

Weekly Buzz



Updated schedules for clubs!

Dates for your diary

Academic and Sports fixtures



The 2018 shortlist for the CILIP Carnegie Award has been announced! Come and join Ms Hubner and Mrs O'Shea in the library on Thursday lunchtimes from 1pm to read and borrow the final shortlist of eight wonderful books, discuss them and take part in shadowing activities!

Letter from the Headmaster



Welcome back to our newsletter!

It has had a short hiatus, one Friday the weather intervened, but now returns with a bumper issue. Much to catch up on and celebrate.

Recently I have taken the opportunity to enjoy London alongside our younger students on Years 5 and 6. With Year 6 I visited the Natural History Museum where their workshops and guided tours helped develop their understanding of adaptation and evolution in living things. There was an impressive array of general knowledge on show, insight as well, as they charted through fossils the history of life on Earth from its origins in the oceans to the modern day. An especially large and scary prehistoric crocodile was a memorable exhibit. In a similar vein Year 5 visited the British Museum to round off their project on Ancient Greece. I had already seen their impressive research projects, awarding three Headmaster's commendations, and witnessing that knowledge and enthusiasm carried to the museum and its artefacts was delightful. Sadly, I cannot join them at the Science Museum next week but I am sure they will have a great day.

It again reminds us and encourages us to make the best use of our privileged location. So much in easy reach to enhance and extend what we do in the classroom: as well as the visits I was lucky enough to be able to join, Year 10 Media students went to the BFI and DT students to the Design Museum. Year 11 students went to the Apollo Theatre for the Poetry Live event.

And amongst all this Year 9 are making their important decisions on option choices for their GCSE courses next year. There was a great buzz in the room at the recent Curriculum Evening for options. Simply a reminder now that the deadline for submission is 21st March and if you have any questions, or wish to talk through the pros-and-cons of combinations, please do be in touch.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. J. ...', written in a cursive style.

Notice Board

Parent Contact & Pupil Medication - Public Use of Pupil Images

Elayn O'Neill, Deputy Head DSL Safeguarding

Parents must alert us if they are ever away from home or out of London so that we know who the “responsible contact adult is” in case of any emergency. WE hold personal details on our Database for all pupils and if there is an emergency we work through our Contact 1 Contact 2 etc telephone numbers. It is therefore very important that we are informed of any change of contact details. If you have information of a “confidential nature” please share this with the Head of Year or myself. Otherwise for straightforward absence details email admin@portland-place.co.uk or call 020 7307 8700

Pupil Medication

Elayn O'Neill, Deputy Head DSL Safeguarding

We also need to be updated on **ANY MEDICAL NEEDS** or medications of any pupil at all times-

If we are aware of this we can send a confidential email to staff and store medications for pupils in the school reception areas.

If there is ever an emergency and we have to send a pupil to hospital in an ambulance the first question the Medics ask us is –“ is the pupil on any kind of medication ?”

Public Use of Pupil Images

Elayn O'Neill, Deputy Head DSL Safeguarding

Please be aware – we have had to take down a youtube item which showed some of our pupils in a school show.-The taking or posting of visual images of any pupils without the parent's/pupil's consent is a civil matter- This is a breach of privacy laws. If the pics or videos can be construed as defamatory in some way – then you would leave yourself open to civil proceedings. This is why we explain to pupils that they cannot send /post any “snapchat whats app instagrams or the like” of any other students –These images cannot be shared or posted publicly. We always have a disclaimer in our school show programmes alerting parents of this.

News

Making the Cut for Tanzania!

Bel Sussman - Sixth Form Prefect

On Tuesday 27th March, Mr Tasic's ponytail will be no more! He has kindly agreed (after lots of discussion with the prefects!) to let one lucky person cut it off in the name of charity. Throughout next week, the Sixth Form prefects will be visiting form groups and assemblies to sell raffle tickets for the opportunity to do the deed! Tickets will sell for £2.50 each and £10 for a strip. The draw will be made on Monday 26th March, with the chop due to take place the next day at lunchtime.

All proceeds will go to the Livingstone Tanzania Trust who work together with communities, providing the tools and knowledge they need to lead themselves out of poverty. With our programmes that focus on education and enterprise, communities are beginning to own their development, building the skills and knowledge they need for truly sustainable and self-sufficient change.

Sixth Form Future Pathways Programme - Student Presentations

Miss Bridge, Assistant Head of Sixth Form

As part of the Sixth Form Future Pathways Programme, and to build up a portfolio of evidence of employability skills, Year 12 students are presenting about issues they care about to the whole Sixth Form. Our very first presentation took place this week, and was led by Sophie Carlton. She spoke to us about the importance of registering to vote, and gave us lots of thought-provoking information about who we could vote for in upcoming elections based on their manifestos. She spoke with passion and clarity and had clearly worked extremely hard to produce a wonderful presentation. Well done Sophia!

We are now looking forward to talks in the coming weeks from Jack Dhillon, Kai Ettinghausen, Helena Jankovich and Bel Sussman.

News *continued*

Congratulations to AS Business Students!

Miss Bridge, Assistant Head of Sixth Form

AS Business students Relly Warner, Ciara McCarthy, Gabriel Bazzarelli dos Santos and Charlie Tay have been taking part in the National ICAEW BASE competition over recent weeks. They have already completed an individual problem solving task, and worked well together as a team to complete a complex task, giving advice to fictional businesses about decisions they should be making to improve. As a result, they are through to the penultimate round of the competition for which they have to prepare a presentation answering two questions about real business scenarios. We wish them the very best of luck.

PI-DAY

Miss Segerstrom, Head of Maths Faculty

Wednesday 14th March (3 14) was Pi Day across the world where maths celebrate the never-ending and most famous number! Year 7 students at Portland Place celebrated with circular pies (of course) and investigated the meaning of pi, by measuring and comparing the circumference and diameter of different circular objects. The celebration ended with a competition of who could recite the most digits of pi, where Laura Liu came out as winner after memorising a whopping 67 digits! Which is this:

:41592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944592307

Well done also to Khach Tovmasyan who recalled 51 digits, Kayla Cho 40 digits, Rose Harrill 34 digits, Angel Ellis 20 digits and Ruhi Patel 8 digits.



News *continued*

Zoolab visits Portland Place on British Science Week!

By Angel Ellis

On 12/3/2018 the co-operation known as 'Zoolab' visited Portland Place School. This was to educate the student about animal adaptation, where an animal has evolved to their habitat to improve their chances of survival. This can be seen in Darwin's Finches, where the diet of the finch has resulted in changes in beak size and shape. The company sent expert animal-keeper Lillian to handle the charming Year 7s and the Year 8 and 9s. She had a variety of widely interesting animals; including the Leopard Gecko, Dragon Gecko (see Fig.1), Thorny Devil Stick Insect, Corn Snake (see Fig.2) and a Tarantula (see Fig.3). This visit was highly entertaining and educational. Many animals have adapted to their situation to make it better. The Decoy Spider is very vulnerable so it makes its web in a fashion to look like another spider, luring in prey so when trapped, makes for an easy meal. Or the Leopard Gecko, who can easily remove his tail if a predator is holding onto it. There are many examples of animals who have adapted to their habitats. If you still don't understand, think about it like this. An office worker is always distracted by his colleagues talking about things he just can resist commenting on. So the next day he brings in earmuffs to drown the noise. The difference with adaptation is that those animals not adapted will be less likely to survive and pass on their characteristics.



News *continued*

Animal Experience! - British Science Week

By Kayla Cho, Year 7

Today, Year 7 met some very special animals who visited us, courtesy of Zoolab. They came to the school and explained how animals are adapted to their environment. We had the opportunity to handle some spectacular reptiles and had a blast.

Lillian, one of Zoolab's specialists, explained how each animal had changed due to the different environments they inhabited. Those animals include: leopard geckos, hermit crabs, corn snakes and, as anticipated, tarantulas! Although handling the spider was optional, everyone got the understanding of how each animal has certain features depending on the way they live.

Some examples included; Lucy, the leopard gecko who had a massive tail that was used to store food in the desert habitat she lived in. The corn snake was called Trevor. We learned how some snakes imitated other harmful ones to make predators afraid and to ultimately stay safe.

We would like to thank our special guests for an amazing lesson on why and how animals are different, and are still changing. We had a lot of fun!

English Language Activities

We are doing everything we can to make all those language devices memorable!



News *continued*

Growth Mindset

By Daciana Florea, EAL Teacher

"During the assembly which took place last Friday 9th March, the Years 5 and 6 students were introduced to the concept of Growth Mindset by the EAL teacher, Daciana Florea. They learned about the difference between Fixed Mindset and Growth Mindset as well as the importance of the word YET (being on a learning journey). Egor used his Growth Mindset when he took part in the "envelope experiment" and chose to take the challenge rather than pass the envelope to someone else. Over the coming weeks, the students will carry out Growth Mindset activities which will expand their knowledge on the topic and help them develop a can-do attitude across the curriculum."



Sihle, Jan, Bea and Adam from Year 8 rehearsing for their Samba Assessment.

News *continued*

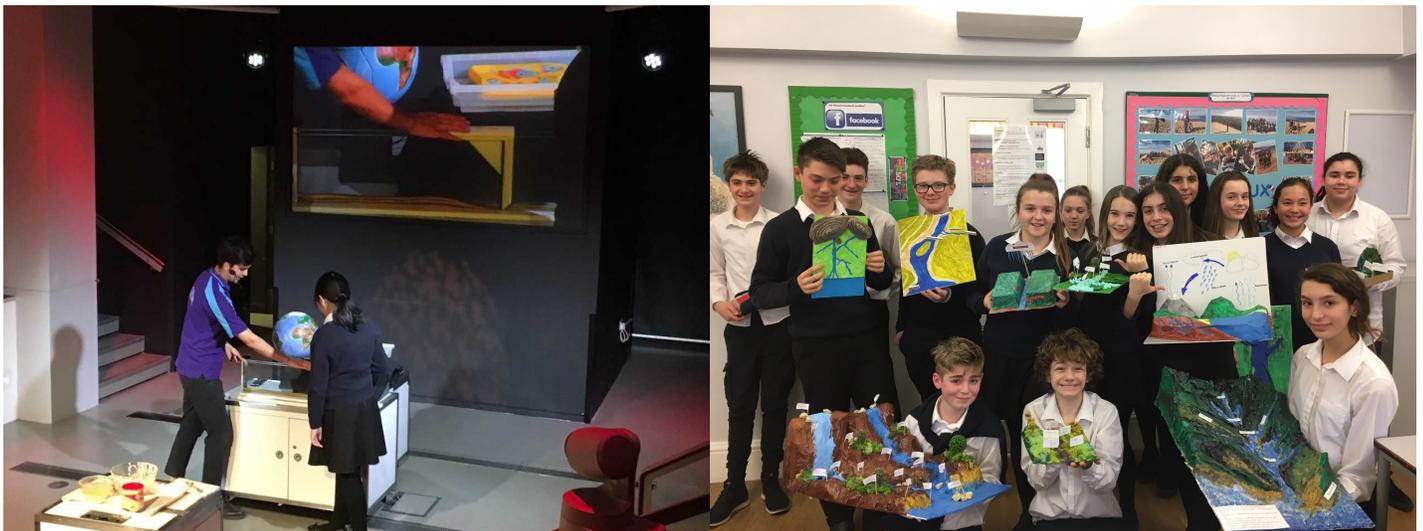
KS3 Geography

It has been a busy few weeks for KS3 Geography!

Year 7 went to the Natural History Museum and very enthusiastically took part in a fact finding mission in the Volcanoes and Earthquake section – the Kobe earthquake simulator proved very popular. In the 'Rocks the House' interactive show that they attended Cassius Swales impressed everyone with his knowledge of Non-Newtonian fluids, Laura Rouchen was a very able helper when it came to constructing fold mountains and Rose Harrill created a monster earthquake!

Over the half term break Year 7 & Year 8 have been completing their mid-unit assessments for Volcanoes and Drainage basins respectively. Once again Miss Kirk and I have been hugely impressed with the creativity and skill students have shown in constructing their models. We've had everything from papier-mâché and plaster of paris to cake - well done everyone!

Geography also has entered the world of social media with our own twitter account! Please follow <https://twitter.com/PPSGeog>



News *continued*

Ode to the Last Chip

By Lukas Von Haniel Torr, Year 11 Student

Inspired by the Poetry Live trip last week, Year 11 student Lukas Von Haniel Torr offered up this poem!

Ode to the Last Chip

Oh last chip
Deep fried in batter
Crispy to the touch
What else should matter?

Sometimes you're long
Sometimes you're curly
Sometimes you're thin
Sometimes you're burly

Your smell makes me swoon
Your taste makes me faint
That, let's be fair
Government you ain't

Lord of the greasy spoon
Prince of the cafe
Let it not be said
You're a little bit naff

Dipped in ketchup
Sprinkled with salt
Liberally doused with vinegar malt

Your fame be propound
Your name we ex-salt!

News *continued*

Jill Tarter

By Grace Gosling, Year 7 Student

Thursday the 8th of March was International Women's Day with the theme for 2018 being "Push for Progress". Year 7 have been studying poetry in English and were asked to write a poem about a person they admire for homework. Grace Gosling chose to write about the astronomer Jill Tarter.

'Jill Tarter'

Jill was a girl who was friends with the stars,
She wanted to know if there was life on Mars,
For years and years she searched the sky for hints of life,
Watching and watching the sky at night,
Waiting and waiting for signs of life.

By Grace Gosling, Year 7

"Scientific ideas shine light into dark corners."

- Jill Tarter



Sports results



Sports

Rugby

U13

Portland Place 35

Kew House 50

On Monday 5th March PPS U13s took on Kew House in a high paced, all action game of Rugby. From kick off, it was clear Kew House had some big, physical players who were up for the match....However, so did PPS! It was a ferocious battle at the breakdown as both teams looked to stamp their authority on the game. In the backs both teams carried hard, with a number of players breaking the first tackle and gain line. There was some excellent rugby being played. In the first half PPS opted for a more physical approach in the forwards and were guilty of not getting the ball out wide when opportunities arose. Kew House were frequently using their centres, particularly their dangerous inside centre who was a wrecking machine, of a ball carrier, who was hard to bring down. By the end of the first half Kew House were leading 30 - 15. In the second half the boys raised their game. The tackling and general defensive organisation improved and Kew House were suddenly finding it harder to break the gain line. The boys also started running with more aggression in to contact to put Kew House in the back foot. The second half evened out as both teams ran in some impressive tries. There were some excellent solo tries as well as some well worked team tries - it was thoroughly enjoyable to watch. PPS fought hard but unfortunately by the end of the match it was Kew who took a 50 - 35 win. PPS put in a very impressive performance against an excellent Kew House team. The thing that was most impressive was how the boys responded to the challenge and really raised their defensive performance in the second half.

Dylan Young, Oscar Bolgar and Nazim Merad made some good breaks in the backs. **Sultan Sindi** worked unbelievably hard and seemed to be involved in everything. **Sid Marber** showed great composure under some heavy pressure and demonstrated excellent passing skills. Man of the match is a really tough call this week and I think 2 players really deserve it so it is a 'men of the match' award this week. 'Men of the Match' goes to **Dylan Cohen** and **Milan Luther**. **Dylan** scored 5 tries and was excellent in both attack and defence. **Milan** was a tackling machine! He went around pitch like a man possessed, flooring any player that came near him! He also scored a great try at the end of a well worked move. Well done boys!



Sports

Swimming

Swimming has commenced for the lower school during PE lessons. It takes place at the Oasis Sports Centre in Holborn and pupils will be grouped in their year groups and experience half a term of swimming each. Swimming will take place on Monday P1 & P2 for Years 5 & 6; Monday P4 & P5 for Year 8 (Girls first half term and Boys second half term); and the Year 7 pupils will swim on Tuesdays P4 & P5 (Girls first half term/ boys second half term). Please ensure you bring your swimming kit in as well as your normal PE kit for double lessons and check the notice boards to see which group you are in. Girls should wear dark coloured one piece costumes and boys' dark coloured swimming shorts or trunks. It is advisable to bring swimming goggles and swimming hats are optional. **Please Note that the groups change after half term and the boys will now be swimming in Yr 7 and Yr 8 lessons!**

Calendar and Contact

Monday 19 March

08.00-08.30am	Table Tennis Club Y8 & 9 PPS Hall
12.45-1.30pm	Symphonietta, Miss Boyle, R2
12.45-1.30pm	Woodwind Ensemble, Mr Slack, R1
3.30pm	Yoga Class (Year10-13), Ms Wallby,
4.00-7.00pm	Arabic Advanced, Mr Mohamed, R36

Tuesday 20 March

08.00-08.30am	Table Tennis Club, Y5,6 & 7, PPS Hall
1.00-1.30pm	Debating Club, Ms Baig, Library
12.45-1.30pm	Percussion Ensemble, Mr Jesson, R2
12.45-1.30pm	GCSE Italian Club, R23
12.50 - 1.20pm	Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
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	KS2/4 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	Table Tennis Club, All Years, 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 21 March

12.45-1.30pm	Guitar & Ukulele Ensemble, Mr Hill, R1
12.45-1.30pm	Soul Band, Mr Bentley, R2
12.45-1.30pm	Music Theory Club, Ms Bottrill, R42
12.45-1.30pm	French Exam Club, R22
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
3.45-4.45pm	GCSE History Club, G23
3.45-5.00pm	KS2 Art & Craft Club, R22
4.00-4.45pm	GCSE Computing Club, G11
4.00-4.30pm	Italian Club, R10

Thursday 22 March

12.45-1.30pm	PPS Choir & Tour Choir, Mr Hill, R1
12.45-1.30pm	Brass Ensemble, Mr Bentley, R42
12.45-1.30pm	Club de Francais/Ms Magniez, Library
3.45-4.30pm	Year 13 Maths Club, G12
3.45-4.30pm	GCSE Economics Club, G43
3.45-4.45pm	KS2 Homework Club
3.45-4.30pm	GCSE Music Composition Support, Mr Bentley & Mr Hill, R42
3.50-4.30pm	KS3 Humanities Club, Room 10
4.00-5.00pm	Whole School Art Club
4.00-5.00pm	DT Cubs, Year 5 & 6, Mr Macfarlane, B3
4.00-5.00pm	Madarin, Miss Kong, R36
4.00-5.00pm	Chamber Choir, R1, Miss Boyle

Friday 23 March

8.00 - 8.30am	Table Tennis Club, Y10-13, PPS Hall
12.45-1.30pm	String Ensemble, Miss 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
4.00-6.15pm	LAMDA, Lessons, R11

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 19 March	Year 7
Monday 26 March	Year 8

TERM DATES:

SPRING TERM 2018

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](https://twitter.com/PortlandPlaceHd) – Main PPS account

[@PPSSports](https://twitter.com/PPSSports) – Sports Department

[@PPSDrama](https://twitter.com/PPSDrama) – Drama Department

[@PPSLibrary](https://twitter.com/PPSLibrary) – Reading related news

[@PPSMusicDept](https://twitter.com/PPSMusicDept) – Music Department

[@MissColes_PPS](https://twitter.com/MissColes_PPS) – Head of KS2

[@PPS_DT](https://twitter.com/PPS_DT) – Design Technology

[@MFLPPS](https://twitter.com/MFLPPS) – MFL Department

[@year7PPS](https://twitter.com/year7PPS) – Year 7

[@year8_pps](https://twitter.com/year8_pps) – Year 8

[@pps_maths](https://twitter.com/pps_maths) – Maths Department

[@EnglishPPS](https://twitter.com/EnglishPPS) – English Department

[@PPSBiology](https://twitter.com/PPSBiology) – Biology Department





Thanks for reading!

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

 [@PortlandPlaceHD](https://twitter.com/PortlandPlaceHD)