

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Lead

I have had a clear interest and passion for **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI)** for quite some time now, always looking for opportunities to nurture and improve through my own practice as a teacher, areas where EDI can be incorporated into my teaching. My new role as **The Polesworth School's Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Lead** presents an opportunity to bring a much larger vision to fruition.

It is my belief that every single person who works in a school (students and staff alike) should be able to see themselves reflected in our **curriculum and community**; reflected to the point that it empowers them to feel safe, empowering them to become a role model where they are no longer fearful of difference and individuality.

The charity **Time for Inclusive Education** use a phrase that really resonates with me - they describe a "*windows and mirrors*" approach to schools and their communities - the idea being that every person in a school should be able to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, whilst at the same time empowering them to look out of the window at the world, again no longer feeling fearful of their difference and individuality.

We, the school, and our surrounding communities, need to work together to ensure that our students feel safe, and that our culture and ethos is one that **cultivates and cherishes** that safety. One aspect of my new role will be to develop that "*windows and mirrors*" approach in our curriculum.

I have been helping to run the school's **LGBTQ+ Equality Forum** for several years, giving students a voice, and being able to offer advice and support, and an opportunity for them to meet other students - I am very much looking forward to working with many more groups of students in the future.

In addition to this, there is an opportunity to create specific and targeted resources that sign post **advice and guidance**, making it easier to access support (for students, parents and staff), this in addition to the creation of specialist training provision for staff will also feed into the nurturing of a positive ethos and culture within our community.

Another exciting aspect of my role will be to develop opportunities to further strengthen links with our parents and carers, and our wider surrounding communities. People's rights and freedoms can often become fragile and the role of our community support and ally-ship will have an important part to play in strengthening our resolve to care for and protect a **healthy, positive ethos and culture**. This role gives another great opportunity to engage with more parents and carers, discussing aspects of EDI that might concern them, discussing how we might further fuel a **positive ethos and culture**. If this is something that you would like to become involved in, then please do get in touch by email: p.barber@thepolesworthschool.com

Best wishes,

Mr Barber
**Equality, Diversity, and
Inclusivity Lead
LGBTQ+ Champion**



Sixth Form Fundraiser for Charity- 'Save the Children'



Lots of our Sixth Form students took part in **baking** and also bringing in cakes and other treats to **sell** on Christmas Jumper Day in **December 2022**, to **raise money** for 'Save the Children' charity.

“ We raised a **grand total of £141.21**. It was a really enjoyable day and a great fundraiser!
~ Mrs Harris
Head of Year 12 ”



Sixth Form Open Evening

It was great to see so many people attend our **Sixth Form Open Evening** which took place on **Thursday 19th January 2023**.

The **deadline to apply** to our Sixth Form is **Friday 10th March 2023** however we continue to **accept applications** up to the **start of the academic year**, but places and courses might be limited.

For **further details** on subjects available, **entry requirements** and to access the **online application form** to apply, please follow this link: <https://tomlinsonhall.com>



The Polesworth Bistro

Our brand-new **Bistro and Breakfast Club** is opening from **Monday 27th February!**

The **Bistro** is located next door to the **Gym in Goodere** and will be open at **lunchtimes for all students** and for **Sixth Form students**, the bistro will be open **all day** as a space to study.

There will be a selection of **hot and cold food, drinks, cakes and snacks** available.

Students are to **enter** through the **double doors of Goodere corridor** and leave through the **orange-coloured shutters** that lead into the **gym**.

Opening Times Monday-Friday Term-Time:

Breakfast Club: **7:30am-8:25am**

Bistro: **8:25am then self-service for Sixth Formers from 2:15pm**



Our Reward System

In creating a purposeful and pleasant atmosphere for learning, we place great emphasis on rewarding and recognising good work, effort and behaviour. We employ a range of techniques to congratulate and celebrate our students.

Below are some examples of what we reward students for:

- Great effort with...
- Excellent attendance
- Making progress
- Helping others
- Supporting the school and local community
- Giving it a go even though you are unsure
- Being positive
- Leadership
- Being ready to ...
- Exhibiting respectful behaviours
- Being responsible

Recognition and Rewards in Lessons

Regular Praise from Staff

The most common and most effective reward for good work, effort and appropriate behaviour is praise. This may simply be verbal, during a lesson, or it may be written, when marking work.

Recognition Boards

Staff place a student's name on the Recognition Board in a lesson to acknowledge and praise students.

Recognition Cards

Teachers and tutors are encouraged to award students with recognition cards in lessons to show their appreciation of a student's readiness to learn, respectful behaviours and responsible actions or attitudes to learning.

Merit Points

We operate a merit point system. Teachers and tutors are expected to award students with merit points. Students are able to spend their points in our online shop on a variety of items including stationery, Amazon vouchers, food items from the school canteen and lunchtime queue jump vouchers. Year 11 students can use their points toward a Prom ticket and/or their Year Book.

We also run a merit recognition system for students achieving high numbers of merits. We use assemblies to celebrate these students.

Further ways we reward and recognise students are:

Postcards sent Home

Awards in Year Assemblies

Random Rewards

Recognition by Senior Leaders

Celebration Brunch

Year Celebration Assemblies

Meet with the Headteacher

Praise Text to Guardians



Music News

Leaving Music

We have recently started playing music to mark the end of the school day, so far we have played: **Viva La Vida** by **Coldplay** and **Parklife** by **Blur**.



Yr7 Music

Our **Yr7 music students** are studying **folk music** from our local area, including a number of tunes from the **mining community** of Polesworth and Baddesley. If you have any **historical connections** with the mine or folk groups of North Warwickshire, we would love to hear from you (s.glover@thepolesworthschool.com). Next we are looking at folk revival and songs from the sea.

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons available this term:

Drums
Keyboard
Piano
Guitar

If interested, see Mrs Glover for a letter or email: s.glover@thepolesworthschool.com if you have any questions.

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs this term:

Tuesdays: School of Rock and Band Practice
Wednesdays: Band Rehearsal and BTEC Catch Up Evening
Thursdays: Drama Club and Arts Award Club

Follow Us

Follow us on our **Instagram accounts** for updates on student achievements, our radio, news and events from the music and drama departments:

[polesworth_performing_arts](#)
[polesworthpulsradio](#)



Instagram

Yr9 Drama

Our **Yr9 drama students** are experiencing 'Think like a' this term. Students have taken ownership of their learning and have chosen a pathway to follow in the lesson. We have some fantastic **scenery**, **costume** and **lighting ideas** to compliment the work of the actors. Keep an eye on our Instagram where we will be celebrating their work.



Yr9 Music

Last term our **Yr9 students** were discovering the genre of **horror film music**. Using our new laptops, they created their own soundtracks for the trailer to '**The Woman in Black**'. They used technology and a DAW (digital audio workstation) to recreate ideas used by **Marco Beltrani** who created the original film score.



Composer of the Week

For this term, we have been **celebrating** a different **composer** each week by having one of their **music pieces** played between **lesson changeovers**.

So far we have had the following music:



- **Nuvole Bianche** (white clouds) and is composed by **Ludovico Einaudi**.
- **Nocturne Op.9, No.2** is composed by **Frederic Chopin**.
- **Concerto No.26, Mov 2 in D Major** by **W.A Mozart**.

Polesworth Pulse

Reasons for students to get involved

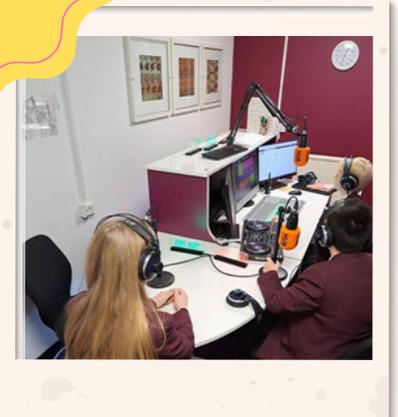
Polesworth Pulse is our school radio which is played over our school lunchtimes for students to listen to and is also ran by our students!

➤ Great experience seeing what it is like using a commercial radio set up

➤ Opportunity to interact with different year groups and make friends

Students have also been emailing in to let us know what they would like to hear on the radio, whether that be **celebrity news**, **sports updates** or any other **interesting topics**.

For any of our **students** that would like to get **involved**, please see **Mrs Glover** for details or **email: radio@thepolesworthschool.com**



Key Dates

- **Evening of Dance**
Thursday 9th February
- **KS4 Options Evening**
Thursday 16th February
- **February Half-Term**
Monday 20th-Sunday 26th February

Evening of Dance

We are holding an **Evening of Dance** event in the **Main Hall** on **Thursday 9th February 2023** starting at **7pm!**

Tickets are available on **ParentPay**:
Adult Tickets- £4
Concessions and Students- £3

Refreshments will be available to be purchased on the evening (**please bring cash**).



Job Vacancies



We are looking to appoint **Casual Exam Invigilators** to commence after Easter!

The closing date for applications is **9.00am on Friday 10th February 2023**. Interviews will take place week commencing **Monday 13th February 2023**.

For further details and if you wish to apply, please follow the link provided to our website: www.thepolesworthschool.com/vacancies

We are looking to recruit a **Facilities Supervisor!**

The closing date for applications is **9.00am on Thursday 9th February 2023**. Interviews will take place on **Thursday 16th February 2023**.

For further details and if you wish to apply, please follow the link provided to our website: www.thepolesworthschool.com/vacancies

Yr11 Mock Results Day

Well done to all our **Yr11 students** who sat their **Mock Exams** over the course of a few weeks from **Wednesday 23rd November-Friday 9th December 2022**.



Here are a selection of photos from our **Yr11 Mock Results Day** which took place on **Thursday 19th January 2023**.

Warhammer Club



Congratulations to **Harvey Marshall** in **Yr8** for winning the second annual **Paint Master Award** in **Warhammer Club**. The competition was very fierce and it was **Harvey's attention to detail** and his flair for conversion work that tipped the balance in his favour. The **judging panel** were very impressed with all the entries this year and we hope to see an even closer **competition** in the future.





Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST) Tips For Wellness:

Learning

When we hear the word 'learning' we sometimes only think of school work. However learning can come in many different forms and has been proven to support good mental health. Having a mind open to 'learning' can have great benefits for everyone, no matter what age we are. It can help us to: develop new skills or interests, increase our skills and knowledge in an area, challenge ourselves to meet a goal, meet people with similar interests and make new friends and explore new places. It also helps our wellbeing by: developing our self-confidence and self-esteem, focussing our mind to help us relax, boosting our mood through enjoyment, and by enabling us to express ourselves in new ways.

The possibilities of learning are endless... it might be learning to cook a recipe, learning to build something, learning to paint/ draw, trying out a new sport, learning facts about a topic, learn about mindfulness, etc.

Try one or both of the below activities throughout the week:

1. Think about something which you are interested in. How could you learn more about this interest? What activities might this involve - maybe it's reading about it, watching Youtube videos, just trying it out?! How might learning more about this topic be helpful to you?
2. Have you thought about what you would like to do as a job when you finish school? Maybe you can learn about what you would need to do to get into this job. Or maybe you can learn about different job options.

#ThanksKids recognises the super efforts and kindness of young people and thanks them via personalised #NHSSStars certificates and pin badges. Please spread this message amongst your school community, all you need to do is let us know by nominating the young person using this email address: cwptr.thankskids@nhs.net and we'll do the rest!!

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays. Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.