

# Weekly Buzz



Updated schedules for clubs!

Dates for your diary

Academic and Sports fixtures

# Letter from the Headmaster

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Another interesting year in the life of Portland Place School draws to a close. We celebrated our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary and presaged a number of changes for our future. What always continues to hearten me is the atmosphere in the school, the friendly, close supportive way our students and teachers go about their day, enjoying their learning together. It is always commented on by guests and, pleasingly, by several prospective parents I have seen this week.

Further proof of this, were it needed, was seen at our recent Celebration Day, Art Exhibition and Sports Day. The buzz of excitement and genuine sense of community was palpable. It was brilliant to be able to recognize such broad and significant achievements by our students over this last year.

So, there is a marked change coming to Portland Place in the next few years in terms of how it is organised. *But not in terms of that sense of community, those relationships, that enjoyment. The aims, ethos and values you chose Portland Place School for will remain firmly at the heart of all we do.*

I wish you all a happy, relaxing, peaceful summer!

Warmest regards,



David Bradbury  
Headmaster



# Notice Board

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## Jamie McLoughlin

It is with considerable sadness, as we reach the end of term, that we say farewell to Mr McLoughlin who will be leaving Portland Place after 18 years' service. Mr McLoughlin came to Portland Place back in 2000 and became head of department the year after. During his time at PPS, sport and PE has gone from strength to strength - including multiple national champions in athletics, football and netball league champions and even international honours in football. He will be sorely missed by both his colleagues and the pupils and we wish him the very best with his future endeavours.



## Lydia Coles

Sadly, we say goodbye to Lydia Coles who joined PPS in 2011 and has been synonymous with, nay leading, our Key Stage 2 ever since. The numbers may have ebbed and flowed over those years but never Lydia's good humour and her dedication, both to her students and to the school. She has always had her students best interests at heart. It is also difficult to think of anyone more gregarious among the staff, her most recent drive to convert people to Friday evening softball in the park! As ever, in this last week of term she has taken our KS2 students to Cornwall for a trip we know they will long remember. One parent in the outgoing Year 11 described Lydia to me as "a great mentor and teacher" and that is all any of us in this profession would ever hope for – to be thought of as such. Lydia leaves us now for a senior role as Director of Studies at Queen's Gate Prep School and she goes with our best wishes.



# Notice Board

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## Staffing changes for September

*Mr Bradbury*

We say goodbye to several teachers at the end of this year. Those moving to a variety of new schools, new countries and new challenges are: Dr Aggarwal; Jisha Benny; Chris Bradford; Hannah Bridge; Colin Bryce; Deirdre Cosgrove; Konstantinos Foskolos; Dhawal Joshi; Daniel Kemp; Chad Macfarlane; Alison Kirk; Sophie Pym; Imogen Riley; Nick Bentley; Niall O'Connor; Penny Ritchie. We have a particular mention for Lydia Coles who has led our Key Stage 2; Jamie McLoughlin, our long standing Head of PE; and Elayn O'Neill, our Deputy Head Pastoral.

They go with huge thanks for their contribution to the school and all our very best wishes for their future.

New staff joining us in September will be Dr Chen Yu and Theodora Chen in our Mathematics Faculty; Robert Dyer, a biologist, in our Science Faculty and Melanie Thorne, a business and economics specialist, in our Humanities Faculty.

Gail Burananthai joined our office team this term and will continue with us next year and Louise Gannon will be our new Creative Arts technician.

I have also been able to make some strong internal appointments for key roles as well. Ambreen Baig and Mike Flack will share responsibilities as co-Heads of Year 12; Sarah Birtles (bronze) and Bella Campbell (silver and gold) will lead our Duke of Edinburgh programme.

# News

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## Nicolas Curto

*Mr Sagoo*

Congratulations to Nicolas Curto for achieving a copper certificate in the notorious Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This is a national competition with over 500 schools entering. Nicolas has upheld the standard of previous PPS pupils who have done well in the Olympiad.

Well done Nicolas!



# News

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## Globe Players visit Years 9 & 10

*Miss O'Donnell*

Years 9 and 10 were treated to two performances from the Globe Players on Tuesday afternoon. The first was a cleverly constructed piece based around the central plot and characters of *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Great Expectations*, interwoven with key contextual information about Charles Dickens' life and times. Teddy D'Ancona, Nora Hill and Tommy Souter were great sports and went along with the audience participation with a smile! The second was a performance of one of the key GCSE texts, *A Christmas Carol*, which acted as an introduction for Year 9, who will begin studying it in September and as revision for Year 10. Despite it not quite being the season, or temperature, that any of us are used to during the festive period in London, we all ended by wishing each other a Merry Christmas, and the goodwill was definitely evident!



# News

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## Music Tour to Belgium

*Mr Hill*

This year's Music Tour took 16 students from the Portland Place Choir and Chamber Choir to Belgium. After a quick journey over to our hotel in Ypres, everyone settled in and had a quick rehearsal for Day 2.

Concert 1 was on the Kinderland stage at the Bobbejaanland theme park followed by some time in the sun and a few rollercoasters and slushes!

Day 3 was a trip to Bruges with some sightseeing on a canal cruise and exploration of the many chocolate, lace and souvenir shops. After lunch was concert number 2 at St Salvatore Cathedral - a great audience, amazing acoustics and a fantastic performance from everyone. In the evening, we went to the Menin Gate for the 31,091st Last Post Ceremony which has taken place every evening at 8pm since 1928 to remember those that fell in the battle of Ypres but who were never given a grave - an estimated 90,000 soldiers.

The final day gave us a trip back into Ypres centre with plenty more chocolate consuming and souvenir buying before the return coach trip.

An absolutely massive thanks to all the students who were fabulous and made the staff very proud with their hard-work, enthusiasm, commitment and good humour!!



# News

## 2017-2018 Celebration Day

*Ms Young*

On Thursday 28th June, the school made the short trip to Regent Hall on Oxford Street and gathered, with parents and governors, to celebrate the annual whole school Celebration Day. The ceremony celebrated the very best of students' academic progress and achievement with awards and prizes handed, by Heads of Faculty, to the chosen students whose efforts and hard work in their subjects were awarded with applause.

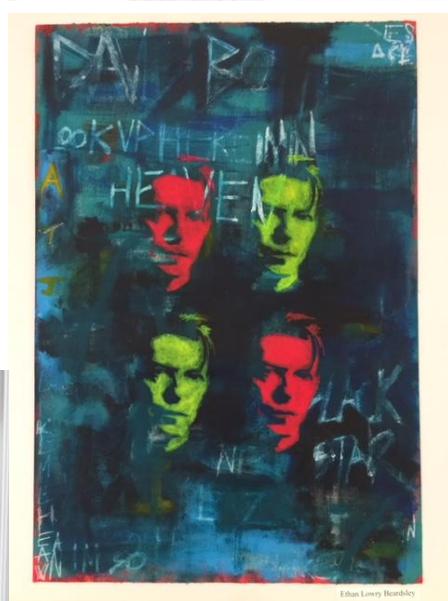
A huge thank you to parents who watched as students took the stage to perform songs, monologues and poetry readings to entertain the audience. The school could not be more proud of the nominees and winners.



# News

## Creative Arts Exhibition

On Thursday 28th June 2018, the Creative Arts Faculty hosted an exhibition displaying all of the DT, artwork and Drama performances created across the 2017-2018 academic year. Thank you to all that attended the event. Below are some pictures taken by Mr Jones.



# News

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## Year 8 Globe Theatre Tour

*Miss O'Donnell*

Year 8 took part in a tour of The Globe Theatre and an acting workshop based on Twelfth Night, their studied Shakespeare play this year. Notable contributions came from Polina Zaluzhskaya, Jess Metchem Hermer, Dylan Cohen, Freddie Goold, Caspar Waldron and Elliot Greenfield. Stars of the show were Dylan Young and Joey Turner-Etridge, who performed brilliantly as Olivia and Malvolio, in the very amusing Act 3 scene 4. Students had lots of fun and also learned a lot about the intricacies of Shakespearean acting. A lovely lunch on the South Bank and ice creams by the Tate completed a wonderful day.



# News

## Year 7 Trip to British Library

*Miss O'Donnell*

Year 7 attended a creative writing workshop at The British Library on Wednesday morning. They were lead around various parts of the library, including the Sir John Ritblat Treasures room and the Windrush Exhibition, and had to complete tasks which enabled them to build up a bank of vocabulary. This was then utilised to great effect in the second half of the session, where they had to write a detailed plan and plot outline for an imaginary character of their choice, and then move on to a group poem using fragments of each of their stories. Amongst some surreal offerings about candyfloss and shadow monsters, Victor Calbucci, Sylvan Farmer, Rory Dixon and Madoc Jones came up with a beautiful and poignant poem about sadness and love – a fantastic amalgamation!



# News

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## Author Visit

Mrs Carvalho

We were very lucky to host a workshop by prize-winning author-illustrator William Grill on Monday, as part of our activities week programme. William Grill's books, *Shackleton's Journey* (previous Kate Greenaway illustration award winner) and the *Wolves of Carrumpaw* are visually striking picture books, inspired by historic events and nature. These titles have strong appeal to lovers of graphic novels and non-fiction titles.

Will told us a bit about his books and his background, he struggled with dyslexia at school but still went on to work with stories. He brought in his sketch books and shows us how he plans out his books. Students were fascinated by his work. For *Wolves of Carrumpaw* he went to a wolf reservation to enable him to watch the wolves closely, so that he could draw them correctly.

He encouraged students who draw, to draw daily to improve your craft and also shared the message that it is when you challenge yourself you grow. He did some live drawing and managed to sketch a quick portrait of Nicolas! Will's books are available to borrow in PPS library.



# Sports results



# Sports

## Wigmore Triumphant in the Closest Ever Sports Day!

Last Friday, in hot and sunny conditions, the whole school gathered at Perivale Park Athletics Track for our annual Sports Day. As usual, many parents came to cheer on their children and take part in some hotly contested events. All of our pupils performed with tremendous team spirit and energy; whether they were breaking sports day records, or finishing an 800m to score a few more valuable points for their house team. However, it was the teachers who took home the first of the trophies up for grabs, as they ran away with the McLoughlin Cup of fun events vs the year 5 & 6 pupils and the parents.

Many of our pupils produced outstanding individual performances and deserve a special mention: Dylan Cohen (Year 8) broke the school record as well as the championship record in the 200m with a blistering time of 25.8sec. Nolan Song (Y7) continued his fine form in the shot put, after winning bronze at the national ISA finals, with a championship record of 8.83m. the Victor Ludorum trophies were awarded to Alex McDonald (Y9) and Erin Dytor (Y9). Erin won gold in the high jump, long jump, 200m and 100m, where she broke the sports day record

The overall Sports Day Trophy went right down to the wire. It was the closest run competition in school history, with Wigmore winning by a single point over last year's winners, Cavendish, by 990 points to 989. Devonshire were third with 903 and Langham were fourth with 724 points. Congratulations to all Wigmore pupils and staff who showed the value of an organised and motivated team in coming back from two years of defeat to reclaim the title.



# Sports

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## Charity Cake Sale

The Parents Association, with the help of some of our sixth formers, ran a cake sale in aid of Centrepoint; a charity for the homeless. As well as providing some much needed refreshments through the very hot conditions, they were able to raise nearly £200 !





**Thanks for reading!**

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