





Tues 9th Jan—Spring Term Starts

(Inset Day for staff Mon 8th Jan)





Parents Workshop

PORTLAND PLACE SCHOOL

NAVIGATING THE GCSE JOURNEY PARENTS WORKSHOP





During this workshop, we will discuss:

- Building resilience in teenagers
- Effective communication
- Positive self-talk
- Encouraging wellbeing
- Metacognition
- Effective praise

... and more!

At Portland Place School we foster an excellent collaborative relationship between parents and the school. Therefore, we would like to invite **the parents of Year 10 and Year 9 students**, who already are or soon will descend onto their GCSE journey, to join us for an enriching workshop on **Tuesday, 23rd January 2024.**

Although this workshop is aimed at parents of Y9/Y10 students, the parents of Year 11 students are also welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ms Florea

Staff changes for January 2024

Jamie Whiteside

Portland

Place

School

Jamie has been Deputy Head since 2019. For totally unexpected reasons his leadership, as well as his skills with IT, ed tech and computing, was soon being put to a stern test. He came through with flying colours and has been integral to founding and building our hybrid school. Jamie has brought so much more to PPS. His deep understanding of pedagogy and awareness of latest research means he has led wider school developments in teaching and learning to the betterment of all our classroom practice. I could have asked for no one better as Deputy Head; Jamie has been the great support and the wise, clear minded sounding board every Head needs. And who now will take ultimate frisbee to the park? Jamie has been instrumental in evolving Portland Place into the school it is today and will be a hard act to follow.

Ambreen Baig

Ambreen joined Portland Place in 2017 and it was evident right from the start that she is a very special teacher. Her enthusiasm for literature has always shone through as has her passionate care for her students – she really does go above and beyond for them. In 2020 Ambreen agreed to become the (then) form tutor for an experiment – our hybrid school. The rest, as they say, is history. She embraced the idea immediately and has been integral to its development and success. The appreciation we see from her students (and their families) is quite extraordinary. Ambreen has given so much to Portland Place over these last seven years; she will be hugely missed.

Jamie and Ambreen have both also given tremendous support to colleagues through this time. We thank Jamie and Ambreen for everything they have achieved at Portland Place and wish them both all the very best for what comes next.



This means that several roles for other staff will also change in the New Year.

Steve Hill will become our new Deputy Head with oversight of the academic life of the school.

Scott Rider will become our new Assistant Head (Co-curricular).

Joe Kubik will become the new Head of PE.

Christina Boyle will become the new Director of Music

There will be changes of Head of Year: **Miss Patten** will become the new Head of Year 7 **Mr Lee** will become the new Head of Year 9

For the **Hybrid School** the arrangements for the rest of this academic year will be:

Paul Jones (Assistant Head) will oversee the Hybrid School – any structural issues or concerns should be referred to him.

Miss Patten will be the form tutor and daily contact for Years 6 - 9.

Miss McBain will be the form tutor and daily contact for Year 10.

Mrs Thorne will be the form tutor and daily contact for Year 11.

David Bradbury Head





Goodbye Haofeng & Taishi!

I would like to say a big thank you to Haofeng and Taishi (both in Year 9) for the wonderful work they have done ever since they joined PPS. You have inspired me every single day and I feel extremely happy to be your teacher. Good luck at your schools in China and Japan, and rest assured that you will always have a special place in our Portland Place Community. You will be missed!



- We say farewell to two exceptional Mathematicians,
- Whose presence and sense of humour has made every lesson much brighter. We hope you will continue to make you lights shine wherever you may go, Not restraining that bubbling personality but sharing it in every Maths lesson confidently.
- We wish you both the best as you move to the next chapter of your journey. Thank you for being kind, authentic and friendly.

From: Year 9 Set 1 & Friends







Dear parents and guardians,

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As we approach the end of 2023, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfe gratitude for your amazing support throughout the year. Together we are the dream team!

I am really looking forward to continuing this wonderful academic journey in the New Year.

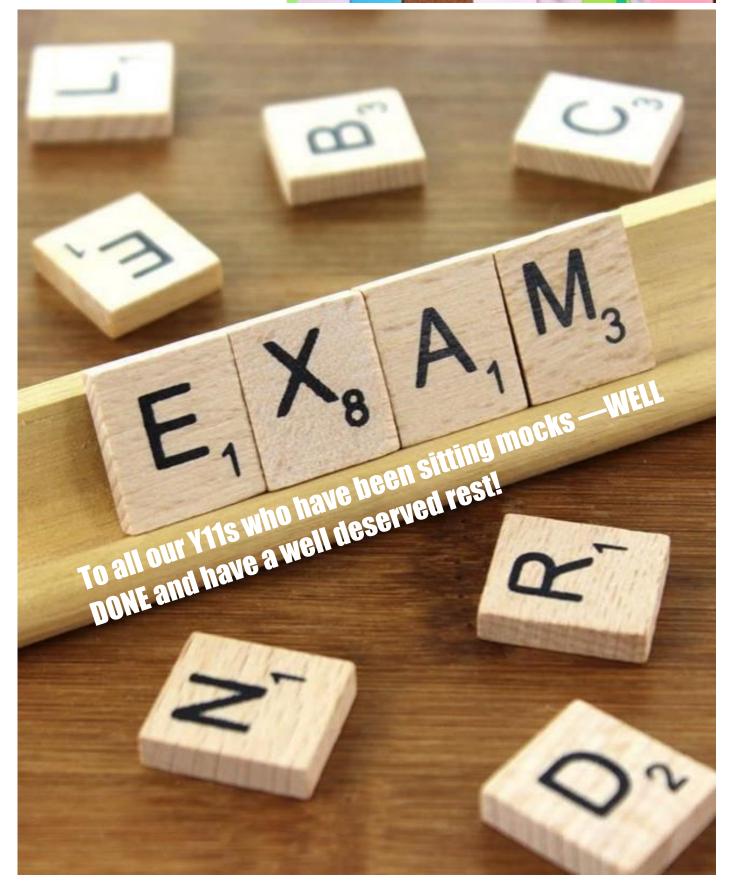
Ms Florea

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a New Year filled with prosperity and success!











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THE WALL OF KINDNES

Thank you, Tec, for helping me catch up on my Maths work and for motivating me. Max C

Vie (Hybrid Y8) would like to thank: Amelia, Jojo, Ayub for being supportive friends. And Maya and Eva from year 9 day school too.

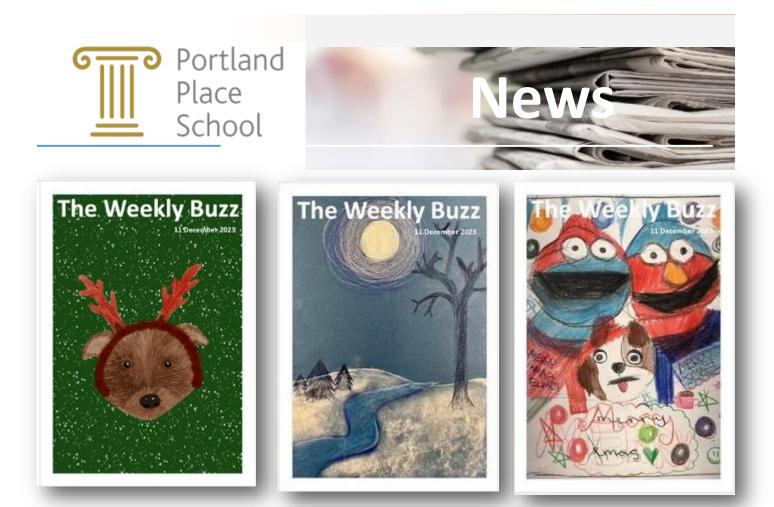
Thank you, Tom M, for being so positive and kind on Monday afternoon, before the Christmas Concert. Superstar! Ms Florea

A big thank you to the hugely talented Ms Zalesny for taking so many lovely photographs at our school events. Her artistic eye captures these moments beautifully! A big shout out to Mr Lee, Mr Tomlinson, Zaya and Eva for Packing all the hamper donations for the Christmas food bank. Also a massive thank you to everyone who donated items, your generosity will help a lot of families this Christmas—Mr Bland

All of Hybrid School would like to thank Ms Baig for being such a supportive form tutor and Head of Hybrid. We will miss you very much.

Reggie (Hybrid Y9) would like to thank Sonny B for buying him funny socks for Christmas!





A huge well done to all our students who submitted entries for our first Inter-House Art competition this year, to win the festive front cover of the Weekly Buzz! The judging was very difficult.

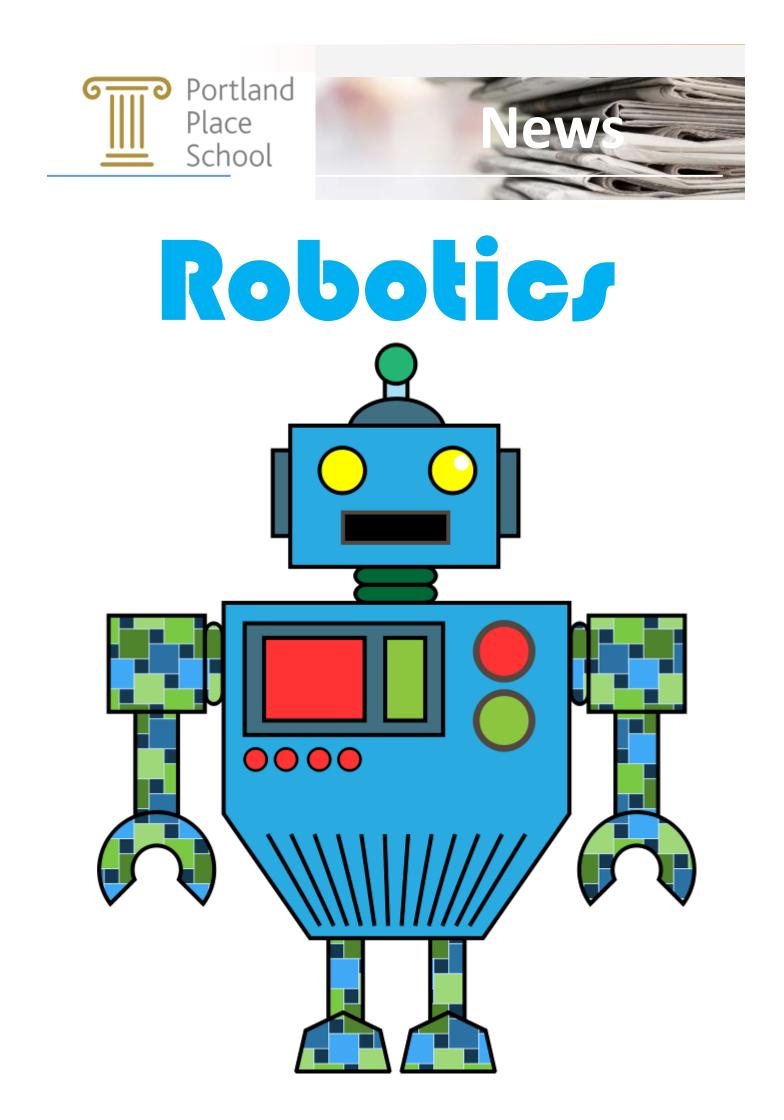
The three students above were shortlisted and will each receive runner up points for their houses. Well done to:

Sopys Y7 —Wigmore Destini Y10—Wigmore Billie Y7—Devonshire Well done to our overall winner, as selected by a panel of 10 judges—

Millie Y7-Cavendish

Ms Dever







Our engineers and programmers have been busy over the last two weeks. Students have built new robots, and have used block code and Python to compete in two new challenges.

Tug Of War Challenge

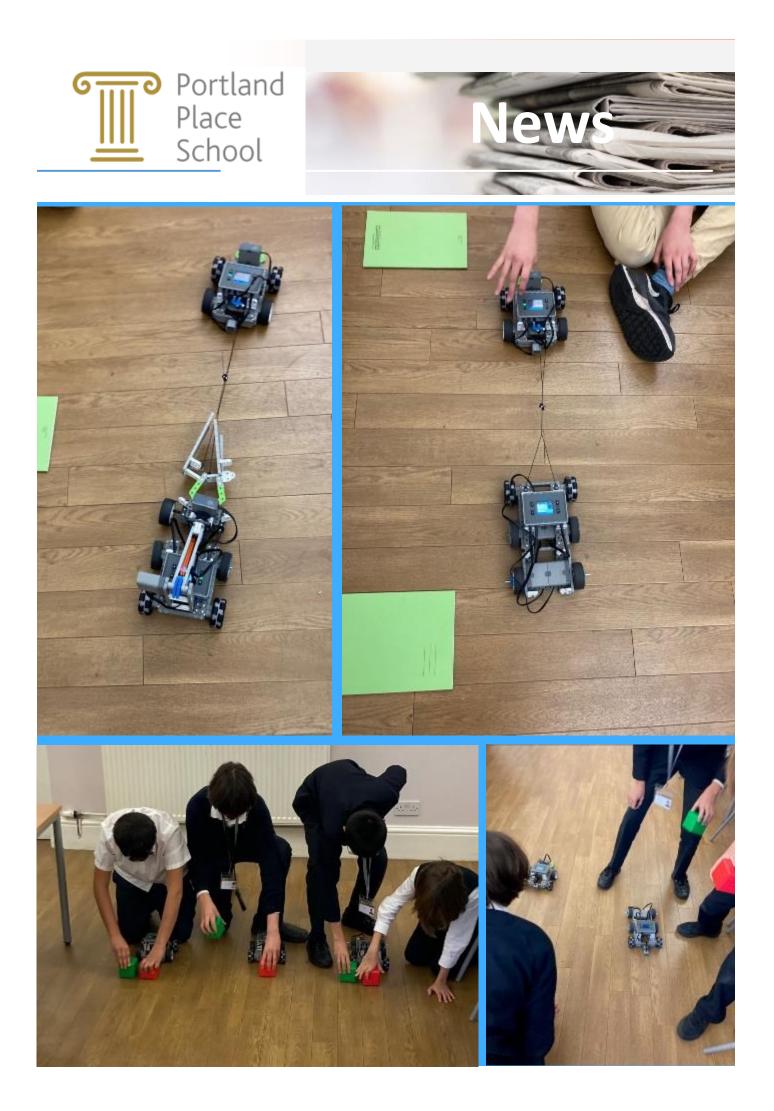
Students were tasked with engineering a robot that would compete in a tug of war. Some teams decided to increase speed, some increased weight of their bot, and some used four wheel drive! After a three team round robin, and playoff round - Will's monster bot "pulled" out a win against Maxwell in the final!

Red Light, Green Light

In this challenge, students needed to code their robots and use the optical sensor to detect red and green. Robots were programmed to go on green and stop on red. After three rounds, Dominic and Haofeng were the victors, with Neak coming in a close second!

This week is our find week of robotics for the year and it is **Battle Bots!!** Students will be modifying their bots to compete in the ultimate robot smackdown!!

Ms McBain







Jazz Plano Workshop & Domo Nikki Yeoh

Years 7-9 Ist December PPS Hall @1.15pm



On 1st December, we were very fortunate to have a performance and Q&A session from our wonderful jazz piano teacher Nikki Yeoh. Nikki is a world-renowned jazz pianist and composer, having won the Jazz FM Instrumentalist of the Year in 2017 and has performed across the world with jazz greats such as Courtney Pine and was the Musical Director for the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year Finals in 2020. Nikki performed two of her own compositions during her lunchtime session to all of Year 7-9, spoke about her experiences and took some amazing and detailed questions from the students about her "best gig", "when she decided to be a jazz musician" and many others. Our grateful thanks go to Nikki and the students and staff who attended and listened so attentively.

If you (or your child) would like to have jazz / popular piano lessons with Nikki, we have spaces from September. Please complete the tuition application form here: <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</u><u>e/1FAIpQLSe8iR-NOq27wFKNV32w4aG7Kgwfu83ZpZRuNDe9CxXA_gH0ig/viewform?usp=sf_link</u>



Mr Hill





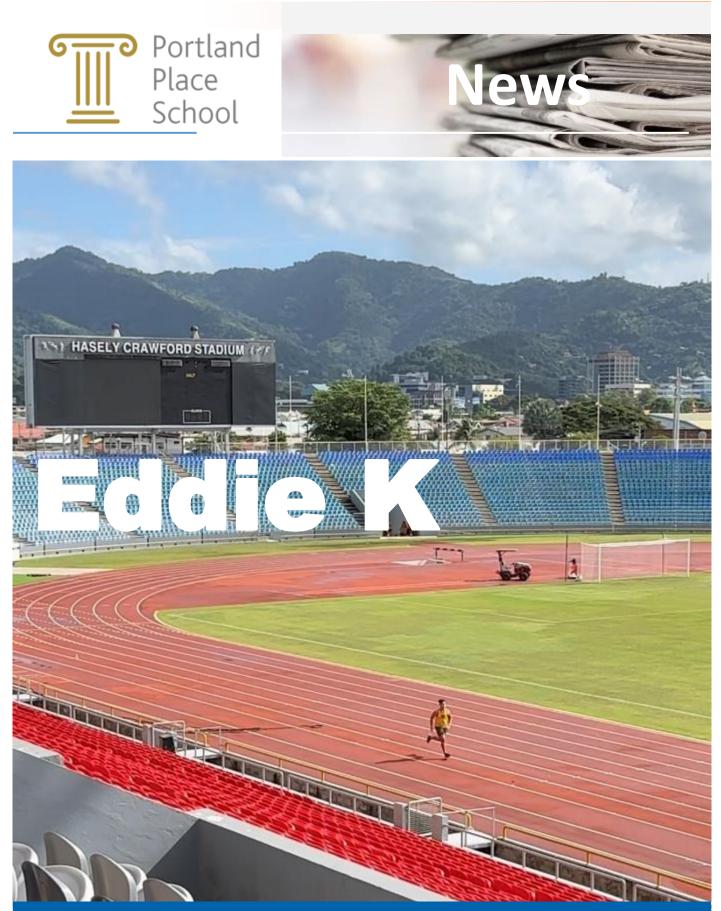






Thank you so much to our wonderful chef Lynette and her team for the fantastic Christmas Lunch on Wednesday and for always keeping us so well fed throughout the year!! THANK YOU!

N'all



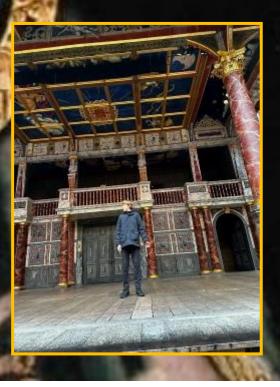
Our very own **Eddie** (Hybrid Year 9) is training at the stadium in Trinidad. This is for the National U19s selection for the Rugby Americas North (RAN) 2024 competition which will take place from next week until early January. Eddie has been selected to train due to his amazing talents! We wish him the best of luck! Ms Baig and Ms McBain



Our Christian (Y9) had a big performance last week as part of his Globe Youth Theatre Group. On Sunday 3rd December, he performed Richard III at the Globe in the role of King Henry! Here he is on stage.

Well done Christian!

Ms Baig





This lunchtime, we were lucky enough to have Liz, our DJ teacher, come and do a demonstration and workshop with Year 7 & 8. Lots of students got chance to try beat-matching and a bit of scratching. If anyone would like to sign up for DJ lessons, please follow the link below!

forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8iR-NOq27wFKNV32w4aG7Kgw fu83ZpZRuNDe9CxXA_gH0i viewform?usp=sf_link



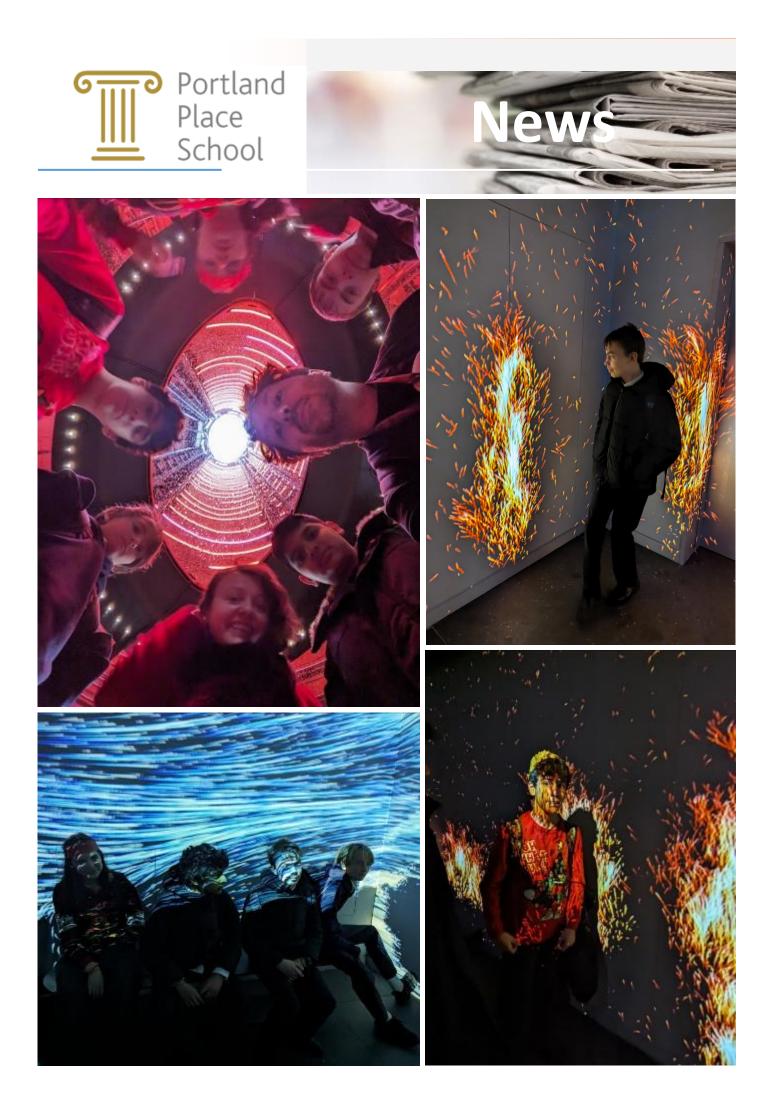


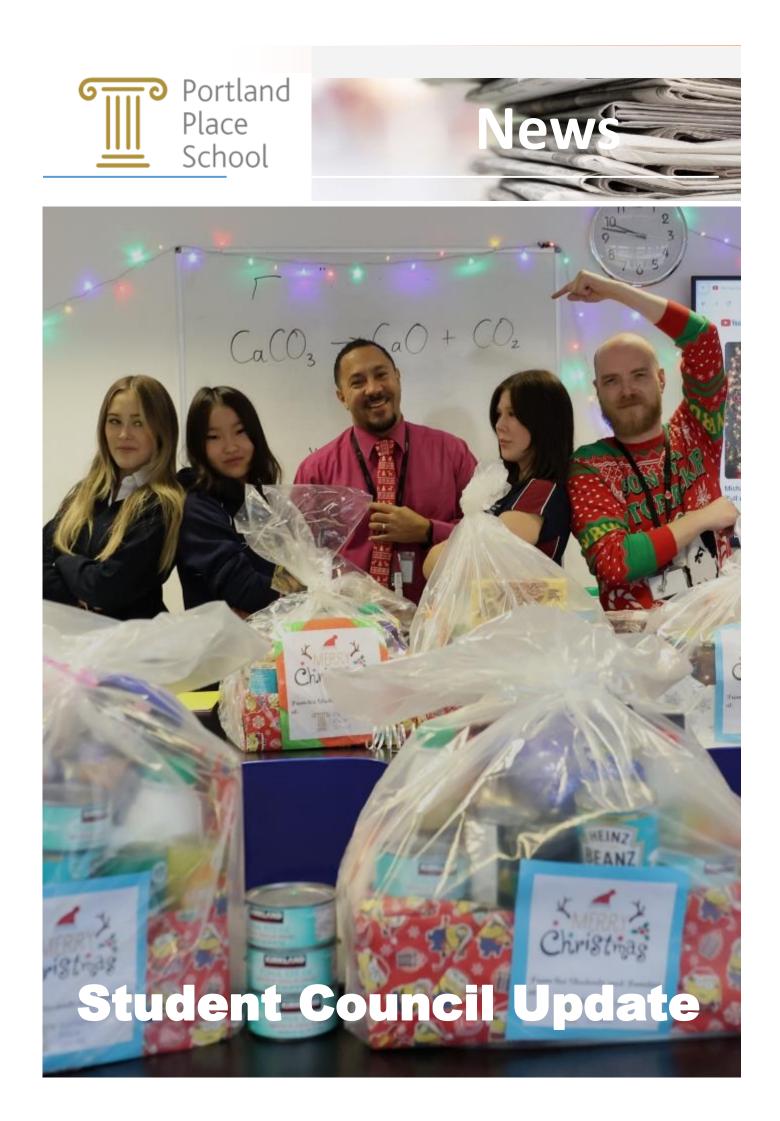
Tall Buildings of London: Battersea Power Station

'Finishing on a high!" That's what we aimed for, and Lift 109 served it to us!

Just before leaving, we heard that the Lift 109 had to shut due to a technical issue. We were disappointed, but this was not going to stop us. Dario "the hero" offered to show us around as his uncle lived right next to the renovated Power Station, that used to power the whole of London. So we decided to go anyway! Once there, the lift had reopened and it was such a fun experience -almost like being at Thorpe Park! It's flashing lights, space invaders music and history told in the dark had us all wowed even before reaching the top! A spectacular show!

Mr Lalande would like to thank his group and Miss Florea who have been such troopers this half term. And remember, always aim for the top!





Portland Place School

The Student Council would like to offer their thanks to all students and families that donated to the **Harvest House Hampers**. We successfully created 11 beautiful hampers to help those at this time of year that need a little extra help.

We made a large food donation to the **Euston Food Bank**, who were extremely grateful. Linette from the food bank explained how they support the homeless, those who are house bound, the elderly and those in need by producing 3,000 meals a day, 6 days a week along with having a food bank with items that are collect by families in need.

A huge thank you to families of **Mia, Abdullah and Stan** whom brought in significant amounts of food products, a **massive thanks** to the rest of you that contributed, you have earned house points for their respective houses.

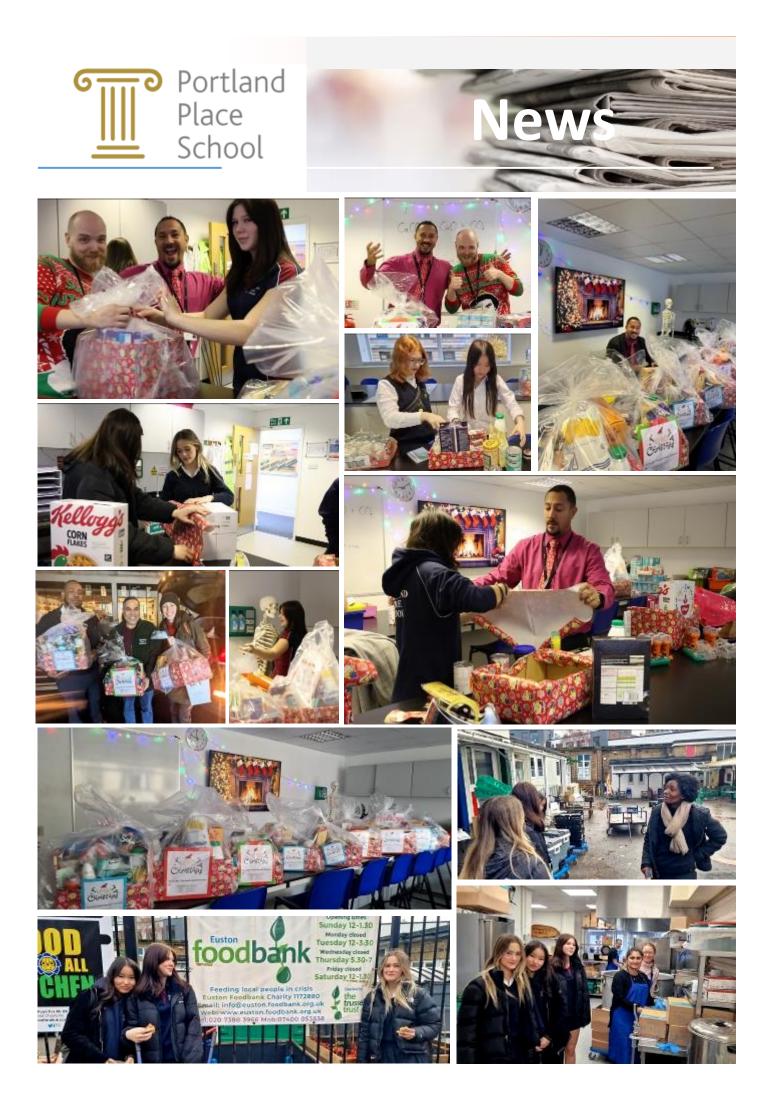
Also a massive thank for all of you that contributed to our **Christmas Jumper Day** for *Save the Children*. The amount raised is being counted and will be published in the next newsletter!

Thanks and have a Merry Christmas! The School Council and Mr Lee

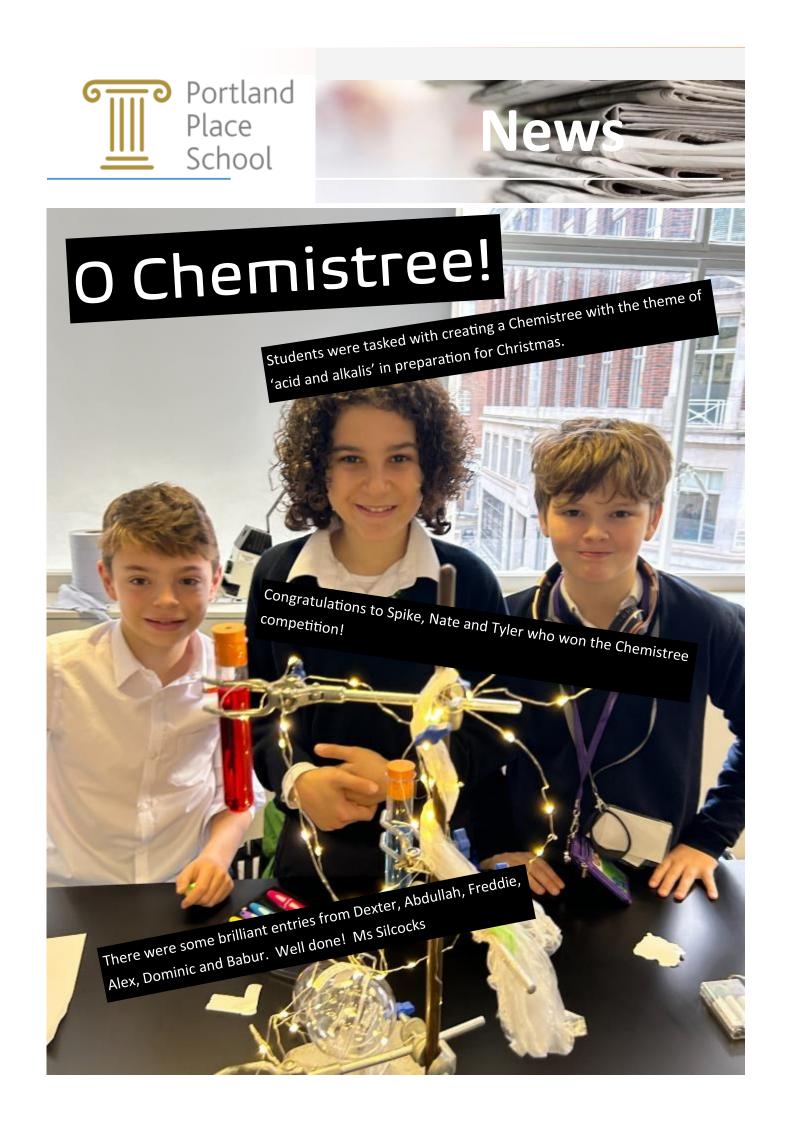




























PORTLAND PERSPECTIVES

Year 9 Hybrid Students have been busy writing magazine articles this half term. Here are three opinion pieces that they wrote for their magazine, 'Portland Perspectives'. The magazine also included news articles and agony aunt and uncle advice! This excellent work came from Jamaal, Ahlam and Amelia. Great job!

Ms Haidar English Department



The Dark Knight Shredding the Spotlight

By Jamaal





Glamourous and Gotham, the Batman has hit the spotlight – again – after almost 20 years since the initial release of the trilogy, with Batman Begins, starring Christian Bale.

The story follows billionaire and playboy, Bruce Wayne, training at the league of shadows to eliminate all crime in Gotham. After the huge acclaim and success of the first film, The Dark Knight hit the big screen with the debut of your favourite creepy villain, The Joker. The trilogy concluded with a captivating final instalment, The Dark Knight Rises, starring Tom Hardy as Bane.

After the mind-boggling box office of \$2,437,724,184, everyone thought that there would be no additional films to the series. But 17 years after the release of Batman Begins, The Batman dazzled fans with Robert Pattison as the masked vigilante, who after the murder of Gotham City Mayor, hunts down the alleged killer; The Riddler. And with the announced release of a SECOND FILM with Robert Pattison, in 2025, the is plenty to look forward to. But with the sequel to the 2nd series fast approaching, it is also a time to look back.

So why not revisit and rewatch all the past 4 films, before the 5th is released on the big

screen? Certainly, it will prepare you for the thrills and spills to come in Batman: Part II. So get prepared for the sequel, and don't let the sequel shred the spotlight without your notice!



Why the Barbie Movie Stocked So Many

Barbie

By Ahlam





On the 21st July 2023, the Barbie movie starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling debuted, yet there had been talk about it months before. People of all ages were thrilled to hear about its release, and thousands of barbie related videos were being posted on social media platforms. The film generated over a billion dollars and money kept coming in even on its third weekend of being out, as you can imagine it is in the top 3 most popular movies of the year. After watching it though, a large amount of people spoke about its unexpected storyline, here's what they thought.

From around the age of three a child will usually start playing with dolls like Barbie, imagine you were that age, imagine how much you wanted those dolls to come to life, and how you wished Barbie's dream house was real so you could go and live in it with her. But you knew deep in your heart that that wish wouldn't come true, until a few years later when the Barbie movie was released. Well, little children were being taken to the cinema by their parents, but they were stopped at the entrance, surprisingly the movie was PG-13. This news shocked many. A movie titled 'Barbie' would surely be for children, but no, the storyline was actually about feminism, stereotypes, and self-discovery/ acceptance.

The movie was of course based in Barbie land which is a very different place compared to 'the real world'. In Barbie land women were builders, presidents, politicians, doctors, lawyers, and more whilst the Kens spent their days playing at the beach. In the movie, Barbie and Ken go on a journey to visit the real world which was a complete shock to them. In the real world (which is essentially today's society but exaggerated) men dominate almost every sector: they are CEOs, misogynists, and make up a large percentage of the jobs that women do in Barbie land. This made Barbie feel confused and upset but Ken was amazed, he decided to take inspiration from the real world to try and change Barbie land.

This take on Barbie would be inspiring for little girls but not so enjoyable. Ken's villain twist was another thing that surprised the audience. He liked the real world, and it opened his eyes to what his and all the other Ken's lives could be like, so, he decided to change Barbie land. The Kens just seemed so at peace with their life that no one was expecting something like this to happen, but it really was vital for the movie as it allowed topics like self-discovery and equality to shine through and offer an unexpected ending.

This movie really didn't turn out how people thought it would but that's okay because it allowed people to see what life could be like if their wasn't so much injustice and how it affects others.



Spider Man No-Way-Home may have found a home in our hearts...

By Amelia

Spider Man No Way Home was released in December 2021. It was a shock to the Marvel fanatics because it was an unexpected arrival of all three Spidermans being brought together to fight evil. The movie introduced the modern spiderman (played by Tom Holland). The first spiderman (played by Tobey Maguire) and the amazing spider man (played by Andrew Garfield), The shock had come from a place of joy and confusion. The Marvel movies are often known for having 'secret endings' at the end of every film, however in Andrew Garfield's 'The Amazing Spider Man' there was no clue or hint as to whether he would be coming back to the Marvel Universe, we now know that both the previous Spider Man's were brought back in this fairly new film.

The movie starts with Tom, being the irresponsible and childlike Spider Man that he is, had accidentally messed around with Dr Strange's (played by Benedict Cumberbatch) spell book. (This was in hopes that he could convince universities to accept his friends which we learn that their rejection is his fault.) Whilst toying with the spellbook, he accidentally opens portals to other universes and the older Spider Man's and their villains end up escaping. This movie has many plot holes and twists which continue Marvel's legacy.

The Spider Man played by Tom Holland is humorous and relatable in a strange way. He is always unaware of his jokes and his wrongdoing but later always ends up fixing it, no matter the emotional cost. Many Marvel Studio viewers are Gen Z. This means that most of the people watching these types of movies are young and find that they are still trying to figure out how to navigate life on their own, Tom Holland's character is also trying to do the same with the guidance system of his Aunt.



However, later on, we are approached with a bump in the road where his support of his Aunt is disconnected, this can be quite an emotional scene for some because they feel as though that they are in the same boat with him. Those who follow these celebrity interviews can see that although Tom's character is supposed to be very funny and unaware, his real life is pretty much the same.

Andrew Garfield's Spider Man experiences deja vu in his role. We know that Andrew Garfield's spider man has experienced loss before with his version of MJ. He starts to form into a role model for Tom Holland's Peter Parker/Spider Man. This again relates to the young audience who may have experienced loss before showing them that they are not alone in their feelings. Andrew Garfield's Spider Man confides in friends and also confides in the audience.

Spider Man No Way Home is a great way to unwind and enjoy the comedic side of things whilst also allowing the viewer to look deeper into the characters and the plots. It is very accommodating to its audience and a person of any age would be able to understand it.







On Monday 11th December, we were all in the festive mood to enjoy the PPS Christmas Concert at Regent Hall. We were treated to performances from students across all the year group, some performing for the very first time and others seasoned veterans. We had a mixture of solos and ensemble items, Christmassy and non-Christmassy alike and the audience were kept mesmerised for the whole 2 hours. Massive congratulations to all the students (and some staff) who performed with such confidence and stage presence, and thank you to everyone in the audience who came to support and encourage. Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable festive season.

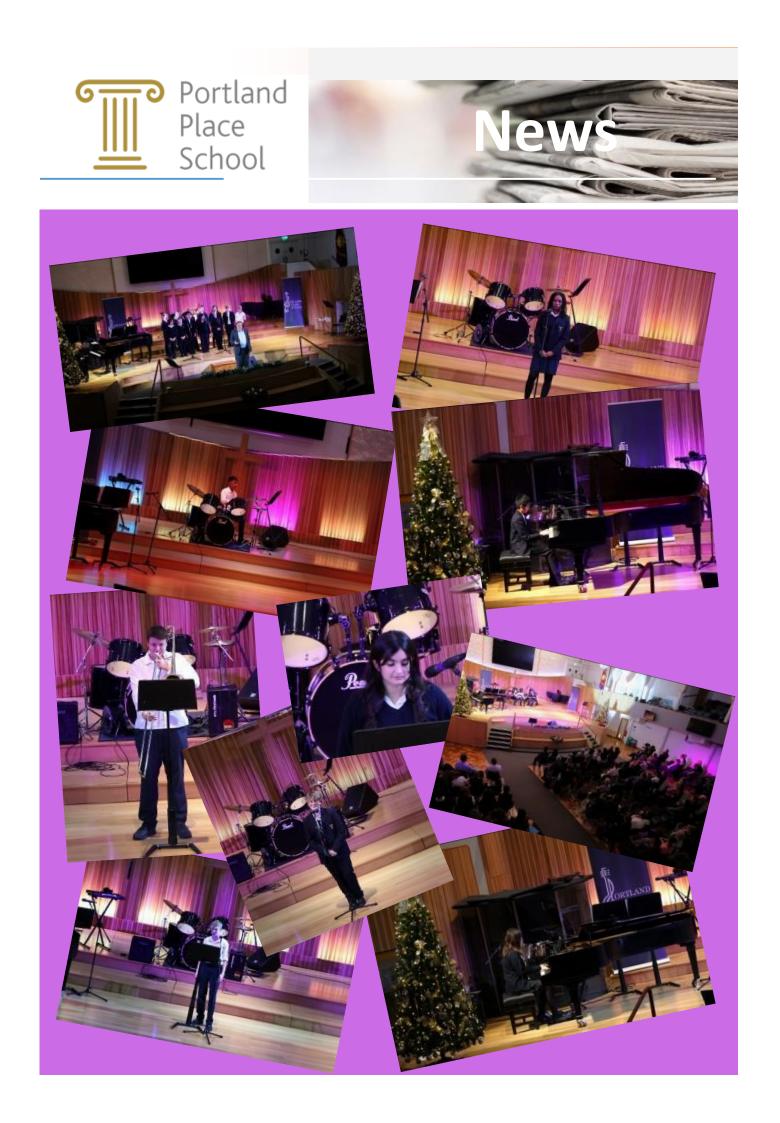
The Music Department













Portland Place School

On Thursday the 7th of December, the Portland Place Languages Department and the wonderful prefects held **Languages Day** this year. The aim this year was to have international students share new words and we held a bake sale to sell baked goods to raise money for the charity '**Make a Wish'** and ended up raising nearly **£500**. The theme for this annual costume day was 'Dress up as a word.' Students had a lot of fun dressing up, learning new vocabulary in other languages and trying all the delicious cakes that were offered in PPS hall. Some examples of costumes that really stood out to us was Lincoln in Y7 who dressed

up as 'hombre de negocios' meaning businessman, Josh, Oisin and Sixten in Y7 who came as 'platanos' meaning bananas and Mr Lalande, who came as the word 'brilliant' in French meaning shining/brilliant.

We would like to thank everyone for participating and for bringing delectable cakes it was truly an honour to have everyone share their culture with each other and be brought together in the beauty of language.

MFL Prefects









ews



























U14/15 Netball vs Fairley House

report

PPS Squad: Marta (Captain), Isabelle, Mia, Annabelle, Kansas, Rhiya, Bibi

As this would be our last fixture before Christmas, the U15 netball squad was determined to finish the term with a triumphant win.

Fairley House began with the first centre pass and our defence was off to a flying start with a great interception by **Kansas**. The team steadily worked the ball up the court to **Marta** who finished it off nicely with a first-time goal. The second centre pass was taken by **Annabelle** with a direct and fast ball to **Mia** who did a great ball into **Rhiya** in the shooting circle. The team were playing amazingly and took a ten-goal lead by the end of the first quarter. The team were rocketing away; their passing and positioning was fantastic. All the players were fulfilling their roles, and everyone contributed to attacking and defensive play. **Isabelle** and Kansas were once again the defensive dynamic duo, intercepting every pass that entered the oppositions circle.

It was a fantastic win and the girls showed great determination and focus. The final score was 0-25 to PPS! Well done to all the players involved and especially Marta for achieving player of the match for her exceptional shooting and only missing 2 goals throughout the whole game.

Enjoy your Christmas break!



House Sports

rts report

This term the pupils have completed the lower school **House Fitness Challenge**, **House Football** for all age groups, boys and girls, and **House Netball**, for lower and upper school, including a mixed Year 7 & 8 tournament. Nearly every pupil in the school has taken part in a house sports event this term and there have been some fantastic performances from many of our pupils, not to mention some great team spirit on display!

Here are the current standings as we move into the Spring Term. Competitions in rugby, basketball and cross country, as well as our House Swimming Gala could substantially alter the scores, but as present, it's **Wigmore** who are leading the way.

Congratulations to Wigmore House pupils on making a fantastic sporting start to the academic year!

Autumn Term House Cup Sports Standings

2nd	Langham	38
3rd	Devonshire	36









Autumn Term Gymnastics

Here's a selection of balances from the Year 9 girls taken from their Tuesday morning gymnastics lessons at the Moberly Centre. Well done girls, these are excellent!









Enzo and Roman take lead in Table Tennis Fixture

It was a gloomy, wet Thursday afternoon but that was no worry for the Year 7 and 8 boys who were selected for a Table Tennis fixture as we went down to Northbridge Canonbury for a small tournament.

With eight of the students raring to go on the bus, there was a sense of excitement in the air. This was mixed with nerves that were only heightened as we arrived and they entered the Drama hall to a scene of 4 table tennis tables and eight Northbridge students staring at them.

The fixture, which took a tournament form, saw four doubles take on each other in a round robin before the winners of each school were announced at the end. The standard was high straight from the start with the students pinging the ball over the net with considerable ease. After a quick warm up it was down to business.

Pair 1 for Portland saw Jacob and Zane team up, team 2 was Noah K and Josh, team 3 was Enzo and Roman and finally team 4 was Nico and Oisin. The pairs then played each Northbridge team to see who would be the victors.

It was a competitive competition with each team winning at least one game but it was Enzo and Roman who came out on top, winning two of their three games. The highlight of the fixture was a game between Nico and Oisin and Northbridge's best team. After falling 7-0 down it seemed like all was lost for the Portland place duo, but a fantastic comeback saw the scores level at 9-9. The game was getting more intense and the scores were getting higher and higher but there was no splitting the teams. The rest of the participants crowded round the one table cheering on their classmates. At 17-17 it looked like it could have been a long evening for all and the school may never shut but it was Northbridge who came out on top with at 20-18 victory.

It was a great experience for the students who got to take part in their first Table Tennis fixture.







NEXT CLUBS & FIXTURES









Merry Christmas to all PPS students, parents & staff

Have a wonderful holiday and see you in January! Portland Place School 56-58 Portland Place London W1B 1NJ Tel: 020 7307 8700

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PORTLAND PLACE W1

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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