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Welcome from Sam Munday-Webb, Head of Education

And if you thought last half term was busy.....you haven't heard anything yet! We are moving forward at a pace. We have seen a huge push with our Careers Education Programme, we have seen some fabulous trips too. Our Post 16 students took part in a First Aid course, our year 10, 11 and Post 16 students have undertaken work experience in a variety of locations, from Sulgrave Manor to a Local Primary School.

Our year 11 took an assembly to Sponne School. Our primary group have been involved in transition and another fabulous teacher has joined the team. There is more to tell you, but as we continue to move in a very exciting direction, I ask you to read on and hear all about it!

Sports Day



This year, once again, the whole of the school community were involved in our fantastic sports day. The weather was a little on the hot side for athletics, however, all pupils, staff and parents became fully engaged with the activities on the sports field. In the morning the field events took place and the students competed with intensity achieving 7 gold standards, outstanding performers were Kieran Meadows, Harvey Rogers, Louie Lauder and Cameron Hopkins in the discus, Lewis Stratton, Miles Stephenson and Kieran Meadows in the shotput, Cameron Hopkins, Harvey Rogers and Alex Adams in the Cricket Ball throw. In the afternoon the track events took place alongside numerous fun activities, with the grand finale tug of war which was won by the Royals. Sweat, guts and tears and excellent determination were on display and the parents enjoyed watching their children participate. A further 8 gold standards were achieved and outstanding performers were Cameron Hopkins, Jordan Harrison, Alfie Ricci and Paulie Lewis who all achieved at least one gold standard each. The Knights went on to win the House Trophy.

Attendance at Potterspury – an improving picture!

School attendance at Potterspury Lodge has improved steadily over the course of this term. We have increased our overall percentage this term from 78.11% to 85.17% - which is absolutely fantastic. We also have a number of students who have been gradually improving their attendance week on week.

We understand that it can be a real challenge to encourage students into school so we would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for working so hard with us to ensure students attend school regularly!

Year 11 Presentation at Sponne School

As Tutors, we have been very proud of our Year 11s. Our boys have worked very hard all year for their GCSE and Functional Skills exams, and we believe that they all gave of their very best in every exam.

Several boys have exceeded expectations during the year and have involved themselves in Presentations.

Lucas, Nathaniel and Chris produced a wonderful Presentation on the theme of DIVERSITY, which they gave to the whole school during an assembly in February.

Following the opening of the new building after Christmas Nathaniel and Lucas further developed this theme of Diversity. They worked on a presentation, giving names to each room in the building, and naming the building itself: Malala (after the Nobel Prize-winning champion of girls' education).

They gave their Powerpoint Presentation first to Mr Munday-Webb, then to the Management Team, and subsequently to the Directors and even to OFSTED, who commented:

"... pupils ... develop their independence and leadership skills. The Year 11 pupils are rightly proud of the reputation they enjoy as mature and sensible young people who are good role models for others. As one explained, 'Everything we touch turns to gold!'"

Most of the Year 11s then became immersed in the philosophical question: "Is it a sandwich?" (a Subway? An Oreo biscuit?), and once again Lucas and Nathaniel canvassed the students and once again they successfully presented their finding during an assembly.

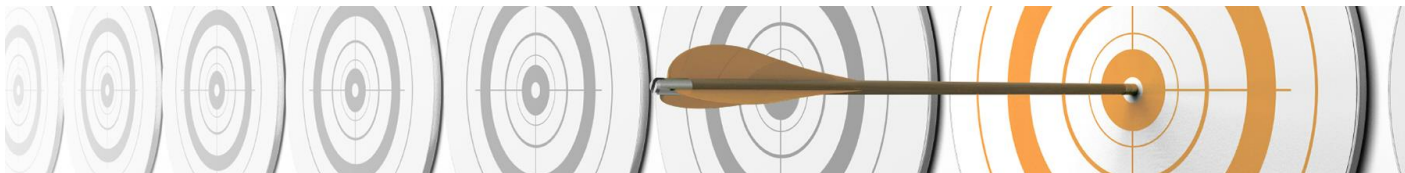
The GCSEs intervened during May and June, but during the July Transition period towards Post 16, the students were encouraged to develop a presentation for another school with the brief: "What is it like to have Autism?"

Lucas came up with this introductory screen, and the name "Autopsy". Bravely, the team stuck with it throughout!

Nathaniel and Lucas were joined by Kieran for this task. They started from scratch and then spent several days refining and practising their presentation, which improved greatly from the time and care the students gave to the task.

On a Tuesday in July they went down to Sponne comprehensive school in Towcester, and delivered their presentation, unscripted, to the entire Year 8 group there. It was a pleasure and a privilege to witness, as was evidenced by the children clapping once, out of custom, and then again in warm congratulation of the achievement of our very successful Year 11s.

Assessment



ALL CHANGE!

We are in the process of revising the way that we assess, track and monitor the progress of all students at CPLS. In addition to the annual spelling and reading comprehension assessments (these will be coming home with your child's annual report) we will be making the subject assessment system more robust. This means that students will complete one formally assessed piece of work each half-term in each subject. We will then be able to ensure that interventions are in place to support students when they need it.

We will also be moving to assessing students against the new numbered GCSE grades. Sitting below GCSE grades 1-9, will be grades F1-F9. This means that students will be able to clearly see their own progress, whatever level they are working at. It is essential that students feel a sense of pride in their academic achievements at school.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further information, but more details will be sent out next term.

Emma Butler (**Assitant Head – Assessment**)

Post 16 First Aid Course



As part of our provision ensuring students have a wide range of options and choices available to them and are prepared for the big wide world, Mrs Butler booked a First Aid Course for students in Year 11 and Post 16.

Southam First Aid came in on 19th June and delivered a Basic First Aid course. It was a really useful morning and the students engaged very well. All those who attended will be receiving certificates in the assembly at the end of term.



Art



An update of awesome work!

Since returning from the half term the students have been busy working on various projects. The Primary class have been looking at Mexican weaving and have been creating woven fabric themselves. The project has been combined with colour theory; the students have looked at the colour wheel, warm and cool colours and analogous colours. The class have produced some beautifully woven fabric and have taken care over the presentation of their work.



Year 7 and 8 have been working on a project based on recreating landscapes, they have looked at some art movements and work by Vincent van Gogh, Grant Wood and Wendy Dolan. Final outcomes for this project have included working with mixed media and felt. The students showed great precision and perseverance when recreating their drawings using string.





Year 9 have researched masks based on the theme Dream World and designed their own masks, before going on to make their designs in clay. Their sketchbooks show clear development of ideas and the themes have included boxing, ideal worlds and religious symbols. The students have used a range of techniques in their work and have produced colourful and eye-catching work.

Year 10 have continued work on the theme Dream World, students have developed this theme with their own ideas. Areas of interest have included symbols, power buildings and railway patterns. The students have explored these themes in interesting and imaginative ways, outcomes have included painting, drawing and different types of printing.



The classes have worked hard this year and have produced a good variety of interesting work that has shown their progress. I look forward to seeing the students in the new academic year and continuing to see their work develop.

Meet the LSA

We thought it would be really nice for you to meet our LSAs and find a bit out about them, who they are, what their dislikes are. We believe LSAs are an invaluable resource, so here's a little bit on some of them...

Mr Ian Wermerling

Hi, my name is Ian Wermerling, my background is in Clothing Manufacturing, specifically Tailoring, Furniture Making and Product Design. I have also worked extensively as an IT Analyst and I run a successful, small, online business, part-time. I hope to assist young talented students through their education and to inspire them to greater things. When I have any spare time I enjoy Racquet Sports, Fishing, Sailing and Golf.

Mrs Sinead Keller

I've recently returned to work after a career break raising my family. My hobbies are reading, history, cycling and travel. In my spare time I like to go on family camping trips and long walks. I am really enjoying my time at Potterspur Lodge School.

Emma Brion

I have an experience of working in education for some twenty years with a foundation set in youth work. In addition to being an LSA here at Potterspur Lodge I hold a PGCE and a Fine Art degree. My interests have led me to be an active member of my community involving the Arts, Environmental projects through Community Action groups and Homelessness projects and still continue to practice as an artist with exhibitions such as International Women's Day. In addition to this I also began my own business Reuse Me in recent years which recycles items to new uses and raises money for Refuge charity. These interests have led me to work with many artists and set up my own projects that tackle poverty such as Food for Art and Handbags for Homeless. Through these experiences I have gained a broad base of colleagues in politics, comedy, music, performance and art.

Lynda Davis

At my previous school I worked as HLTA in Key Stage 1 & 2 in a Primary Mainstream school for 11 years where I was able to provide individualised intervention activities for SEN pupils. During this time I went to University to gain an HLTA status in 2004 and also achieved my BA degree in Education Teaching and Learning at Northampton University in 2009. At Cambian I am currently a Tutor for 2LDA and LSA and deliver History lessons to two classes. I am married with 2 children and a large black lab!

Sarah Rubery

I have been at CPLS since January 2017. My background is in teaching, I hold a degree in Geography and Education from Birmingham University. I have taught for 22 years including, amongst other things, being a member of senior leadership as a deputy head teacher, Assistant SENCo, Assistant Attendance Officer, working in schools for students with Social, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties and in setting up a behavioural unit at a secondary school in Banbury.

I enjoy being an LSA as it means I can focus on the pastoral side of education. Currently at CPLS I am supporting in classes 3 days per week and coordinating EHCP paperwork on the other days. I look forward to meeting you at the EHCP for your child.

SCIENCE UPDATE

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 admirable 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

Term Starts back -Thursday 6th September 2018

(Residential student return between 6 and 8 on Wednesday 5th September)

Parents Welcome Evening – for **ALL** parents to attend - Wednesday 12th September 2018 - **6pm**

Jeans for Jeans – Friday 21st September 2018



Northampton University Visit

We had a fantastic visit from Northampton University who helped all our students, even those as far down the school as Primary, understand the options that may be available to them in Higher Education. It was a talk that took in courses, finances and student life and certainly got many of our students thinking about the options that may be available to them!

Meet the new English Teacher, Mrs Renard

I have been teaching for a number of years and I love my job. Before I was a teacher I was a journalist and I worked for a number of newspapers both local and national and I finished my journalism career at The Times as a business correspondent. I love being outdoors, I particularly enjoy sailing, skiing and swimming. I have two naughty dogs and two even naughtier children who like to keep me on my toes at the weekend! I enjoy travel and have backpacked around most of Europe and Asia, I love experiencing new cultures and meeting new people. I am very excited to get to know all the wonderful people at Potterspury Lodge.



Kenilworth Castle

We had a fantastic day at Kenilworth Castle, the whole school went to see the ruins and buildings of the English Heritage site as part of our activities week. The trip ended with Mr Pyrah buying us all a McFlurry at the end of day.



Trip to West Midlands Safari Park

It was a long way but after a 90 minute journey to the Safari park, our coach took us around the centre. We saw a baby rhino, lots of Giraffes and a white tiger, we then headed into the zoo and theme park and the students had a couple of hours on the rides. It was a fabulous day, a chance for the students to let their hair down and have a fantastic day.

Careers at Potterspury Lodge!

As per our last newsletter, Careers Education at Potterspury Lodge has got off to a flying start!

This term we have put together a Careers and Transition Programme for our students in Year 10, 11 and Post 16. As well as taking part in work experience placements, students have been involved in a number of careers related sessions.

During the first two weeks in July, we invited a Youth Liaison Officer in from Moulton College who delivered sessions on transitioning for college. Students had the opportunity to explore and discuss different college courses and look at the various pathways that would enable them to access these courses. Students took part in careers sessions delivered by Moulton College, which allowed students to develop their interview and entrepreneurial skills.

As part of this programme, we also put on various sessions led by Potterspury Lodge staff, including CV writing and job search workshops and an interview speed-dating session. Students engaged and participated really well in these sessions and were able to talk confidently and professionally about themselves and their relevant experiences. Our Careers Advisor, Mr Clifford also completed Careers Action Plans with all of our Year 10, 11 and Post 16 students, which we will continue to add to next academic year.

We visited Rushden Academy for their Careers Fayre where our students had the opportunity to speak to various different local employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities. Students also participated in school and college visits at various locations.

We look forward to sharing our Careers Plan for next year with you and for students to continue students' forward thinking.

Miss Cassidy

**When school gates close
Minds don't close
Nor hearts close,
Or thoughts of you close.
We have carried each other
Even rallied each other
On, as friends, as sons and daughters,
As Sisters and brothers.
As People.
That little light, you lit within us
Will stay within us
Held still within us
Till it is ablaze again in the presence of you.
So even if you stay with us
Or even if you leave us,
Your light is within us
And will forever glow.
Love lights life.**