

Weekly Buzz

22 January 2018



Unbeaten in the group stages at the U11 football tournament at King Alfreds....

Oliver tickets selling out - get your tickets now!

Dates for your diary

Academic and Sports fixtures

Oliver!

School Musical 2018

6-8 February
7:00pm



Finchley Rd NW3 6ET

Reserve for free

tickets@portland-place.co.uk



Portland Place School

By arrangement with MusicScope & Stage Musicals Ltd of New York.

Letter from the Headmaster



I come today to the somewhat vexed question of homework. More than anything else in education it is where parents, schools and students can differ and often on a generational basis: “I always had three hours a night homework so why doesn’t my child?” The research evidence is strong, and also quite recent, that homework makes very little difference in terms of a student’s final examination success. So why do we set it? Why do you, as parents, expect it to be set?

To answer the second question first, habit. We were all set regular homework at school; we maybe look back and feel it helped us to greater achievement. The research evidence on the efficacy of homework simply was not there then.

Homework is not something a school sets simply to occupy your child’s time of an evening! Homework is part of the discipline of study. It reinforces with students the idea that some of this great learning adventure they have to do for themselves. As students get older and move into Sixth Form and then university more and more emphasis is placed on their independent learning. It helps to instil good study habits.

Homework should always be a meaningful task designed to further the learning in a subject. It should never simply be for the sake of setting a homework. Those learning needs may vary from subject to subject. For instance, Mathematics and languages benefit from a “little and often” approach to practising new techniques, vocabulary and grammar. Art, Music and Design Technology may set more extensive pieces but less often as part of ongoing projects.

At Portland Place we do and will continue to set homework and expect it to be completed to set deadlines. That helps with the discipline of study and developing independent learning skills. The homework will always be designed to further the learning of that subject. But do not expect each subject to follow the same pattern, or for that pattern to be the same week by week.

Our Firefly platform, launching after Easter, will help to make the homework being set for your child more transparent to you as parents and help your child to manage what has been set.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. J. ...' with a flourish at the end.

Notice Board

Oliver!

Mr Chivers, Head of Drama, Ms Boyle, Head of Year 7 and Mr Hill, Director of Music

Dear All,

The Portland Place School musical is fast approaching. This year, alongside a professional orchestra, our talented students will be performing Oliver!

On the 6th, 7th, 8th February, we will be taking over the impressive and stylish theatre at JW3 on Finchley Road.

Tickets are free, but you will need to be on our list to guarantee entry.

Please email tickets@portland-place.co.uk with your name and the number of tickets you require. This show will sell-out fast!

Activities Week

From this year there will be a change to activities week. To take advantage of what London has to offer, all our activities will be based in London, with the exception of Year 5 and 6 who are going to Cornwall. Trips will include visits to museums, galleries, behind the scenes visits and other privileged opportunities we have been able to secure.

Further information will be available after Easter.

Tanzania meeting

Hannah Johnston, Head of Geography

We will be holding a Tanzania meeting on Wednesday, 24 January, where the Director & Founder of The Livingstone Tanzania Trust, Julian Page, will be coming in to talk about the project the students will be completing this July. We look forward to seeing parents and students there.

Notice Board

Humanities Club

Alison Kirk, Humanities teacher

Every Thursday after school Miss Kirk will be running a Key Stage 3 Humanities club. Come along if you would like to learn more about Global History and Geography in a fun environment. There could be the opportunity to complete quizzes, group projects and even use our knowledge to make models and build replicas of monuments and ecosystems. Possible areas of investigation could include Australia and Africa. We also always welcome suggestions from the students.

Hope to see you there!!'

Lower School Chamber Concert

Mr Hill, Director of Music

Thursday 25th January, 5:30-6:30pm - PPS Hall

The Music department is introducing a new opportunity for lower school students to showcase their talents and gain more performance experience and confidence in a less formal setting. If any students in Y5-9 would like to perform a short piece on their instrument or singing, please come and see Mr Hill or Miss Boyle, or email as soon as possible.

Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.

Notice Board

Year 6 –Year 12 Notice

YEARS 7-13 DRAMA & MUSIC TRIP 2018/19, NEW YORK

Dear Parents,

Next academic year, the Drama & Music departments are considering running a trip to New York City. This would take place during the October 2018 half term. Provisional dates are from the 14 October until 18 October 2018.

We are very excited about the prospect, it will be a fun packed few days of Drama and Music events, as well as a spot of sightseeing around the city.

Not only will it be a great trip for all involved, but the extra-curricular learning that the students will get from the activities will help students progress in their lessons, whilst gaining knowledge they would not otherwise have from lessons alone.

Pupils will fly to New York from where they will be transferred to and from the hotel by transport provided by the company. Your child will be staying in a four star hotel, provided and vetted by the company 'European Study Tours'.

Listed below are some of the activities your child will do:

- Broadway Theatre Tickets (Show TBA)
- 'Stage Door' Tour at Radio City
- 3 x All American Breakfast Buffet at Cafe R
- 3 x Evening meal in New York
- Backstage Tour of Metropolitan Opera
- Entrance to 9/11 Memorial Museum
- We will also find time to see some of New York's main sights

The cost of the trip to New York will be approximately **£1600 with a minimum take up of 20 students**. This will include everything apart from lunch money and spends. The price may change depending on the trip being oversubscribed.

At the moment we are needing an expression of interest from you regarding this trip. If your son/daughter is interested in being part of this fantastic opportunity, please could you email david.chivers@portland-place.co.uk by **Friday 26th January**

We look forward to hearing from you!

David Chivers
Head of Drama

News

On Fridays we are enriched!

Ms Nicholas, Biology Department

Every Friday afternoon, Year 11 are privy to an exclusive 'hour-of-power' in order to enrich their school experience and expose them to the wider world of employment, the community and in order to give them tools and tips on ways to take more control over their learning. On Friday 12 January, medical professional, lecturer and inventor, Prof. Art Tucker spoke with the group about his beginnings as a pupil, his failings and successes in education and employment and his journey into medicine and medical research (even after failing his Biology A-levels!). His work has taken him to many places around the globe, and he currently plays a major role in vascular health at St Bartholomew's Hospital right here in London. More recently, as an inventor, Prof. Tucker has worked on a project which seeks to improve the healing and recovery time for patients with circulatory issues linked to short and long-term hospitalisation, as well as injuries sustained in sport. Eager to give it a go, Mr Kubik put his leg on the line to test out the device (see photos) and was impressed with the result. We are extremely grateful for Prof. Tucker's visit and his frank discussion with the year group. Needless to say, both pupils and Mr Kubik found the whole experience rather 'stimulating'!



News *continued*

Drama GCSE

Guest piece Mila Douglas, Year 10

On Monday, we went to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith to watch the play *Things I Know To Be True* as part of our Drama GCSE course. For some of us, it will be the play we use to write about in our exams. Seeing the play was a very enjoyable experience, there was a lot we could take from the play such as: the interesting use of direct address and physical theatre. My favourite moment was when the youngest daughter, Rosie, realised that things can't stay the same forever and that a part of life is growing up.



(<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/sep/18/things-i-know-to-be-true-lyric-hammersmith-review>, 2018)

Year 7, Tectonic Processes

Hannah Johnston, Head of Geography

This term Yr7 are learning about tectonic processes and we started by examining the structure of the earth. Students were set a challenge of designing a machine that would be able to make the journey to the centre of the earth, taking into account the different materials and temperatures it would face. Two students (Irene and Gordon) decided to build models of their machines - very impressive!



Sports results



Sports

Rugby

Mr McLoughlin, Head of PE

Mouth Guards and Studs

In the best interests of pupils' safety, we strongly recommend that all players wear a mouthguard during any contact rugby session. It has been shown that this significantly reduces the incidence of dental injuries. Good mouldable mouth guards can be bought at most sports shops or from www.schoolblazer.com which supplies the new Portland Place PE kit. Can you ensure that pupils have RFU Approved British Standard Kite Marked studs in their football/rugby boots as opposed to plastic football studs. If your child has rubber mouldable studded boots then that's fine but screw in studs should be RFU approved. These will cost around £5 from any sports shop.

U14 Netball

Sophie Pym, Teacher of Physical Education

U12

Portland Place	11
Queens College	0

Another fantastic performance from our U14 netball team. The girls played some of their best netball to date. Their confidence paid off and they dominated the game from the onset with fantastic work throughout the court. Player of the match Freya Francis Baum and Nora Hill made a great shooting partnership whilst Erin Dytor, Michela Carbosiero and Cristina Carbosiero blocked all the incoming balls at the opponent's end. Dot Jones displayed some fantastic shooting and attacking play. Our other player of the match Audrey Hammer had an exceptional match as wing attack providing some superb passes into the circle. Ava Jones and Manon de Peyronnet worked extremely hard in centre court competing for every ball. It was a fantastic victory for the girls remaining unbeaten in the league with one game remaining.

Cross Country

Scott Rider, Teacher of Physical Education

On Wednesday 24 January PPS will be sending a squad of runners to the annual North London championships in Bedford. Portland have enjoyed great success at these championships in the past, and hopefully this year will be no exception. Runners placing highly in their race will be selected to represent North London in the national finals in Rugby later this term. Good luck to all those selected to run.

Calendar and Contact

Monday-22-January-¶

- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Symphonfree, Ms.Boyle, R2-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Woodwind-Ensemble, Mr.Slack, R1-¶
- 1.00-1.30pm-¶ U15-Netball-v-More-House-(a)-¶
- 1.00-1.30pm-¶ KS3-Bookclub, Ms.Hubner, Library-¶
- 3.30pm-¶ Yoga Class (Year10-13), Ms. Wellby, Dramastudio-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Arabic-Advanced, Mr.Mohamed, R36-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Year-8-Parents-Evening, GPS-Hall-¶
- 4.00-7.00pm-¶ Year 10,11 & 13 visit Lyric Theatre-Hammersmith-¶
- 7.30pm-¶
- ¶
- ¶

Tuesday-23-January-¶

- 08.00-08.30am-¶ Table-Tennis-Club, Ms.Rider, PPS-Hall-¶
- 1.00-1.30pm-¶ Debating-Club, Ms.Baig, Library-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Percussion-Ensemble, Mr.Jesson, R1-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ GCSE-Italian-Club, R23-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ French-Exam-Club, R22-¶
- 1.00-1.20pm-¶ Netball-Shooting-Club, Girls-PE-office-¶
- 1.10-1.30pm-¶ GCSE-PE-Club, boys-changing-rooms-PPS-¶
- 3.45-4.45pm-¶ KS3/4-Computing-Club, R34-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ Year-7-9-Maths-Club, R10-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ Year10-12-Maths-Club, G12-¶
- 3.45-4.45pm-¶ KS2-Sports-Club, PPS-Hall-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ History-GCSE-revision-club, G23-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ GCSE-Revision-Chemistry, H3/4-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ GCSE-Revision-Physics, H6/7-¶
- 4.00-6.00pm-¶ Oliver-Rehearsals, PPS-Hall-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Arts-Award-Club-(all-years)-Ms-Birtles, B3-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Japanese, Ms.Komaki, R36-¶
- 4.00-4.30pm-¶ GCSE-French-Club, Ms.Magniez, R33-¶
- ¶
- ¶

Wednesday-24-January-¶

- 8.00-8.30am-¶ Zumba, PPS-Hall-¶
- 8.00-8.30am-¶ Chamber-Choir, Ms.Boyle, R1-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Music-Theory-Club, Ms.Bottrill, R42-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Soul-Band, Mr.Bentley, R2-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Guitar-and-Ukulele-Ensemble, Mr.Hill, R1-¶
- 1.00-1.30pm-¶ Spanish-Bilingual-Club, Ms.Picado, Library-¶
- 1.00-1.30pm-¶ Netball-Shooting-Club, Girls-PE-Office-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ EAL-Homework-Club, R23, Ms.Florea-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ GCSE-Classical-Civilisation-Club, G41-¶
- 3.45-5.00pm-¶ KS2-Art-&-Craft-Club, R22-¶
- 4.00-4.45pm-¶ GCSE-Art, Art-Studio-¶
- 4.00-4.45pm-¶ GCSE-Computing-Club, G11-¶
- 4.00-4.30pm-¶ Italian-Club, R10-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Year-11-DT-GCSE, Ms.Linton, B1-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Year-11-DT-GCSE, Mr.Macfarlane-¶
- ¶ &Ms.Birtles, B1-¶
- 4.00-6.00pm-¶ Oliver-Rehearsals, PPS-Hall-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Arabic-for-Beginners, Mr.Mohamed, R35-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Russian-Advanced, Ms.Zalesny, R36-¶
- 4.00pm-¶ U14-Girls-Netball-v-Westminster-League-(a)-¶
- 4.30pm-¶ Tanzania-meeting, GPS-Hall-¶

Thursday-25-January-¶

- All-Day-¶ U11s Boys Football (King Alfred's) Tournament-(a)-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Brass-Ensemble, Mr.Bentley, R41-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ GCSE-History-Club, G23-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Portland-Place-Choir, Mr.Hill, R1-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Club-de-Francais/Ms.Magniez, Library-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ Year-13-Maths-Club, G12-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ GCSE Music Composition Support, Mr.Bentley, R42-¶
- 3.45-4.30pm-¶ GCSE-Economics-Club, G43-¶
- 3.45-4.45pm-¶ KS2-Homework-Club-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ Whole-School-Art-Club-¶
- 4.00-5.00pm-¶ DT-Cubs, Year-5-&-6, Mr.Macfarlane, B3-¶
- 4.00-6.00pm-¶ Oliver-Rehearsals, PPS-Hall-¶

Friday-26-January-¶

- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ String-Ensemble, Ms.Boyle, R1-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Jazz-Band, Mr.Hill, R2-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Textiles-Club-(all-years), Ms.Birtles, B3-¶
- 12.45-1.30pm-¶ Russian-Beginners, Mr.Burton, Library-¶
- 2.40-3.40pm-¶ KS2-Visit-to-New-London-Architecture-¶
- 4.00-6.15pm-¶ LAMDA, Lessons, R11-¶
- ¶

Oliver-Rehearsals-¶

- ¶
- Sat-20-January: 10.00-4.00pm, GPS-Hall-¶
- Sun-21-January: Oliver-Band-Call, 10.00-4.00pm, R1-¶
- ¶

Spring-Term-Parent-Teacher-Meetings-¶

Parent/Teacher-meetings-will-be-held-on-the-following-dates-on-the-5th-floor-of-the-GPS-Building-from-4pm-¶
Parents-evening-booking-system-opens-two-weeks-before-each-event. Please-note-that-certain-teachers-are-only-available-from-4.30pm-due-to-teaching-commitments.-¶

- ¶
- Monday-15-January: Year-8-¶
- Monday-22-January: Year-11-¶
- Monday-26-February: Year-9-¶
- Monday-12-March: Year-5-&6-¶
- Monday-19-March: Year-7-¶
- Monday-26-March: Year-8-¶
- ¶

TERM-DATES:¶

SPRING-TERM2018¶

- Term-Starts Thursday 4-January-¶
- Half-Term Mon 12-Feb - Fri 16-Feb-¶
- End-of-Term Wednesday 28-March-¶

CONTACT-DETAILS:¶

¶
PPS-MAIN-BUILDING-(Years-4-9)¶
58-Portland-Place, London-W1B-1NJ¶

HARFORD-HOUSE-(Art/Drama/Science)¶
101-103-Great-Portland-Street-W1W-6QE¶

GPS-BUILDING-(Years-10-13)¶
143-149-Great-Portland-Street-W1W-6QN¶

E-mail: admin@portland-place.co.uk¶

www.portland-place.co.uk-Tel: 020-7307-8700¶

PPS-TWITTER-ACCOUNTS:¶

- <https://twitter.com/PortlandPlaceHd>¶
- [@PortlandPlaceHd](#)—Main-PPS-account¶
- [@PPS_Sports](#)—Sports-Department¶
- [@PPSDrama](#)—Drama-Department¶
- [@PPSLibrary](#)—Reading-related-news¶
- [@PPSMusicDept](#)—Music-Department¶
- [@MissColes_PPS](#)—Head-of-KS2¶
- [@PPS_DT](#)—Design-Technology-¶
- [@MFLPPS](#)—MFL-Department¶
- [@year7PPS](#)—Year-7¶
- [@year8_pps](#)—Year-8¶
- [@pps_maths](#)—Maths-Department¶
- [@EnglishPPS](#)—English-Department¶
- [@PPSBiology](#)—Biology-Department¶
- ¶





Thanks for reading!

*Look for our next issue
at www.portland-place.co.uk/*

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