

The Weekly Buzz

15 March 2021



Picture by Jake Cossey

Back to School!

JAKE



Portland
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School



It is great to be fully open again and to have our students back in school. It has been very impressive to see them renewing their friendships and immediately reengaging with their studies. The warm, welcoming, friendly atmosphere we pride ourselves on is once again to the fore. My thanks again for all the support that has been provided at home for students' learning during this last lockdown.

The extra-curricular life of PPS is also back in (nearly) full swing. We cannot yet play fixtures against other schools but we very much hope that will be possible next term.

Two rounds of in school testing are now complete and the last round will happen on Monday and Tuesday. On Thursday students will be issued with their home test kits. These will be given to all students who have consented to be part of the testing. If you did not consent to in school testing but do consent to home testing, please inform Lara Pereira before Thursday 18th so your child is on the list to receive a kit.

David Bradbury



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Noticeboard

Lunch Menu

**SPRING
WEEK 2**

Monday

Soup of the Day

Main Meat Free:

Beef Bourguignon

Meat Free:

Vegan Bourguignon

To Go With:

Sweetcorn
Mashed Potato
Carrot

Dessert:

Carrot Cake

Lunch
MENU

Tuesday

Soup of the Day

Main:

Chicken Nugget

Meat Free:

Veg Nugget

To Go With:

Chips
Sweet Potato
Peas

Dessert:

Chocolate cake

THURSDAY

Soup of the Day

Main:

Chicken
Curry

Meat Free:

Vegan Curry

To Go

With:

Rice
Green Beans
Poppadum
Cauliflower

Dessert:

Banoffee Pie

Every Day

Salad Bar

Fresh Fruit

Yoghurt

Friday

Soup of the Day

Main:

Breaded Fish

Meat Free:

Falafel

To Go With:

Green Beans
Garden Peas
Baked Beans

Dessert:

Flapjack

Wednesday

Soup of the Day

Main:

Piri Chicken

Meat Free:

Quorn Roast

To Go With

Potato Wedges
Couscous
Corn on the cob
Butternut

Dessert:

Jelly

our awards!

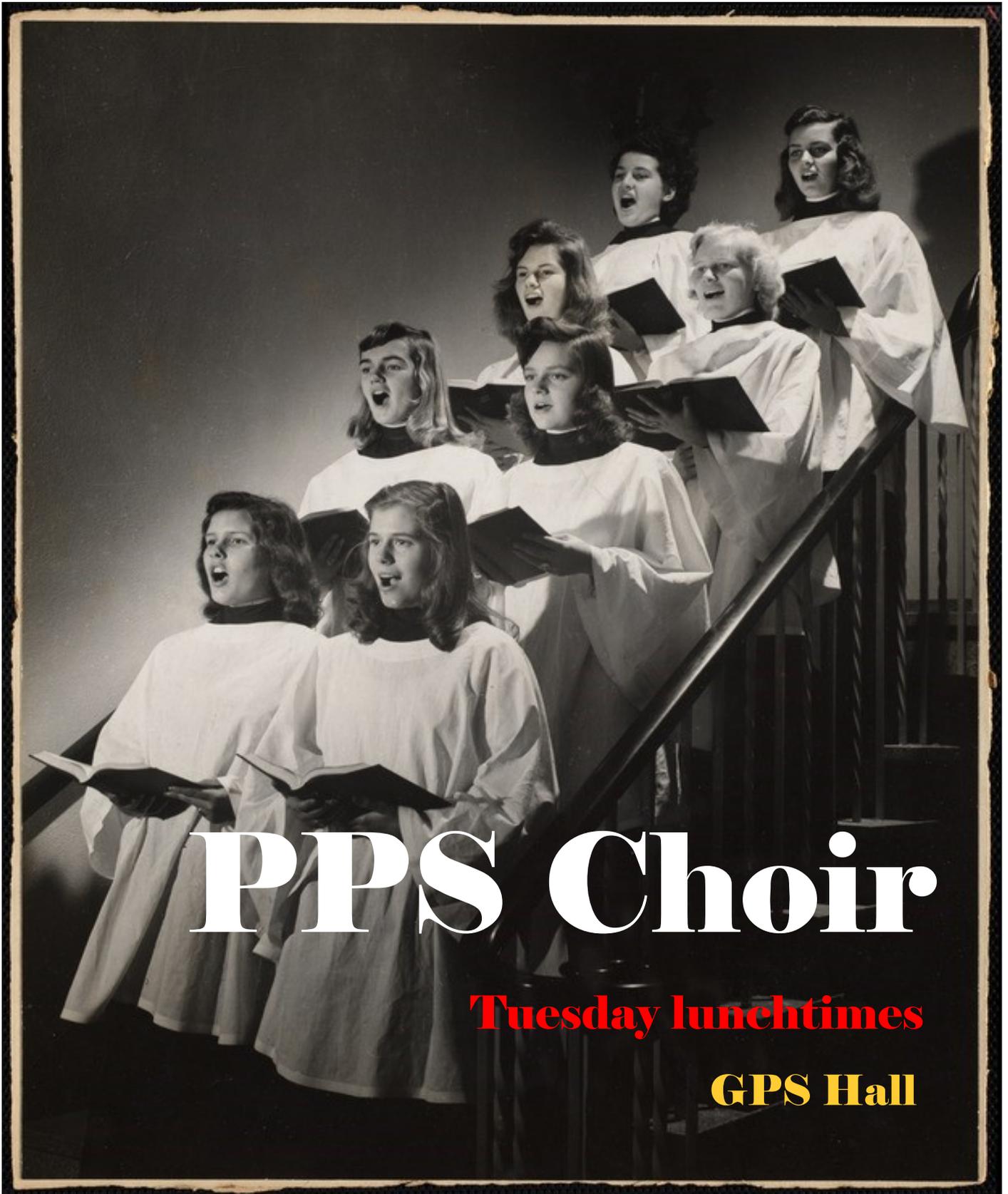


Gluten-free options available on each day



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PPS Choir

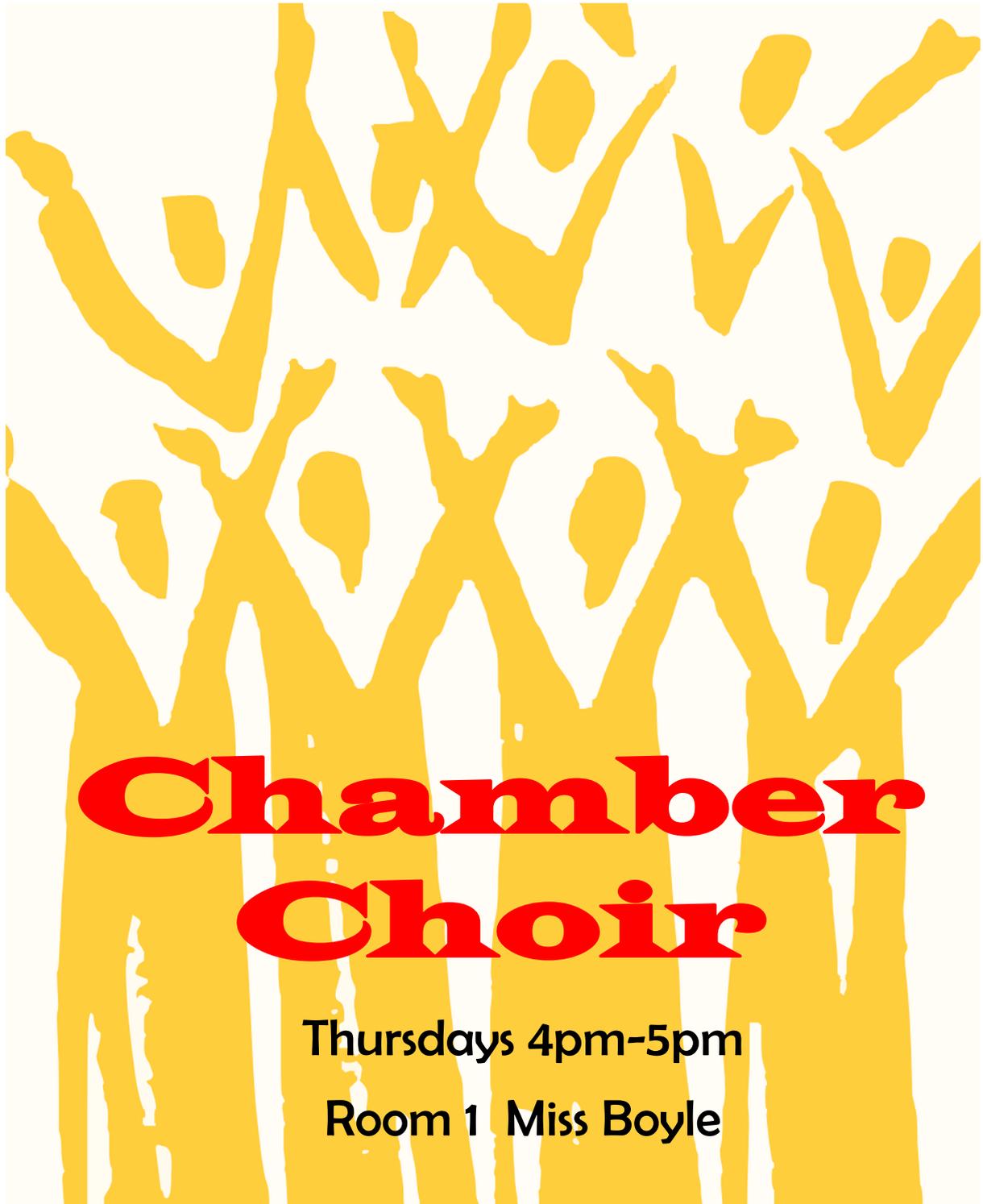
Tuesday lunchtimes

GPS Hall



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Chamber Choir

Thursdays 4pm-5pm

Room 1 Miss Boyle

International Women's Day 2021

Great books about amazing
women
Find them in PPS library!



Monday, 8th March marked International Women's Day and March is Women's History month. Our collection of books about inspirational women are now on display in the library for the rest of month and we will spend some time exploring them in library lessons.

Further resources which might be of interest:

Museum of London – Virtual Exhibition

<https://virtualexhibitions.museumoflondon.org.uk/votes-for-women/>

A Mighty Girl – blog and website with links to amazing tips and resources which aim to empower girls of all ages

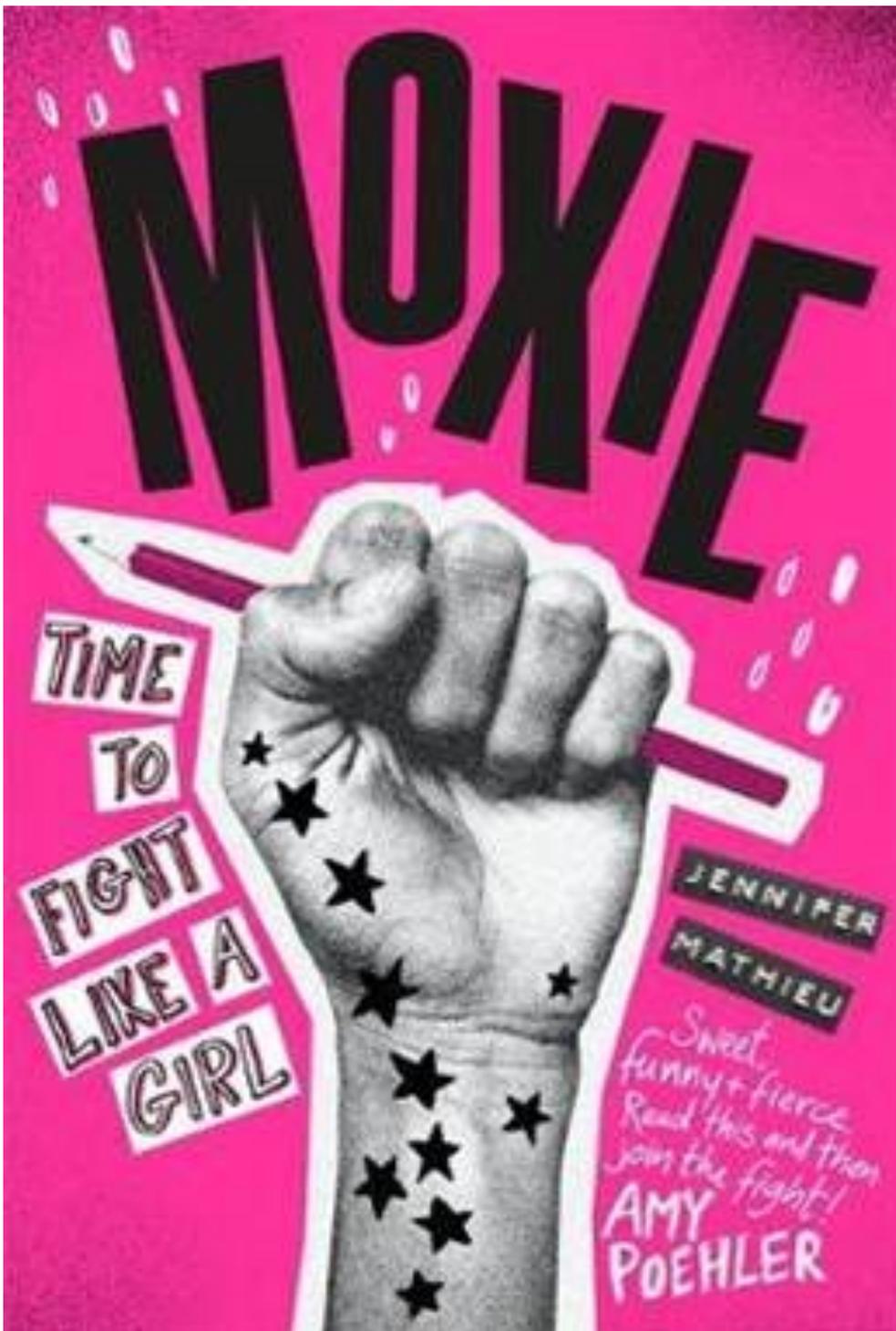
<https://www.amightygirl.com/>



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Book of the Week



Tying in with the theme of **International Women's Day**, ***Moxie*** by **Jennifer Mathieu** is our book of the week, this week.

It is a story about a girl's subtle attempts to change the misogynistic culture in her high school. It's a coming of age story about finding your own identity, your inner strength and new friends. It has now been adapted by Amy Poehler as a film for Netflix.

Review by Book Trust here:

[https://
www.booktrust.org.uk/
book/m/moxie/](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/m/moxie/)



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The Wizard of Oz

Dear Parents

We have been working hard over the past few weeks to rebook our venue and contractors for The Wizard of Oz later this year. As things stand show week will take place week commencing **Monday 28th June**. This production will still be recorded without a live audience.

Rehearsals will take place on **Wednesdays** only up until the Easter break. The rehearsals will be smaller and involve fewer students as we work around social distancing restrictions. I shall email parents each week with a rehearsal schedule.

After the Easter holiday, the number of rehearsals will increase to **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**. It is unlikely students will be required to attend all three rehearsals in a week. I will work around sports fixtures and other after school clubs where possible.

Next Rehearsal:

Weds 17 March 4pm-5pm Drama Studio
Jemima, Lexi, Jesse, Josh (Pages 20-30)

It gives the Drama and Music departments great pleasure to end this year with spectacular creative event, and we are very much looking forward to it!

Thank you for your support, and if you have any questions please get in touch.

Mr Chivers



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Noticeboard



CAST LIST

Aunt Em	Georgie Cox
Dorothy	Jemima-Frances Hyam
A Munchkin Farmer	Basma Alquraishi
Mayor of the Munchkins	Lloyd Day
Good Witch	Isabella Corney
Wicked Witch	Lexi Horne
Scarecrow	Jesse Francis-Baum
Tin Woodman	Josh Cooper
Lion	Lawton Ballbach
Private	Rachel Winch
Foremost General	Rudy Bigoni
Growlie	James Mitcheson
Gloria	Olivia Solomou
Wizard of Oz	Kieran McKintosh

Chorus (including smaller roles to be assigned during rehearsals)

Basma Alquraishi
Zaid Alquraishi
Rudy Bigoni
Isabella Calvert-Bull
Lloyd Day
Nils Madelin-Hill
Iasmin Magomedova

Samara Mayers
James Mitcheson
Olivia Solomou
Lana Tuite
Daniil Vasilyev
Rachel Winch



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Noticeboard

Mathematics

help & puzzles

Wednesday Lunchtimes

GPS Room G41

*"Come along for maths help or
to complete a maths puzzle"*





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News

ISA Steam Competition 2021

Congratulations to **Annabella Longobardi!**

She has been shortlisted in the STEAM Competition for her project on **Bicycles to Combat Climate Change!**
She will present to judges in the final round.

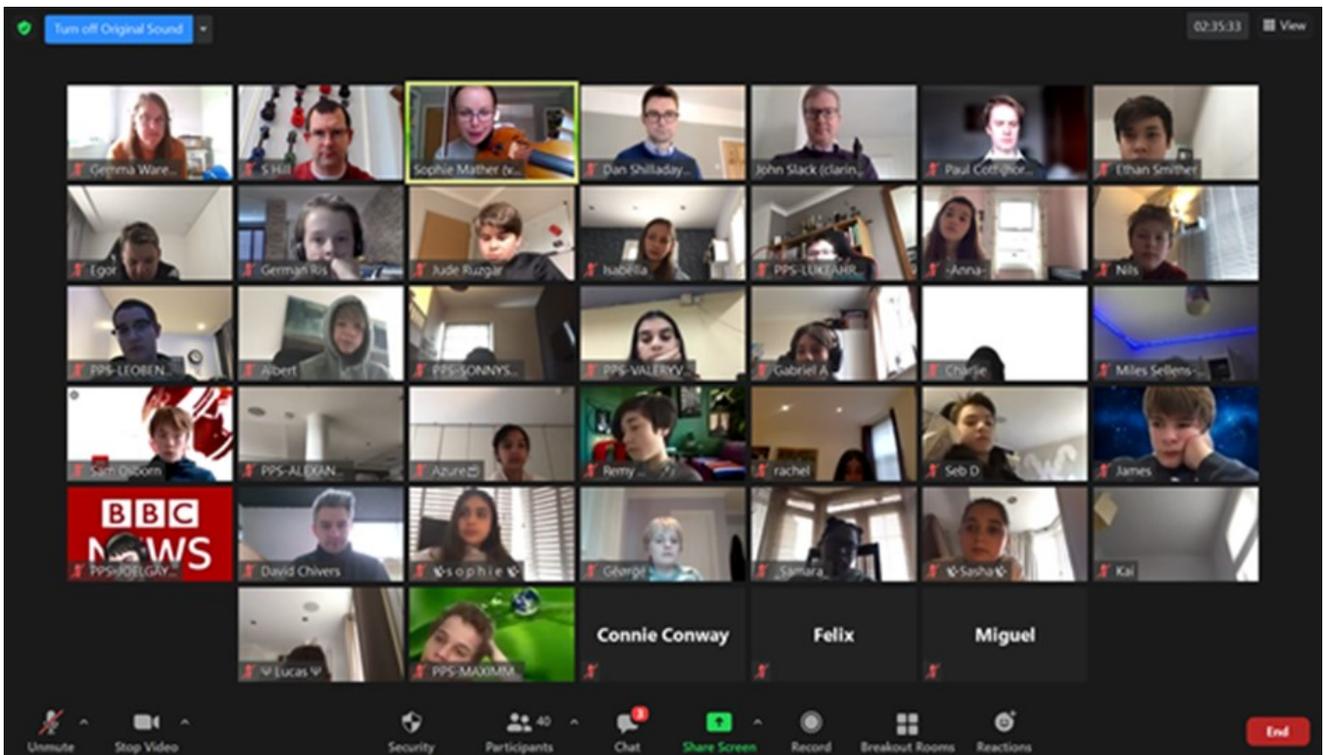
Well done!

Miss Silcocks





THE BERKELEY ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT PORTLAND PLACE



On Friday 5th March, we celebrated the last day of remote learning with a fantastic workshop from the Berkeley Ensemble.

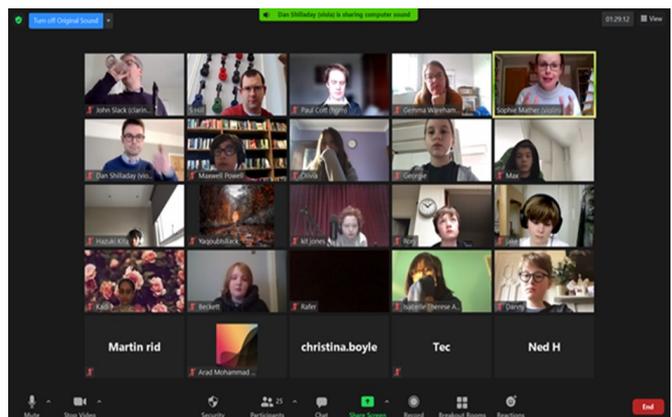
Years 6, 7 and 8 had their own session which explored the instruments of the ensemble, featured videos and photos of the ensemble performing, extracts played by the musicians and a chance for students to ask some amazing questions. Here are some thoughts from the students themselves and some pictures of the event.



*"I learned about the instruments such as violin, viola, cello, clarinet and horn. Most things they told us we would never have known."
(Kadi, Year 7)*

*"I liked how they gave us the opportunity to ask questions so we can understand the instruments more. I enjoyed it a lot [and] it was fun!"
(Jake, Year 7)*

*"Even though it was Zoom, it still felt immersive. It was helpful having tips from experienced musicians on practice [and that] it should be 60% fun."
(Beckett, Year 7)*





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English

Year 7 were tasked with writing animal poems after studying *Mooses* by **Ted Hughes**.

Parrot

I'm happy
I fly to see my friends and if we
have problems, we make amends
I'm happy
No one can stop me
I'm elegant, proud and where I
need to be
I'm happy
I love my friends and family
I'm happy
My love for them is unbreakable
No one can stop me!

Yaquob Behbehani





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Don't Kill Foxes

Don't kill foxes

They have feelings like me and you

They don't want to become dinner

They want to have fun and play!

They could be your best friend,

And you could play with them in the snow

Don't kill foxes,

Imagine if you were a fox

Would you like being killed?

Maxwell Powell





A Fox in the Woods

Stranded in the woods

Nowhere to go

Can't stay here where I am

Cold, hungry and beaten by the earth in me

Nowhere to go

Trying and trying

My legs ache, heart and everything else

All sounds awaken but I am the one that's not

Lost my home, spirit and anything else you think you own

Nowhere to go

Can't stop in the middle of my journey

Have to find all that I've lost in me and bring it back

to the world

Emptiness has to be full in my heart

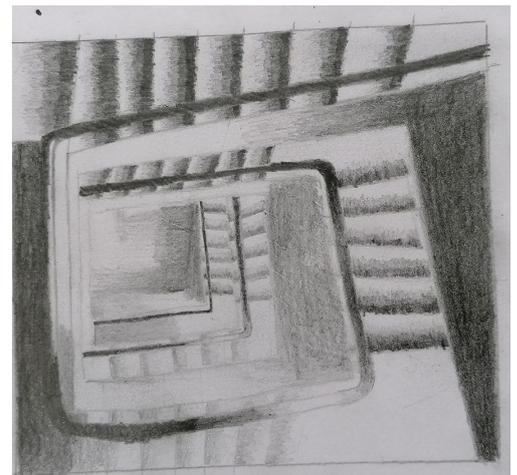
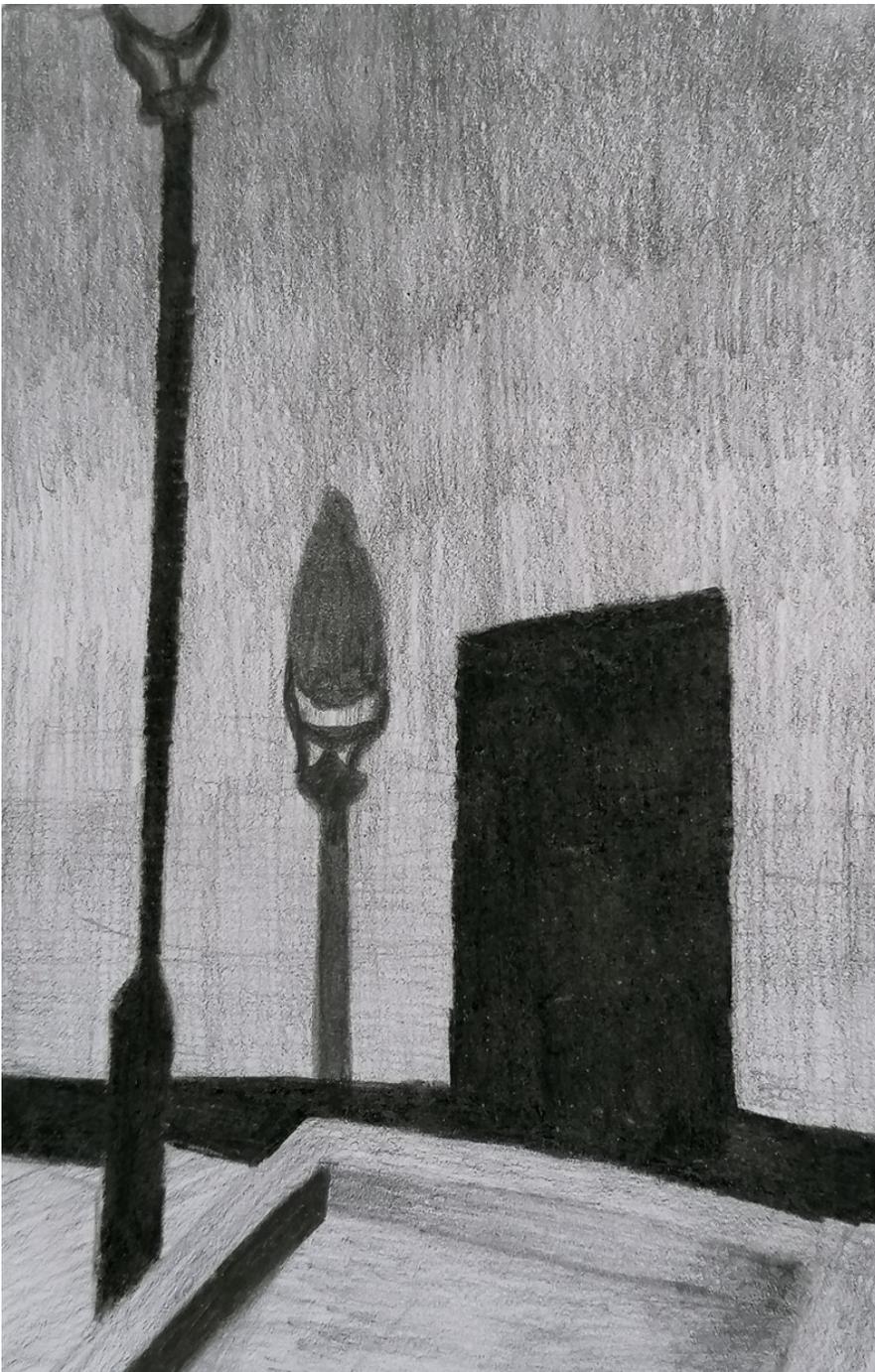
Nowhere to go

Have to find a home

Kadi Behbehani

Art

Examples of some lovely work by Year 11



Daisy Lewell



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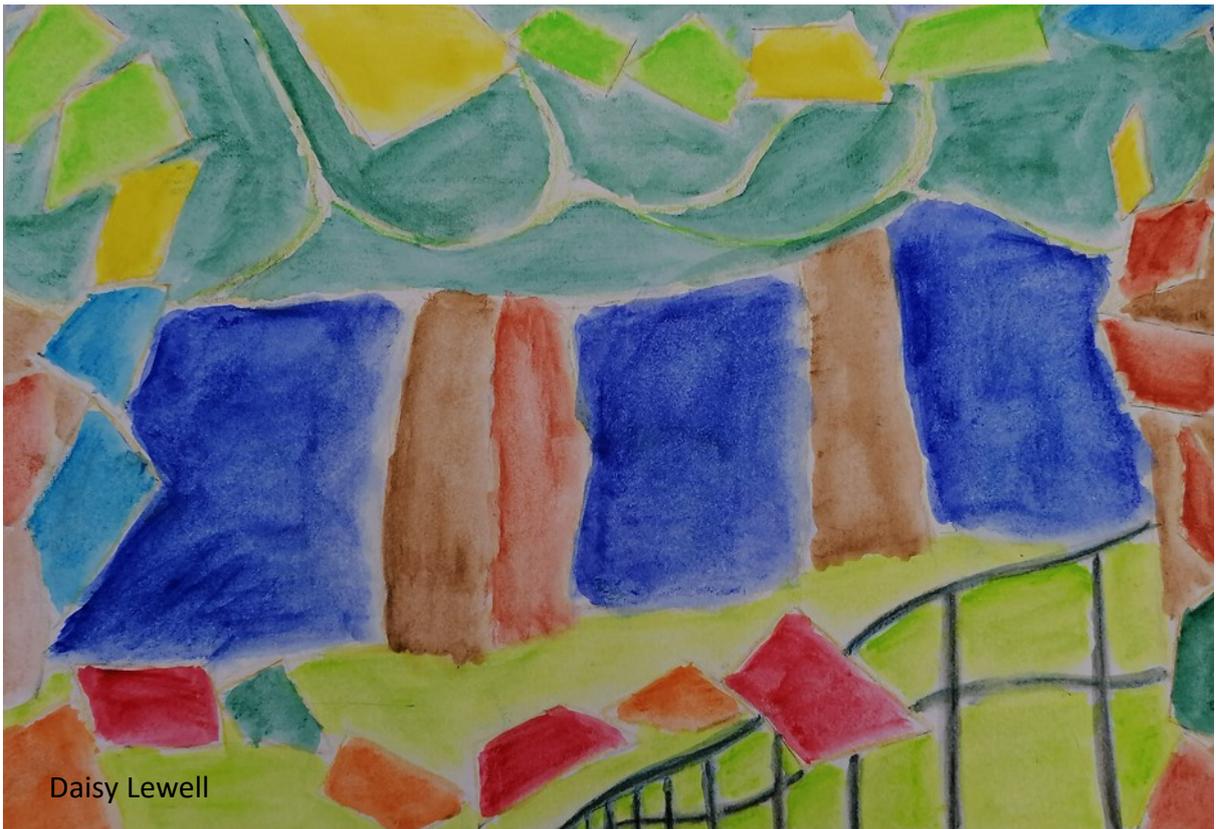


Amitis Jafari-Pak



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Daisy Lewell



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Amitis Jafari-Pak

Mean
be on
Set at
night

Fairies
leaning
each of

Water
object
to be

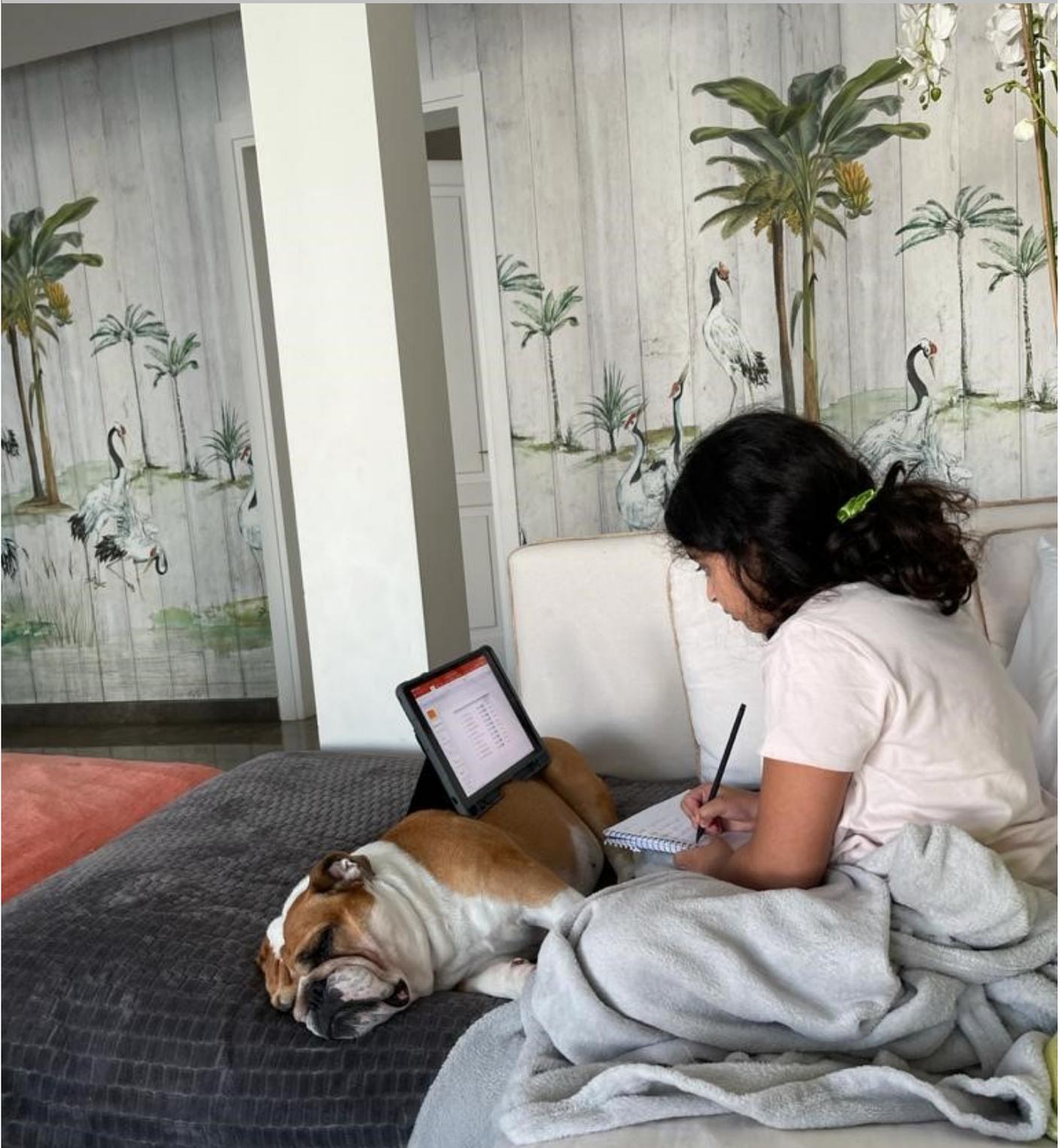
Diagram of 'The Fairies of Serpentine'



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Basma (Year 6) and friend online learning. Well, one of them!



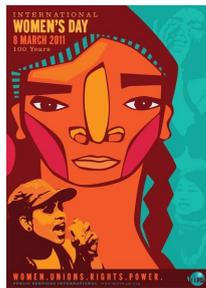


Portland Place School

News

English as an Additional Language

On Monday 8th March, we celebrated **International Women's Day** and our students were encouraged to reflect on women's contributions to history and culture.





Also, this Sunday we are going to honour motherhood and acknowledge the influence of mothers in society- a great opportunity to show love, gratitude and appreciation. I would like to wish all the mothers a very Happy Mother's Day! I hope your day is filled with joy and you spend it surrounded by your loved ones.

Jan Ceylan in Year 11 has summed up a mother's love for her child:

"When you were born, your mother held you in her arms tightly and looked into your eyes lovingly. She promised to protect you and educate you, to feed you and look after you, her little diamond."



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The Countries of the World: A Collection of Facts (Part 3)

by Alex Parker

Alex has been busily working on researching facts about every single country in the world. His project includes all UN members and observer states.

Alex says, 'I started writing a paragraph on each country about two months ago. I do hope you enjoy reading it.'



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All the stadiums in Trinidad and Tobago are named after athletes. Weirdly, it identifies as North American, despite being 11 km from Venezuela and being 130 km away from Grenada, in North America, which is not really mainland North America. Despite the sole official language being English, all the towns have Spanish names. Its capital is actually called Port of Spain as well as all the Spanish names, and its largest city is called San Fernando. What a popular tourist destination it is.

Tunisia became a democracy in 2011 when police officers refused to shoot protesters, despite being ordered to. Under the rule of Hannibal, Tunisia, or Carthage as it was known was incredibly powerful, and they engaged in battle, using elephants to trample Roman soldiers and to send them into retreat. They engaged in epic battle with the Romans, and were ultimately defeated by them, after these Elephants trampled over Carthaginians as the Romans blew trumpets and other sounds that scare elephants.

The city of Istanbul is home to 15 million people, or about 3 times the population of Melbourne. It is split between Europe and Asia, but contrary to what you might believe, this really does not make a difference. One of its airports is on the Asian side, and the other on the European, but the main one is on the European side.

The Solomon Islands has an iconic shipwreck which has been there for about 20 years, and will probably be there for at least another 20 years if left there untouched. It also consists of 992 islands. Its head of



state is Queen Elizabeth II. Many view the country as tiny, but while it is small it is actually the size of Albania. Over half of these islands are uninhabited, as it has a few main islands with modestly sized population centres. Its temperature is a tropical and nice 26.5C. The underwater volcano of Kavachi keeps disappearing and reappearing, as it once formed rocks that went as tall as 15 metres above sea-level.

Afghanistan has changed its flag 17 times since 1900. It has a tiny mountainous border with China, which if you, you change time by 210 mins, or 3 and a half hours, the biggest time difference for such a scenario in the world, regardless of what direction the time is. Another fact is that it is offset from GMT by 30 mins, with being 4:30 ahead of GMT, which makes it one of a few countries to be offset by 1 whole hour ahead of GMT.

Albania has the worst smoking ratio of a country fully in Europe. It was also the first country Marco Polo visited on his journey on the silk road. 80% of cars in Albania are Mercedes.

Andorra is the only country in the world to have Catalan as an official language. While being tiny, it is the largest country in the world to not have an airport. It is also consumes the most cigarettes per capita. It is home to only 80,000 people who live in the tiny country in the Pyrenees next to Spain and France. It used to have the same flag as Chad and Romania, before adding a coat of arms.

Return to PE - Rugby

This week pupils have resumed PE and many of our pupils have been extremely happy to return to team games activities.

Most of our pupils have begun touch rugby and in line with the RFU's return to rugby roadmap, schools are able to play limited contact rugby. We will be looking to include this in our programme over the next few weeks, and so it is imperative that students bring the correct kit to school for these sessions, including:

- **Studded rugby or football boots** (rugby approved studs please)
- **Gum shield**
- **Rugby socks, shorts and reversible top**

Gum shields can be self-moulded ones that can be ordered online from any good sports kit providers. We take great care to introduce contact rugby gradually and safely, taking into account pupils' varying levels of development.

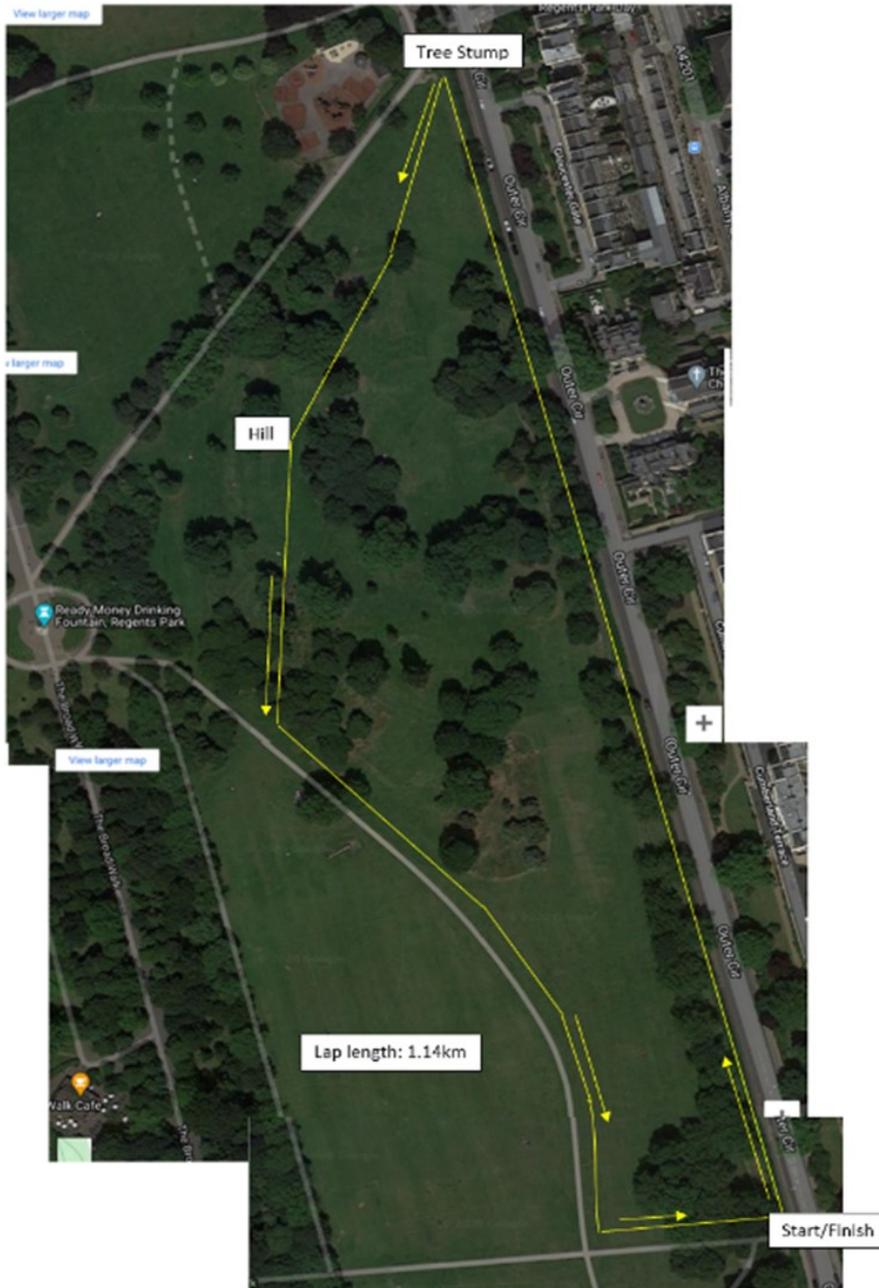
Cross Country

Portland Place's brand new cross country course was tackled for the first time by our lower school pupils this week. The old course, at Marylebone Green, was run entirely on paved surfaces and we felt that pupils would benefit from a more challenging and authentic course. The new lay-out is north of Cumberland Green, entirely off-road, with a decent hill to climb and some nice muddy sections. The lap is 1.14km long and pupils have completed either one, one and a half, or two laps. Records will be recorded for 2 laps, and eventually 3, for Year 9 pupils. Therefore the new Portland Place Cross Country record holders (over 2 laps), for at least this week are as follow:





Cross Country Course – Spring Term 2021



Year 6

Boys Humphrey Boland 15.00

Girls Fritzi Jacklofsky 19.46

Year 7

Boys Hazuki Kita 13.10

Girls Isabelle Therese Alfeche
19.55

Year 8

Boys Miles Sellens-Flack 12.10

Girls Isabella Calvert-Bull 12.55

Year 9

Boys Tom Hallam 9.53

Girls Lexi Horne 15.43

Fencing



After-school **Fencing Club** restarted on Wednesdays after school. After half a term of practice, the pupils are now moving onto the real metal swords and protective gear. We also have a new coach – Michal Janda.

Michal was a member of the Polish National Team for 12 years, representing Poland at World and European Championships. During his 18 years fencing career he was multiple national U17, U20 and U23 champion, getting to the top of the podium for both the Individual and Team Polish Championships in 2016. After finishing studies at Gdansk University of Physical Education and Sport in the field of Olympic Sport with a coaching specialisation, and acquiring the Polish Fencing Federation coaching degree, Michal began work at Gdansk

Fencing School before moving to London where he coaches both fencers from the National Team and across many schools in the United Kingdom.

If any pupils wish to begin fencing tuition please contact scott.rider@portland-place.co.uk. Classes run from 4-5pm in GPS Hall on Wednesdays.

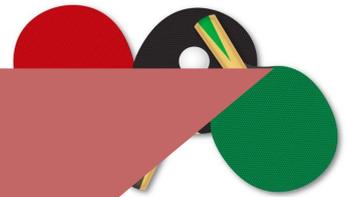
Fencing will also be an enrichment activity next term.



Diary

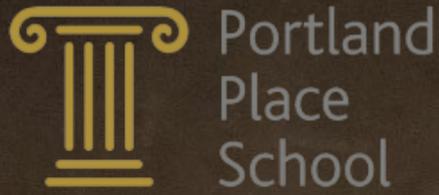
CLUBS	
Monday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Drama Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Book Club
12:50—13:40	Advanced Arabic, Ms Elshelmani, G41
12:50—13:40	Y11 GCSE Art Club, Ms Osborne, HH12 (invitation only)
13:15—13:45	KS3 Science Journal & Book Club, H1
Tuesday	
12:50—13:35	Senior Weights Club (Y9-11), PPS Changing Rooms
12:50—13:45	GCSE French, Mr Lalande, G41
12:50—13:45	PPS Choir, Mr Hill & Miss Boyle, GPS
13:00—13:45	Cyber Discovery (age 13+), Mr White, H1
13:15—13:45	KS3 STEM Club, Ms Robinson, H1
15:45—16:45	Y11 Science Revision (Physics), H1
15:45—16:45	Y11 Science Revision (Chemistry), H1
15:50—17:00	Art Club, H10 & H11
Wednesday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Fitness Training, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	GCSE Computer Science, Mr Hill, G41
12:55—13:40	Maths Puzzles, Mr Hill, G41
13:00—13:45	Russian Club, Ms Zalesny, H1
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Physics), H1
15:45—16:30	KS3 Maths Club (Y6-9), G33
15:45—16:30	GCSE Statistics & Additional Mathematics, Mr Hill, G41
15:45—16:30	Arabic Club, Mrs Elshelmani, G41
16:00—17:00	Fencing, PPS Hall, Changing rooms 15:45
Thursday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Dance Club, H11
12:50—13:40	Y8-11 Creative Writing, Ms Baig/Ms O'Donnell
12:50—13:40	Mandarin Club, Ms Huang, PPS Hall
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Chemistry), H1
15:45—16:30	KS4 Maths Club (Y10-11), G33
15:45—16:45	KS2/3 Design Technology Club, Mr Bradford, B1
15:50—17:00	Art Club, H10 & H11

12:50-13:45	Chamber Choir - Room 1 - Miss Boyle
Friday	
12:50—13:50	GCSE Art Club, Miss Dever, H11
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Digital Theatre & Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	GCSE Spanish, Ms Magniez, G32
12:50—13:45	Vocal Ensemble, Ms Ryder, R1
12:55—13:40	UKMT Maths Challenge practice, G41
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Biology), H1



Look out for updated
Club & Enrichment
info

TERM DATES	
Monday 4 January	
<i>Mon 15 Feb – Fri 19 Feb</i>	
Thursday 1 April	
<i>Mon 19 Apr – Fri 23 Apr</i>	
Thursday 22 April	
<i>Mon 3 May (school closed)</i>	
<i>Mon 31 May – Fri 4 June</i>	
Friday 9 July	
Autumn Term 2021	
Term starts	Monday 6 September
<i>Half term</i>	<i>Mon 18 Oct – Fri 29 Oct</i>
End of term	Friday 10 December



Thank you for reading

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