



The Weekly Buzz

Portland Place School

9 March 2020

World Book Day 2020!

Year 7 Symphonfree

Nora: A Doll's House @ The Young Vic



**THE PORTLAND PLACE SCHOOL
PRODUCTION OF**



Disney

**HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL**

ON STAGE!

1ST & 2ND APRIL, 7PM

TICKETS FREE FROM

tickets@portland-place.co.uk

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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe

www.mtishows.co.uk



Headmaster's Letter

COVID-19 continues to dominate the news and understandably so: it is a serious situation with a new strain of virus present, more virulent than seasonal flu and for which we do not yet have a vaccine. However, like anything that dominates the news there is the problem of sifting fact from speculation. We live with a 24-hour news culture where as on most days there is barely 24 minutes of actual news. This leads to a lot of airtime filled with a lot of talking heads speculating on what might be happening, or could happen, with minimal factual input. This is where an authoritative, informed voice is important.

At the start of this week I was attending the annual conference of The Society of Heads. Our first speaker at the event was Professor Andrew Goddard, President of the Royal College of Physicians. Whatever his original brief was for his talk I am sure you can guess what it had become: COVID-19. So first, to reiterate the advice on what we, as individuals, can do to help limit the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands regularly and for longer. 8 to 10 times per day and for at least 20 seconds each time is the recommendation.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitisers. This is a virus, so anti-bacterial soaps have little effect on COVID-19 (though they are effective with other types of infection so don't stop using them).
- Cover coughs, ideally with a tissue you then dispose of but the crook of your elbow if you don't have a tissue to hand.
- Try to avoid touching your face, especially eyes and mouth.

Two other points Professor Goddard was at pains to emphasise:

- For the general public face masks are next to useless; don't bother. A virus particle is so small almost all will go through the gaps between the fibres. They are of some use for medical professionals treating a ward of patients so leave them available for hospitals.
- "Close proximity" has a particular meaning for doctors, being within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes. Public transport, at this point, is fine as most journeys in London are for less than 15 minutes – and if yours is longer most likely your neighbours on the bus or tube will not stay the same throughout.

It is for this reason of having an authoritative source that I am basing my decisions on responding to these issues on the information posted by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Public Health England (PHE) and available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

My presumption is that unless and until I am instructed to close due to COVID-19 by either Alpha Plus Group or PHE, the school is open. Of course it remains the case that if you are planning any travel to affected countries that you inform me and my decisions regarding any self-isolation and return to school will be in line with the advice given on that website. A school closure is a possibility for which we have contingency plans to allow your child's education to continue and I will send more details should that occur.



David Bradbury

Tanzania Expedition

For the next 8 weeks, team members will be interviewed here to tell readers a bit more about their fundraising, share their excitement or worries and let you know about how to support them in reaching their targets.

An interview with... Josh Hallam

1. Why do you want to go on the Tanzania Expedition?

I want to help build a school and those who don't have an education otherwise.

2. What are you looking forward to the most?

I'm looking forward to the culture and the safari as I think it will be fun. Also meeting the kids in the school where we will be working.

3. What are you worried about?

I'm a bit worried about the food and I think it might be a culture shock when we get there.

4. How much money have you raised so far and how can we help you?

I have raised about £270 so far, so I need another £30 only. I have climbed Ben Nevis to get some money and I'm doing more things like running, you can sponsor me by donating on our Expedition page, using "Josh" as a reference. Thanks in advance!



Team Tanzania's target is £5000 and so far they have raised £1864.70. Please help them reach their target by donating onto: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/portlandplaceschooltanzania>

Thanks for your support!



Drama

On Wednesday night, GCSE and A Level Drama students came together to attend the Young Vic's adaptation of an Ibsen classic. *Nora: A Doll's House*, a radical new version by Stef Smith, was set across three time periods, pin pointing key moments in history. The suffragette movement, the 60s and the modern day, all explored and challenged the role of women, it addressed how far we have actually come over the past 100 years. It was a contemporary production of this once controversial play. There were six talented performers in this production showing our students an acting masterclass. The themes of the play transcend the generations, which enabled our students to access both the performance and director's interpretation.

Year 10 students will take inspiration for their devised exam which takes place later in the year. Whilst Year 11 and 13 will analyse and evaluate the performance for their upcoming summer exams.

Our students were a credit to themselves during the performance, making mature observations, and even one of our harshest critics exclaimed "I thoroughly enjoyed it, best play you've taken us to see in a few years!"

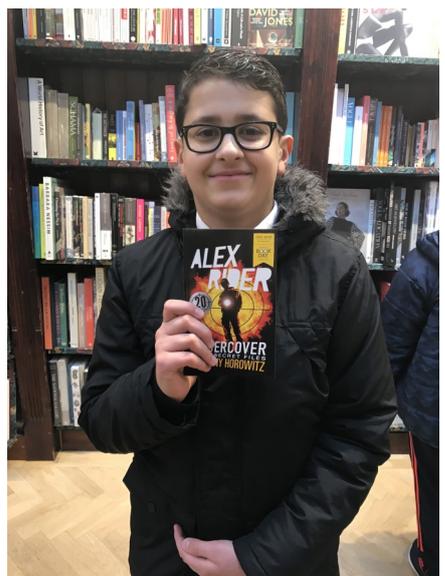
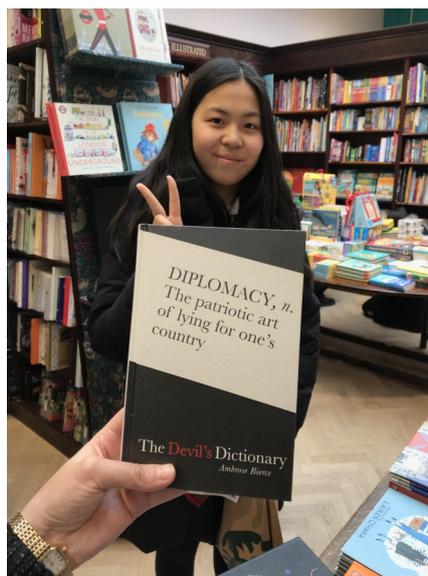
Nora: A Doll's House runs at the Young Vic until 21st March.



Library

What a week it's been for World Book Day 2020!

Years 6, 7, 8 and 9 were represented by some English classes at Daunt Books. It is only seven minutes walk from our school, and it was wonderful watch the students navigating such a beautiful and iconic bookshop! A wide range of books were selected...



On Thursday, students came to school dressed as book characters! There were some really imaginative costumes and it was a very hard decision to choose an overall winner. In the end, Danny Y6 won as Oliver Twist, with Sonny Y7 as James Bond and Leo Y7 as Bilbo Baggins as runners-up! Well done to everyone who joined in with the fun!



To end a very bookish week, we had author Adam Baron come in to work with Years 6, 7 & 8 all day today. The students really got stuck in to the group story, which spiralled into a very crazy tale! Then they wowed Adam and teachers here with their inventiveness in creating a character in the afternoon workshops. Well done to everyone involved. If students want to buy a book by Adam with a signed bookplate, they can come to the library next Monday to do so.



Tune in next week to find out the results of the competitions that took place for World Book Day!

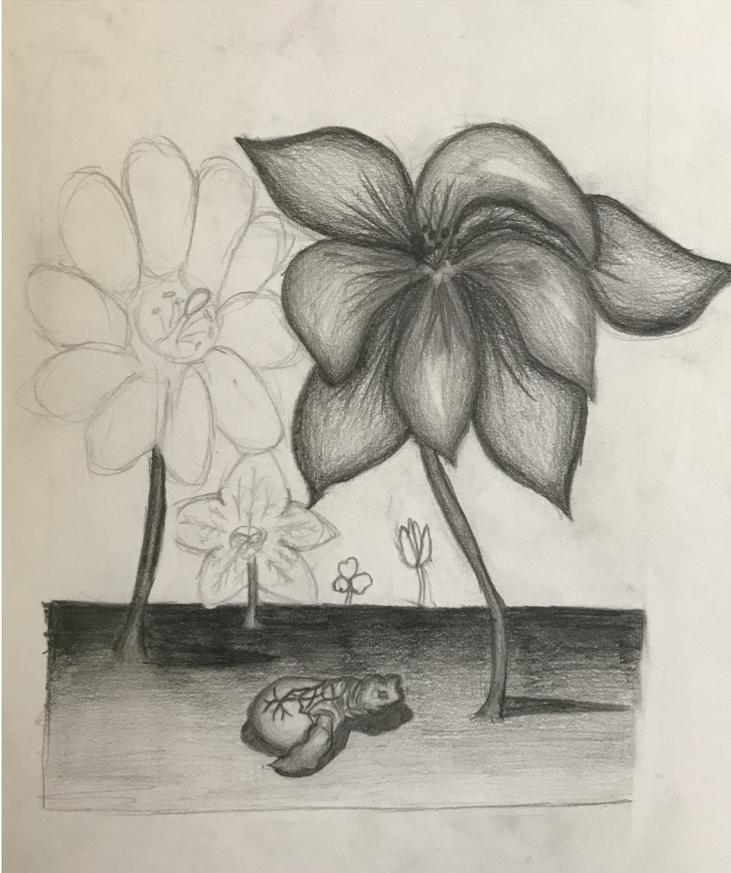


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Art

Benny Miller, Year 8 Fine Art - Surrealism sketchbook pages





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News

The Adventures of prince Achmed- Shadow Puppets

by Rosie Martin, Year 11 Fine Art.



Music

Year 7 Symphonfree

Lessons are well underway and rehearsals have started for the Year 7 Showcase at RADA Studios, 21st May 5.30pm. The students have been making fantastic progress and demonstrating teamwork, resilience and dedication.





North London Independent Schools Cross Country Championships

The annual qualifier for the ISA national championships was held at Mowsbury Park in Bedford on Tuesday afternoon. It was a cold and windy day, but fairly dry and the ground wasn't too muddy despite the high rainfall last month. Portland took a team of thirteen athletes to contest four races. First up was **Isabella Calvert-Bull** in the 2.42km U14 race. There were around one hundred entrants and Isabella finished a very respectable 21st. As a year 7 athlete she was facing a mix of year 7 and 8's and she will be able to come back next year and hopefully do even better.

Next up was the U14 boys' race over 3.09km. Portland fielded 6 runners and our best finisher was **Tom Hallam** who placed 14th, just four spots off a top 10 finish and an invite to the nationals. **Lawton Ballbach** and **Rudy Bigoni** were next to finish for Portland, with **Edwin Hounkanli**, **Lloyd Day** and **Jesse Francis-Baum** finishing between 35th and 45th. The boys all pushed very hard and should be proud of their efforts.

The final race of the day combined the U16 and the Over 16's. **Sam Ingram**, racing in the over 16's finished 4th overall and will therefore be selected to take part in the national finals in two weeks. He is returning to full fitness from a chest infection and should expect to run even more strongly at Rugby school. **Teddy Scanlan** pushed himself harder than anyone from any school and should be commended for his effort and commitment. He and his fellow Year 9's, including **Josh Tucker**, **Teddy Upton**, **Cassius Swales** and **Nicolas Bartha** have made tremendous progress in cross country this term and stuck to their tasks doggedly to complete the very demanding 4.32km course. This was a big step-up from our rather tame, by comparison, 2km Regents Park course, which is flat and mud free. I was really impressed with boys' team work and determination.

Well done to all that took part! We still await the official results and confirmation of Sam's selection.





Under 16s Football

Portland Place School – 4

Fulham – 0

This was a really great all round performance from the boys of year 10 and 11. It seems the rain has been falling for months now and this week was no different The boys dealt with a wet pitch really well in this game. The plan was to use the wide areas of the pitch and they executed this extremely well. The first goal came from **Dylan Young** who managed to run onto a through ball from **Alex Macdonald**. **Dylan** showed great speed and strength to get the better of the Fulham defender before slotting the ball calmly into the corner. A second goal came soon after when **Alex Macdonald** fired the ball from 30 yards in over the Fulham goalkeeper, showing excellent vision to see the opportunity. **Dylan** secured his second of the game when he put away a cross from the right hand side in a ten minute period where the boys really took control of the game. The second half was a closer contest and Fulham began to get into the game. They were creating chances and **Jake Lloyd** pulled off two fine saves. **Nico Blakemore** scored a fourth and final goal in the closing stages of the game to wrap things up nicely for PPS.



Year 10 House Basketball

1st - Devonshire

2nd - Wigmore

3rd - Langham

4th - Cavendish

On Thursday 5th March the year 10s competed in their annual house basketball tournament. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with some impressive and entertaining basketball on display!

In the first round Langham beat Cavendish 6-2 with baskets from **Dylan Young**, **Jude Broke-Cowden** and **Teddy Desmond** for Langham and **Adam Khan** scored an excellent consolation basket for Cavendish. Devonshire also took a 6-2 win against Wigmore, with the Devonshire baskets scored by **Freddy Good**, **Elliot Greenfield** x2 and the Wigmore basket was scored by **Tommy Taylor Whiteread**.

In round 2 Devonshire recorded a hard fought victory against Cavendish, **Elliot Greenfield** scored the only basket from open play and **Anton Polykov** scored one free throw. Wigmore took a comfortable 6-0 against Langham with **Sam Ingram**, **Tommy Taylor Whiteread** and **Oscar Bolgar** scoring the points.

The final round saw all four houses draw 0-0! Yet these were arguably the most entertaining games of the tournament!

Well done to the whole year group - there was a fantastic atmosphere at the court and everybody showed a really positive attitude throughout! Devonshire were deserved winners but second and third place was very tight, with Wigmore pipping Langham to second place on points difference!

Beatrice Curto was very busy and showed good footwork and passing speed during the tournament. Dylan Young showed good tactical awareness and effort throughout but player of the tournament goes to Elliott Greenfield who scored 3 baskets and was a constant threat with his driving runs and impressive lay ups. Well done year 10.





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Gymnastics Club

The PE department will be running a gymnastics club in Rm11 – our new dance and fitness studio – on Thursdays from 3.45-4.30pm. Both Miss Bassham and Miss Boyce are highly experienced in coaching and performing in gymnastics and have even competed at national level. Come and take advantage of their expertise and start learning and perfecting your gymnastics skills. Due to limited space, sessions will focus on floor routines and movements.

Gymnastics Club



When: Thursdays 15:45 – 16:30pm

Where: PPS Hall

Who: All year groups!

Monday 9 March

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 10 March

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 11 March

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 12 March

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
3.35-4.30pm	Gymnastics Club, R11
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 13 March

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
12.50-13.20pm	UKMT Junior Maths Challenge practice
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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