POLESWORTH MATTERS

ISSUE 26

Well done to Harrison Johnson in Year 11 who entered the Astronomy Photographer of the Year Competition run by Royal Museums Greenwich!

Harry's image of the Elephant's Trunk Nebula which he named, "An Elephant You'll Never Forget!" (featured in the images to the right) made it to the final shortlist in the global competition and has been published in this year's book along with all the other finalists.

Harry was invited to attend a special VIP event at the National Maritime Museum on Tuesday 26th September 2023 which featured the winners and shortlisted entries.

At the event, Harry took part in an interview for a new Royal Museums podcast, met some of the judges, finalists and people who run the various museum (RMG) sites.

Harry and his family viewed the exhibition of winning images and enjoyed seeing Harry's image displayed on a big screen and in the book. They also took the opportunity to visit the Royal Observatory, stand on the Meridian Line and see where and how the founders of Astronomy mapped the stars and planets and decided how we measure time and location.

Harry has come away even more inspired and will certainly be working on his submission for the competition next year!

If you would like to see some of Harry's growing collection of Astrophotography pictures and vlogs then please copy the link below:

https://linktr.ee/astroadventurers?utm_source=linktree_profile_share

Safeguarding Update

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the safeguarding team at The Polesworth School. Indeed, the safety and welfare of our students is paramount and our team of experienced and dedicated staff work hard to ensure that students in need of child protection are well supported. We work with external agencies to best fulfil the needs of our students and our staff are always vigilant and recognise their duty to support and safeguard the students in our care.

When a staff member raises a concern about the welfare of a child in our setting, a member of the safeguarding team is alerted. Students and parents are spoken to and referrals to Children's Services occur as necessary.

Students might receive in school support or they might require support from external agencies available to us. Early Help referrals take place to support families and children in need of support and enable family support workers to work with families.

Meet our Team:

Miss Downing

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Deputy Headteacher

Mr White

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

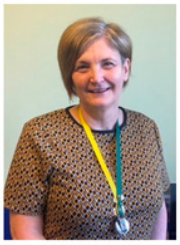
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Knight

Senior Student Support Manager - Post 16

Ms Bailey

Student Support Manager



Mrs Williams

Student Support Manager

Mrs Grigg

Student Support Manager

We have recently appointed a full time school counsellor who is also responsible for improving student wellbeing provision. Referrals are made by members of our pastoral team and our safeguarding team. Students can talk to a member of staff if they feel that a referral will be beneficial for them.

We also refer students to the Mental Health in Schools Team who work with groups of students in school to support them with their mental health and wellbeing.

We have also appointed an equality, diversity and inclusivity co-ordinator, Mr Barber, who runs our equality forum and is the named member of staff for LGBTQ+ students.

This half term, we have delivered assemblies to students that have made them aware of the part that they play in safeguarding others and themselves in our setting. Some of our assemblies have focused on the importance of challenging misogyny, sexual harassment and refusing to accept 'banter' as an excuse for inappropriate behaviour.

We were also lucky enough to be visited by Loudmouth Theatre Company this half term who performed for our Year 10 students and then led workshops. Their theme was "Calling it Out" and their aim was to raise our students' awareness of non-tolerance of harmful sexual behaviours and of the huge impacts everyday incidences of sexual harassment can have.

Our PSHE programme also supports our safeguarding agenda and is led by Mrs Haines. Students will cover a variety of topics such as online safety, bullying, healthy lifestyles, mental health awareness and they will also have sessions covering relationships and sexual education.

Should you have any safeguarding concerns – do not hesitate to contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Miss Downing
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Headteacher

The Polesworth School
Sixth Form
@Tomlinson Hall

Sixth Form Open Evening

Come and talk to staff about the courses we offer and decide your future.

Thursday 9th November 2023
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Welcome meetings in the Main School Hall
6.00pm & 7.00pm

Our Sixth Form provision was graded Outstanding by Ofsted in 2023.

"Teachers are experts in the subjects they teach and deliver lessons with enthusiasm"

Ofsted 2023

Ofsted
Good
Provider

The window for applications is open until Friday 8th March 2024!

A Levels		Vocational Courses
Art	History	Digital Media (ICT Vocational Level 3)
Biology	Law	Forensic and Criminal Investigation
Business Studies	Mathematics	Health and Social Care
Chemistry	Media Studies	Music
Classical Civilisation	PE	Travel and Tourism
Core Mathematics (AS Level only)	Physics	ICDL Level 2 (Core IT)
Design Technology: Product Design	Psychology	
Design Technology: Fashion and Textiles	RS, Philosophy and Ethics	
Drama and Theatre	Sociology	
Economics		
English Literature		**GCSE** Students may retake English and/or Mathematics at GCSE to improve their grade(s)
French		
Further Mathematics		
Geography		
German		
Government and Politics		

Full details on all courses and their entry requirements can be found on the school's website by scanning the QR code below.

The Polesworth School, Dordon Road, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 1QT

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admin@thepolesworthschool.com
www.thepolesworthschool.com

SCAN ME

COMMUNITY ACADEMIES TRUST

Stonewall SCHOOL CHAMPION

SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2021/22

Ofsted Good Provider

Annual Remembrance Commemoration

On Friday 10th November 2023 we will be holding our Annual Remembrance Commemoration in school to remember the sacrifices made and express hope for the future. Any students who would like to attend should speak to their Form Tutor.

The commemoration will be followed by the laying of a wreath in our Remembrance Garden which students are welcome to attend.

As part of this event, we would like to invite all of our students who are members of youth groups to wear their uniform to school on that day. It is always a pleasure to see a range of organisations represented in school on this day, students should discuss this with the adult staff within their youth group.

And finally good luck to GA in Year 9 who will be playing the Last Post in Atherstone for Remembrance Sunday.

Duke of Edinburgh Updates

With the start of the new school year we are raring to go with the Duke of Edinburgh's award. The award is bigger and better than ever in school this year with over 40 students signed up to our Bronze, almost 30 on our Silver, and 18 students taking on the Gold award.

Last year's students are still working hard to complete their awards and are preparing for their expedition presentation evening which will take place after half term. They spent a total of 520 hours working on their independent skills and 481 hours volunteering in our local area last year.

Congratulations to JS and HR in Year 13 who have both had their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards signed off on the weekend of Saturday 30th September - Sunday 1st October 2023. Both students signed up and started with their Bronze during the pandemic and have worked incredibly hard to earn all three levels of the award over the last 4.5 years. They will now be invited to either Buckingham or St James's Palace next spring to receive their award at the National Gold presentations.

This year's students are looking forward to learning new skills in their expedition training like outdoor cooking and navigation as well as pushing themselves out of their comfort zones in their skill, physical and volunteering elements.

Behaviour Update

We have high expectations of students at The Polesworth School and encourage our students to always be ready, respectful and responsible members of the school community. We have a behaviour curriculum in place to support our students in understanding what these behaviours look like and how they can achieve these expectations.

When teaching behaviours and routines we ask our teachers to:

- **Instruct** explicitly - make sure students know what the expected behaviour is and what it looks like.
- **Demonstrate** the behaviour/ role model.
- **Correct** and challenge incorrect norms constantly.
- **Repeat** constantly.

Tutor sessions and PSHE sessions over this half term covered the following topics (dependent upon the year group):

British values – why we have rules
Impact of bullying
Identify/express/managing emotions
Bullying and imbalance of power
Influences and anti-social behaviour
Behaviour expectations
Discrimination
Group think/peer pressure
Exploring risk

School assemblies over this half term covered the following topics:

Attendance and Punctuality
Respectful Relationships
Black Lives Matter
Safeguarding
Celebration of Difference
Meet the Headteacher Rewards

We also celebrate our students' achievements through merits in lessons, names on recognition boards in lessons, celebration assemblies and celebration brunches to name some. You may already have received a postcard, phone call or praise text from us owing to positive behaviours or attitudes shown by one of our students in their lesson.

Policy Change

Please be aware that if a student sits an Internal Exclusion they will not be permitted to leave until 3.30pm. This is non-negotiable and we ask that you support the school with this to ensure that our students accept full accountability for their behaviour and the consequences.

Uniform Reminders

Please be aware that out uniform policy and guide are on the website to support you when purchasing uniform items. Please be reminded that the school blazer is a compulsory item of uniform and that hoodies should not be worn to school – they will be confiscated if worn. Please also be aware that trainers are not acceptable footwear.

Miss Downing
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Headteacher

Halloween Competition

See details below for our student Halloween competition!
(The poster below was created by IS in Year 11)

- Pumpkins will be in the Sports Hall during all 3 lunch times on Friday 27th October so both students and staff can view and vote for their favourite pumpkin(s).

- It costs £1 for students to enter the competition (payable by cash to the PE department).

- Pumpkins and tealights can be collected at the end of the day from the Sports Hall on Friday 27th October to take home ready for the Halloween weekend!

Sixth Form History Trip

On Monday 16th October 2023, Polesworth History and Politics A-Level students had the opportunity to go to the Houses of Parliament in London. It forms the basis for students considering the foundation of parliament and democracy in the History curriculum as students will study King John, Magna Carta and the conciliar rule of Henry III. The Palace of Westminster also has a considerable Tudor connection. For our Politics students, it was an opportunity to visit the centre of UK power and influence that plays such an important role in their studies.

Having navigated our way through the security checks on our way into Parliament, donned visitor badges and collected our audio headsets we were given a tour that took us through the principal sections of the Palace of Westminster. We were guided through the most famous rooms of the Grade I listed building and UNESCO World Heritage site including both chambers of parliament: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The gold throne was particularly stunning in the House of Lords and will host King Charles III next month as he formally opens Parliament. It is a fully functioning workplace and students were impressed to see Members of Parliament moving through the Central Lobby and Commons floor. The paintings depicting various historically significant events in British history impressed, but several students commented on their surprise at the relatively small scale of the site compared to the visual they had from the media.

Our tour concluded with a workshop that allowed students to debate in the style of the Commons, supporting motions with ‘ayes’ and being kept under control by our own student ‘Speaker’. The final part of our visit involved meeting our local representative for North Warwickshire, Craig Tracey MP. Students had the opportunity to hear what the work of an MP entails and specifically how Mr Tracey found the experience of Parliament. Students engaged really effectively in a Question-and-Answer session that followed and gained an insight into their local candidate in the probable election next Autumn.

Through the experience students were able to gain a valuable insight into the process of democracy and the role played by Parliament. They were also a credit to the school in the way they carried themselves and engaged with the sessions.

Sixth Form History Trip

Sixth Form History Trip

Student comments on the Politics, Classics and History Trip:

'The trip to Parliament was really fascinating; I really enjoyed going through the sovereign's entrance and seeing the plaque for the Simon de Montfort remembrance! Would definitely recommend to others.' **Year 13 History student.**

'A surprising amount of history packed into a Politics trip. Very cool.' **Year 13 History and Politics student.**

'Going to Parliament and getting to see and learn the things we did was an experience I'll never forget. Our guide, Ben, was so insightful and made our time so memorable.' **Year 13 History and Politics student.**

'Going to Parliament and physically being in the House of Commons has enhanced my learning and understanding.' **Year 13 Politics student.**

Why study A Level History? What the students say:

'I LOVE A Level History. The Cold War is a very interesting subject exploring the relationship between the Soviet Union and the USA.'

'The range of topics. The opportunity to pick your own topic in coursework. Good teachers.'

History/Politics Students of the Month - October

Year 7

RG
OO'C
RW

Year 8

EW-F
L-RS
AS
MT
AT
JW
LM
JG
LJ
WF
FG

Year 9

GA
FB
IH
KB
LJ
AT
LW
HD
HS
DW
AR

Year 10

LJ
AL
HM
LW
CD
FG
CJ

Year 11

PT
EC
CE
OD
EV
PW

Year 12 (History)

DN
EO
LW

Year 12 (Politics)

KB
AB

Year 13 (History)

AF
DR
JS
RS
LG
KS

Year 13 (Politics)

LF
RS

Well done to...

...the Year 10 Girls Netball Team who played and won 3 matches in group stages which took them through to the semi-final in the Nuneaton and District Netball League where they were unfortunately defeated by a very strong St. Thomas More. Great performances from a really lovely bunch of determined girls and our very competent Year 11 coach/umpire.

...the Cross Country runners at Princethorpe. Both teams- U13 and U15 Boys finished 5th against some tough opposition.

...the Year 8/9 Netball Team who won 3 games against: Nicholas Chamberlaine B, George Eliot and Nuneaton Academy and lost one to Nicholas Chamberlaine A at the Nuneaton and District Netball League. A great start to the season!

...the Year 10/11 Rugby Team beating St. Thomas More and Nicholas Chamberlaine and narrowly losing to Higham Lane. Great competitive games played in spirit of the game.

...the Year 7 Dodgeball Team, winners of North Warwickshire's schools competition. As well as match results, teams were awarded points by all of the opposition teams for the values of respect, honesty and teamwork, for which Polesworth scored highest which pushed them ahead of Higham Lane for the overall win.

On Monday 16th October 2023, our leadership academy students met with other sports leaders from across the Northern Warwickshire area. They learnt how to organise and run sporting events safely.

These leaders will help organise and run our sports competitions within school and for our local primary school students.

Their attitude and behaviour were amazing and was recognised and commended by other adults there.

Best of luck to...

...Mackinley Jones in Year 10 who has been offered the combined Sports Scholarship and Headmaster's Award at Oakham School!

The photograph on the right was taken of Mackinley representing Polesworth/North Warwickshire at the Rugby School's 200 year celebration in April this year.

Year 11 Geography Trip to Carding Mill Valley

From 11th - 13th October 2023, 122 Year 11 Geography students travelled to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to complete fieldwork relating to their Paper 3 exam.

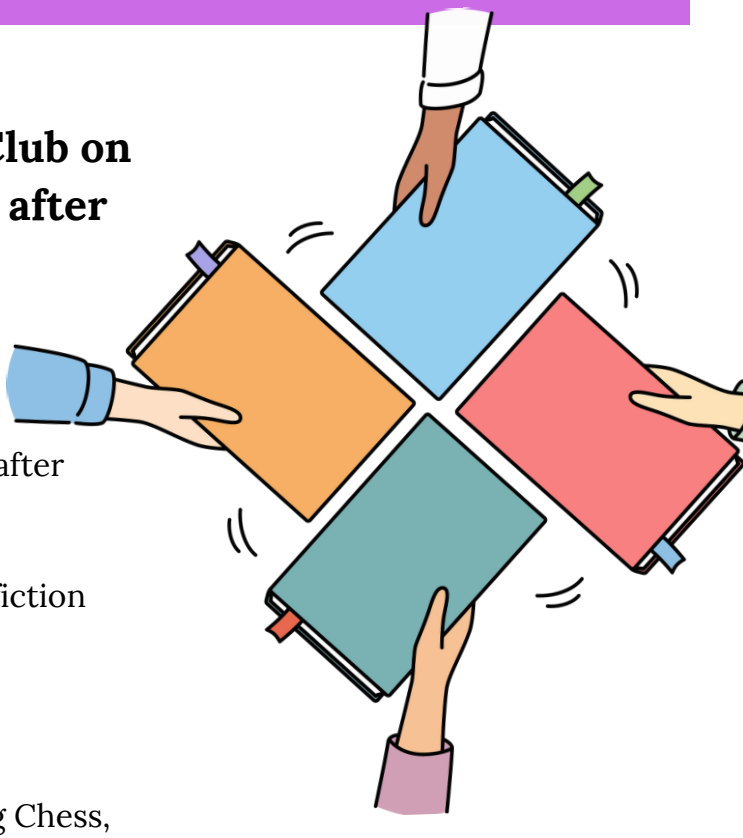
Students worked to determine the extent to which the Ashbrooke river conformed to the Bradshaw Model.

They utilised a range of equipment including callipers, clinometers, and ranging poles to measure river gradient, sediment size, velocity, channel width and depth in the upper, middle and lower courses.

In addition, students on the Thursday were treated to a trip to the Lightspout waterfall in the upper reaches of the valley, where they were regaled by their teachers with details of water formation before enjoying a spot of lunch in this picturesque location.

Library Club

We are very excited to announce the opening of our new student Library Club on Monday 6th November 2023, straight after our Half Term break!



Library Club Members will have:

• Privileged access to the Study Centre before and after school and during break and lunch times.

• Enjoy our excellent collection of fiction and non-fiction reads.

• Use of our 14 PCs.

• Access to our growing games collection, including Chess, Cards, Connect 4 and Scrabble.

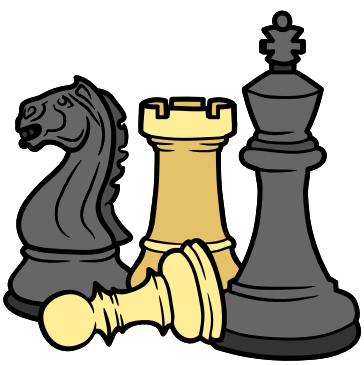
• Exclusive access to all our Library Club events, such as Book Fayres, Movie Afternoons, Games Club, competitions and more!

To apply to become a Library Club Member, please collect an application form from the Study Centre.

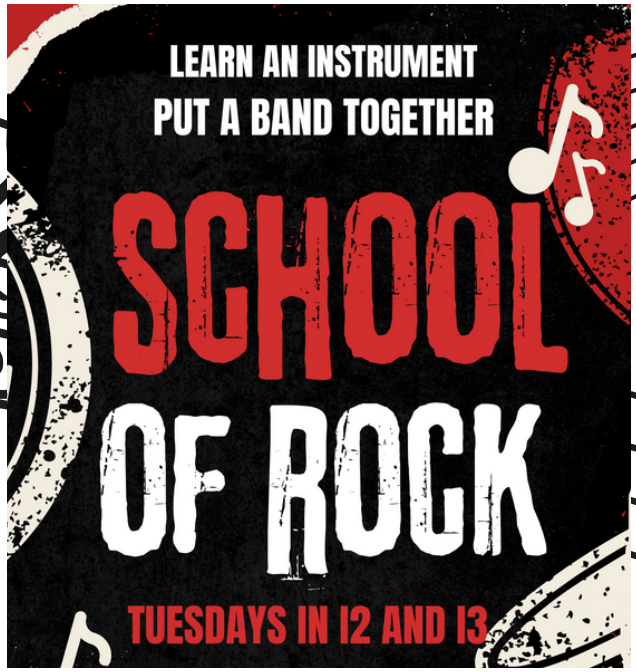
If you have any questions about Library Club, please do email me at r.bartlam@thepolesworthschool.com

I look forward to seeing you in Library Club very soon!

Mrs Bartlam
Library Coordinator



Music



Good luck to all of our instrumental students who are taking their music exams this term. We have students taking exams with Guildhall School of Music, Rock School and The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Mental Health Awareness

It was World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10th October 2023.
The theme this year was '**Mental Health is a Universal Human Right**'.

What we did in school to raise awareness for this day.....

1. **An information stall promoting how we can help to maintain positive Mental Health.** This stall was run by a team of sixth formers. They handed out information leaflets and advised students about how we can maintain good Mental Health. A big thanks to those sixth form students that helped: TS, DR, JB, CD, TB, CH and JS.

2. **A Mental Health quiz.** A quiz was played in the dining hall for all students to take part.

3. **Taster Mindfulness sessions.** Mini sessions were organised focusing on breathing techniques, grounding, and an introduction to mindfulness meditation.

Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST) Parent/Carer Tips for Wellness:

STARTING CONVERSATIONS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

It can be difficult to speak with your young person about their mental health and wellbeing. It is important to try different methods and see what works for you.

Useful conversation starters:

"How are you feeling?"

"What was the best and worst bit of your day?"

"How can I help you?"

"I can see that you are feeling _____. Do you want to talk about it?"

"Today I felt _____. How did you feel today?"

More conversation starters!

Some young people find it easier to have these conversations when they do not need to make eye contact. Try having these conversations whilst doing a normal activity, such as cooking dinner, washing up or even in the car!

Top Tip: *Try to avoid starting these conversations around bedtime.*

Discussing and expressing feelings:

- Try using emojis, coloured stickers or pictures to show how you are feeling.
- If your young person finds it hard to have these conversations, they could try sending you text messages to let you know how they feel or using a shared feelings diary.

Statements of encouragement can help a young person share their feelings:

"I love you, nothing can ever change that"

"Even if I don't understand, know that I want to"

"If you need to talk to someone else, that's ok too"

"It is ok to feel this way"

People at our heart

Job Vacancies

Please see our current job vacancies below:

Assistant Caretaker: The closing date for applications is: Monday 6th November 2023 at 9.00am. Interviews will take place shortly thereafter.

Two part-time Catering Assistants: The closing date for applications is: Monday 6th November 2023 at 9.00am. Interviews will take place shortly thereafter.

English Intervention Tutor: The closing date for applications is: Monday 6th November 2023 at 9.00am. Interviews will take place shortly thereafter.

For further details regarding each job role and to apply, please copy the link to our school website: https://thepolesworthschool.com/vacancies/

Key Dates

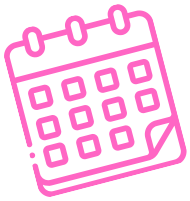
Thursday 26th October 2023
Post 16 Pathways Parents/Carers Information Evening

Friday 27th October 2023
Break up for half-term

Monday 6th November 2023
Students return to school
A-Level Biology Trip to University of Warwick

Monday 6th November 2023 - Friday 10th November 2023
Year 13 A-Level Geography Field Trip to Rhyd-y-Crenau

Tuesday 7th November 2023
A-Level Chemistry Trip to University of Warwick
Year 11 student photos



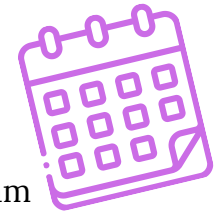
Thursday 9th November 2023
School closes at 12:25pm
Sixth Form Open Evening
Theatre trip for Years 11, 12 and 13 to see 2.22

Friday 10th November 2023
Remembrance Commemoration

Wednesday 15th November 2023
Year 11 Mock Interviews

Wednesday 15th November - Sunday 19th November 2023
Year 10 and Year 12 Paris Trip

Thursday 16th November 2023
A-Level Physics Trip to University of Warwick
Year 10 Parents Evening



Monday 20th November 2023
Year 11 PPE Mock Speaking Exam

Wednesday 22nd November 2023
Year 11 Prom Fashion Show