



PressTales

Issue 11, 28 April 2017

Headlines

Dear Parents/Guardians

I trust that you and your family had a restful Easter break.

The students have returned refreshed and ready for the Summer term. This is now the final stretch for Year 11 and 13 and we have been impressed with their attitude and focus in the last days before study leave. This is an extremely important time in their lives and we know that they are keen to do the best that they can. Please continue to encourage your child to revise, whilst ensuring they take regular breaks.

Year 11 Leavers' assembly is on the 11th May which marks the beginning of study leave. However, from Monday 15th lessons will continue as normal with an emphasis on revision. All students are welcome to attend these sessions, and students who are currently working below their target grade in a subject should attend those lessons. Your support with this is welcomed.

Many of you were able to attend the Dance shows that took place last Thursday and Friday. The quality of the performances was outstanding, with dazzling costumes and slick changes between dances. Well done to the girls involved, and thank you to those staff and senior students who spent time choreographing and rehearsing each dance.

I would like to send out another please for parents to join our Parents Association. They are short on numbers and would really appreciate the support of other parents. You don't have to sign up to everything they do, perhaps offer your skills or time for one or two events. If you are interested, please email our admin account and we will pass on your details.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
Matt Warren
Headteacher

Reminders

- **Year 13 Leavers' Prom (26th May 2017)** - Tickets will be priced at £35 per person and payments can be made at any time from now until Tuesday 2nd May, either as cash, cheque (made payable to Presdales School) or via Wisepay.
- **Year 11 Prom (29th June 2017)** - Deposit of £10 due to secure place. Final payment needs to be made by Wednesday 3rd May.
- **Year 11 Hoodies** - Payment of £16 must be paid as soon as possible.
- **Hockey and Netball Tour** - any outstanding kit payments of £35 must be paid as soon as possible.
- **Year 9 History Trip to the Battlefields (May 2017)** - Any outstanding payment or documentation (parental consent form and photocopy of your daughter's passport and EHIC card) must be handed in to Mrs Eyre in the school office as soon as possible.
- **Russian Trip (October 2017)** - If you have been following the payment schedule, the next £150 instalment is due by 3rd May.
- **Ski Trip (February 2018)** - Students that have secured a place on this trip can make monthly payments of £91.44.

Finally, please be aware that if you send in your permission slip for a school trip without making a payment, your child's place on the trip is not secured.



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers



Vouchers. Thank you!

Please help by collecting and donating your Sainsbury's Active Kids



School Trips

Year 12 Art & Photography Trip to Barcelona



On Wednesday the 29th March the A

Level Art and Photography trip left to go to see the sights of Barcelona. After settling into our rooms, our first stop was the Gaudi cathedral, Sagrada Familia. The pupils were wowed by the nature-inspired stained glass and gothic arches. Whilst some students photographed the decadent light as it shone through the magnificent windows, others sat and sketched the intricate undulating architecture that Gaudi is famous for.

On Day Two, we took the group to the open gardens at Parc Guell. On a beautiful day in sunny Spain, the pupils loved the meandering pathways around exotic flower beds. Here each of the students was asked to develop their projects further, some

decided to focus on macro Photography of the flora and others drew particular aspects of the landscape and mosaics. The visit was closely followed by a visit to Casa Batlo, a water inspired house designed by Gaudi, situated in the centre of Barcelona. Our last stop of the day was through the picturesque marina and down to the aquarium. The aquarium was home to an array of beautiful coral reefs and exotic sea life providing ample inspiration for future projects.

Day 3 was based around the area of Las Ramblas, the bustling stretch of the city leading down to the coast. We were up early, ready to walk to MACBA, the modern Art Gallery situated within the Universitat. The pupils were inspired by the Artwork, most of which was interactive and enabled you to take part in the work itself. The group were led through a series of installations that challenged the senses. Other rooms had a vast display of techniques ranging from screen printing to sculpture. As it neared midday, we began our journey down the stretch of Las Ramblas. The flower markets flourished in colour and the Boqueria food market was an excellent place for a Photoshoot.

On our last day, we were hit by the rain! Luckily we managed to get to La Plaza Monumental, which was previously known for bullfighting, a magnificent piece of architecture now turned into a shopping and entertainments centre looking over the Montjuic District. Once the rain had stopped, we managed to take a walk down the original walled city, the gothic quarter. Filled with street performers and live music, the journey was a wonderful experience.

It was a shame to leave the beautiful city of Barcelona. The group were wowed by the colourful and expressive artwork, the bustling markets and the striking architecture that the city has to offer. An experience which has inspired all.

Miss Tatum





Year 9 Italian Trip to Rome

Ciao!

In the (very) early hours of the morning of Tuesday the 28th March, we hopped on the coach and headed to Rome; our journey was just beginning...

After the fun that was baggage reclaim, excitement bubbling in our bellies, we stepped outside and were welcomed with sunny Rome rays! Our first stop was the Trevi Fountain and a cheeky gelato break! We were introduced to the wonder that is banana sorbet! All of the coins thrown into the Trevi Fountain are collected and donated to an orphanage, which is favoloso!

We had dinner at a train station, era delizioso! After we had finished our evening meal, the early start caught up with us and as soon as we arrived back at the Nord Nuova Hotel (which was lovely, by the way!), we fell fast asleep, anticipating tomorrow's adventure.

The next day, we visited the Colosseum, the Roman Forum (probably the oldest buildings we will ever see – dating back to 81AD!), Capitoline Hill, where we saw some stunning views, and last but not least, a triple-church (three churches built on top of each other). We had a stupendo din dins at a pizzeria.

On our last full day a Roma, we decided to take a journey on the metro to the Vatican City (which was amazing!); era molto bella! We then took a stroll through the beautiful cobbled streets to the Pantheon, where another gelato stop was made! We then got back on the metro and went to dinner – at a cute little ristorante!

Our last day had arrived (cue sad music) and shopping was on our minds! There were shops ranging from sciarpe to cioccolato! We were allowed to choose where we ate lunch, and we (Saf and Alice) found ourselves in a quaint little bar where we ate pizza and pasta; it was truly magical! After purchasing some souvenirs and other items, we ventured to the oldest ice cream factory in Rome; there were millions of delicious gelato flavours to choose from including frutti di bosco, rice pudding, and liquorice!

Our time in Rome was coming to an end, and we couldn't believe we were leaving after having such a memorable time. We arrived at the airport and said arrivederci to Roma.

On behalf of the students who went, we'd like to thank Mrs Evenden, Miss Jennings and Miss Bray for organising and taking us on this amazing trip; we truly had a fantastico time! (Also we'd like to thank Rome for being so beautiful and historic!).

Grazie and thanks for reading,
Un bacio,

Alice Webb and Safia Sipi





Hockey and Netball Tour to Barcelona

On Sunday 2nd April we left school to head to



Barcelona. The coach journey was a little long but the girls were fantastic and we arrived at the hotel Monday midday ready to explore.

The tournaments were great fun with the 2 hockey teams playing 2 fixtures against Spanish opposition with some hard and exciting games. The 3 netball teams all entered and won their tournaments playing some fantastic netball in the process.

The girls were exceptional role models and were a pleasure to have on a trip. This was evident when they were all given free time in the Palamos market.

We enjoyed some fun activities in the evenings too, but I think the best night would have been the karaoke night where all the girls joined in with the singing and had a few giggles.

It was sad to leave our fantastic hotel and the lovely weather but we had an amazing time and will be able to talk about all the memories for years to come regarding sports tour.

Miss Gregson



Hockey ...



Our trip started on a chilly Sunday afternoon in the Easter holidays and saw us arriving twenty hours later in the hot and very beautiful coastal resort of Platja D'Aro.

During the trip we had the opportunity to experience Spanish life with a trip to the local market where we enjoyed delicious churros. We also visited Barcelona and had a chance to sightsee and do some shopping. The best bit though was the hockey! We were nervous as our first match approached, not knowing anything about the

team we were playing, but we quickly got into our stride and were thrilled to secure a 2-1 win against a strong Spanish side. Our celebrations were cut short, though, due to a huge thunder storm! We were more confident for our second match and played some great flowing hockey which saw us win 5-0. It was great to have the opportunity to play with the Year 9 team and all four of the Year 8 girls had a brilliant time and were really made to feel part of the team. All too soon, though, it was time for our awards and disco night and then time to board the coach for the long journey home. I had a brilliant time on tour and would love the opportunity to go again!

Issy Gardiner (Year 8)



Netball ...



In the first week of the Easter holidays, we went on a netball tour to Barcelona. It was such an amazing opportunity and it was even better to spend time with our team mates. Over the time we were in Barcelona, we had two netball training sessions where we played games and learned drills and ball skills. On our final day of netball, we played a tournament and won it!





Dance Evenings

On Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd April, over 50 students danced for 'Broadway Dance Evening 2017'. It was a fantastic success and the girls' performances were outstanding. The Dance Leaders have been amazing and choreographed incredible dances – thank you to Tegan Swann, Anna Wilson, Laura Knott, Lizzie Withers, Imogen Patel, Zoe Johnston, Anna Thompson, Maisie Bentley and Eva Terziyski; we really appreciate your hard work and dedication. Thank you also to those who came to watch; we hope you enjoyed the show.



Miss Weaver



News from Maths

Rebecca Fletcher (Year 9), Leanna Rhodes (Year 9), Grace Farrell (Year 10) and Matilda Pitt (Year 11) were invited to take part in the International Kangaroo contest in mid-March, on the strength of their performances at the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. This competition has the aim of promoting mathematics among young people and more than 50 countries throughout the world take part. The name sounds strange, but recognises the fact that the organisation was inspired by the Australian Mathematics Trust.

Rebecca Fletcher was awarded a certificate of Merit, indicating that her achievement on this paper was in the top 25% of students internationally for her Year. The other girls received certificates of Qualification and all are presented with special keyfobs marking their achievement in Maths.

The next Maths competition is the individual Junior Maths Challenge for pupils in upper Maths sets in Year 7 & 8, taking place on Thursday 27th April. More information can be found on www.ukmt.org.uk/individual-competitions/

Food Evaluation Article

As part of the Year 9 twelve-week project in our Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons, our outcome focuses were to create a 2 course meal, as a pair, that had a multicultural theme and fitted the design brief. It had to be flavoursome, suitable for a teenage market, healthy and as economic as possible. We would judge our criteria against the Eatwell Guide and attempt to reduce the amount of fat, salt and sugar our dishes contained, for a more healthy and wholesome end-result. The multicultural nature of the prepared meal ranged from Mexican- to Chinese-themed platters; there were a whole host of different cultures! Our teachers, taste-testers (and self-assessments) of our dishes judged according to flavour, texture, aroma and presentation- including the plating technique and garnishing. We would assess the compatibility of our dishes in the target age bracket through market research and surveys. Also, we had gained a lot of background knowledge of our chosen culture through a research page that we had previously completed and, therefore, had lots of ideas on how to adapt our dishes for a more original twist.

My partner and I created churros (Mexican doughnuts) served with cinnamon-sugar, chocolate sauce, mixed berries and mint. They were shared with our classmates and taste-testers who said that they had 'a lovely flavour' and that they 'looked very professional': we all enjoyed sampling them! In addition, we further evaluated the outcomes of our dishes and considered improvements in our following lessons based on our taste-tester comments and personal opinions. We all greatly enjoyed these practical tasks and it was very interesting to be able to independently plan, adapt and experiment with a dish and its components - as well as be able to work as a team.

Ayesha Unadkat, Year 9



Football



During the Easter holiday Gracie Pearse (Year 9) made her international debut for England U15s against Belgium in Brussels. Gracie has been attending England camps at St. George's Park every two months since June and was very proud to be named in the starting line up.



School Uniform

John Lewis

School Specific Uniform Reductions

Dear parents,

We would like to inform you of the reductions we have made to your school uniform from John Lewis.

As part of our Clearance promotions, we have recently added some lines from our school specific ranges, which your uniform has been included in.

You will find discounts on your current bespoke uniform items, with reductions from 50% off! This is a truly fantastic offer, which we hope you will enjoy while stocks last.

All reductions are will be live on the website in the next week, and can be bought via www.johnlewis.com, by either following the link to your schools page, or by searching your school name in the search bar.

May we lastly take this opportunity to thank all our parents and schools for their continued loyalty and custom with John Lewis, and we wish you all the very best.

Kind regards,

John Lewis School Wear Team

Schoolwear

Our new providers are:





School Calendar

May

- Tuesday 2nd to Tuesday 9th May : Spanish Exchange group visiting from Barcelona
- Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th and Friday 5th May : Year 13 Photography A level examination (group A)
- Friday 5th May : Charity Day (5)
- Friday 5th May : Year 10 Spanish Exchange trip to Cambridge
- Monday 8th May : School's 111th Birthday Assembly (Senior Students)
- Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th May : Year 13 Photography A level examination (group B)
- Tuesday 9th May : Year 7 Parents' Consultation Meeting (2), 4.15-7.15pm
- Thursday 11th May : Study Leave for Year 11 begins
- Thursday 11th May : Year 10 Geography Economic Activity Fieldwork Day
- Thursday 11th, Friday 12th, and Monday 15th May : Year 13 Art & Design A level examination
- Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May : Year 9 History trip to the Battlefields
- Tuesday 23rd May : Year 12 Geography Docklands Fieldwork Day (1)
- Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May : Year 10 Food practical examination
- Thursday 25th May : Year 13 Leavers' Tea, 4.15pm
- Friday 26th May : Study Leave for Year 13 begins 12.30pm

The full school calendar for the current academic year can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Reports

- Year 9 main reports out week commencing Monday 8th May.

Sporting Fixtures in May

- 4th May: Year 11 / Senior Rounders Tournament @ Presdales
- 4th May: Herts Schools Comb Events Trials Stevenage
- 10th May: County Athletics at Wodson Park
- 15th May: Year 10 Rounders v Simon Balle (A)
- 15th May: Year 9 Rounders v Simon Balle (H)
- 16th May: Year 10 Rounders v Leventhorpe (H)
- 16th May: Year 7 Rounders v Leventhorpe (A)
- 23rd May: Year 8 Rounders v Leventhorpe (A)
- 23rd May: Year 9 Rounders v Leventhorpe (H)
- 25th May: Years 7-10 Rounders v John Warner (H)

Non Uniform Day

The second non-uniform day for the school charity, teens:)unite, took place on Friday 31st March. An incredible £1,307.78 was

raised. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

The next Non-Uniform Day in support of this worthy cause is being held on Friday 5th May. The Charity Committee would like everyone to take part and to make a voluntary £2.00 donation (or more if you would like to contribute as a family) to this extremely worthwhile charity. We would be grateful if donations could be returned to Mrs Eyre in the School Office in an envelope marked with your daughter's/son's name and form group. We would welcome the donation before the 5th if possible, please. Thank you in advance.



Presdales School



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Letters home

All letters are sent home via InTouch. Copies of letters can also be found on our website under **Quick Links** or by clicking [here](#). However, if you require a hard copy of a letter, please request one from the school office.