

# PORTLAND PLACE *news*

Spring Term 2010 – Week 6 • Week beginning Monday 8 February 2010

## **Years 6 & 7 Parents Meeting – Monday 8th February**

The parent/teacher consultation meeting takes place at 4pm on Monday 25th in the Hall at 143 Great Portland Street.

## **6<sup>th</sup> form Scholarships**

The following outstanding Year 11 pupils have been awarded Sixth form scholarships.

### **Academic:**

Gus Redhouse-White, Anthony Monteza, Isaac Freeth, Claire Sheil, Jay Ramanee Murphy and Sarah Rentoul

**Art:** Mia Swailes

**Drama:** Victor Rouveyre

**Music:** Alex Pitts

**Sport:** Flynn Sager

## **Upper Sixth: University Update**

Universities are facing funding cuts of approximately £449 million pounds this year. Given this, students who do not achieve the requisite grades for their offers (first and second choice) will have little prospect of gaining a place through the clearing system. It is imperative that students liaise with Mrs Brahams-Melinek, Dr Wellings and Mr Rosie before they accept or decline the offers made to them through UCAS. Each student may accept **two** offers, one of which should be their second choice; this is traditionally known as the "insurance" offer and therefore must be lower than their first choice. We urge students to be realistic. Whilst we are delighted that this year's students have received an abundance of offers (on average, PPS students have received four offers each out of a potential five) this does not mean that they will fulfil the entry requirements. An offer is not synonymous with achievement!

## **Chris Hewitt - Lower Sixth**

Congratulations to Chris Hewitt for being selected to play in Memphis, the USA, as a member of the Haringey Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra.

## **QS Top Universities Fair – 13th March**

The Lower Sixth are **strongly advised** to attend the QS Top Universities Fair which takes place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. There will be over 100 universities exhibiting at this event. This event is free of charge. Parents may also attend; however, in both cases, students and parents must register first: [www.topuniversities.com/undergraduate](http://www.topuniversities.com/undergraduate)



Feb 2010 Portland Place School production: West Side Story. All photos by Christian Fisher L6th

## **West Side Story –**

This week's performances of Bernstein's West Side Story have been an amazing success. Full report and pictures in the next week's Newsletter. This will be posted to parents with the half term reports on Friday.

## **Haiti Appeal: Mufti Day on Friday 12th February**

We are having a full mufti day on the last day of half term to add to the money that we have raised so far for Haiti. Pupils should bring in the £1 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> if they wish to come to school on Friday in their own clothes and support the Haiti appeal.

**Money raised so far for Haiti:  
£2,200**

## **CONTACTS**

### **Main Building:**

58 Portland Place, London W1B 1NJ

### **Art/Drama/Science/Lower School ICT:**

101-103 Great Portland Street W1

### **Upper School and Sixth Form:**

143-149 Great Portland Street W1

Tel: 020 7307 8700

E-mail: [admin@portland-place.co.uk](mailto:admin@portland-place.co.uk)  
[www.portland-place.co.uk](http://www.portland-place.co.uk)

### **All enquiries and Year 7/8/9 absences:**

Tel: 020 7307 8700

### **Year 10/11/6<sup>th</sup> absences:**

Tel: 020 7307 8706

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

**CROSS COUNTRY****London Schools Cross Country Championships****Ryan wins bronze medal.**

On Wednesday PPS took a team of runners to compete in the London Schools Cross Country Championships, which doubled as trials for the London Schools team. With over 150 athletes in some races, fighting for places in the London Team it proved to be a very competitive affair. The race took place at Parliament Hill, on Hampstead Heath, home of the Highgate Harriers and a regular venue for the South of England Cross Country Championships. Over a course which ranged between 2700m to 6300m PPS pupils battled over the rough terrain with the rest of the field. The first race saw Carolina Bazzarelli Dos Santos, the leading Portland runner in the Junior Girls race, appear over the horizon and storm to a fast finish completing the course in 33<sup>rd</sup> place.

The following PPS pupils followed behind with Emeline Jones (49<sup>th</sup>), Sara Merckenschlager (90<sup>th</sup>) and Clara Jones (91<sup>st</sup>). The Junior Boys event was a longer race over 3600m, consisting of 1 small lap followed by 1 large lap. The boys fared slightly better against their opposition and some tactical running and an outstanding sprint finish saw Kyle Manning finish in a creditable 18<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Billy Ling (61<sup>st</sup> +) was next followed by John Sperling (80<sup>th</sup>), Peter Monteza (102<sup>th</sup>), and Ainsley Rutterford (103<sup>rd</sup>). The Senior Girls race had just 1 PPS athlete represented and she ran extremely well.

Amy Thornton finished in an excellent 13<sup>th</sup> position over the 3600m course just missing out on London selection for the English Schools.

The inter boys (Yr10/11) race ran over a tough 5400m course. Anthony Monteza was the first PPS athlete to finish in 40<sup>th</sup> place. He was followed by Will Sanders (64<sup>th</sup>) and Jordan Moss (85<sup>th</sup>). The last race of the day was the Senior Boys over a distance of 6400m. Ryan Stephenson was our only runner in this race and he hoped to emulate his top ten place he achieved last year in the younger age group and earn a place on the London team at the English Schools National Championships. After a gutsy run, he positioned himself in 8<sup>th</sup> place after the first lap. At the end of the second lap Ryan was sharing 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> position with another athlete but still in a large group of about 10 athletes. Coming down the hill at the end of the last lap Ryan had broken away from the pack and was comfortably in 3<sup>rd</sup> position, running through the line to win a bronze medal, the highest place a PPS pupil has ever come in this championship. Ryan will be guaranteed a place in the London team after this performance but will await written confirmation of his selection. What makes this performance more remarkable is that Ryan was racing against boys up to a school year older than him and will contest this same age group next year. Overall the day was a success for PPS, everyone competed well and their behaviour was impeccable. Well done!

We are now looking forward to traveling to Bedford on Tuesday for the ISA London North Cross Country Championships and Trials for the ISA National Championships.

The following pupils will be included in this race:

**Yr 6:** Michael Bortolot, Jed Etches, Sofya Elfremenko; **Yr 7/8:** Max Kilman, Euan Guest, Aaron Eyoma, Peter Monteza, Ainsley Rutterford, Ry Affleck, **Ellie Harriss (Yr 9)**, Eleanor Kriel Daley, Rosie Giffin, Daisy Dean, Beatrice da Gama, **Yr 9/10:** Kyle Manning, Guy Longbottom, Will Sanders, Billy Ling, Jordan Moss, John Sperling, Ya'ana Tarka, Sara Merckenschlager, Carolina Bazzarelli Dos Santos, Emeline Jones, Clara Jones, Tegan Short **Yr 11 & 6<sup>th</sup> Form:** Ryan Stephenson, Amy Thornton, James Wood, Flynn Sager, Anthony Monteza

**WESTMINSTER SWIMMING GALA**

Next Wednesday will see pupils from PPS compete in the annual Westminster Swimming Gala. Last year we amassed over 20 medals and we hope to have a repeat of this success this year. The event is being held at THE QUEEN MOTHER SPORTS CENTRE from 1.00-4.30pm. Nearest tube is Victoria.

## PORTLAND PLACE 8 February 2010

Mr Bry

### RUGBY Yr 10

Portland Place	0
Harrodian	40

It was a tough match last Thursday afternoon at Harrodian. PPS were expecting a match against Harrodian's B team but faced their well drilled A team instead. Physically our boys equaled their opponents, but Harrodian with their regular playing side, proved too tactically dominant and scored several tries giving them a comfortable victory

There was a 10 minute spell during the game where Portland displayed some flare and were held up just short of their opponents try line. It must be said with a bit more experience our boys would be able to offer a more competitive game. Well done to all who took part.

### Mr Bryce at the Winter Olympics Vancouver 2010

Portland Place PE's Mr Bryce is heading off to Vancouver next week to join the BBC commentary team at the Winter Olympics. Mr Bryce, who is a former Olympic bobsleigher, will be giving an expert opinion on all of the sliding sports - bobsleigh, skeleton and luge. Tune in to BBC2's coverage to hear all the action.

### PE KIT

Please ensure you bring both studded footwear and indoor footwear for PE lessons in case we need to make provisions due to the weather. Pupils should also ensure they bring their rugby tops as well as their burgundy polo shirts to all lessons.



### UCL – appeals for volunteers for research

*The school has been asked to pass the following message on by our colleagues at UCL:*

The Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience group at UCL's Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience are currently planning on running two brain imaging studies this half term, between the **13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2010, in Central London**. For this we are searching for participants who fit the following criteria: *Girls or boys between 11 and 17 years old Right or left-handed, Free of any type of metal implants/non-removable dental braces. Not claustrophobic or afraid of small spaces as brain scanning involves being in a small closed space.* The studies take 1h30-2h overall, of which the time spent in the scanner is only 40-45 minutes. Ideally a parent is present during the scan. We will reimburse all travel expenses and give your child a picture of its brain. Unfortunately, we are not able to pay for your time. One of the studies is run by Dr Kathrin Cohen Kadosh and James Song, the other by Dr Iroise Dumontheil and Hauke Hillebrandt, under the direction of Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore (<http://www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/sblakemore>). Both studies investigate brain development during adolescence and it will depend on your child's age as well as on your availability which of the studies your child takes part in. If you are interested in participating, please reply to this email or call Hauke Hillebrandt (**Tel: 020 7679 1126**) and mention which dates would suit you. We will then provide you with more detailed information about brain scanning and the study you could participate in, and try to arrange the exact date and time for you to come to the lab for the brain scan.

*Dr Iroise Dumontheil and Hauke Hillebrandt  
Dr Kathrin Cohen Kadosh and James Song  
Developmental Cognitive Neurosciences Group  
UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience  
17 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AR, UK  
t: +44 20 7679 1131  
f: +44 20 7813 2835  
[www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/sblakemore](http://www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/sblakemore)*

## Week beginning Monday 8 February 2010

### Monday 8 February

8:45am Langham House Assembly, PPS Hall  
4:00pm Table Tennis Club  
4:00pm Years 6 & 7 Parent Teachers Meeting, GPS Hall

### Tuesday 9 February

9:00am-4:30pm ISA London North Cross Country Championships- Bedford  
2:30pm Rugby, Boys U12s Team A v Ibstock Place-Away  
3:45pm-5:00pm Art Club- years 6-9, Harford House Mr Jones  
3:45pm-5:00pm Homework Club, Library  
4:00pm-5:00pm Year 11 Design & Technology Club, DT Studio  
4:00pm-5:00pm Games Club, Library  
4:00pm-5:00pm Debating Society, GPS Hall  
4:00pm-5:00pm ECDL Training and Testing Club, G11  
5.00pm-9.30pm Rotary Club-Public Speaking at The American School -Year 10 & 11

### Wednesday 10 February

8:15am-8:30am The Spelling Bees, Library  
8:45am Assembly Year 8  
8:45am Assembly Years 6 & 7, Room 11 (Miss Brown)  
8:45am Assembly - 6th Form  
12:45pm-1:15pm Chess Club, Library  
Westminster Swimming Gala  
2.30pm U12 Football vs North Bridge House - Home  
3:45pm-4:45pm Homework Club, Room 1, PPS  
3:45pm-4:30pm Carnegie Book Club, Library  
3:45pm-5:00pm Art Club, GCSE & A Level, Harford House, Ms Stringell  
3.45pm-4.30pm Maths Club, Room 1  
3.45pm-5.30pm Italian Film Club Room 33  
4:00pm-4:30pm Mandarin Club (Mr Martijono) Room 36  
4:00pm-5:00pm Writing Club, Library

### Thursday 11 February

8:00am-8:40am Current Affairs Discussion Group, Library  
8:45am Assembly Year 9 PP Hall  
8:45am Assembly Year 11 - Mr Walker  
12:50pm-1:15pm Bitesize Club, Years 7, 8 & 9, Room 1  
3:45pm-5:00pm Homework Club, Library  
4:00pm-4:45pm Discussion Group, Library  
4:00pm-5:00pm ECDL Training and Testing Club, G11  
4:00pm Basketball, U12 and Boys U13's Team A v St Paul's Cathedral - Away

### Friday 12 February

**Mufti Day for Haiti - minimum £1**  
8:00am-8:40am Chess Club, Library  
8:45am Assembly Year 10 - Miss Greenwood  
8:45am Assembly Years 8 & 9- Mr Walker  
3:45pm-5:00pm Homework Club, Library

