ Educational Resources

Visit our website and type one of the above course highlights into the search box to find your next free course.

Enrol Today!

Our courses are designed to provide you with practical tools and strategies to support your children and teens in managing their emotions and stress. Whether you are looking for ways to enhance your current parenting skills or seeking new approaches, our courses offer valuable insights and techniques.

Contact Us:

Click on this [Link](#) and type 'emotions' in the search box or call us on 03456037635.

We look forward to helping you take your parenting skills to the next level!

Launching 4th May!

Free FAMILY FUN *in the park*

Join us every Sunday at the amazing Stow Park for free fun packed sessions that are suitable for the entire family!

Team games & Sports

- Football
- Dodgeball
- Cricket
- Badminton
- Tag rugby
- & more

Fun & enrichment

- Archery
- Zorbs
- Inflatables
- parachute games
- giant board games
- Special themed events

Register Now!



Contact Us
07884251662



Visit Our Website
timeforchangekids.com



Our Location
The Stow Park, Harlow
what3words: care.brief.middle

Get **FREE** meal plans

**FREE FOR EVERYONE
LIVING & WORKING
IN HARLOW!**

WITH **FIVEDINNERS.COM**

If you're fed up deciding what to cook every night or just need a little help in the kitchen to eat healthier, save money and reduce your food waste – FiveDinners.com is for you!

Every week you get a new personalised meal plan designed just for you with a shopping list for the whole week! Normally £36 per year - you get this for **FREE** - no catch, just **FREE**!

Sign up today to get **FREE** membership!

Scan the QR code or visit www.FiveDinners.com and click the green 'Join today' button now to get free membership!



FiveDinners

**FUNDED & SUPPORTED
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HEALTH & WELLBEING
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**





Empower Your Child, Ease Their Anxiety

Children and teens today face immense pressure from various sources, including transitions, exams, online, peer pressure or daily life.

Join our **FREE** sessions designed to help you to understand, and support your child/teen manage their stress, anxiety, or other emotions. Together, we can create a healthier, happier environment for our young, and not-so-young, ones.



Enrol now to make a positive difference in your child's life!

Scan the QR code, Visit our website **aclessex.com** and type '**CHILD ANXIETY** or **TEEN ANXIETY**' in to the 'Find a course...' box or phone 0345 603 7635



**COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING**



Essex County Council