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**Welcome from Sam Munday-Webb, Head of Education**

WOW! What a term. We have seen great student engagement, plenty of trips and opportunities for the students as well as the start of summer exams. We had our 3 day trip to France and Belgium exploring the battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of France. A group of students took a performance to the Royal Theatre, the set was also made by our students and showed some great collaborations across the board.

It's been great news from the therapy team, we now have a locum Clinical Psychologist. Rebecca Lunn, our OT, is now embedded in the school attending lessons to support an integrated approach and many EHCP's. We have had a brilliant trip to the Black Country Museum and have started having visitors from different professions to support our ongoing and developing careers programme. The Friday rewards afternoon is now embedded.

**We took a show to the Royal Theatre Northampton!**

Following an academic year of Monday afternoons rehearsing our show, a few weeks ago we got to take it on the road to the The Royal Theatre, Northampton! The students were working on a performance of 'The Free9' which was written by South Korean playwright Insook Chapel. The play was about 9 orphaned children who tried to escape to North Korea for a better life.

In March we had a visit from a Director from the National Theatre who watched us rehearsing and gave us some advice which we then put into action. We then had a trip to Primark to buy costumes and also made a few visits to the theatre to familiarise ourselves.

Miss Elkington along with Harvey and Harry worked hard to make 3 flags and other prop items which adorned the stage and we were set to go!

We arrived at the Theatre early in the morning and had a 90 minute technical rehearsal making sure our lights and music were in working order. We had a set of dressing rooms and students got their costumes on. We then had the chance to go and watch another group who did a performance about a youth group dealing with identity issues. Following that we then headed back to the theatre for our performance. There was a real buzz backstage as the curtain rose we knew we had a really supportive audience behind us, thanks to Miss Boden and Mr Walden who stepped in to support. It was clear from the huge round of applause that the students had done really well and their performance had been received brilliantly.

Well done to all involved!

### History Update

It has been another busy term for history students at Potterspurly Lodge. As well as the fantastic Battlefields Trip this term, some students have had the chance to examine and handle artefacts from Northampton Museum - some to do with the shoe trade and also some medical artefacts including a set of apothecary's scales from the 1920s, tying in with the Medicine in Britain topic and the Industrial Revolution topic we have been studying. Students enjoyed getting some 'hands-on' experience and the chance to beat the teacher and work out how to make the apothecary's scales work!

### Parents Forum

Hi I'm Lisa, my son joined school last September. Being new to a special school and missing the contact with other parents in the playground, I approached school about setting up a parent's forum. It started off as meeting other parents, hearing their stories over a coffee and offering support where we could. We hoped to help foster friendship for our children outside of school when they can often suffer from social isolation. If the parents already knew each other, meeting up in the summer holidays is more likely to happen. School have been very supportive of this initiative

In the short time we have been together we have come up with some ideas that school are currently working up. Things that we hope will help both students and parents.

We are perhaps a bit like a PTA, without the constant pressure of taking on a formal role or raising money.

Groups like this, only survive if people take part. We hope to meet every 6 weeks and are currently testing out which days and times fit with most parents.

We meet in the school, but this may change as we get more people attending. You don't have to share your story, you don't have to take an active role, but if you do have an opinion you wish to share, or an idea you think could be beneficial for the students, we would love to hear it.

We aim to be a safe environment. We submit minutes to school thereby sharing views and ideas without identifying individuals. Our next meeting is to be held in school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am. we hope to see you there

Don't forget we also have a facebook group; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/86372223821432/?ref=bookmarks>

**This is only for parents of Potterspurly Lodge!**



### Brilliant Battlefields Trip!



From 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May a group of students and staff went on an extremely enjoyable trip to Belgium. We spent a delightful three days in and around Ypres where we stayed in a lovely hotel outside the town – complete with a pond, swans, table tennis, and even a punching machine!

A highlight for many of us was the moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate the evening we arrived. Kieran Meadows laid a wreath to the missing soldiers on behalf of the school and was a credit to us all, waiting, marching and saluting smartly in his Cadets uniform. “Brilliant” was just one comment from a member of the public at Kieran’s calm, respectful and professional demeanour.

Our trip included visits to trenches – both preserved and reconstructed. We were able to walk through them and also through some tunnels where Canadian soldiers amassed and waited for twelve hours before launching an attack. Being there made it easier to understand the situation the soldiers were in, especially as on some occasions we could see across what would have been No Man’s Land to the German trenches. Indeed, at Newfoundland Park Battlefield Site we learned about the Canadian attack there at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme when 800 Canadian troops went ‘over the top’ into machine gunfire, only 56 surviving the first day.

We also visited several cemeteries for both known and unidentified soldiers and several memorials to missing soldiers. This gave plenty of ‘food for thought’, Spencer Kalp noting on day two that we had seen the graves of over 100,000 men.

The Flanders Fields Museum and a quirky little museum at Hill 62 housing artefacts from the war as well as an extraordinary collection of photographs from the frontline were fascinating stops, as was the Lochnagar Crater – a huge hole in the ground made by British explosives laid under German positions before the Battle of the Somme.

There was also time to enjoy some delicious Belgian food – very tasty chicken and chips on our first night, several wonderful ice creams in Ypres and a visit to a fabulous chocolate shop as well as the obligatory fresh croissants and pains au chocolat for breakfast at the hotel.

Overall, our students coped brilliantly with being away from home, with a lot of time travelling on a coach and going through the Eurotunnel and with packing in so many amazing visits. We were proud of the respect they showed at the sites we visited and the positive and enthusiastic attitude they brought with them. It was a wonderful trip and one that many of us will remember for a long time.

As we work towards making improvements across the school, we are strengthening our team, we are keen for you to meet them, this newsletter we meet our fabulous new MFL teacher...



# Bonjour!

## Meet our new staff!

My name is Miss Cassidy. I am thrilled to have recently joined the team of staff at Potterspury Lodge School as the new Languages Teacher. I have been teaching for eight years and have taught in a number of schools in London and in Milton Keynes. I graduated from the University of Birmingham having studied French and Spanish - I also lived in Spain for a year whilst doing my degree. Since joining Potterspury Lodge just after the Easter holidays, I have been so impressed with how well our students have responded to learning languages and lots of our students got the chance to try out some of their language skills on our recent trip to Belgium! As well as teaching languages, I will also be involved in supporting our careers programme at Potterspury and am really looking forward to working with students and families to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people.

When I am not teaching, I love to travel, go to the theatre and to exhibitions. I am also really passionate about cooking - I have even run my own pop up restaurant events! I enjoy going walking and have recently raised over a thousand pounds for Breast Cancer by participating in the marathon Moon Walk.

**Contact:** Please do keep in contact. Looking forward to meeting you. My email address is [sarah.cassidy@cambiangroup.com](mailto:sarah.cassidy@cambiangroup.com)

### Update from English

This half term the year 11s have been revising hard for their examinations and we wish them all the best. The year 10s have been continuing making excellent progress with the reading skills that are required for their examination at the end of next year. KS3 students have been focussing on Creative Writing this term; this is now a major part of the English Language GCSE.

All students and staff have been busy creating a story, poem or lyric in less than 500 words. There will be a House Competition where prizes are to be awarded in three categories: KS2 and 3; KS4 and 5; Staff. However, more exciting is the fact that we are going to produce a Potterspury Book of Words; which hopefully will contain a contribution from every student and staff member at the school. The book will be available for purchase at the end of the Summer Term.

We are also really excited that we will be running a trip to see Romeo and Juliet for our Key Stage 3 students in June, watch this space for details!

## Exciting times for Post 16

*There has been lots of exciting chances and fast pace work in Post 16, Mrs Butler, our post 16 lead tells all...*

It's been a really exciting term in Post-16; students have been kept very busy preparing for and sitting exams, working on their individual Enterprise projects and supporting younger members of the school community. The students have also given me a really warm welcome into Post-16.

Academically, we have focused on exam preparation and completing work towards the ASDAN Level 2 qualification. We still have a final push to complete all outstanding tasks. I know the students will feel a real sense of achievement once this is completed.

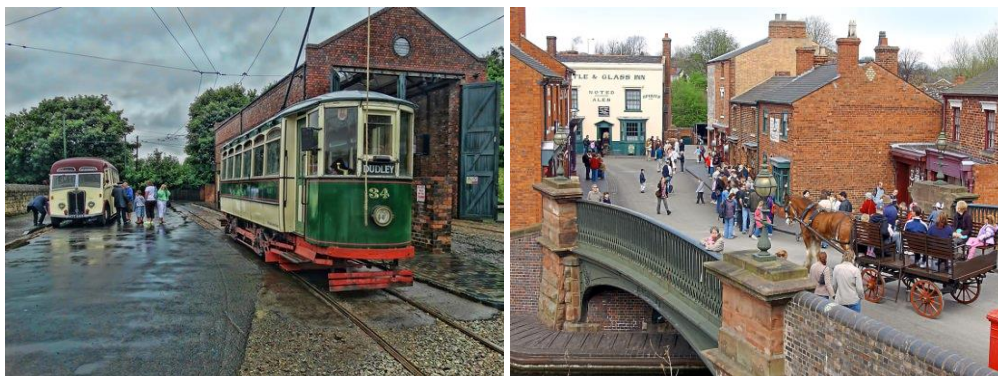
Individually, students have been working on personalised Enterprise projects. We have a pickle manufacturer, a card maker, a personal trainer in the making and a music mixer. The boys have thoroughly enjoyed their individual time with Mr Yaw to research, market and produce their wares. I am hoping that the boys have had a real confidence boost by seeing what they are able to achieve when they put their minds to it.

At Potterspury Lodge, it is really important for our older students to be role models for our younger boys, and Post-16 have grabbed this opportunity with both hands. This has included supporting in food lessons, PE lessons and at Caldecotte (with our primary cohort). Teachers have all commented to me that they have been very impressed by our students and this demonstrates what a positive impact these interactions can have.

For the final summer term, our focus will very much be on careers and college visits. It is essential that we enable our students to work towards their future aspirations and that we support them on this journey. We have planned many activities, from careers and apprenticeship talks to mock interviews and a first aid course. All students will be kept very busy following the exams and I am confident will develop skills that they will carry forward as they continue to grow and thrive.



## Trip to the Black Country Museum



This term we took a group of students to visit the Black Country Living Museum in Birmingham. The Museum tells the story of how the Industrial Revolution affected the West Midlands and the Country as a whole. We had a guided tour around the site by Charles, who was dressed appropriately.

The students were fascinated to enter a bygone era. Some of the staff were reliving their own past when we walked down the High Street, past the Ironmongers, Tobacconists and a General Store. The students preferred the Sweet Shop and the Fish and Chip Shop.

We watched a Blacksmith make a link on a chain and saw how the use of steam revolutionised people's working lives. We were also told about how the first time that women stood up for equal pay took place in Birmingham and that when the women stood together with their fellow male workers the employers had to listen and increase their pay.

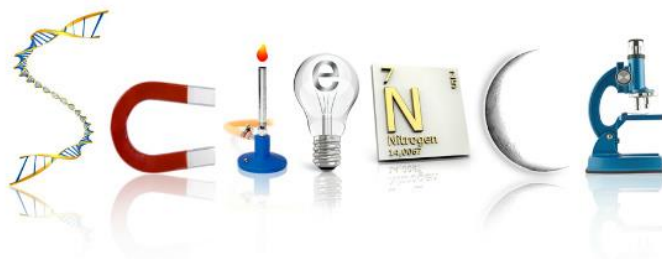
The visit to an underground mine was very fascinating and showed the students how dark and dangerous the work actually was.

It was a very interesting visit and the students were very well behaved.

## ICT Update



As pupils continue to access the skills covered as part of the ICT Functional qualifications, four year 11 pupils have sat their Level 1 exam and are awaiting feedback as to whether they have passed on first attempt. Key Stage 3 pupils have been using optimised search engines to search for items including cars and properties. Pupils have had the opportunity to look at how house prices can vary based on geographical location and find cars suitable for a variety of people; Jenny an eighteen year old who has just passed her test through to a millionaire footballer. This has also been an opportunity to discuss concepts such as mortgages, deposits and car insurance.



### Update from Science

The year began with a transitioning to a new examination. Instead of the AQA curriculum students pursued the Edexcel course for the new GCSE 9 – 1. I believe this exam is more appropriate for the students both in terms of its language of assessment and the rigour in interrogation of scientific knowledge and application which are more suited to our cohort of students. Additionally, the Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Science was introduced to give students an option as well as the possibility of gaining another or a qualification in science.

In Keystage 3 students also were preparing for the new challenges of the 9 – 1 GCSE and as such began that journey admirably with most students engaging in the topics and making reasonable progress. Year 8s studied Biology in the first semester which included the topics food and digestion and microbes and diseases. In semester 2 Chemistry was the subject and atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures were the topics engaged.

The year 7s also studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics in each of the terms and the topics included cells: using the microscope, the environment, acids and alkalis and energy resources. The year 9s started their GCSE studies and the quest for knowledge included interrogating inheritance and selection, health, reactions of metals energy and gravity and space.

The final term will see years 7,8 and 9 students completing chemistry and physics projects to further enhance their research skills, appreciation of the scientific method and application of scientific principles studied throughout the year.

### Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Bisham Abbey Trip (Some KE3 students)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June- KS3 Romeo and Juliet Trip

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day- Parents welcome in the Afternoon from 1.45pm

Week Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Afternoon Maths Challenge

Week Commencing 9<sup>th</sup> July- Year 11 and Post 16 Work Experience

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July Activities Days – External School Trips

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Showing afternoon from 2pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July- Last day of term (12pm close)

## Art

### Primary Mosaic Mural

This year the primary classes have been working on a mosaic mural, the theme for the mural was patterns from across the world. The students could choose a country from a set list based on the countries they had looked at in class this academic year. The overall design of the mural was put to a vote and then each student designed their section based on the research they carried out on their chosen country. The students did very well adapting their designs to a series of squares for the mosaic pieces. Visitors to the Art room have commented on how impressed they are with the work the primary students have done and how they are looking forward to seeing the mural in place. The mosaic is going to be fitted near the main reception next half term.

### GCSE Art Display

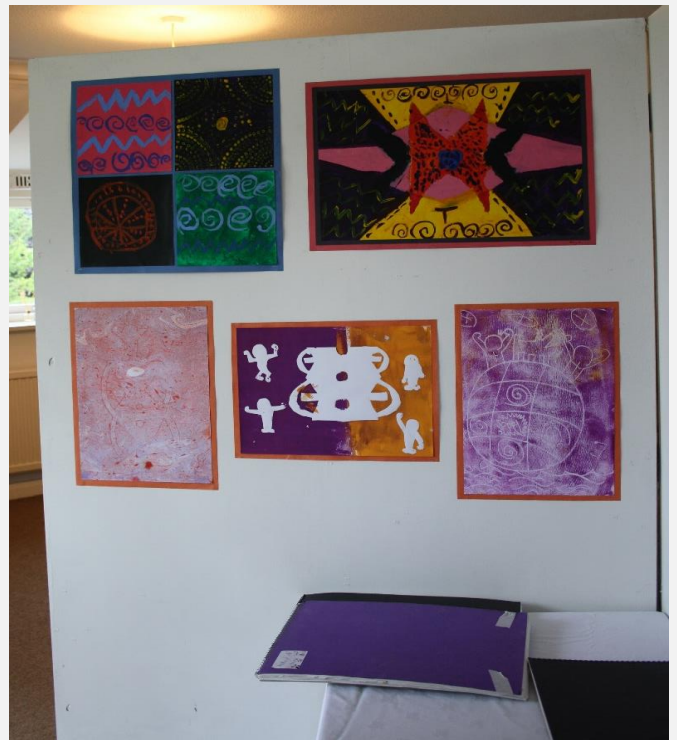
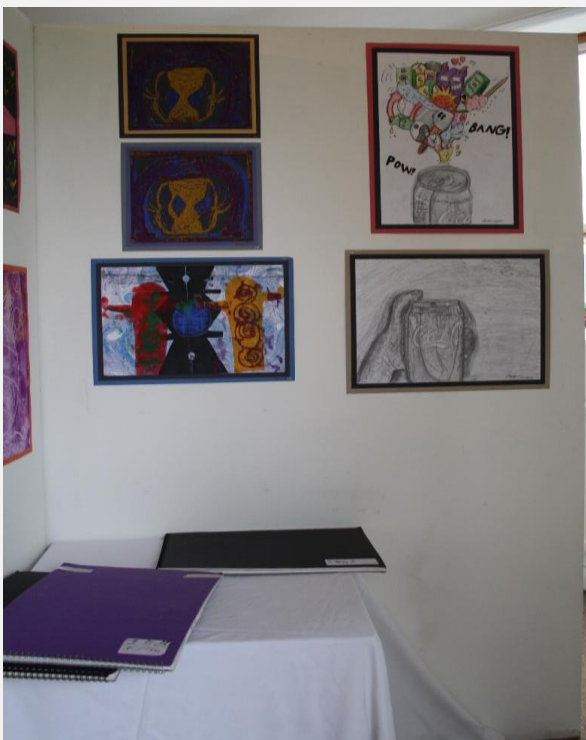
Four students were entered for the GCSE Art and Design qualification this year. Following their examination in April and May the students' work was put on display for the moderation visit. The coursework was completed over Year 10 and the start of Year 11, the project was based on the theme Dream World. In January exam papers were opened and the themes chosen this year were: Connected, Ordinary and Wild. The materials students chose to work with were ceramics, drawing and painting.

The student who chose Connected decided to look at connections in nature and how nature can absorb manmade structures, he chose interesting artists to help develop his ideas. The students who chose Ordinary had different interpretations of the theme; one chose to look at how ordinary objects have been depicted with a particular interest in artists linked to popular culture. The other student chose to look at weather and everyday scenes and looked at ways to make them look extraordinary. The theme Wild was explored looking at animals and developing an idea in clay. All the students completed their coursework and the examination. They have worked independently, developing ideas and exploring materials. During the ten hour examination the students remained focused and used the time productively, it has been a pleasure to see all they have achieved, they all have a collection of work they can be proud of and I wish them all the best for the future.

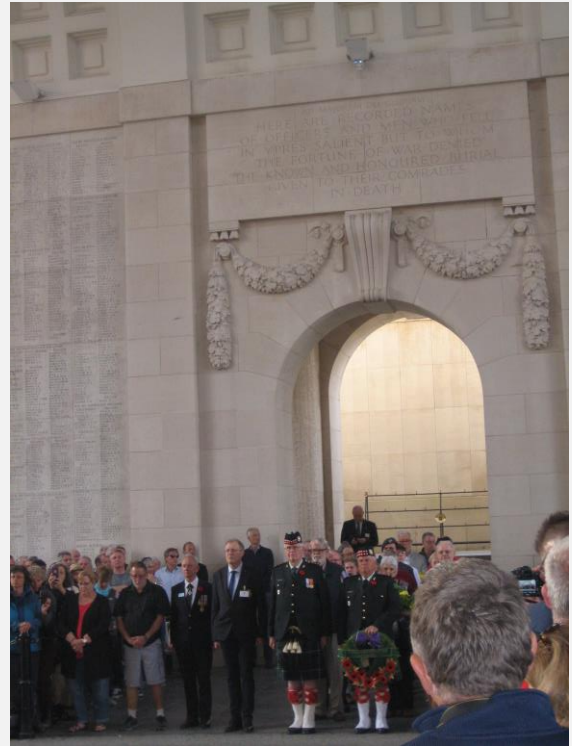




# Art Photos



## Photos from our Battlefields Trip to Belgium





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