

THE WEEKLY BUZZ

Portland Place School

21 October 2019

Haunted House
evening!

Modern Foreign
Languages Day:
THE FULL REPORT

Year 6 visit
The Imperial
War Museum!



Uniform

We have a uniform at PPS that is designed to be simple, hard wearing, easy to obtain and not involve any bespoke ties or blazers! It is also designed so it can be worn smartly. The majority of our students do just that and with pride. Some try not to, or to vary the uniform in some way (branded jumpers and trainers, ever shorter skirts, etc.) – mainly students in Years 10 & 11. So here is a reminder of what our uniform is, with the correct uniform being modelled, and we look forward to seeing all students in correct uniform after half term.

School uniform, including footwear, must be worn to and from school.

Years 6, 7, 8 and 9

Classroom:

Girls white button to the neck cotton blouse (5)	Shoes – leather (black only)
Boys white button to the neck cotton shirt (5)	Girls Knee Length Socks (Black Only) OR Tights (black only)
Navy V neck jumper (2)	Boys Socks (black only)
Skirts/school trousers (black only) Trousers may be worn by girls	

Upper School – Years 10 and 11

Classroom:

Boys – long or short sleeve white button to the neck cotton shirts (4) Girls – long or short sleeve white rever-necked cotton shirts (4)	Shoes – leather (black only)
Skirts/school trousers (black only) Trousers may be worn by girls	Girls Knee Length Socks (Black Only) OR Tights (black only)
Boys – black v or round necked jumper (2) Girls – black v necked jumper (2)	Boys Socks (black only)

Restrictions:

- Skirts must be no shorter than 5 cm (2") above the knee, (no tight clinging fabrics)
- Leggings, jogging bottoms, combat trousers, jeans, chinos, skinny leg trousers, patterned skirts or trousers are not permitted
- Shoes must not have heels higher than 5 cm (2"). Shoes must provide support (e.g. no ballet-style shoes)
- Outside coats/hoodies/jackets are not to be worn inside the school



Portland
Place
School



Reminder



Year 10 students looking smart in correct uniform



Headmaster's Letter



Our first half term of this academic year comes to a close with some brilliant events.

The assembly on Monday was well attended by parents and we had examples of students' music, acting, oratory and creative writing. My thanks to all our students who performed. We are all now looking forward to seeing the full performance of *The Tempest* at the Shakespeare Schools Festival on 7th November.

Haunted House yesterday evening was a superb showcase for what years 6 and 7 have done in Art, Drama and Music through this half term – Mexican *Día de Muertos*-inspired masks, plushy ghosts and amazing spider webs decorated PPS as students performed three short plays on the death of Lady Blackwood, the ghost of PPS! (Any building this old has to have at least one ghost.) All brilliantly staged and performed – huge thanks to the Creative Arts faculty for bringing this special event together. It was also a great illustration of how quickly these new students have settled into Portland Place and made it their home, how well they work together and support each other, and, of course, of their great talents.

And, at around 5am this morning, our footballers embarked for their tour to Madrid – good luck to them in Spain.

I wish you all a very restful half term break.

David Bradbury



Portland
Place
School

Noticeboard

Loire Valley Trip — May 2020



- **Chocolaterie and boulangerie visit (including tasting sessions!)**
- **River cruise around [Château de Chenonceau](#)**
- **Goat farm visit and cheese tasting**
- **Visit of [Château de Chambord](#)**
- **Day at [Futuroscope](#) (theme park)**
- **And more!**

Open to all students from Y6 to Y10

Closing date to register: Wednesday 6th November

Talk to Miss Magniez if you are interested!

Computer Science

2019 Challenge: 4th - 15th November



The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

The Bebras challenges are made of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and are delivered online. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking.

The aim is to solve as many as you can in the allotted time.

There are six separate challenges this year. Unlike many other competitions this is suitable for students of all abilities – the aim is to solve as many problems as you can in the allotted time.

Groups:

- Seniors: Years 10 & 11
- Intermediates: Years 8 & 9
- Juniors: Years 6 & 7

Dates: Any 40 minute period during the two allocated weeks in November.

Awards:

We emphasise participation but also recognise top performing students. There will be the following types of certificates available to students in each age group:

- Certificate of Participation
- Certification of Merit
- Certificate of Distinction
- Best in School

The top achieving students will be invited to attend a final round and celebration in the new year. This will take place in Hertford College and the Department of Computer Science at Oxford University. The top 10% of students in these age groups will also be invited to enter the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge in March.

Please, come to room G34 (during break time or after school) to talk to Dr. Yazdi if you are interested.



Noticeboard

SEN Department

Children who feel good about themselves have the confidence to try new things and they feel proud of what they can do. Self-esteem helps children cope with mistakes and it makes them try again, even if they fail at first.

During half term, please choose a few ideas from the poster below and discuss them with you son/ daughter. Try to find out how they feel about themselves and start a conversation about how they can build their self-esteem through different activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Ms Florea





Interview and Apprenticeship Workshop

Last Friday students were able to have an interview workshop in which they discussed the different techniques needed in order to have a smooth and comfortable experience.

I was really impressed to hear how many questions were asked during the workshop and have heard many positive things - well done to our Year 11's!

If you missed the session and wanted to get some tips do have a read over the following bullet points:

First impressions

For a first impression:

About 70% depends on your body language and image.

About 20% depends on your tone of voice.

Only 10% depends on what you say.

Be polite to everyone - from the first receptionist onwards.

Many interviewers may ask their office staff for their impressions.

Give a firm handshake.

Practise if you don't often shake hands with people.

Make sure that your hands are not clammy.

Make and maintain eye contact.

Smile

Greet the interviewer by name but NOT their first name.

If you don't know the correct pronunciation check it before you go in.

Wait to be offered a chair before you sit.

In the interview

Look for opportunities to be proactive and ask your own questions.

Give the interviewer your full attention. Wait for the interviewer to finish speaking before you ask your question or provide an answer.

Make sure that you understand everything that has been said - if not clarify before asking.

Maintain eye contact during the interview - do not begin to look around the room.

Smile and relax.

Don't fidget.

Stay alert.

Mirror the interviewers techniques e.g. laugh when he laughs.

Don't speak in a monotone - use a range of tones.

Keep a confident and honest attitude throughout the interview.

Aim for clarity, brevity and honesty when answering your questions - don't ramble.



Questions which might be asked (Feel free to practice with these over half term)

What is your greatest strengths/areas you could work on?

Show that you have identified a strength and are utilizing it or a area to develop and are working on it.

Tell me about yourself.

This is a good opportunity to reveal your strengths that you included in your personal profile.

What are your biggest accomplishments?

Where do you see yourself in the future?

How do you handle criticism?

Portray the attitude that all criticism has a benefit

What positive qualities can you bring to the school?

Show unique skills/experience

Describe a difficult problem that you have had to deal with.

Explain your approach, result and how a bad outcome was averted.

How do you work under pressure?

How you avoid it and how you deal with it e.g. gym, sport.

Do you prefer working alone or with others?

Show how you work well in both.

How would you describe yourself?

How could you improve yourself?

What motivates you?

What are your goals whilst you're here?

Are you competitive?

How did you progress in your last school?

Describe a typical day at your last school.

Do you consider yourself to be a natural leader?

What interests you most about the school?

Thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and staff for their constant support over the past six weeks. The first half of term has seen us introduce many of our students, especially in Year 11 to the many different pathways on offer after PPS.

Should any parents have any feedback or questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email (mike.flack@portland-place.co.uk).

When we return I look forward to taking twelve of our Portland Place students to DLD College London for a Taster Day, welcoming more colleges (especially those from the state sector) into PPS and create more learning opportunities within the Post 16 programme for our younger year groups.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break.

Michael Flack

Modern Foreign Languages

Y10/11/13 French trip to L'Institut Français, South Kensington

On Thursday last week, Y10 to Y13 students went to the French Institute for a fully immersive French experience, learning about WW2 in France and studying a movie on the A level curriculum, *Au Revoir Les Enfants*, by Louis Malle. In the morning, PPS students were paired up with students from other schools and worked around the language and vocabulary of film analysis and war. After lunch, students enjoyed a screening of the movie at the Ciné Lumière. Mr Lalande was very impressed with everyone's hard work and effort!



Jude co-working with students from other schools



Waiting for the film!



Portland
Place
School

News

Languages day

On Friday, Languages Day returned to PPS! Everyone was so excited, even the rain did not stop teachers on that day, as they were eagerly waiting outside of PPS welcoming students, trying to see everyone's outfit. Mr Hill was even playing the guitar as an "alternative staff band" spontaneously formed in the street...

And they weren't disappointed! Students turned up with outstanding international outfits and some amazing cakes! There were plenty of languages activities around the school and Mr Lalande even heard students introducing themselves in foreign languages in an ICT lesson. At break time, Y6 and Y7 sold their homemade cakes in what looked like an international food hall! The best dressed competition happened in the library as Ms Baker filmed students walking down the run way- it was a very difficult decision due to participants' impressive costumes but the overall winner was crowned in presence of the headmaster... Marcus in Y7!

The MFL faculty would like to thank all parents, students and staff for supporting the event and celebrating languages with us.

Thanks to your generous donations we raised a total of...



£291!

This money will be donated to the [Autism Bedfordshire](#) charity.

Turn the page for photos of just some of the imaginative costumes students and staff created for this day!

MFL Faculty



Portland
Place
School

News



Josh, traditional Japanese boy



Gene, sushi boy



Caitlin, Chinese girl



Hazuki, dragon boy



Alex, Albert Einstein



Portland
Place
School

News



Jesse and the
welcoming committee



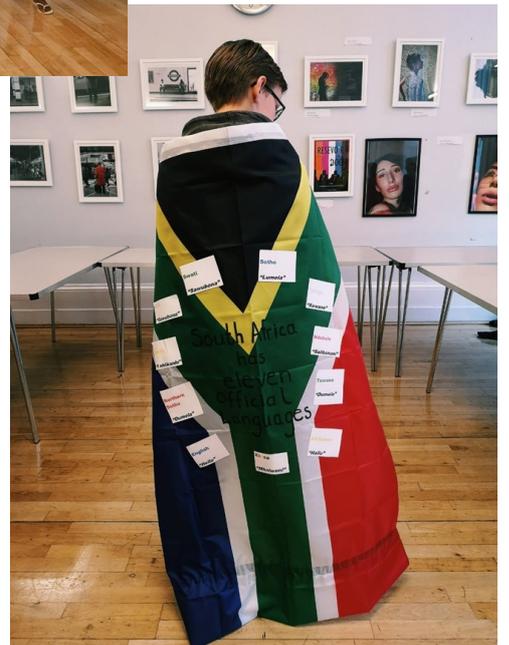
PPS alternative
music band



Year 8



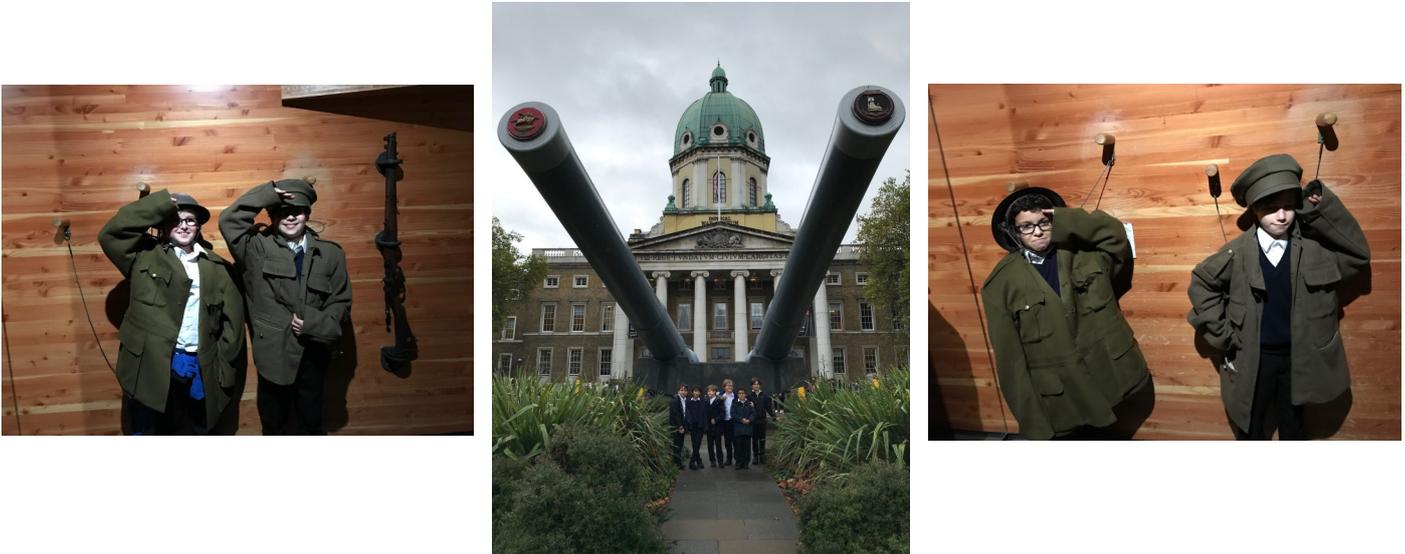
Sultan and Leo, los mariachis



Marcus, South Africa, **winner of the fancy dress competition!**

History

Year 6 went on an exciting trip to the Imperial War Museum on Wednesday this week. They got an opportunity to try on army uniforms and experience what it was like to be in the trenches. They were fantastic detectives and found out lots of facts about trench life, weapons and the hazards that soldiers had to contend with. Thank you to Mr Lalande for accompanying the class on this brilliant History trip.



SEN Department

A huge thank you from the SEN department to everyone involved in providing the cakes and assisting us with the DAW bake sale! We really appreciate your contributions.

A very generous sum of **just over £200.00**. A very special thanks to all of the parents volunteers. You were absolutely amazing!



Enrichment

Our Y11 students had the privilege to receive top tips from **Wize Up** to prepare for future college interviews.

There is so much that can be done before the interview to maximize your chances of being successful (writing down a few questions to ask to show your interest or researching information about the school you applying to, for example) so make sure you are prepared.

We also discussed the importance of first impressions and body language, like good eye contact, as well as the content of the conversation you will have. Little details can make a bit difference, please go over the key advice discussed during this session by using this link: <https://wizeup.me/interviews>

There will be more opportunities to practise these skills during Enrichment lessons after half-term but if you would like a mock interview with a teacher, please contact your Enrichment teacher.



Drama

This week has been very busy for the cast of *The Tempest*. Monday saw the cast performing an extract to the entire school, alongside parents, teachers and governors at The Regent Hall. Next followed an all-day rehearsal on Tuesday, where the students worked hard to shape, and bring to life their characters. The cast have worked very well, and we are all looking forward to seeing their hard work on the 7th of November at the RADA studios.



Portland
Place
School

News

Creative Arts Faculty

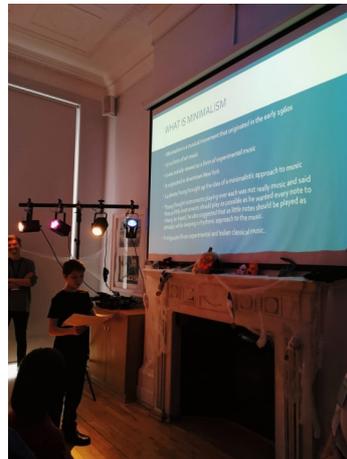
Y6&7 Haunted House Evening





Portland
Place
School

News





Under 15/16's Netball

Portland Place - 12

North Bridge House - 5

A fantastic win this week for our under 15/16s netball team against North Bridge House. It was a close game until the last quarter where the girls really showcased their high level of skill. The girls were excellent in defence throughout the game, marking their opposition and intercepting the ball at every opportunity. **Dasha Lebedeva** controlled the goal circle and was well supported by **Ava Jones** and **Talitha Gordon Nooy** in the centre court. **Freya Francis-Baum** and **Marielle Staunton** worked as the dream team in attack; controlling and driving the ball down the court, finding and commanding space and in conjunction with **Dolly Gosling** and **Orah Goldstein** the girls successfully scored 12 goals, walking away their first win for the season. Congratulations girls on a great game and an excellent display of team work, particularly in the last 2 quarters.



The U15/16s in action with Freya
Francis-Baum in possession



Portland's U15/16 Netball Team

Under 14/15's Netball

After a shaky start and only 6 players to take the court, the girls played a fantastic game against Queens College on Wednesday. They demonstrated great defence against their opposition with **Lulya Benyam** successfully intercepting the ball on many occasions. **Eleonara Giust** and **Hana Husaini** marked and blocked their opposing players constantly and found opportunities to move into space to receive the ball when attacking. **Manuela Poquet Serna** and **Ruhi Patel** worked as a dynamic duo in the goal circle, allowing **Manuela** to successfully score in the first quarter. **Polina Zaluzhskaya** moved around the court like a rocket in centre position being available to receive every ball that she could while marking and blocking her opposing player. Each quarter saw the girls grow as a team and strengthen in their attack, defence and team player skills. Although the girls did not walk away with a win this week, we are very proud of how they played and their commitment to the PPS under 14/15s netball team.



U15 Football

Portland Place B: 0

North Bridge House B: 3

This match was an extremely entertaining spectacle in which the woodwork was struck more times in the match than I have ever seen. North Bridge dominated the match from start to finish, with Portland struggling to get out of their own half. Sterling defensive work from **Jan Ceylan** and **Tommy Taylor-Whitread** thwarted attack after attack from North Bridge, but they were able to take the lead from a penalty and then went two up after an own-goal. Portland rallied in the second half and defended stoutly, even managing to mount some counter-attacks. Just before the end, North Bridge's relentless pressure resulted in a third goal, but Portland should be proud of the way they defended, stuck to their task and continued to fight to the end of the match.

U13 Basketball

North Bridge Canonbury: 15

Portland Place: 13

This was the first inter-school basketball match the Year 8s had played and a quad of eleven players faced North bridge over four, eight minute quarters at the Sobell Centre. The game was quite evenly matched and the first quarter was low-scoring with both teams unable to get close to the basket. **Lawton Ballbach** was our only scorer as we went into the second period trailing 2-3. **Mohammad Javaid** used his height to advantage, winning several offensive rebounds and scoring a basket of his own. However, North Bridge put together a good period of play and went into a commanding 4-11 lead, with just one quarter remaining. The final period was by far the most exciting and easily Portland's best. **Lawton** scored quickly with a lay-up, catching the defence off-guard and quickly added another score. North Bridge scored two of their own, but Portland fought back with a nice shot from **Kunal Patel** and two more scores from **Lawton**, and one from the free throw line. Unfortunately time ran out, with PPS in the ascendency, but trailing 13-15. This was an enjoyable game and the boys seemed to gain a better appreciation of the speed and fun of competitive basketball. There were some excellent performances from **Lloyd Day** and **Jesse Francis-Baum**. **Teddy Faulkner** won his fair share of rebounds and **Edwin Hounkanli** covered more ground than anyone on the court, showing a tremendous turn of speed.



Year 6 & 7 House Fitness Challenge

It was a lovely morning at Regents Park for the inaugural Year 6 & 7 House Fitness Challenge. It was a fun event with all students contributing positively with sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the challenge. **Sebastian Dautigny** and **Alexander Parker** were our top contenders of the day with exceptional times around the course. It was a very close contest with Devonshire with a total time of 13 minutes 23 seconds, Wigmore with 13 minutes exactly, followed very closely by Cavendish with 12 minutes and 32 seconds, but the winner this year was Langham with 11 minutes and 59 seconds. Congratulations Langham—this could be your year! A great morning all round.

Year 8 House Fitness Challenge

The Year 8s Fitness Challenge was a fiercely competitive affair that saw all the pupils in the year produce some good performances, with a few individuals really excelling. **Edwin Hounkanli** of Langham produced the fastest time of the day, posting a 3min 1 second circuit of the course. **Violet Brodie** was the fastest girl, with an impressive 3 min 18 seconds, which helped Cavendish house to 2nd place overall with an accumulative time of 24min 31 seconds. This was not good enough, though, to beat Devonshire who pipped them by a mere 13 seconds with 24 min 18 seconds. Langham were 3rd in 28 min, 5 seconds, with Wigmore 4th in 28 min, 33 seconds.



Year 8s **Edwin Hounkanli** and **Lloyd Day** completing the 'Bear Crawl' section



Year 8 House Fitness Challenge gets under way

Mouth Guards for Rugby

After a half-term of touch-rugby and mainly ball handling work for our lower-school pupils in one of their weekly single periods, we will move to some contact work next half term now the ground has softened and the boys are feeling more confident. This will not necessarily be for all our pupils, but it will be imperative that pupils have their mouth guards with them for rugby next half term. Last year we found a lot of lost guards and were unable to return many of them to their owners due to them not being named. These items often look very similar, so please ensure that the case they are kept in is clearly named.

Monday 4 November

- 12.45-1.30pm Rock Band, Mr McCarthy, R41/44
 12.45-1.30pm KS3 Cyber Security Club, Mr Whiteside, G34
 12.45-1.30pm Year 7-11 Post 16 Drop In Sessions, Mr Flack, G24
 12.45-1.20pm Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
 4.00-6.00pm LAMDA lessons, PPS Hall
 4.00-5.00pm Chinese, Room 35
 4.00-5.00pm Japanese, Room 36
 4.00-5.30pm High School Musical rehearsal, PPS Hall

Tuesday 5 November

- 12.45-1.30pm Percussion Ensemble, Mr Jesson, R1
 12.45-1.30pm Music Theory Club, Ms Bottrill, R42
 12.45 – 1.20pm Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
 1.00-1.30pm Student Voice Club, Ms Magniez, Room 22
 3.45-4.30pm Year 10 & 11 Maths Club, G33
 3.45-4.30pm GCSE Sceicne Support, H6
 4.00-4.45pm Year 11 French GCSE Club, Ms Magniez, G32
 4.00-5.00pm Year 10 Design Club, B1
 4.00-5.00pm GCSE & A Level Film Club, Mr Flack, G31
 4.00-5.30pm High School Musical rehearsal, PPS Hall

Wednesday 6 November

- 8.20-8.50am KS5 Statistics & Mechanics 2 extra help, G32
 12.45-1.30pm Boys Choir, Ms Boyle, R1
 12.45-1.30pm Woodwind, Mr Slack, R2
 12.45-1.30pm Ukulele Ensemble, Mr McCarthy, R44
 12.45-1.20pm Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
 3.45-4.30pm Years 7-9 Maths Club, R24
 4.00-5.00pm Year 11 Design Club, B1
 4.00-5.00pm Year 6-11, Photography Club, Mr Flack, G42
 4.00-5.00pm High School Musical rehearsal, PPS Hall

Thursday 7 November

- 8.20-8.50am KS5 Pure 2 Extra Help, R10
 12.45-1.30pm PPS Choir, Mr Hill, R1
 12.45-1.30pm Brass Ensemble, Mr Bentley, R42
 12.45-1.20pm Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
 1.05-1.30pm Russian, Mr Burton, G32
 3.50-5.00pm Football Club, Regents Park
 3.50-5.00pm Dance Studio, R11
 4.00-5.00pm KS3 Design Club, B1
 4.00-5.00pm 3D Design Club, B1
 4.00-5.00pm Arabic, R36
 4.00-5.00pm Chamber Choir, Ms Boyle, R1
 4.00-5.00pm Soul Band, Mr Bentley, R2
 4.00-5.00pm Whole School Art Club, Art Studio

Friday 8 November

- 12.45-1.30pm String Ensemble, Miss Boyle, R1
 12.45-1.30pm Jazz Ensemble, Mr Hill, R2
 12.45-1.30pm Vocal Group, Ms Ryder, R44
 12.45-1.30pm Weightlifting Club, PPS Boys changing rooms
 4.00-4.30pm Gardening Club, Ms Magniez & Mr Thompson, PPS Courtyard
 4.00-6.00pm LAMDA lessons, R11

TERM DATES:

AUTUMN TERM2019

Term Starts Wednesday 4 September
 Half Term Mon 21 Oct – Fri 1 Nov
 End of Term Friday 13 December

SPRING TERM2020

Term Starts Monday 6 January
 Half Term Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb
 End of Term Friday 3 April

SUMMER TERM2020

Term Starts Wednesday 22 April
 Bank Holiday Fri 8 May (school closed)
 Half Term Mon 25 May – Fri 29 May
 End of Term Friday 3 July

CONTACT DETAILS:

PPS MAIN BUILDING (Years 6-9)
 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

[@PPS_Sports](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

[@PPS_KS2](https://twitter.com/PPS_KS2) – Year 6

[@pps_film](https://twitter.com/pps_film) – Film and Media Department

[@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

[@PPS_SEN](https://twitter.com/PPS_SEN) – SEN Department

