

# Cambian Potterspurvy Lodge School

## Autumn Newsletter

December  
2023

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## Welcome from Sarah Stacey, Principal

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter which contains some lovely stories about the teaching, learning, trips and visits that have occurred throughout the term. It is great to see students from across the school accessing more offsite trips enabling them to engage in our local community as well as develop their confidence and life skills.

I'm also thrilled to see the support for local and national charities which has taken place over the last term. It's important that students recognise the variety of ways we can support those in need and that simple acts can have significant outcomes. Next term I look forward to seeing how we can continue to support those in our local community.

Christmas is often a time for reflection and this year is no exception. Having experienced my first full term as Principal for Potterspurvy Lodge, I can honestly say that I have been thoroughly welcomed by staff, students and their families. While I know that the introduction of a new Principal may have been daunting for the school community, I hope that you are reassured by the developments that have taken place so far, many of which you will read about in this newsletter. The leadership team have embraced the development of the entire setting and as a result we have lots of plans for the New Year.

These plans include career development days with Volkswagen, accessing work experience for KS4 students, a calendar of events for parents and carers to attend, development of our outdoor education offer and the broadening of qualifications and accreditations for students to access across year groups. Further details will be shared next half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team who, this term, have shown dedication and commitment in supporting our young people, offering opportunities for personal development and growth throughout each day. Whether you are a member of care or education staff, thank you and I hope that each of you finds some time for a well-deserved rest before the new year!

Finally, I wish all of the students and their families a very Merry Christmas. I truly hope that however you are spending the festive period you are able to have a relaxing experience, spending quality time with family and friends.

See you in 2024!

Sarah Stacey  
Principal



## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING



Whether you joined us for the cause, the chatter or the tasty treats, your generosity helped raise a fabulous

**£279.65**

to help support people living with cancer.



Simply scan this QR code with your phone to find out more about our Coffee Morning. It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you!



This Autumn term has seen a lot of amazing charitable activity from our students, parents, carers and staff. September kicked off the first event with staff taking part in Jeans for Genes - a national charity that aims to raise awareness and funds to support genetic condition organisations in the UK. In exchange for a donation, staff and students wore jeans to school on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September and raised £38.20.

On Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, the school held a coffee afternoon in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. We had a fantastic turn out from parents, carers and also some fellow neighbours who all joined us for an afternoon of fun and tasty treats. We truly thank everyone who donated to this event, from raffle prizes, to cakes and also for contributions to MacMillan itself. Together, an impressive £279.65 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Support.

In October, after being approached by one of our students asking if we could support this charity close to his heart, Potterspurty Lodge School made contact with the Royal British Legion to ask if we could help support their charity and they happily obliged. Beginning on the first of November, in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, students, staff

and visitors were all given the opportunity to purchase items on behalf of the Royal British Legion in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday. The generous donations raised a total of £46.02.

On Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, Potterspurty Lodge School held its inaugural cook-off during lunch time in support of Towcester Foodbank. Donations of food and personal hygiene items were brought into school beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> November to 27<sup>th</sup> November and the generosity shown from everyone in our Potterspurty Lodge School family was truly overwhelming. All together, we collected 52kg worth of donations!

A massive thank you to everyone who supported our events this term.

### Christmas at Potterspurty Lodge School

On 14<sup>th</sup> December, the staff and students at Potterspurty Lodge had a great day celebrating Christmas. Not only was it Christmas Jumper day but we were also treated to a delicious Christmas dinner in our beautifully decorated dining rooms. The food was delicious and was enjoyed by everyone!



## PRIMARY UPDATE

### KS2

In the KS2 department we have had a busy term and continued to develop our skills in a wide range of curriculum areas.

In English we have focussed on our reading, recall of watched information, comprehension skills and begun to look at playscript writing. We all really enjoyed the nonsense words discovered whilst reading the Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. We also had fun making an interesting comparison of The Highwayman to The Highway Rat.

In Mathematics we have been looking at Place Value up to Ten Thousand, Hundred Thousands and Millions. Some of us have been practising our multiplication tables in addition to identifying common multiples and factors of a range of numbers.

As part of our Topic curriculum we have been looking at 'Mountains' and 'Anglo Saxons'. We now have an improved knowledge of how mountains are formed and even know the names of some of the mountains found around the world.

Scientifically, we have studied Forces and Properties of materials. We have discovered facts about Newton, parachutes, solids, liquids and gases. Our experiments have been great fun!

We even got to design our own Lego boats to test how buoyant they were by actually floating them on water!

In Art we have been creative and focussed on natural art for inspiration, using leaves and other natural resources to create some fantastic artwork.



Finally, in ICT we have developed our ability to create engaging PowerPoints and improved our programming through activities based on 'Scratch'.

Next term we look forward to studying Northern, Central and Southern American art, Film Making, The Indus Valley, Shang Dynasty, Earth, Space, Light and hopefully looking at how to create a radio station!

*Mr Kemp & Miss Hughes*

## **SUBJECT UPDATES**

### **English**

During the last term, students from Years 7, 8, and 9 have been reading a range of novels like; Holes - Louis Sachar; Lord of the Flies – William Golding; Stone Cold – Robert Swindells and Skellig - David Almond. The aim is to allow them to engage in the close reading and discussion around themes, ideas explored in texts that they can appreciate. The texts have proven to be very popular and generated lots of interesting ideas through their analysis. Students have also been writing their own stories in a number of genres, the most popular proving to be Horror and Gothic – with some of the stories named 'Brain Stew' and 'The Infinite Ikea'.

The Year 10s began their journey into GCSE Literature with Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'; understanding the context and ideas that the author explores in the text. They have also been learning how to write persuasively; choosing topics around 'Why all students should have electronic devices in school?' and 'Will punishing bullies help?' The use of a range of

rhetorical devices has been exceptional, as have many of the ideas that students have created to support their arguments – truly inspirational.

Our Year 11 students have been working hard on revisiting 'A Christmas Carol' and 'An Inspector Calls' for the literature mock exams, which they have just completed, alongside the English Language Fiction Paper 1. We have been so incredibly proud of their focus at this time and wish them success going forward. It has been a very productive and positive start to the new academic year for English at Potterspurvy Lodge.

*Miss Kersey*

## History

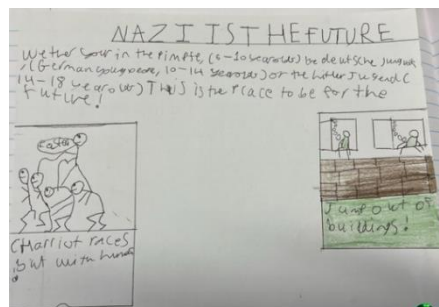
As in other subjects, it has been a very busy term in history! Our valiant Year 11s have just completed their mock exams after working extremely hard and with impressive focus since September, half the group studying the American West and the other half learning about the Vikings and then about Britain in the Second World War. Excellent work has been produced on all of these topics and we commend the students for their hard work.

Year 10 have shown truly outstanding concentration and engagement, most of them learning about Germany before and during Nazi rule. They have produced fantastic timelines, letters from Hitler in prison, protests against the Hitler Youth and have also learned how to answer some challenging exam-style questions.

Some superb work on Medicine in Britain from the Middle Ages to the 1800s has also been produced by Year 10 and Year 9 students, including excellent newspaper articles about the Great Plague and the discovery of vaccinations as well as fantastic storyboards about Pasteur's germ theory.

Our Year 8s have been learning about Britain 1745-1900, focussing on the dreadful working conditions for children in factories, mines and as chimney sweeps and writing very good reports on their findings. We are delighted to have welcomed new students to several year groups, including Year 7 where the class has been finding out what medieval England was like and beginning to learn about castles.

Some leaflets and posters promoting the Hitler Youth by Year 10 students: (L-R) K Eastwood, J Cook and L Jones



*Mrs Lowry*

## Humanities

As a precursor to the DoE and the wider community experience, students have been studying a plethora of skills across their schemes of work; from Year 7 through to Year 11.

Students have completed courses on map skills, urbanisation, ecosystems, biomes and weather and climate. Encompassing these skills and connecting with the community on a regional and national level, students were invited to raise money for Children in Need this term and contributed to a record number of burpees in the local leisure centre.



Contributing the most effort in the challenge, Potterspurty Lodge students raised money while understanding the issues of inner-city and rural poverty in Britain.

Congratulations all in knowing you helped the cause whilst learning and keeping fit!

*Mr Handby*

## Mathematics

Year 7 have been using physical objects to get a real grasp of understanding on place value and the affects on addition and subtraction. Being able to see the units turning into tens for carrying with addition, and the tens turning into units for borrowing in subtraction, has allowed the students to move on to written work, confidently adding and subtracting larger numbers.

Years 8 and 9 have been working on 'Number'- becoming more confident at using the 4 operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have been using and applying these skills and extending them into working with decimals, negative numbers and problem solving.

Year 10 started the year by recapping calculations with positive and negative numbers, multiples and factors, square numbers and prime numbers. They have applied this knowledge to their study of algebra which began with simplification of expressions and substitutions into expressions and ended working with quadratic expressions.

Year 11 began the year with a brief recap of non-calculator methods of calculation, including calculations of area and volume and converting between different metric measures. They quickly moved on to calculating with compound measures such as speed and density. The next topic was constructions where the students used rulers, protractors and a pair of compasses to construct accurate shapes, angles and scale diagrams. They are finishing the term with the topic of trigonometry.

## Statistics

The Year 11 statistics students started the year learning to calculate probability of different types of events occurring. The students learned to interpret data presented in charts and graphs and to use different methods to interrogate the data to compare different years to look for trends. They used data from a variety of sources to see how industry and retail can use data to inform business planning. They then went on to work through a statistical enquiry cycle and now looking at the various methods for presenting data in a manner that is best suited to the data collected.

*Mrs Neil & Miss Jordan*

## Personal Development

This half term Year 10 visited St Albans to see the museum and the Cathedral. The museum is based in the town centre and sees their old courtroom transformed into a café. Here students could stand in the docks and then be taken down into the cells below.



When at the cathedral students and staff took the time to view the stunning architecture as well as view a projection display, showing how some of the old painting from the 1300 would have looked prior to being damaged.

*Mr Mayer*

## Physical Education

It has been a very busy and entertaining few months during PE lessons for the students.

This term students have participated in a variety of different sports including badminton, basketball, dodgeball, football, gymnastics and of course, the famous Potterspurty Lodge stopball – a huge favourite!

All students have participated and improved their own skill set in a variety of sports which has been wonderful to see.

Year 10 and 11 students, along with those children who choose to participate during the Friday afternoon Enrichment lesson, have really enjoyed going to the local gym. The fantastic facilities located at Towcester Leisure Centre have helped many of our students gain confidence and fitness through fun and self determination.

It has truly been an excellent term and I look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term come January. I wish everyone a great holiday break!

See you in 2024...

*Mr Joyce*

## Science

**Y11** - Revision is well underway for 2023/24 GCSE's - the past 2 weeks Y11 have been sitting six, one hour long papers for science. Well done to our Y11 - this is a great way to really understand what to expect next year. The first exams are 10th May running through to 14th June for combined science and the separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams. The next 5 months is possibly the time that can make the most change to your lives - with all the support we can give you, and all the support from home, we must all do our very best. Make this your time to shine.

**Y10** - Our recent visit to Tring Museum was a great success - this has made an impact on everyone that went. The workshops attended at the museum were Biodiversity and Conservation - we were all very impressed with how the students conducted themselves throughout the day. The staff commented on the confidence of students and how well they put forward their ideas and comments throughout the sessions. We got to hold real specimens of turtles, hedgehogs and even some pangolin scales - learning how we can help to educate others to help preserve endangered species; allowing space for hedgehogs to access our gardens through small gaps and being careful not to disturb them whilst they are hibernating - perhaps in piles of leaves or near compost.

We learnt how the pangolin suffers as people think there might be medicinal value in their scales or think it is acceptable to wear pangolin scales as jewellery or decoration. Educating people and sourcing viable alternatives could help reduce this. We learnt about how many turtles die associated with swallowing plastics - mistaking them for jellyfish. The students thought of great ideas for reducing our plastic use - even venturing into political discussions about this - impressing the workshop leader. Back in the classroom, we have been learning about classification, to see how scientists can identify and classify various organisms. In a wider context this can help scientists correctly identify species and populations to help in conservation efforts around the world.

In Chemistry students have learnt how to use a burette to measure volumes accurately with precision and control - performing experiments to plot the pH curve when neutralising an alkali with an acid



**Y9** - Focus has been on learning about the atom and the periodic table. We have explored energy stores and transfers - devising some experiments to show the efficiency in systems. In Chemistry we learnt how to make copper sulphate crystals and evaporated 'sea water' to form sodium chloride crystals.

**Y7 & Y8** - Students have learnt how to work safely with Bunsen burners and helped reduce copper oxide with carbon using the Bunsen burner. Recent work on body systems, the skeleton and muscles has been complemented by making moving skeletons - learning how joints work and how muscles support other body systems.

*Mrs McGarry*

## RESIDENTIAL AUTUMN TERM OVERVIEW

We have had a very busy Autumn Term with our young people settling back into school after a busy summer and attending lots of activities.

Our young people have been very busy and enjoying a variety of activities and outings including; arcades, boxing, cinema, cycling, gym, Halloween celebrations, horse riding, and a range of other activities which everyone has enjoyed.

We have been working alongside school to enrol one of our young people into two, Level 1 courses of the British Horse Society - Horse Care and Horse Riding. These courses are proving to be a great educational option for this young person as they are excelling in this subject.

Another young person of ours is volunteering on a Monday evening alongside a staff member at a charity, who provide clothing and hot meals in Northampton town centre. This is a great experience for him and is helping him to help the local community.

After Christmas we will be supporting our young people to start to think about what they would like to do in their futures and linking this to the work within school around careers.

On a more festive note, one of our young people from residential care was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Lapland! While there he enjoyed a sleigh ride, husky sledge rides, making snow angels, tobogganing, and of course, meeting Santa! It was truly a magical time.







Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to announce some staff departures. First, at the end of December 2023, Ms Roberts will be leaving and myself and all of us at Potterspur Lodge wish her lots of luck in the future. Second, in February 2024, I, myself, will be leaving for pastures new.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in January!

*Ms Murr*

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

Potterspur Lodge School welcomed many new faces to our team this past term and they've all been working extremely hard to make sure the transition has been smooth for our students. During the Autumn 2023 term we welcomed:

### Senior Leadership Team

Mr Ben Billington – Head of Education and Deputy Principal

Mr Joshua Mayer – promoted to Assistant Principal and Technical Lead

### Education Team

Miss Millie Hughes – Primary Instructor

Mr Adam Johnson – Pastoral Lead and DSL

Miss Nickie Kersey – English Lead

Miss Anna Jordan – Teacher of Mathematics

Mr Tony Joyce – Teacher of Physical Education

Mrs Miranda McGarry – Teacher of Science

Mrs Adele Neil – Mathematics Lead

Ms Julie Palmer – Transition Lead

Learning Supports Assistants: Mr Alex Braggins, Miss Erin Deeley, Miss Naomi Fedoriw, Miss Millie Holtz, Miss Maisie Lane, Miss Gemma Maxted and Miss Stephanie Smith

## FINAL WORDS

### A polite reminder from the Principal and Staff

The no mobile phones policy was introduced after the October half-term break and most of our students have abided by this brilliantly, however, we are still having instances of pupils keeping their mobile phones on them during the day. If children would like to bring their phones with them to school, they are politely reminded that these must be handed in to reception in the morning where they will be securely held. Alternatively, to avoid any issue, students can refrain from bringing their mobile phones in to school at all. We thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

### Term Dates 2024

<b><u>Spring Term 2024</u> – Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>
<b><i>Residential students return Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January between 6-8 pm</i></b>
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> of February – Term 3
<b>Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Half-Term Holiday</b>
<b><i>Residential students return Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February between 6-8 pm</i></b>
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March – Term 4
<b>Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March – Bank Holiday (Students and Staff)</b>
<b>Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holiday</b>
<b><u>Summer Term 2024</u> – Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
<b><i>Residential students return Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April between 6-8 pm</i></b>
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May – Term 5
<b>Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday (Students and Staff)</b>
<b>Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May – Half-Term Holiday</b>
<b><i>Residential students return Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June between 6-8 pm</i></b>
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6
<b>Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July – Start of the Summer Holiday for students</b>
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July & Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – Staff Training Days



