

The Weekly Buzz

Portland Place School

10 February 2020



Year 6 trip to the British Museum

GCSE Drama trip to Brighton

Flamenco workshop



Headmaster's Letter



Yesterday evening we enjoyed the latest in our series of chamber concerts, this time showcasing the performing talents of our younger students. The way these events have grown is very pleasing. As Mr Hill mentioned, when we started these three years ago there were half-a-dozen students playing to a similar sized audience and the whole event – as enjoyable as it was – lasted half-an-hour. Yesterday we had fifteen students performing to a full hall! For many of the students it was their first live performance to an audience, having only started to learn their instrument in the last term. They handled the occasion superbly and played with real quality. My thanks to all who performed and to Mr Hill and Miss Boyle for arranging the concert. I am sure we all have even greater anticipation for our summer showcase now.

And speaking of events we eagerly anticipate, Tuesday saw the first full scale rehearsal for *High School Musical* starting to bring together the whole show from the segments that have been rehearsed to date. GPS hall was a hive of activity all day; the focus and commitment of the students stood out and I am sure it will be a highlight of our year.

The ideas that underpin all of this, and many other elements of school life such as our sports teams, IT challenges, Art and DT projects, work on Strive and EPQ projects, are *commitment* and *resilience*. Students readily take these challenges on in addition to their core school work and in many cases other activities they pursue away from PPS. Meeting the challenges of practising your instrument, rehearsing the play, turning out for the rugby team, finishing your homework and adding to your Art portfolio all in the same week requires resilience from the student, and support and encouragement from you, the parents, and us here in school. There will be days, weeks even, for a student when it all feels a bit much and that is where their commitment comes in; realising and remembering that their commitment, while primarily to themselves, is also to others – their team mates, fellow performers and cast members – who are striving alongside them to mutual goals. It gives us all pride when we see our students rising to these challenges and showing those qualities of resilience and commitment.

David Bradbury



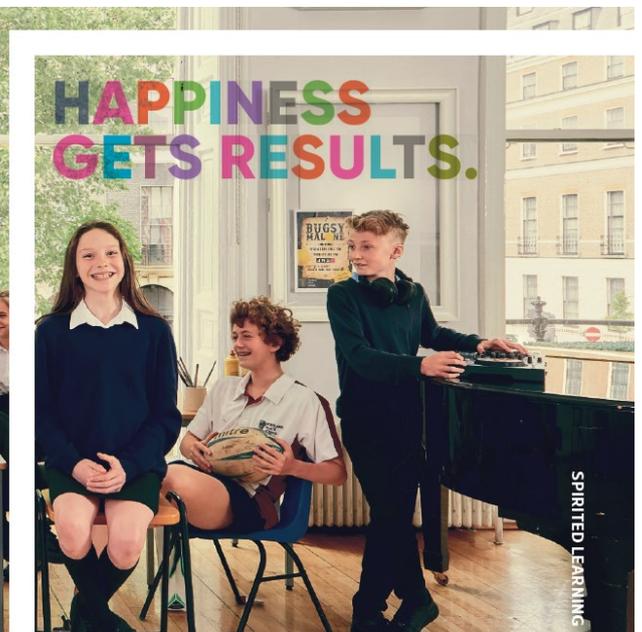
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Feature in the Guardian Supplement *The Modern Family* to be published on 8th February 2020

We are proud to announce that there will be a feature on Portland Place School in the *Modern Family Supplement* of the Guardian to be published on Saturday 8th February. Although we cannot release the story please find below the advert and the photos which will be used alongside the story.

Copies will be available next week at the front desk if you wish to read the feature.



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Your child's wellbeing is on our curriculum.
Starting from Year 6.

Scholarships are available, call us to find out more.
Portland Place School, Regent's Park.
020 7307 8700
portland-place.co.uk





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InvestIN is delighted to host a range of programmes which will immerse students aged 15-18 into business-related careers this term:

The Young Entrepreneur Programme

[UCL: 21st-22nd March](#)

The Young Investment Banker Programme

[UCL: 15th March OR 29th March](#)

The Young Marketing & PR Programme

[UCL: 28th-29th March](#)



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Life Lessons—still taking new students

On Monday 3rd February at 4pm, Ms Nicholas launched PPS 'Life Lessons'— a brand new programme specifically designed for KS4 and KS5 pupils. The programme seeks to empower pupils to take greater ownership and accountability for their personal development, progress and learning through deep, critical reflection.

Several pupils in Year 11 attended the first session and the feedback so far has been great! All pupils involved were incredibly engaged, and very open and honest about their personal attitudes, behaviours and habits towards learning and life in general. They were a complete credit to themselves and it will be truly exciting to be part of their journey into deeper self-awareness and reflection over the coming weeks.

One pupil mentioned that they “Liked the feeling of being honest and having a safe space to talk about things not involved with school” while another commented that “I wasn’t just thinking about GCSE - which was nice.”

The course continues next Monday February 10th from 4pm to 5pm and new attendees across KS4 and KS5 are welcome. Each week, discussions and activities will build on the previous ones, therefore it is beneficial for any pupils interested in attending to do so in these first sessions, and to commit to the full duration of the programme for the greatest personal benefit. For further information, please contact Ms Nicholas: tanya.nicholas@portland-place.co.uk

Drama

On Thursday Year 10 & 11 Drama students spent the day on the south coast. With the Summer written paper just around the corner, we took the opportunity to watch our set-text on stage. The UK tour of Blood Brothers arrived in Brighton and it was such a beautiful day.

Before watching the matinee performance, we headed to Brighton Pier for some fish & chips. With the warm winter sun beating down on us we had some lunch. With the seagulls circling above us and closing in, it was clear we would have to eat quickly. Unfortunately, Miss Baker fell victim to some very clever and hungry seagulls! This traumatic sequence of events put everybody on edge (especially Mrs Judd!), so we headed for cover in the amusements. Whether it was counting their tokens or missing out on that cuddly toy, it was nice to see the students relax and unwind outside the classroom. It's important to have a fine balance as they prepare for their exams.

The production itself was brilliant and it will no doubt support the students in their writing. The students were extremely well behaved throughout the day and it was a pleasure taking them to see this fantastic performance.



Maths

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Thursday 6th February the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge took place, involving students from years 9 to 11. This is a challenge that encourages and helps develop students' problem solving skills. Results will come out in a few weeks and we wait to see who has done well enough to receive a certificate and possibly go through to the next round. Please congratulate the students who were selected to take part.

Year 9: Yasir Alzaid, Nicholas Bartha, Angel Ellis, Madoc Jones, Mu Rong Li, Laura Liu, Kieran McIntosh, Ronan McCarthy, Irene Peleteiro Paniagua, Alexandros Politi, Teddy Upton

Year 10: Jan Ceylan, Angelo Dillon Demosthenous, Elliot Greenfield, Joshua Hallam, Amatis Jafar-Pak, Anton Polyakov, Eleonora Giust, Benjamin White, Isla Macintosh

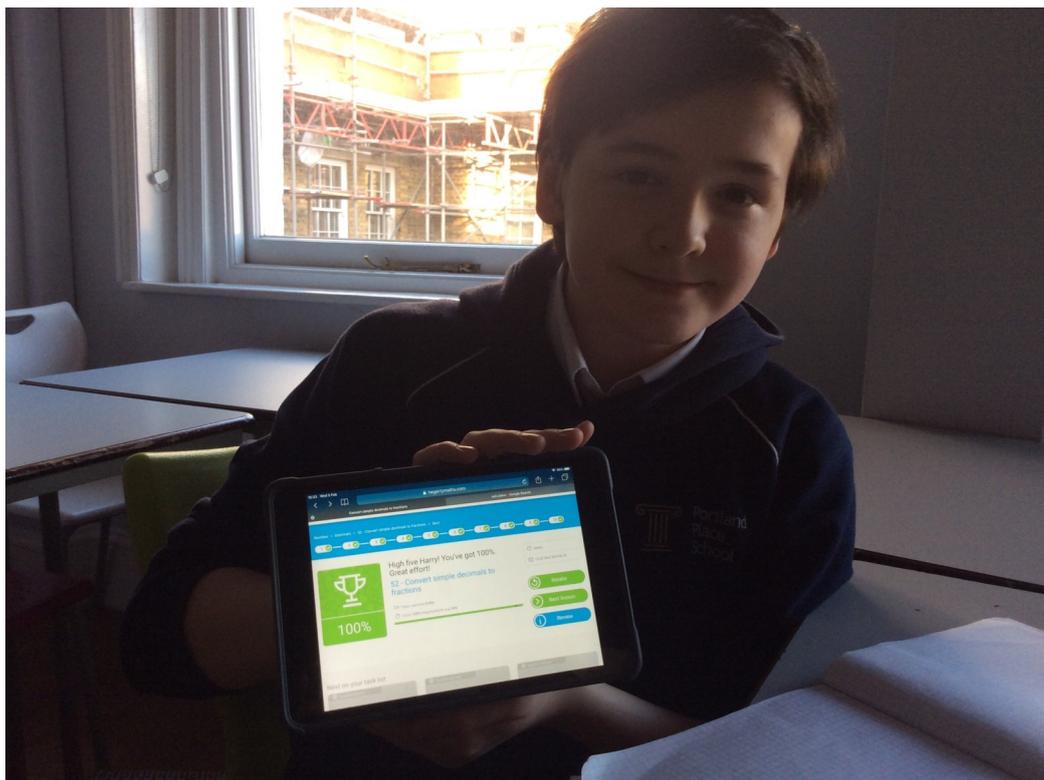
Year 11: Raphy Allason, Louis Briottet, Nancy Brittain, Justin Chen, Alex Curtis, Thomas Dean, Vitan Kostomaj, Joshua Larkin, Euan McBride, Luca Pilotto, Rohan Siberi, Antonio Hinton, Sam Palmer-Thomson, Curtis O'Keefe



Our students have been hard at work this week revising and getting ready for their upcoming half term tests in Mathematics taking place next week.

Here is Harry Powers of Year 8 proudly displaying his excellent **100% score** on his iPad for a task on converting between decimals and fractions, as part of his revision using the Hegarty Maths.

Well done, Harry !





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Geography

Here is Alexander Parker of Year 7, acing Geography quizzes on the excellent quiz website [sporcle.com](https://www.sporcle.com)



Modern Foreign Languages

Last Friday, Y6 and Y7 students who learn Spanish attended a dance workshops with Dance Days Academy. Students got to learn some Sevillana and Flamenco routines and perform them as a group. The MFL faculty was very impressed by everyone's commitment and enthusiasm in taking part!



Music

Yesterday afternoon saw our 3rd Lower School Chamber Concert in PPS Hall. In the first year, we had a handful of performers from Years 6-9, and this year we had 18 performers! There was a great range of instruments offering pieces from Purcell, Haydn and Mozart, to Nirvana, Ed Sheeran and Ocean Colour Scene. Huge congratulations go to all the students, many of whom had never performed in public. As always, grateful thanks go to the parents for their ongoing support and the Visiting Music Staff and external music teachers who have helped prepare them. Here are some photos.. You can view more photos from the concert on the parents' pages on Firefly.





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News

Music

Music Exam Success

Massive congratulations to Ronan McCarthy (Year 9)
who passed his
Grade 1 Music Technology examination with **DISTINCTION!**



PPS under 14s Rugby

PPS – 38

Harrodian – 12

On Friday 31st of January, PPS u14s rugby team made their way to Barnes to take on Harrodian School in their second match of the season. Despite a narrow loss in their last game the boys were excellent and before kick-off spoke about maintaining the level of performance from the previous game. It seemed like they were really up their match and there was a good positive energy coming from the boys.

PPS got off to a barnstorming start with two early tries from **Nicolas Bartha** and **Josh Tucker**. It was all PPS in attack, with every player looking like they wanted to get their hands on the ball and run hard at the Harrodian defence. Half way through the first half **Josh Tucker** scored again, with an entertaining bulldozing run. Harrodian managed to score a consolation against the run of play but PPS soon found their rhythm again and **Sam Meyer** scored an excellent try straight from the line out. The boys took in a 24-7 half time lead.

In the second half Harrodian significantly improved in attack. PPS defended well, with some excellent tackles from **Josh Tucker** and **Lloyd Day**. The game became more competitive but PPS still looked in control. **Cassius Swales** made a couple of entertaining breaks and **Nicolas Bartha** continued to be a thorn in Harrodian's side with his powerful running. Harrodian scored a well taken try mid-way through the second half but PPS responded quickly through **Nicolas Bartha**, who showed good footwork to break and touch down over the line. Before full time **Josh Tucker** scored again, his first rugby hattrick for PPS, and hopefully the first of many more! This was a very impressive performance from the boys, with the final score 38-12 to PPS!

It was a superb team performance with everybody putting in an excellent shift. **Sam Meyer** was very busy at scrum half and set the pace of PPS's attack. **Teddy Faulkner** and **Felix Lake** were both very physical and dominating throughout. **Nicolas Bartha** put in an excellent all action captains' performance. Man of the match goes to **Josh Tucker** who put in his best performance in a PPS shirt to date, scoring an excellent hattrick. Well done boys!



Under 15s Rugby

Harrodian—26

PPS— 24

On Thursday 6th February PPS U15's made their way to Barnes to take on Harrodian in a closely fought and entertaining game of rugby. In the early stages Harrodian pinned PPS back in their own half with some excellent kicking from their fly half. PPS tried to clear their lines but gave away an avoidable penalty which Harrodian capitalised on and took an early lead with a converted try. PPS fought back with some hard and fast carrying at the heart of Harrodian's defence. There was excellent support at the breakdown and PPS started to dominate possession. PPS scored a first try through **Ben White** who picked off the base of a ruck and showed great pace and power over the line. The conversion was unfortunately missed. PPS continued to dominate with hard carries from **Ben White, Jan Ceylan** and **Milan Luther**. **Teddy Desmond** was unbelievably unlucky not to score in the corner after a barnstorming run where he fended off a couple of defenders and looked destined to score in the corner only for Harrodian to make a last ditch tackle that took Teddy in to touch. The boys kept pushing and took the lead through **Elliot Greenfield** who picked a nice line from outside centre finding a gap in Harrodian's defensive line. Just before half time **Teddy Desmond** made a fantastic break, showing great power and aggression to escape a number of defenders before scoring just to the right of the posts. 19-7 to PPS the half time score.

At the start of the second half Harrodian raised their game and started to put together some good phases. PPS defended with great tenacity for the opening quarter of the half but eventually Harrodian broke the line out wide scoring a converted try to take the score to 19-15. Moments later they scored again after a loose pass was knocked to the ground and a speedy Harrodian player picked the ball and made it to the try line untouched to take a 20-19 lead. With 5 minutes to play PPS started to gather momentum, **Dylan Young** made some strong carries, and **Adam Khan** also ran some hard lines on the wing. With 3 minutes to play PPS took the lead once again through **Teddy Desmond** who scored an outstanding individual try. He faked to pass out wide and then chipped over Harrodian's backline, beat the full back to the ball and touched down – both teams applauded a very impressive piece of skill. The try was unconverted meaning it was 24-19 to PPS to set up a tense final play. Harrodian kicked off and PPS misjudged the kick. There was a knock on meaning Harrodian would have the put in at the scrum, 10 meters from the PPS try line. PPS managed to win the scrum, the boys needed to clear the ball but made a bad decision to run the ball in to contact. The support wasn't at the breakdown quickly enough and Harrodian managed to turn the ball over. They threw the ball wide early and managed score in the corner with final play of the game. The conversion was kicked meaning Harrodian took a 26-24 victory – a gutting defeat for PPS who had worked so hard to regain the lead.



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Sports results

The boys should be very proud of their efforts against strong opposition. It was an outstanding game of rugby, it was 4 tries a piece with only conversions kicked separating the two sides. Well done to **Adam Khan** and **Caspar Waldron** who were very brave in their rugby debuts. **Ben White** put in a classy display at no8 and **Jan Ceylan** put in a number of strong tackles. Man of the match goes to **Teddy Desmond** who put in a lively all-round performance and scored two excellent tries.



Milan Luther is brought to ground



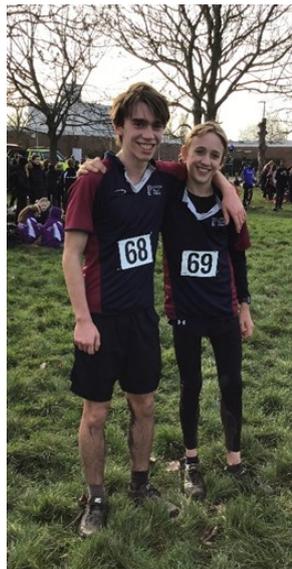
Teddy Desmond makes a run for the try line



London Schools Cross Country Championships: Wormwood Scrubs

It was a chilly but bright day for the London Schools Cross-Country Championships. Portland Place School entered two competitors; **Sam Ingram** and **Curtis O’Keeffe**. The standard at this event is always very high and this year was no different. From the outset, both Sam and Curtis were highly motivated to succeed and I was particularly impressed with their positivity and focus throughout the day.

Both boys stuck tightly to the groups in which they were with; running confidently and consistently throughout the race. Both Sam and Curtis displayed an extremely strong finish as they pulled away towards the end. Sam finished 23rd overall out of a field of around 100, whilst Curtis came in a creditable 35th. It was a great effort from both boys who should be very proud of themselves.





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Under 13/14s Netball

Thames Christian School – 3

Portland Place – 6

The U13 /14 girls put in a great performance to come away with a 6 – 3 win against Thames Christian School with **Ruhi Patel** and **Lucy Mainstone** in Year 9 scoring 6 goals between them. Both girls were on fire and the rest of the girls knew that if they got the ball down to the scoring end, they would come away with points. **Grace Bradshaw** really stood out in defence, doing everything in her power to intercept the ball and get it safely back down to the scoring half to secure the win. At one point, TCS were clawing their way back into the game scoring 3 points, but Portland Place soon put a stop to this. The girls worked so hard as a team and got the win they deserved with a huge effort from all. Well done to all involved!

Team List: **Grace Bradshaw, Violet Brodie, Sumayyah Mahmoud, Miyu Aikawa, Anastasia Dillon Demos-thenous, Irene Peleteiro Paniagua, Laura Lui, Lucy Mainstone, Ruhi Patel.**



Sports Stars of the Week



Remy Brooke-Cowden

Remy has had an excellent week in PE and sport, performing very well in Y7 House Rugby on Tuesday afternoon and excelling at the Westminster swimming gala, where he was one of our top swimmer. He won multiple medals including a silver in the 25m butterfly.



Sofia Diirio

In her very first week at PPS, Sofia has really impressed. Having swam very well in her Tuesday morning swimming lesson, she was quickly drafted into the Westminster Swim Gala squad and took silver in the 25m freestyle. As well as a bronze in the butterfly. Well done Sofia!



Monday 10 February

- 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
3:45-4:30pm Economics Club, G41
4.00-6.00pm LAMDA lessons, PPS Hall
4.00-5.00pm Chinese, Room 36
4.00-5.00pm Japanese, Room 35

Tuesday 11 February

- 12.45-1.30pm Percussion Ensemble, Mr Jesson, R1
12.45-1.30pm Music Theory Club, Ms Bottrill, R42
12.45 – 1.20pm Weight Training Club, PPS boys' changing rooms
1.00-1.30pm Student Voice Club, Ms Magniez, Room 22
3.45-4.30pm GCSE Science 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, GPS Hall

Wednesday 12 February

- 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 Vocal Ensemble, Ms Ryder, R44
3.45-4.30pm Years 7-9 Maths Club, R24
3.45-4.30pm Rubik's Cube Club, Nick B & Egor P, Library
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 13 February

- 8:00-8:40am GCSE PE Revision Club G34
8.20-8.50am KS5 Pure 2 Extra Help, R10
12.45-1.30pm PPS Choir, Mr Hill, R1
1.05-1.30pm Russian, Mr Burton, G32
3.45-4.30pm Year 10 & 11 Maths Club, G33
3.50-5.00pm Football Club, meet at PPS changing rooms
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 Whole School Art Club, Art Studio
4.00-5.30pm High School Musical rehearsal, PPS Hall

Friday 14 February

- 8:15-8:45am Russian Club, Mr Burton, Library
12.45-1.30pm Brass Ensemble, Mr Bentley, R42
12.45-1.30pm Jazz Ensemble, Mr Hill, R2
12.45-1.30pm Vocal Group, Ms Ryder, R44
12.45-1.20pm Weight Training Club, PPS boys' changing rooms
4.00-5.00pm Soul Band, Mr Bentley, R2
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

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PPS TWITTER ACCOUNTS:

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