

# Newsletter

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 Issue 08



Passmores  
ACADEMY



Photograph by: Jay Little  
Year 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the blink of an eye our first half term of the year comes to an end. How quickly the time has gone, it only feels like yesterday that we were welcoming our Year 7s. We have celebrated so much during the past few weeks, including today recognising the winning houses from each year group. All positive student contributions impact on the house competition, even Passmores Points. Can you believe a whopping 15,000 Passmores Points have been awarded so far! For those who didn't get the non-uniform day is there anything else that can be done individually or collectively to change the outcome in December?

We know that as the weather begins to change and the darker nights draw in, the bugs also come out in force. We have certainly seen this during the last couple of weeks, as illness accounts for almost half of our absence. Today has seen our lowest attendance of the term at 87%. As a school we maintain the quality of teaching throughout; the last day of any term for us is just as important as the first. For our Year 11 cohort who have mock exams the second week back after the break, being here, in class will make all the difference. Sometimes we have to dig a little deeper to build our resilience.

Our new 'Student Spotlight' starts today. Email [k.stearn@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:k.stearn@passmoresacademy.com) if you want anything included in future newsletters. We want to share and celebrate our young people as best we can.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

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

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## TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Wednesday 4th September – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Mahon, Charlie	Year 7	232
Seip, Joshua	Year 7	232
Mimms, Joshua	Year 7	226
Smith, Luke	Year 7	217
Laurino, Thomas	Year 7	214
Boughlalah, Adam	Year 7	212
Mahon, Olly	Year 7	210
Mason, Lucas	Year 7	205
McIntosh, Jack	Year 7	205
Howe, Tate	Year 7	204

Surtees, Amelia	Year 8	214
Jackson, Annie	Year 8	209
Wild, Gracie	Year 8	193
Golding, Faye	Year 8	192
Brandle, Aiden	Year 8	191
Beckwith, Olivia	Year 8	188
Klarzak, Leon	Year 8	182
Evans, Tillie	Year 8	160
Stewart, Isobella	Year 8	158
Carter, Will	Year 8	156

Brown, Charlie	Year 9	201
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	173
Watters, Katie	Year 9	152
Benge, Maddie	Year 9	151
Burgess, Shay	Year 9	149
Collins, Lily	Year 9	148
Broughton, Marnie	Year 9	143
Buhaescu, Fabiana	Year 9	142
Zuna, Hayden	Year 9	140
Hockley, Rhys	Year 9	138
Njie, Kasseem	Year 9	138
Rocha Santos, Enzo	Year 9	138

Foster-Gaish, Lily-May	Year 10	215
Francis-Melvin, Sid	Year 10	206
White, Beth	Year 10	204
Dolling, Tommy	Year 10	196
Sunshine, Pj	Year 10	185
Dack, Benjamin	Year 10	176
Honan, Faraya	Year 10	176
Dorrington, Ava	Year 10	161
Egbo, Francis	Year 10	158
Shipwright, Ronnie	Year 10	153

Kearns, Connie	Year 11	149
Olaru, Mario	Year 11	143
Vetori, Rileigh	Year 11	140
Cobie, Izzy	Year 11	138
Mahon, Katie	Year 11	138
Horton, Charlie	Year 11	136
Mustafa, Emin	Year 11	132
Kelso, Bryony	Year 11	128
Wix, Sam	Year 11	128
Clark, Liam	Year 11	127

### Year Group Attendance (14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024)

Year 7	93.15%
Year 8	91.04%
Year 9	88.7%
Year 10	86.38%
Year 11	85.95%
All Students	89.09%

### Thought for the Week •

This week's Thought for the Week focused on the **Young Essex Assembly (YEA)**. Students learned about what the YEA does, how they can get involved, and the importance of having their voices heard in the community. It was a great reminder of democracy in action and how young people can make a difference by participating in decision-making processes.

### In the News

In the News explored **how to stay safe during autumn festivities**. Students discussed the excitement and fun that seasonal events such as Bonfire Night, Halloween, and Diwali bring to their communities. However, they also reflected on the importance of balancing excitement with safety and responsibility. Key messages included fire safety tips, staying away from risky or anti-social behaviours, and the significance of respecting professional and adult supervision around fireworks and bonfires. Students were encouraged to share these safety tips with younger friends and siblings to ensure everyone can enjoy the festivities safely.

### Other News

**Year 11** students took time to reflect on their **careers programme** this half-term, reviewing their post-16 options and considering their next steps. They also had an insightful assembly delivered by representatives from **Epping St John's**.

In addition, our **student leaders** had an inspiring leadership day on Tuesday, where they were joined by motivational speaker **Action Jackson**, who gave them valuable advice on leading by example and making a positive impact within the school community.

We wrapped up the term with **House assemblies**, celebrating the positive achievements of students across the school. The excitement was in the air as the **winning House** in each year group enjoyed their well-earned **non-uniform day** as a reward for their efforts. It was a short but packed week, finishing the half-term on a high!

### Looking Ahead to After Half-Term

After the break, we have an exciting start to the new term:

- **Thought for the Week** will see the launch of our revamped '**peer dialogue**' sessions, now called '**Time to Talk**'. This will give students the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with their peers on important topics.
- **In the News** will focus on the **US elections** and the rise of **political violence** as a global issue.
- **Year 11** students will meet with their **allocated coach** for a check-in session and will be guided on writing their **personal statements** and **CVs**.
- We are also looking forward to welcoming **Year 7 and 8 students** and their parents/carers to our **social evening**!

Let's return after half-term refreshed and ready for another exciting chapter!



## CAUGHT DOING GOOD – 18<sup>th</sup> October – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Lacey Mealing Charlie Badham Maizie Dingle Joshua Mimms	Harriet Butterfield Jesse Kennedy Alicia Beeharry Lewis Wong	Abena Frimpong William Ward Zak Kearney Kieran Miller	Melinda Morar Hassan Farhan Karsten Laudan-Powers Ava Dorrington	Wojciech Budzinski Liam Clark Charlie Horton Megan Harbutt-Brown

### Rising Futures Programme Update

This week has seen the new Year 10 Rising Futures cohort begin their coaching journey with their first one-to-one coaching session with their professional coach. All 18 students involved attended, and each student met their coach for the first time and

made their SMART goals based around developing the skills of self-awareness, resilience, communication and confidence. Quite a lot of the students were initially both excited and a little nervous before going online with their coach but were all very pleased afterwards that they had given the session a go and really enjoyed it! The coaches all gave really positive initial feedback.



Verity Walsh, our Rising Futures programme leader, heard the students setting themselves some great first goals to work on over the next month. The next coaching session will take place on Friday 8th November. Pupils involved were Riley Breeds, Lily Cracknell, Daisy Dolan, Savanna Gayle-Maleary, Kady Gregory-Dean, Jersey Harvey, Gracie Howard-Brown, Fatima Iqbal, Able Joes-Adom, Marcus Lin, Braydon Rouse, Lillie Saunders, Summer Thurgood, Ash Todd, Evie Vobe, Daisy Vobe, Yasemin Withey-Yilmaz & Leila Tombs.

### Student Leadership Day

On Tuesday 22nd October we hosted a Student Leadership Day for all those students across the school in Years 7-11 who successfully applied for student leadership roles in September. 220 students were involved from all 18 strands of leadership including our head students, deputy head students, curriculum prefects, rewards prefects, charity prefects, community prefects, environment prefects, charity reps, mental health ambassadors, sports leaders, school council, StuPeds, inclusion mentors, primary mentors, house captains, vice-house captains, house panel and FOPS Passmores crew.

Mr. Butler invited the UK ambassador for happiness, Action Jackson, into Passmores to lead the day and he didn't disappoint! Students were able to explore what leadership entails; explore the 3 'Cs' of leadership - compassion, creativity, collaboration; and plan how their leadership will have a positive impact across the school over the remainder of the academic year.

All students were enthused and contributed so positively to the sessions they were involved with and had a wonderful kick-start to their leadership journey.



# Student Spotlight...

★ ★ Rebecca Haynes – Year 10 ★ ★

Rebecca was awarded a Jack Petchy Award at an event at the Harlow Playhouse.

Rebecca's friends and peers at the Harlow Ballet School voted for her to receive the award.

The award was presented by gold medal winning Paralympian Danny Crates.

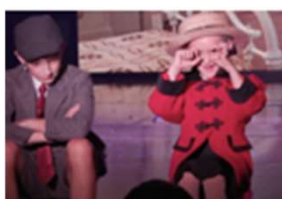


★ ★ Riley Simpson – Year 7 ★ ★

Riley has been attending Makin Steps performing arts school since the age of 18 months old.

Last weekend, Riley performed in a show called XL Makin Steps 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in which he sang with a live band! Riley also participates in musical theatre, street dance and tap.

If anyone is interested in going along to see Riley and all the other fantastic performers, the link is attached...  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/makin-steps-performing-arts>



# SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES

## French

In our Year 7 French classes, pupils have been learning the phonemes in days, months, numbers, colours and greetings.



Pupils were taught the patterns and sounds through songs and rhyme (similar to Jolly Phonics in KS1) so that they can link sounds, spelling and meaning of words.

So, for the example the phoneme 'on', featured in the word 'poisson' and the French song: Les poissons - Alain LeLait (youtube.com) It's a catchy one... je promis!

## 3D Design

Thank you for the fantastic response to the 3D Design coursework catch-up day! It's wonderful to see so many students eager to make the most of this opportunity. However, due to the high level of interest, we are unable to safely accommodate all students at the same time.

As a result, the session will now be split as follows:

Year 10 students: 9:00am – 11:30am

Year 11 students: 11:30am – 2:00pm

Please ensure your child attends their allocated session.

Places must be booked in advance, as there are only 20 spaces available for each session. Just a reminder that food will not be available on the day, so students should bring their own snacks or lunch if required.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact me at:  
[g.histon@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:g.histon@passmoresacademy.com)

## KS3 Workshop Project

Today, five Year 9 students returned to school to present us with the four benches they made at the Rainbow Services KS3 Workshop Project during this past half term.

Each bench has been engraved with one of our core school values; **Compassion & Kindness, Fairness & Belonging and Respect.**



## Year 11 Booster Sessions

We are encouraging all our Year 11 students to come along and take advantage of these after-school booster sessions. Please note that the staff are putting these sessions on voluntarily, so this is a FREE lesson! It would be good to see as many Year 11s as possible and if they need to know what is being delivered, they should speak to individual subject teachers.

Week 1				
Day	Subject	Aimed at or Set	Time	Room(s)
Tuesday	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Geography	Whole cohort exam prep	3.15-4.00	U005
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Hospitality & Catering	Year 11	3.15-4.15	D104
	Hospitality & Catering	Year 11	3.15-4.15	D105
	Computer Science	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	G105
	Maths	Grade 1-2	3.15-4.15	G005
	English	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	Upstairs Unicorn
Wednesday	Child Development	Whole cohort exam prep	3:15-4.00	G106
	History	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	U007
	Maths	Grade 5+	3:15-4.00	G005
	Spanish	Aiming for upto grade 5	3:15-4.00	L103
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Maths	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	G003
	English	Poetry focus	3.15-4.15	U105
Thursday	Music	Composing coursework	3:15-4.00	L110
	3D Design	Whole cohort	3:15-4:15	D002/D003
	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Psychology	Exam practice	3:20-4:00	U002
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Computer Science	Creative and Technical Enterprise	3.30-5.00	G105
	Art	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	L104/L105
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
Friday	Maths	Aiming for Grade 4	3.20-4.20	U102
	Drama	Whole cohort	3.20-4.20	G101
	Spanish	Aiming for 5+	3:15-4.00	L103
	Psychology	Targeted students	3:20-4.00	U002
	BTEC Sport	Coursework	3:20-4.00	Y005

Week 2				
Day	Subject	Aimed at or Set	Time	Room(s)
Tuesday	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Geography	Whole cohort exam prep	3.15-4.00	U005
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Maths	Grade 1-2	3.15-4.00	G005
	English	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	Upstairs Unicorn
Wednesday	Child Development	Whole cohort exam prep	3:15-4.00	G106
	History	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	U007
	Spanish	Aiming up to grade 5	3:15-4.00	L103
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Maths	Grade 5+	3:15-4.00	G005
	Maths	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	G003
	English	Poetry focus	3.15-4.15	U105
Thursday	Music	Composing coursework	3.15-4.00	L110
	3D Design	Whole cohort	3:15-4:15	D002/D003
	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Art	Whole Cohort	3.15-4.15	L104/L105
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Science	whole cohort for 1st HT	3:15-4:00	L003
Friday	Maths	Aiming for Grade 4	3.20-4.20	U102
	Drama	Whole cohort	3.20-4.20	G101
	Psychology	Targeted 6+	3:20-4:00	U002
	Spanish	Aimed at grade 5+	3.15-4.00	L103
	BTEC Sport	Coursework	3.20-4.00	Y005

**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE...**  
**NOW: MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Year 11 Movie Night:**  
**An Inspector Calls**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
 Straight from School  
 Main hall  
 Featuring:  
 Pizza & Popcorn






## **SPORTS/PE UPDATES**

### **Football**

It has been a busy half term of sport for the PE department, one that continues up until the final day with Year 9 taking on local rivals Burnt Mill today (Wednesday) afterschool.

Our Year 10s played on Monday evening away to Kegs, It was a well fought game, Jacob Branch making his debut in centre-back and the team raring to go for their first-round cup game. It was a tough first half where Passmores missed a few chances to go into the lead. Kegs scored a 25-yard goal to go 1-0 and close out the first half. During the second half Beau Wilson scored from just inside the half-way line to equal it and make it 1-1 taking the game to extra time!



In extra time we unfortunately gave a penalty away in the last minute, which Kegs slotted away to go 2-1 up in the match. Passmores then went on to score in the last minutes of the game, but sadly the linesman had lifted his flag which denied us the goal which led to Passmores losing 2-1 and us crashing out of the cup with an unlucky loss.

### **Netball**

Last week saw our Year 9s and Senior Netball teams take to the court for the local netball tournament.

Both teams played exceptionally well, with our seniors only losing one match to St. Marks.

Thank you to all our netball players this half term for their hard work, dedication and teamwork. We look forward to seeing you all next half term for more fixtures, tournaments and training.



### **Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze**

Attention all Year 9 Parents & Carers...



The sign-up form for Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze has gone out today on Arbor. Any questions regarding this, please email Miss Riley [a.riley@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:a.riley@passmoresacademy.com)

**Harlow College open event for Supported Studies:  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – 6pm to 7.30pm**

The Supported Studies team at Harlow College are running a bespoke Open Event aimed at learners in Year 10 or 11 who have EHCPs or MLD needs. Parents and learners will be able to meet the Supported Studies team and find out all about our programme that works towards the Preparing for Adulthood Agenda, including:

- Attend a presentation that demonstrates the wide variety of activities offered, meet current students and hear about their experiences at college, including work experience, view the classrooms, sensory room and kitchen, meet Lula, the therapy dog.

Meet in main Reception at 6pm, presentation starts at 6.30pm. There is no need to book. Free Parking is available on the Harlow College campus.



# Sixth Form & College Open Dates 2024/2025

Colleges & Sixth Forms	Contact No.	Open Date
The Bishop's Stortford High School <a href="http://www.tbshs.org">www.tbshs.org</a>	01279 868686	Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Birchwood School, Bishop's Stortford <a href="http://www.birchwoodonline.co.uk">www.birchwoodonline.co.uk</a>	01279 655936	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 4pm-7.30pm (see attached poster)
BMAT STEM Academy <a href="http://www.bmatstemacademy.org">www.bmatstemacademy.org</a>	01279 621570	TBA
The College at Braintree (Now part of Colchester Institute) <a href="http://www.colchester.ac.uk">www.colchester.ac.uk</a>	01206 814000	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10.00-1.00
Cambridge Regional College <a href="http://www.camre.ac.uk">www.camre.ac.uk</a>	01223 418200	Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 4.30-7.00 Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30-12.30 Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 10-12.30 Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> April 4.30-7.00
Capel Manor College, Enfield <a href="http://www.capel.ac.uk">www.capel.ac.uk</a>	08456 122122	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 5.30-7pm
Chelmsford College <a href="http://www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk">www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk</a>	01245 265611	Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6-8.30 Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-8.30
New City College (Epping Forest), <a href="http://www.ncclondon.ac.uk">www.ncclondon.ac.uk</a>	0208 508 8311	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 10-2.00
Epping St Johns 6 <sup>th</sup> Form <a href="http://www.eppingstjohnsschool.org/">www.eppingstjohnsschool.org/</a>	01992 573028	Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6-8pm
F2 Academy <a href="http://www.vluk.org/course-location/f2academy/">www.vluk.org/course-location/f2academy/</a>	07525 495818	TBA
Fashion Retail Academy <a href="http://www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk">www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk</a>	0207 3072345	Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov

# Sixth Form & College Open Dates 2024/2025

Harlow College <a href="http://www.harlow-college.ac.uk">www.harlow-college.ac.uk</a>	01279 868000	Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 5.00-8.00 Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> April 5.00-8.00
Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge <a href="http://www.hrsfc.ac.uk">www.hrsfc.ac.uk</a>	01223 247251	TBA
Helena Romanes School, Great Dunmow <a href="http://www.helena-roman.essex.sch.uk">www.helena-roman.essex.sch.uk</a>	01371 872560	Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 5.30-8.00
Hertford Regional College <a href="http://www.hertreg.ac.uk">www.hertreg.ac.uk</a>	01992 411400	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 5.30-8.00 Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 5.30-8.00
Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford <a href="http://www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk">www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk</a>	01279 654127	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Hockerill Anglo-European School, Bishop's Stortford <a href="http://www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk">www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk</a>	01279 658451	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge <a href="http://www.longroad.ac.uk">www.longroad.ac.uk</a>	01223 631100	Summer 2025
Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth <a href="http://www.leventhorpe.net">www.leventhorpe.net</a>	01279 836633	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6.00-9.00
Presdales Sixth Form <a href="http://www.presdales.herts.sch.uk">www.presdales.herts.sch.uk</a>	01920 462210	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6-8pm
Sir Frederick Gibberd <a href="http://www.sirfrederickgibberdcollege.org">www.sirfrederickgibberdcollege.org</a>	01279 307235 (c/o Burnt Mill Academy)	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30-12.30
St Marks School, Harlow <a href="http://www.st-marks.essex.sch.uk">www.st-marks.essex.sch.uk</a>	01279 421267	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov
St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford <a href="http://www.stmarys.net">www.stmarys.net</a>	01279 654901	TBA



# Sixth Form & College Open Dates 2024/2025

Colleges & Sixth Forms	Contact No.	Open Date
Stansted Airport College <a href="http://www.harlow-college.ac.uk">www.harlow-college.ac.uk</a>	01799 513030	Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00-2.00 Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Writtle College <a href="http://www.writtle.ac.uk">www.writtle.ac.uk</a>	01245 424200	Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10-3.00 Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov

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

**THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Beaumont Avenue, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4SH  
 T: 01279 868686 E: [admissions.sixthform@tbshs.org](mailto:admissions.sixthform@tbshs.org) [tbshs.sixthform](https://www.instagram.com/tbshs.sixthform)



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**Wednesday 6th November 2024, 5.30–8.30pm**  
**Presentations at 5.45pm, 6.45pm & 7.45pm**  
**Booking not necessary. Parking strictly limited**

**Apply online at [www.tbshs.org](http://www.tbshs.org) from Wednesday 6th November 2024.**

*"Pupils achieve highly at this stunning school."*  
**Ofsted May 2023**



## ANY OTHER INFORMATION



The KS3 disco will be taking place after half term on **Thursday 21st November** from **6pm to 8pm**. Tickets cost £3 and can be paid through the Parent Pay app. Check your emails for a letter with all the details...



The Arbor Student Portal is now live! Students will be able to submit homework assignments, view their timetable and attendance, and much more in their portal.

Please refer to the guide on this page to assist your young person in signing in:

<https://www.passmoresacademy.com/page/?title=Apps+for+Learning&pid=156>

The Arbor Student Portal is currently web based only, but there will be a new app available very soon.

If you have any queries, please email [datateam@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:datateam@passmoresacademy.com)



### **ABSENCE LINE**

If you need to report a student absence, please ensure you are following the correct procedure and are calling the absence line: **01279 770877**.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	INSET DAY (2)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Half Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Annual General Meeting – 6pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Year 7 Social Evening – 5pm to 6pm Year 8 Social Evening – 6pm to 7pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024	Year 11 Mock Exams
Friday 29 <sup>TH</sup> November 2024	INSET DAY (3)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Friends of Passmores - Christmas Market
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Early Closure for Students – 12:30pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	INSET DAY (4)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Spring Term 1 Begins

TEACHarlow

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



 *Friends of Passmores are looking  
for stall holders for our*

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

Please email  
[fop@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:fop@passmoresacademy.com)

Friday 6th December  
6:30-8:30pm  
Harlow





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *Helldivers 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.



### PEGI 18 RATING

Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *Helldivers 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.



### IN-GAME PURCHASES

In *Helldivers 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

### VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

*Helldivers 2* is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.



### FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *Helldivers 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

### LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *Helldivers 2*.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### GIVE IT A GO FIRST

*Helldivers 2* is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.



### SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, *Helldivers 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *Helldivers 2* is really the game for them.



### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where *Helldivers 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – *Firefight* – replicates *Helldivers 2*'s mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.



### KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but *Helldivers 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.



### MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game 'Ping' system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to *Helldivers 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.



### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College





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Places**

# visit our **Women's Centres**



**Monday - Friday**  
**09:00 - 17:30**

**Open to any women in the Harlow  
or Waltham Cross community.**

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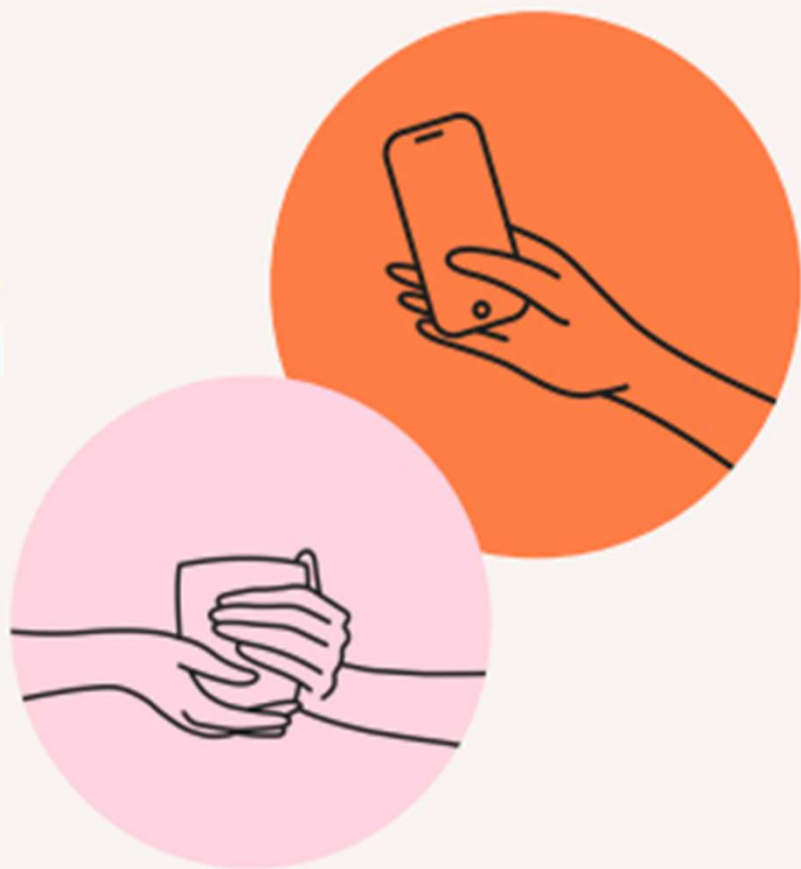
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## Support includes:

- Counselling & art therapy sessions
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- Employability support & workshops
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# Outlet Sale

## Friday 8th November 2024

Simon Balle All-through School, Mangrove Road, Hertford, SG13 8AJ

The Joules Outlet team are visiting Simon Balle All-through School on Friday 8th November where they will be showcasing heavily discounted and end of season items.

Snap up a pre-Christmas bargain, with up to 70% off retail prices.

We are able to offer pre-booked shopping slots for the event, with an early bird price for bookings made by 25th October.



5-6-6.30pm Early preview tickets:  
£8 if booked by 8th October, £9 if booked after 9th October  
(Limited to 50 tickets)

6.30-8.30pm General Sale:  
£6 if booked by 25th October, £9 if booked after 25th October  
(Limited on the door tickets, subject to availability)

Please book your tickets carefully, as NO REFUNDS can be offered. You will only be permitted entry to the pre-booked shopping slot stated on your ticket. Your ticket will NOT be valid for other times. Please note this is a charity event run by volunteers. Stock is sold as seen and returns are not possible.

Children are allowed in for free, however we don't recommend bringing them if possible. Pushchairs will NOT be allowed into the sale area, you may leave them outside at your own risk.

Food and drink will NOT be allowed in the sales area.

Proceeds from the ticket sales go to Simon Balle PSA, a registered charity.



**TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER**

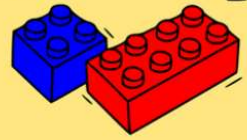
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## Spotlight on services... FREE Parenting courses

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- ☐ Positive Parenting
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ACL will also collaborate with you to provide bespoke courses where you have a cohort of parents.

For further information  
[Community & Family Learning - ACL Essex](#)