



Principals' Letter – Summer Term 2021 Week Ending 23rd April 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

For the first time, in what feels like years, it is great to see the newsletter full of the extra-curricular activities and opportunities we are offering. Although it is not quite the full range from previous years it is definitely starting to feel more normal. We know the papers are full of stories about how much school young people have missed but we are not as concerned. The young people that have come back with a positive approach to school and are doing the work asked of them are flying and will have very few problems when it is their turn in Year 11. There is a sign outside of our office door that says 'We didn't say it would be easy but we did say it would be worth it' and never has this been more true. We are confident that the level of commitment to learning, being shown by almost all of our young people, will pay off. Of course the opposite is also true for the handful of young people still struggling to remember that they will only be as successful as the amount of effort they put in; so let's hope they adopt the same approach as 99% of the school before it is too late! However, school is not just about English and maths lessons and we really want to encourage our students to look at the other opportunities available and to make the most of them.

Today our Year 11 students were emailed a revision plan for the internal tests starting in a few weeks and it is also available on the SMHW noticeboard. We will write to Year 11 next week with more details as we are rapidly approaching the very crucial exam period.

Stay well and may the sun continue to shine this weekend.

Sky Dive: Ms Conway will be completing a sky dive for charity on Saturday. Hopefully she will feed back next week on how she got on.

Mental Health Message: As we are all aware, we are slowly coming out of this past year, and it has been a struggle for many. We are all aware that we have a mental health, but the important lesson is to know is how to look after it. It's ok to have the odd day where you may not feel yourself, but if you notice it is happening more often, then I would strongly recommend that you talk to someone. This could be a parent, family member or a teacher that you feel comfortable talking to. If you are someone who doesn't feel comfortable in sharing or need a little guidance, then the first step you need to think about to help yourself out is CONTROL.

Ask yourself, what can I control in the situation that I am in? With you taking control, this means you are taking charge of how you are feeling. Can I control my thinking, my breathing, my reactions? The next step is ACTION. What can you do to put that control in place? Come up with your own phrases that boost your self-confidence. For example, "I am in control", "I can do this" or "I am amazing". You may feel silly saying these quotes in your head but if you repeat it over and over you will start to believe it more. Therefore, feeling more confident in attempting activities or daily tasks that you may struggle with. You can change how you may behave in a certain situation; if you repeat this behaviour then this will replace the old behaviour that you use to do.

The last step is REFLECT. After you have used control and action to help support you, take some time to reflect over your journey. You will notice how far you have grown in a positive way; this

will give you more confidence and confirm to you that when there may be a hurdle in your way, you have the skill set and confidence to get over that hurdle. Please remember that we don't know what everyone is going through and so sometimes all we need is some extra support and kindness to help us all out.

HAPPY WORLD BOOK NIGHT: Students may be returning home this evening with a copy of James Milner's book *Ask a Footballer*, as World Book Night have kindly donated us 150 copies. I hope they enjoy reading about the impressive career and experiences of the durable England and Liverpool utility man. Please do feel free to borrow this from your children and consider passing it on when it is finished with. Seeing adults read is inspirational to students.

A Fantastic Summer Holiday Volunteering Opportunity for Students Aged 14 and Over: Essex Libraries are inviting students aged 14 and over to volunteer in their local library during the summer holidays. Their role will be to encourage children to participate in the annual **Summer Reading Challenge** and talk to them about the books they are reading. Students can use this opportunity to gain work experience within their community and they can put the volunteering hours towards Youth Award Schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh. They ask our volunteers to volunteer for a minimum of **18 hours** – although students are welcome to offer to do more hours if they wish. The online application process is quick and easy.

Further information and the link to the online form can be found on the [Essex Libraries website](#). This year's challenge is called **Wild World Heroes**. The deadline for applications this year is Sunday 13 June 2021. Owing to a high demand for places each library has a maximum number of volunteers they require so these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Any questions to Mr King (English).



STEM Club: A reminder to all Year 8 and 9 students that STEM Club started again this week. This week's challenge saw students make a floating device that could hold the biggest weight using only paper, straws and tape. There were some very successful designs and a clear winning team!

Quadcopter Challenge: The Quadcopter challenge started this week for Year 9 students interested in producing a drone-coptor in Raytheon's National Competition. To see the challenge in action, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krv6qpGAXi0> There is still time to get involved! Talk to Miss Knight (Science) or Miss Histon (DT).

Technical Theatre Club News: On Thursday 8th and Friday 9th April, the Passmores Technical Theatre Club were lucky enough to have some professional guidance and training from members of the Harlow Playhouse Tech Team.

Seven members of technical staff, including lighting designer, sound designer and various qualified technicians, came to Passmores and taught students how to clean and maintain the lighting fixtures, how to work safely when rigging lights and how to use the new lighting software purchased last year (by a Jack Petchey winner). The sound system in the hall was also given a once over and re-set. **Dylan Hammond, Jaydon Bailey, Josh Sanderson** and **Karys Bailey** all reported that they had learned lots and thoroughly enjoyed the two days.

Rory Davies (director of Harlow Playhouse) had arranged for his team to come over and provide professional support on the re-rig and set up for this year's upcoming shows (TBC - watch this space - Covid security dependent) and we would like to say a great big thank you to Rory and his team for the support we received. The two days were thoroughly enjoyable and the access we had to skilled technical staff was a real treat.

We are very excited that we may be able to finally welcome people back into the building to watch some of the excellent work being created by students in the performing arts, later in the year. We will keep you posted!



Duke of Edinburgh Award: We are pleased to inform you that Duke of Edinburgh training has started again and that camping expeditions will be going ahead! A reminder that Bronze training for Year 10s will be every Monday from 4pm – 5.30pm and Silver training for Year 11s will take place every Friday lunch time. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

If your young person's circumstances have now changed and they are unable to continue the award, please let Miss Silva know by emailing her on a.silva@passmoresacademy.com.

Youth Club: Our Youth Club on a Monday has started up again to the great joy of Ms Fitzpatrick and Mrs Poulter. The Youth Club is open to Year 7, 8 and 9 at 3.30pm to 5.00pm. There is a small charge of 50p for each session. Students MUST let their parents/ carers know. Year 10s who fancy becoming a helper can contact Mrs Poulter or Ms Fitzpatrick who can be found in the office in downstairs Dragon.

Passmores Steel Pans Groups Have Re-Started: The Passmores Steel Pans Band re-started last week and is on the lookout for new members. The Steel Pans runs every Monday in room L10 of the Music Department. Group 1 runs from 3.20pm-4.20pm and Group 2 runs from 4.20pm-5.20pm. It's a fun and lively way to make music in a supportive musical environment. There is no need to read music, but you do need a little sense of rhythm and plenty of enthusiasm. If students

would like to join they just need to turn up on the day and they will receive a warm welcome. Students in all year groups are invited to join. If you would like any further details, please speak to your music teacher or Mr. Butler.

Passmores Music School: We are delighted to announce that Passmores Music School music tuition has now re-started on Tuesday evenings. We offer one-to-one 15-minute and 30-minute singing, piano, drums, electric guitar, classical guitar, bass guitar, trumpet, trombone, violin, flute, clarinet and saxophone lessons at very competitive rates provided by professional peripatetic music teachers. We currently have some availability in most instrumental areas although spaces are filling up fast. To find out further details and to arrange instrumental or vocal lessons for your child this term, please contact the Passmores Academy Music School secretary, Liz Harrod, on 07842 492100.

Art After school & Lunch clubs L104/L105:

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| Monday | 3.00-4.30: | Year 11 only |
| Tuesday | Early lunch: | Year 7 (first 12 students only) |
| Tuesday | 3.30-5pm: | Year 10 & 11 |
| Wednesday | Late lunch: | Year 8 (first 12 students only) |
| Friday | 3.30-4.30: Period 6: | Year 11 only |

PE Clubs:

| PE Extra Curricular Timetable | | | | | |
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| PE Timetable Extra Curricular Timetable | | | | | |
| Tuesday | Staff | Wednesday | Staff | Thursday | Staff |
| All Years Boys Cricket | JEL/NGN/NRY | All Years Tennis | JWR | All Years Athletics | All Staff |
| All Years Girls Rounders | ASA/SBS/SSE | Girls Cricket | SBS/ASA | | |
| All Years Ultimate Frisbee | JKG | Tag Rugby | AMN/NRY | | |

Thought for the week: This week students have been looking at European Vaccination Week and the benefits of vaccinating against serious diseases. When Edward Jenner first developed a vaccination against Smallpox, there were many who campaigned against this repeating very similar arguments to those people who today oppose vaccination for Covid-19. However, as Smallpox has almost been eradicated from the world over the last 200 years because of on-going vaccination programmes run by the World Health Organisation it could be fair to say that the fears of our ancestors never did come true. Mr Pickering

Summer Fete: Friends of Passmores are hosting the summer fete this year on 10th July from 1pm. If you would be interested in having a stall, please email fop@passmoresacademy.com



Sustran's Big Pedal 2021: This week, Year 7 and 8 have been engaged in an initiative aimed at being more active on journeys to and from school. Each day, we have been recording how many students cycle, come by scooter, walk and also come by wheelchair. The results have been really impressive, with lots of active journeys so a big thanks to all those who have walked, wheeled, scooted and cycled.

If your young person has not yet managed to travel to and from school by one of these methods, it would be great if parents/carers could encourage them to do so. How about dropping them off so they have to do the last 15 minutes on foot or travelling by scooter or bike? That would definitely increase the number of active journeys for sure! It's a great way to get active and cut down on emissions close to the school. This week we have had a total of 1387 active journeys and this is just less than 30% of all journeys for the school. In Year 8, 8U1 currently lead the way with 124 journeys this week, closely followed by 8G2 and 8D1 with 112 journeys so keep up the good work. In Year 7, 7U1 lead the way with 90 journeys followed by 7L2 with 84 journeys. Parents/carers can contribute too by walking with your young person and this week just less than 1% of the journeys have been by parents and carers. Thanks to those who have supported the challenge this week. We have one more week to go so let's all get active and the final update will follow next week. Good luck!

Careers News: Due to the pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult for young people to gain work experience and in light of the current job market, the benefits of work experience are huge. It gives young people the opportunity to learn about different career paths, helps with their decision making about what career is right for them. It enables students to network with employers and gives a better understanding of the world of work. It will look great on their CV and can improve their chances of gaining employment. An organisation called 'Springpod' offers free virtual work experience programmes to young people from the age of 14-18. Most are up to 10 hours over a two-week period, so can be fitted around school/college. On completion students will receive a certificate. There are some fantastic opportunities from sales, business, health care, fashion, engineering, teaching, law, to name a few. To find out more go to <https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes>

Incorrect Date: Apologies, last week's letter stated the wrong date for the Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening. The correct date is 23rd June. Sincere apologies for this error.



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy

Forthcoming Events:

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| Friday 30 th April | Year 7 & 8 Attitude to Learning Information to Parents/Carers |
| Monday 3 rd May | Bank Holiday |
| Wednesday 5 th May | Year 7&8 Academic Tutorial Evening 4pm-7pm |
| Monday 17 th May | Parent Council Meeting |
| Monday 17 th May | Year 9 Vaccinations Dip, Tet, Polio and Meningitis (two vaccines) |
| 17 th May – 27 th May | Year 11 Internal Examinations |
| Thursday 27 th May | Winning House Non Uniform Day |
| Friday 28 th May | Year 11 Celebration Assembly |
| 31 st May – 4 th June | Half Term |
| 7 th June – 18 th June | Year 10 Mocks |
| Wednesday 23 rd June | Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening 4pm-7pm |
| Friday 25 th June | Sports Day |
| Thursday 1 st July | Year 6 Transition Day |
| Friday 2 nd July | Inset Day |
| Tuesday 6 th July | Year 11 Prom |
| Wednesday 7 th July | Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Evening 4pm-7pm |
| Friday 9 th July | Year 10 Vaccinations Dip, Tet, Polio and Meningitis (two vaccines) |
| Friday 9 th July | Year 8 Vaccinations HPV 1 |
| Tuesday 13 th July | Year 10 Vaccinations Dip, Tet, Polio and Meningitis (two vaccines) |
| Tuesday 13 th July | Year 8 Vaccinations HPV 1 |
| Wednesday 14 th July | Year 6,7 & 8 BBQ & Rounders followed by a Disco |
| Thursday 15 th July | Non Uniform Day for the Winning House |
| Friday 16 th July | Early Closure for Students (1.25pm) END OF TERM. |
| Friday 30 th July | Summer Reports to Parents/Carers |

TEACHarlow

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