

Weekly Buzz



Updated schedules for
clubs!

Dates for your diary

Academic and Sports
fixtures

Letter from the Headmaster

The exam season is now well under way for A-level and GCSE students, whilst the younger years are preparing for their internal school exams as well.

This is a stressful time of year by the nature of public examinations and the weight given to them. You will have seen much in the press in recent days and weeks about this and about how new exam types are seen to have exacerbated it.

At PPS we are very aware of this and today I outline some of the support we have in place to help all our students through this period.

For those taking their public examinations teachers remain available throughout the season. Whenever students would have had a timetabled lesson for a subject, teachers of that subject will be available for them to meet, revise with, ask advice of. Many students are keeping to their regular routines and their mutual support is evident in GPS every day. Teachers and form tutors are there at the start of each exam session for those last minute questions, words of advice and encouragement, or a moment of calm and focus before things begin. Our dedicated team of invigilators, readers and scribes know our students well and have a watchful eye to them and not just exam regulations. Oh, yes, Dr Yazdi's "chill room" is also available.

Students up to Year 10 all have their exam timetables and receive plenty of guidance on preparation and revision. This has happened through Enrichment in Year 10 but also each day, at the end of the day, in the Library next to my office I see a busy room of students working with Miss Halcakova and Ms Findlater on revision techniques. It is all purposeful and clearly building their confidence going into these exams. For Years 5 – 9 the exams are scheduled so as to not have too many on one day. For Year 10 it's a little more like a GCSE pattern and in a sense is a first mock. In all cases though it is important to keep the school exams in perspective. Yes, I want students to take them seriously and prepare properly. I know the students themselves want to do as well as possible. But these are markers on the way to the end of Year 11. They are chances to practice those revision and preparations skills; to get used to what it feels like being in an exam; to understand what the expectations are in that scenario. The important outcome is not "Did I get 90%" or "Did I score more than ...?" but "Have I made progress?". If the answer to that last question is "Yes" then well done and look forward to next year.

Warmest regards,



Notice Board

Parent Contact

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

Parent's Guide to GCSE's

Elayn O'Neill, Deputy Head DSL Safeguarding

“Despite GCSEs seeming straightforward, many parents report that their children feel heightened anxiety over the two year GCSE exam years. Parents often ask us for assistance in supporting their children through the revision and the exam period. We have been discussing “exam techniques” during Assemblies and in Form Time.

This link is very useful ;

OCR, Cambridge University, NSPCC and Manchester Metropolitan University have just published [The Complete Parent's Guide to GCSEs](#). The primary goal of the guide is to give parents expert advice to support their children emotionally and academically.”

I hope you find this helpful

Notice Board

Years 6-13 Trip to Geneva, Switzerland

Friday 12th October - Tuesday 16th October 2018

The MFL department is considering a trip to Geneva in October 2018. This will take place from 12th October until 16 October 2018.

It will be a fun packed few days of discovering this amazing area of Switzerland, cycling in beautiful natural parks, cruising on a boat around the Lake Leman and also visiting the United Nation Palace, amongst many other visits. All students are invited to sign up for this trip as it will be cross-curricular.

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

Your child will be flying to Geneva, staying in a hotel and eating out at local restaurants, provided and vetted by the travel company.

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

- Boat cruise: Lake Geneva/Leman
- Natural history museum
- Botanical garden
- United Nations Of Geneva -UNOG – Palais des nations entrance, please see link [here](#)
- Red cross museum entrance
- Archaeological site of St. Peter's Cathedral, please see link [here](#) – tunnels and ruins
- Museum of the history of science
- 1x Cycle hire

The cost of the trip to Geneva will be approximately **£850 for a minimum take up of 20 students (on a first come first served basis)**. This is a close approximation at this time. This will include everything apart from lunch and spending money. The price may change depending on the number of students on the trip.

At the moment we are needing an expression of interest from you in this trip. If your son/daughter is interested in being part of this fantastic opportunity, please could we ask that you email thomas.lalande@portland-place.co.uk by Friday 18th May.

Notice Board



Geneva, Switzerland

News

Hot Off The Press - The Portland Placer is Launched!

Ms O'Donnell, Head of English

This week saw the launch of the first issue of The Portland Placer, our student run newspaper. The aim is to have a publication which gives Portland Place students an opportunity to engage with external current affairs, as well as anything of interest within the school. High praise goes to the editorial team: Mila Douglas, Emanuel Curto and Rosie Goncalves. Relly Warner designed and formatted the entire publication alongside revising for her AS exams, and we are extremely grateful for her expertise. We would love to encourage any pupils to contribute to the future issue by writing an article on any topic of their choice. Pupils should liaise in the first instance with their English teachers who can guide them on content and style and pass on articles to the editorial team. We would especially love to see reviews of books, films and games, as well as articles from our musicians and sports stars.



News *continued*

DT Students Complete Their Model Bridges Project

Mr Bradford & Mr Macfarlane, DT Department

Students in Year 9 have undertaken a structures project this half term. From the hangmans gibbet to the box girder bridge, students have made and tested each structure. The bridges are made only from pieces of wood and joined with hot glue, to demonstrate the integrity and simplicity of structures and how they work. From ties, struts and beams to the forces applied, compressive, rotational, shear and tension.

To prove the accuracy and capability, students stood with their full weight on the bridges suspended on a test jig. All bar one bridge held steady, some even standing up to two students on the bridge. The highest load was 150kg.



News *continued*

Portland Place School Singing Workshop

Mr Hill, Head of Music

On Thursday 10th May, we were very pleased to welcome Gregory Batsleer (Chorus Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus) and Amanda Macleod (Education and Outreach Manager with The Sixteen) to Portland Place to lead a singing workshop with the whole of Key Stage 2, Year 7 and Year 8, and a group of Year 9 students.

During the day, the students explored their voices through warm-ups, body percussion, creating soundscapes and a number of vocal games.

In addition, the whole group learned the song 'Africa' by Toto in harmony, culminating in a recording of the whole group in PPS Hall. The final recording is just being mixed down and we'll be able to share it with you on the website and @PPSMusicDept in due course.

In the meantime, here's some photos from the day. Massive thanks to Mr Bentley for linking with Greg and Amanda, to all the staff who supported during the day, but most of all the students who worked together to produce the final recording!



News *continued*

Euro Tool Box

Mrs Carvalho, Librarian

The school library is currently hosting a collection of European language picture books and novels. They are on loan to us until 11 June, from London's various cultural institutes. We have books available in: French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Polish.

The books are lovely to flick through and provide an opportunity to improve your reading skills in another language. They also give bilingual speakers in our school chance to practise reading in their other language(s). I am looking for staff and students to review the books for our library blog. For more information ask Mrs Carvalho in the library or email Belinda.oshea@portland-place.co.uk

Year 5 had a session using the books with Miss Coles on Wednesday. We used the words that we already knew and the pictures to predict what was happening in the stories and made artwork based on the books.

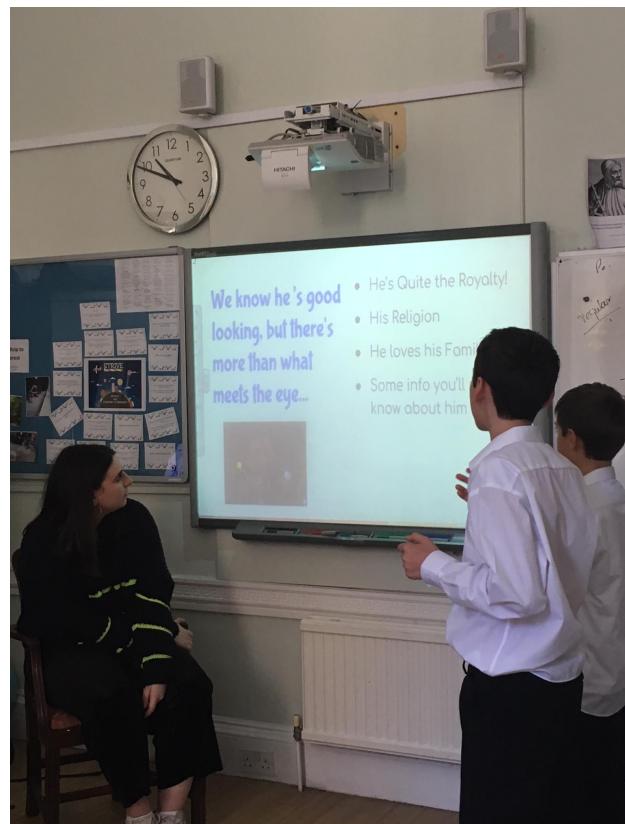


News *continued*

Year 7 History Presentations

Ms Butler, Head of Humanities

In History, Elizabeth the First has been on Blind Date, with the Year 7 History pupils on hand to select her a suitable marriage match! Year 7 produced some excellent presentations on potential suitors, these highlighted exemplary independent research and superb team work skills and were delivered with passion, charisma and humour! A particular highlight was a 'Roast that Bachelor' component. I was blown away by their presentations and delivery...they have shown themselves to not only be brilliant historians, but also astute matchmakers!



News *continued*

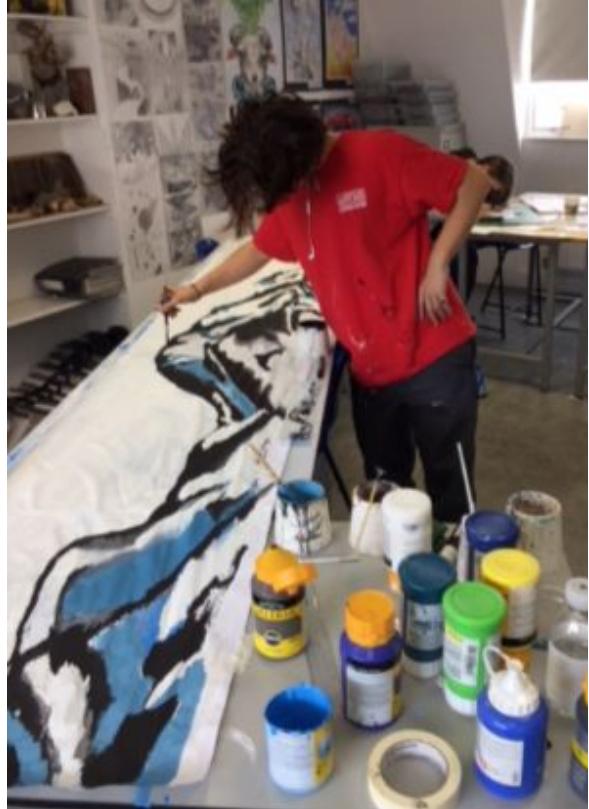
A Level & GCSE Art Practical

Mr Jones, Head of Art

The Fine Art A-level and GCSE practical exams have now finished and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'well done!' to all of our hard working students.

Ms Osborne, Ms Stringell and I have all been very impressed by the quality and ambition of your work and the single-minded determination to 'bravely go' into uncharted waters, in order to demonstrate your creative flair and vision: we are all very proud of you!

The exams are the culmination of years of consistent practice, building craft skills and creativity in equal measure. I hope to see you all at the Creative Arts Faculty Summer Exhibition on 28th July—it promises to be one of the best ever!



Sports results



Sports

Cricket

Cricket Club

We are running cricket club this term mainly on Tuesday's after school. This is taking place at Lord's Indoor Cricket School from 4pm – 5pm. If you wish to attend you must have cricket 'whites' otherwise you will not be permitted into the Cricket School, these are the rules of the MCC. Please register your interest on a weekly basis with Mr Kubik in the PE department to avoid missing out as we have limited spaces. **THERE WILL BE NO CRICKET CLUB NEXT WEEK DUE TO A TEST MATCH AT LORDS.**

Cricket

Portland Place School: 78-2

Kew House: 80-3

(Kew House win by 2 runs)

On Monday afternoon, Portland's Year 8's hosted Kew House at Regents Park in a 16 over match. Portland batted first and made a steady start as openers **Adam Khan** and **Hamish Cooper** put on a partnership of 31 before **Khan** played on to his stumps and was dismissed for 11. **Cooper** went on to score an unbeaten 33, playing numerous fine pull shots as Portland put on 78 for 2. This was a modest total, but PPS made a great start with the ball in hand as **Khan** caught Kew's opener LBW in the first over and **Cooper** smashed the stumps twice in the second over to leave Kew 5 for 3. However, Kew's 4th and 5th batters were an impressive pair and they quickly established themselves against Portland's openers and then went on to punish our 3rd and 4th bowlers. Kew eventually scored 80 for 3 in the 12th over to win the match.

Special mention should go to **Hamish Cooper** who was the pick of our players with both bat and ball despite being a Year 7 in this Year 8 match. **Adam Khan** also performed admirably, as did **Arthur Quairel**, who kept wicket for the first time in a school match.

Sports

Athletics

Bedford ISA London North Athletics Championships

On Friday 11th May, PPS took an Athletics team to Bedford to compete in the North London Independent Schools Athletics Championships. There was a fantastic atmosphere at the competition and PPS put in some superb performances across the track and field events! The level of competition here is always very high but PPS performed really well and showed a great desire and determination to push for medals. The team also really supported their peers as they competed throughout the day. **Nolan Song** (Yr 7) launched the Shot Put to secure his first gold medal at the ISA NL Championships whilst **Mohammed Javiad** powered his way to the gold medal in the Yr 6 event. **Alex McDonald** (Yr 9) recorded a sprint double in the Yr 9 Boys category with an impressive win in the 100m before following it up with victory in the 200m whilst setting a new Yr 9 Boys School Record. **Freya Francis Baum**, last year's ISA National Long Jump bronze medallist, eased her way to victory in the Yr 9 girls Long Jump. There were some very impressive performances and everyone should be very proud of their efforts! Overall the team came away with a total of 24 Medals! Medallists included:

Gold

Nolan Song – Shot Put
Mohammed Javiad – Shot Put
Alex McDonald – 100m, 200m (**NEW SCHOOL RECORD**)
Freya Francis Baum -Long Jump



Silver

Curtis O'Keefe - 1500m
Jake Cossey – Javelin, Discus
Eli Anderson – High Jump
Hassan Nazzal – Shot Put, Discus
Bosco Buonaguidi – High Jump
Beatrice Curto - 80 metres hurdles
Kayla Cho - High Jump
Erin Dytor – Discus
Year 7 Boys Relay Team
Year 9 Boys Relay Team
Year 9 Girls Relay Team

Bronze

Christopher Dhali – 150m
Nolan Song – Long jump
Sam Ingram – 80m Hurdles
Laurie Ashcroft – Triple Jump
Max Ackermann – Shot Put
Year 5 Boys Relay Team



Calendar and Contact

Monday 21 May		Friday 25 May	
08.00-08.30am	Table Tennis Club Y8 & 9 PPS Hall	8.00 - 8.30am	Table Tennis Club, Y10-13, PPS Hall
12.45-1.30pm	Symphonfietta, Miss Boyle, R2	12.45-1.30pm	String Ensemble, Miss Boyle, R1
12.45-1.30pm	Woodwind Ensemble, Mr Slack, R1	12.45-1.30pm	Jazz Band, Mr Hill, R2
Tuesday 22 May		12.45-1.30pm	Textiles Club (all years), Ms Birtles, B3
08.00-08.30am	Table Tennis Club, Y5,6 & 7, PPS Hall	12.45-1.30pm	Russian Beginners, Mr Burton, Library
12.45-1.30pm	Percussion Ensemble, Mr Jesson, R2	4.00-6.15pm	LAMDA, Lessons, R11
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	KS3/4 Computing Club, R34		
3.45-4.30pm	Year 7-9 Maths Club, R10		
3.45-4.30pm	Year 10-12 Maths Club, G12		
3.45-4.45pm	Table Tennis Club, All Years, PPS Hall		
Wednesday 23 May			
8.10-9.00am	Music Tour Chamber Choir, Miss Boyle, R1		
7.45-8.45am	Yoga, Louise, PPS Hall		
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	Netball Shooting Club, Girls PE Office		
3.45-4.30pm	EAL Homework Club, R23, Ms Florea		
3.45-4.45pm	GCSE History Club, G23		
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		
Thursday 24 May			
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		
12.45-1.30pm	Carnegie Book Club, Miss Hubner, 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		
3.45-4.45pm	GCSE Revision Biology, H2		
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		

TERM DATES:

SUMMER TERM 2018

Term Starts	Tuesday 17 April
Half Term	Mon 28 May – Fri 1 June
End of Term	Friday 6 July

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

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PPS TWITTER ACCOUNTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Thanks for reading!

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