

Polesworth Matters



The Polesworth School ENSURING EXCELLENCE

Safeguarding Students at The Polesworth School

As always at the start of the academic year, my first assembly for all year groups is used to introduce or reintroduce our students to the safeguarding team in school and I always see my first Polesworth Matters article of the year as an excellent opportunity to do the same for our parents.

Child protection and safeguarding is one of my key areas of responsibility and one which I take very seriously. Indeed, as a school we recognise that while one of our key aims is to help our students achieve to the very best of their ability, the most important aspect of all of our roles in school is to keep our children safe. We do though recognise that sometimes circumstances, either inside or outside of school, can affect young people's health and happiness, making it increasingly difficult for them to gain the most from their school experience. In rare cases, students may be considered to be at risk of serious harm and on these occasions the school has a duty to intervene.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which is available to download from our website, outlines our aims of providing a safe, secure environment for our students and of ensuring our students know that there are adults in school who are there to help them if they are worried about their safety or the safety of others.

In order to meet these aims we have a number of staff who are designated safeguarding leads. These are the key members of staff who students, parents, other staff members or anyone in the community can turn to if they have a safeguarding concern about one of our students. Each of these individuals have received full training on how to deal with Child Protection concerns and will liaise closely with the student and their families, to deal with emerging issues sensitively and confidentially. Those members of staff are as follows:



Miss Howell
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Deputy Headteacher



Miss Downing
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs Knight
Senior Student
Support Manager
-Post 16



Ms Bailey
Student Support
Manager



Mrs Williams
Student Support
Manager



Mrs Grigg
Student Support
Manager

Sometimes it is necessary to refer a case to Children's Social Care, if we feel that a student is at risk of serious harm. On these rare occasions, we follow the Local Authority guidelines on how to make a referral. This process is outlined in more detail on the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board website at www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk. Throughout the entire process we work closely with the student, their family and Children's Social Care to help resolve the issues of concern.

In my recent assemblies for all year groups I addressed one key theme that the government has highlighted in their most recent guidance on safeguarding in schools which is the issue of child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence and other forms of child-on-child abuse. I detailed for students our zero-tolerance approach, not just to the issues mentioned above, but also to racism, homophobia and transphobia and more widely to all types of abuse from other young people, including verbal abuse and online abuse, that may impact negatively on their day to day lives. Our students are regularly encouraged to report any form of abuse to us that will help us to resolve the issue rapidly. I wanted to ensure that students have the knowledge and understanding about these issues to help keep themselves and their friends safe. As such, students were all reminded about the importance of respecting others and ensuring their comments and actions towards others are appropriate. Students were reassured that any student experiencing abuse by other young people would be supported fully in reporting such behaviour. Sexually inappropriate behaviour will never be viewed as banter and will always be taken seriously by staff members. This topic and appropriate staff responses to it have also been addressed in staff training earlier in the school year.

My assemblies concluded with some reminders of what we do as a school to help our students to stay safe and went on to reiterate the support in place for them, should they find themselves in need. This included a reminder of our confidential email service, recently renamed help@thepolesworthschool.com, following student consultation. Through this service, available to all students, we guarantee an email response within one working day of being contacted, though initial responses are often sent outside of working hours. I also reminded students of the list of useful support numbers which can be found in school planners or on the school website home page if they want help out of school hours or from an external source or in case of an emergency.

Lastly, I highlighted the 'Click CEOP - Report abuse' button that can be accessed on the Home Page of the school's website for students to report online safety concerns directly to the national Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency. Of course, it is our hope that our students will never need these services but I'm sure you will agree that it is crucial they are aware of them for if or when the need arises.

Miss J Howell - Deputy Headteacher

Half Term
24th-28th October

Y13 Geography
Residential
31st October- 4th
November

Y11 Parents
Information Evening
3rd November

PE News

Football- Excellent attitude from Yr11 Boys who won 2-0 against Nicholas Chamberlaine.

Netball- Well done to Yr 8 Girls for three wins 5-0, 4-1, 8-0 against Nicholas Chamberlaine, The Nuneaton Academy and George Eliot.

Rugby U16- Congratulations to Yr 10 and Yr 11 Boys who beat St Thomas More 14-0 and Higham Lane 14-0. Both games very competitive and hard fought, especially the match against Higham Lane.

Congratulations to **Layton Faultless** on his selection for **WASPS DPP Rugby**.



Singing Group

The last two singing sessions have been lead by 2010 X-Factor finalist- Treyc Cohen.

The singing group runs after school every Wednesday for all years and staff until 3:50pm in I3.



Instrumental Lessons

Music lessons are available for all students on Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums and Vocals in school time.

Please email:

s.glover@thepolesworthschool.com for more details.



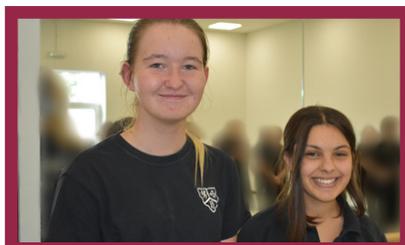
New Dance Studio

Yr11 dance students over the moon with the opening of the newly built, state of the art, Dance Studio located opposite the Sports Hall.

Polesworth Pulse

A mixture of students in Yr7-Yr11 worked together for the first time to produce this un-scripted live broadcast for the exciting new radio station- Polesworth Pulse (going live officially straight after half-term) which can be heard at: <https://www.mixcloud.com/PolesworthPulse/polesworth-pulse-show-no1/>

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in sponsoring or advertising on our station, please send us an email with sponsorship in the subject line to: radio@thepolesworthschool.com



Calling all Stall Holders!

Do you have a local business that sells the perfect Christmas gift? Whether it's handmade items or arts and crafts, we would love to hear from you! Contact Emily at e.phipps@thepolesworthschool.com for further details.

£15 per stall
Sunday 4th December
12 noon - 3pm



Tomorrow's Engineering Week 2022

Two of our Yr11 students, Isabel Grinham and Lowri Jones, recently took part in a webinar called Future Minds Live for Tomorrow's Engineering Week 2022 exploring the future of engineering. The session featured four engineers from across entertainment, sport, technology and the environment who outlined their roles and what they saw as important focuses for the next 10 years.



The girls were then allocated into a breakout group to discuss how they thought engineering would help shape entertainment, sport, technology and the environment in the future. The Future Minds Live session will now be edited into a broadcast, which will be available to download from 7th November from the following website: www.teweek.org.uk



Geography Trip to Carding Mill Valley

The Geography department and over 80 Yr11 students travelled to Carding Mill Valley in the Shropshire Hills last week as part of their GCSE fieldwork programme.

The students carried out a range of fluvial field techniques, including: channel width and depth measurements, fluvial velocity, sediment size measurements and application of the Power's Index of Roundness, with a view to determining the extent to which the Ashbrooke conformed to the Bradshaw Model (that details how the characteristics of a river change from its source to its mouth).

This knowledge will be used within class over the coming weeks as the data collected is presented, interpreted, and analysed before conclusions are drawn. The Paper 3 exam in the summer will then provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge to unseen questions.

As KS4 co-ordinator I very much welcomed our students' willingness to attend the fieldwork, as well as their attitude and behaviour whilst they were there.

All students stepped-up and immersed themselves in the activities, working well in small teams and developing other transferable skills which they will need over the coming months and years as they take the next stage in their educational journeys.

Several students developed their resilience on the trip too, whether this was overcoming social anxieties, walking distances they wouldn't normally choose to cover or persevering in (particularly on the Friday) rather wet and windy conditions.

As a department we have been exceedingly happy with our Yr11 students' commitment to fieldwork to-date and hope they apply the same level of commitment and innate curiosity on next week's 'Human Geography' fieldtrip.

Kind Regards,

Mr Reece
Geography Teacher