

# Cambian Potterspurpy Lodge School

## Spring Newsletter

March  
2024

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## Welcome from Sarah Stacey, Principal

Spring has well and truly sprung at Potterspurpy Lodge School! It is wonderful to see the beautiful grounds begin to come to life with spring flowers and buds on the trees.

This term we have welcomed several new students and we're pleased to say that they're quickly settling into the school community. It's delightful to watch current students support them and begin to build new relationships.

A great success this term has been the mock GCSE exams which have helped prepare our Year 11 students for the 'real thing' starting in May. Thank you to all of the staff involved in preparing and supporting Year 11's and the exam process. Good luck to all of the students!

There have been lots of trips and visits this half term including a theatre trip to see 'Macbeth', a visit to site from Volkswagen, horse-riding, gym visits, plus trips to the local trampoline park and other local amenities. At Potterspurpy Lodge School we recognise the value in supporting offsite trips, not only for educational reasons, but also in

improving essential life skills such as communication, community, interaction, self-risk management and independence. I can't wait to see what exciting opportunities our amazing staff have planned for next half term!

May I take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers who came to support our Comic Relief bake sale. It is great to see you all on site and I hope to see you for our summer celebration day in July (details to follow at a later date).

In the meantime, I wish you all a lovely Easter weekend and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

Sarah Stacey  
Principal



## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

# RED NOSE DAY

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> of March, the school held a cake sale to fundraise for Red Nose Day. All of the treats on offer were specially made by our students, with each year group baking something different as part of their Food Technology lesson. We had a fantastic turn out from parents and carers who joined us for the event and together we raised an impressive £161.60 for Red Nose Day. A massive thank you to everyone for your generosity.



On Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March a few of our Year 10 students attended the theatre performance of 'Macbeth' held in Milton Keynes. As the students have been studying 'Macbeth' as part of their curriculum, this was a great opportunity to support their understanding and also gave them an appreciation for the play. A wonderful afternoon was had by all.

Milton Keynes Theatre presents

Something wicked this way comes...

The Macbeths seem to have it all – but a mysterious prophecy soon leads to treachery, murder and the disintegration of everything they hold dear. Ambition has never been *more bloody*.

Friday, 22 March 2024  
13:00

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY BOOK NOW AT TICKETS

## INSPIRE

at Potterspurty Lodge School

Wednesday, 27 March 2024  
11am – 3pm

A fun-filled afternoon for all of our students consisting of multiple activities, a car show and an opportunity for our older students to attend an employability workshop

INSPIRE  
Inspiring young minds to drive a future in automotive

On Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, INSPIRE came to Potterspurty Lodge School as part of a sustainability and employability day. INSPIRE aims to showcase opportunities to young people across the UK in an engaging way, encouraging them to 'think outside the box' and see the world of opportunities available to them within the Volkswagen Group UK.

It was a very successful afternoon; the children really enjoyed getting to sit in the different vehicles and getting to experience what it feels like to be in the drivers seat.



## PRIMARY UPDATE

### KS2



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

In English, we have continued to focus on our reading, recall of watched information and comprehension skills. We have also spent time doing SPAG (**S**pelling **P**unctuation **A**nd **G**rammar) activities as well as designing an advert using persuasive language.

In Mathematics, we have been looking at Perimeter, Area, Volume, Fractions and Decimals. We have also continued to practise our multiplication tables and to consolidate previous concepts taught in the Autumn Term.

All of these topic areas have been taught in context and in 'real-life' situations. We have also been consolidating our learning from previous topics so as to cement our understanding.

As part of our Topic curriculum, we have been looking at 'The Indus Valley' and 'The Shang Dynasty.'



Scientifically, we have studied Light, Earth and Space. We have discovered facts about Moon cycles, the Solar System, Reflection and Refraction of Light. It was very interesting trying to make our own periscopes!

In Art, we have been investigating and recreating North, South and Central American Art.

Finally, in ICT we have been look at being safe online and are beginning to develop our basic Excel skills.

Next term we look forward to studying The Seaside, Animations, Watermills, Eternity, Evolution and Inheritance!

We wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



*Mr Kemp & Miss Hughes*

## SUBJECT UPDATES

### English

During the Spring Term, students from Years 7 and 8 started with fictional writing to enable them to understand the structure of narrative writing, plus developing descriptive writing skills and knowledge, to create characters, plots and settings for their own stories. In order to do this, the year 7 students used Roald Dahl's rewritten fairy stories, which proved very popular.

During the latter part of the term both Year 7 and Year 8 students explored poetry. The Year 7 students looked at different poems from other cultures, learning through poetry how to explore a range of cultures, including their own. They then wrote their own poems illustrating these in the form of haiku. This was challenging, but they all achieved a great deal of success.

The Year 8 students explored different forms of poetry including haiku, shape, acrostic and free verse. However, the focus for them was to explore a range of emotions using adjectives, verbs, adverbs to convey ideas around different emotions. They also wrote poems that linked to their own specific experiences of a range of emotions.

The Year 9 students began the Spring Term exploring biography and autobiography. Students were able to not only write about their own experiences, but they also chose to write about people they were interested in. Some of the subjects of the students' work were; Kurt Cobain, Benedict Cumberbatch, Boris Johnson, Jimi Hendrix and Elvis Presley! We looked at the features of biography and then every student was able to research each of their subjects before writing about them.

Year 9 students have also been tackling Romeo and Juliet. Most have engaged in the story and we have had some good discussion around character and plot. The students have also used the play to write descriptively and informatively for a range of purposes.

For the Year 10 students, this Spring Term has involved getting to know two of the set texts for GCSE – 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Macbeth'. Where students have wanted to, they have participated fully in the reading of both of these plays. Students are building a good understanding of the texts with the view that when they revise them next year for their finals, they will be confident in their knowledge of characters, plots, settings, themes and ideas.

The Year 11 students have been busy revising for both of their English Language and English Literature papers, whilst also sitting mock exams for these in February. They did well in these exams and proved that they are focused on ensuring they achieve the success they deserve for themselves – we wish them all the best going into the Summer Term and for the exams that begin in May.

Congratulations to all of our students for a wonderful Spring Term.

*Miss Kersey*

## **Geography**

Congratulations are extended to the Year 10 cohort for starting their Geography Fieldwork unit and successfully conducting a public survey at the local leisure centre. The students will now gather their information and present this as part of their project.

A special thanks and congratulations goes to LCA for his outstanding work and etiquette in the community.

*Mr Handby*

## **History**

It has been another full and fun term in history!

The Year 7 students have been finding out what life was like in Britain in the 1500s and have been surprised to note that people were heavily outnumbered by sheep! Not only that, but also that there were pretty decent barbers' shops for the wealthy as well as less civilised features including bear baiting and public hangings.

For Year 8 students, this term has been a fascinating mixture covering both the transatlantic slave trade and key aspects of the twentieth century world. They have particularly enjoyed learning about the Battle of Britain and about Winston Churchill.

The history of medicine in Britain continues for Year 9 who have been studying medicine in the trenches of the First World War. Horrifying aspects of trench life including rats, lice, trench foot and shell shock combine with the strange mixture of traditional and modern warfare techniques – for example, the use of horses alongside machine guns and heavy artillery – to make this a particularly interesting topic.

Year 10 students have completed their study of Nazi Germany, producing some absolutely outstanding diaries of Jewish children living through the Holocaust. They have moved on to learn about one of the most successful English monarchs of all time, Elizabeth I. Students have enjoyed finding out about how she faced a tough situation as a woman in a man's world with all the doubts and judgements that went along with this context. Also, how she proved herself from the start to be a force to be reckoned with as well as being someone determined to heal the deep divisions in her country.

Our intrepid Year 11 students have sat another set of mock exams and found themselves more than equal to the challenge. We are extremely proud of the hard work and excellent progress made by Year 11 in history. They have now nearly completed all of their learning and are getting ready to revise what they have learned, not forgetting, we hope, to have some well-earned rest over the Easter break and maybe even a bit of chocolate!

*Mrs Lowry*

## **Humanities**

With the inevitable exam season around the corner, the Year 11 students have successfully completed their mocks with a promising set of results. The start of the GCSE exam period will begin on the 10th of May and kicks-off with Science. Following on from this is a further four weeks of exams, which will ultimately finish on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, with Statistics wrapping up the 2024 exam session. The students have worked so hard and will no-doubt yield amazing results come August.

A letter will be sent out to parents and carers over the next few days giving information, help and advice for parents and students for the forthcoming months. Easter should be a time for families and relaxation, but we do urge students and parents to organise a basic revision timetable within that two-week holiday period in order to alleviate anxiety and enable teachers to focus on areas of concern when students arrive back to school on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

*Mr Handby*

## **Mathematics**

This term, students in Year 8 and Year 9 have been multiplying and dividing integers and decimals by powers of 10 and using these to convert some metric measurements -- always useful to be able to convert between cm and m! We have also been rounding numbers and have extended this into rounding to decimal places and significant figures -- this is useful in real life so that the students can round and estimate; especially useful with money. We are finishing off this term with Index Laws and Standard Form -- these skills are extremely valuable as they cross over into science and can be used when working with both really big or incredibly small numbers.

During maths lessons, students have found that using playing cards as a tool have been very beneficial in their learning process. If any family happens to have a spare set of playing cards lying around that they would be happy to donate to the Maths classroom, it would very much appreciated. Thank you!

*Miss Jordan*

Year 7 started the term on the topic of statistics. They have been working on drawing bar charts and interpreting information in different types of charts and tables. After this topic was complete, the year 7 students moved on to calculating with decimal numbers.

Year 10 have been working on a lot of different topics depending on where they are in their learning. All the students started working with fractions, decimals and percentages. Some continued their work in this area to further consolidate their knowledge before moving on to working with perimeter and area while other students have been working algebraic equations. They have all learned various methods to solve the equations.

Year 11 maths students have been revising their knowledge of algebra before applying this to a variety of graphs including linear graphs, quadratic and cubic graphs, reciprocal and exponential graphs and trigonometric graphs. They are currently finishing a topic of direct and indirect proportion.

Year 11 stats students have studied population statistics. They have also looked at data presented in various ways and can identify why some methods of data presentation can be misleading. The students have also used different methods to compare data sets and can explain which methods are best suited to the certain types of data presented. At the end of the term now, they are just finishing a quick recap of probability

*Mrs Neil*

## Physical Education

The students have had a very good and hard-working Spring Term in PE.

Basketball has really taken off and the students' knowledge and game play has made huge improvements. Five-a-side Friday Football Club has been a huge success as well.

On return, and hopefully with better weather, we aim to use the outside facilities and look forward to playing athletics, cricket, rounders, and softball.

Hope you all have a wonderful Easter break!

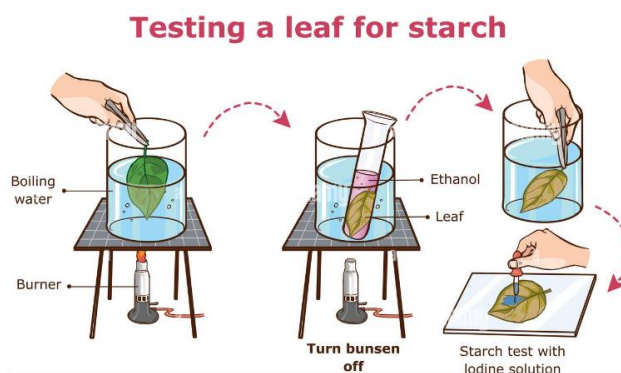
*Mr Joyce*

## Science

**Y11** - Having sat two sets of mocks, the Year 11 students now know a bit more of what to expect for the exams in May and June. They have printed planners to bring home, which show the remaining weeks left until exams and also key information needed. They can fill these in with revision slots, helping them to make the most of the next few vital revision weeks - especially over the Easter break. All your support during this time will be welcomed and make a real difference.

**Y10** - We started the year with the topic of chemical changes - learning about exothermic and endothermic reactions. This led neatly into photosynthesis - being one of the most - if not the most important endothermic reactions on the planet - using the Sun's energy to create not only their own food, but enough for all of us too.

We tested leaves for starch with Iodine - looking at how if the leaves were left in a dark cupboard for a couple of days that the starch was depleted and did not show a positive test compared to the leaves that had been photosynthesising during the same time.



**Y9** - The digestive system has been studied this year and students carried out various tests for different food types.



We are now studying chemical bonding and learning about ions and how they are made.

**Y7 & Y8** - We have been studying acids and alkalis, neutralising solutions and making salts. The students have also been learning how to properly use lab equipment including the Bunsen burners and light boxes. During Science week, Year 7 students did flame testing as an introduction to using Bunsen burners.

*Mrs McGarry*

## RESIDENTIAL SPRING TERM OVERVIEW

It has been a busy and fun Spring Term here in Residential! With the weather finally improving, we have been taking advantage of it by taking lots of bike rides round site and beyond and even made a visit to GoApe! in Milton Keynes.

We are so very proud of one of our young persons as she has successfully passed her most recent horse-riding exams. Horses are a real passion for her and passing these exams has had a huge and positive impact on her.

One of our other young persons took a trip to London this term for a bit of sightseeing and really enjoyed their day out.

Time has quickly passed and we cannot believe that one of our persons has been doing their uni interviews! No decision has been made yet, but they have been enjoying all of the different options so far.

*Miss Donachie & Mrs Utaipiboon*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Potterspurty Lodge School welcomed a few new faces to our team this past term and they have all been working extremely hard to make sure the transition has been smooth for our students. During the spring 2024 term we welcomed:

Senior Leadership Team  
Miss Sam Howard - SENCO

Education Team  
Learning Supports Assistants: Miss Helen Potter and Miss Catherine Jarvis

Clinical Team  
Miss Maddy White – Consultant Speech & Language Therapist

## 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>Summer Term 2024 – 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>
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day – Staff Training Day
<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

