

December 2023 Issue



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL[®]

NEWS



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FROM THE HEADTEACHER

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The countdown to Christmas has well and truly begun, as confirmed by the plethora of 'cracker jokes' that Year 8 pupils in particular have been sharing with me. The worst so far has to be, "Why shouldn't you eat Christmas decorations, Miss? ... because you might catch tinselitus!". Although staff and pupils alike are looking forward to some well-earned holiday, we have certainly enjoyed the variety of festive activities taking place in the last few weeks, ranging from the staff Christmas Bake-Off to the Year 8 Christmas Singing Competition. Our pupils, as ever, are keen to support others and so are taking part in raising money for a number of charities via the last day of term's non-uniform day. A number of these activities are featured in this edition of Springfield News, and so I hope you enjoy perusing what our pupils have been up to.

It's been a positive and busy term and we have recently welcomed a number of important visitors to our school. During the first week back after half-term we hosted the Challenge Partners Team, who were with us for three days conducting a 'QAR – Quality Assurance Review'. Challenge Partners is a practitioner-led charitable organisation which works to accelerate school improvement, leadership development and pupil progress, and all schools within the De Curci Trust are linked within its national Network of Excellence. Colleagues spent time meeting with a range of staff and pupils, as well as observing lessons and the school in action. We were delighted that the team found the leadership in Springfield School to be 'Leading' - the highest estimate that can be issued – and were able to give positive and constructive feedback regarding our provision. The report highlighted that:

'Leaders have high aspirations, passion and a deep sense of care for their students. This means that they take an individualised approach, where relationships with the student and family are at the heart of what they do, whether it is in relation to the curriculum, learning needs, attendance or any other aspect of school life. This core vision and ethos means that students enjoy their time at school and feel valued and listened to'.

More information regarding Challenge Partners can be found on their website and we will publish our full report on the school website in due course. <https://www.challengepartners.org/>



Ms S F Spivey
Headteacher,
Springfield School
CEO, The De Curci Trust

We enjoyed seeing many of our former Year 11 Pupils on 23 November at our Awards Evening. Our special guest was also a Springfield alumna; World Champion and double Olympian swimmer Katie Sexton MBE was born in Portsmouth and attended Springfield School as a pupil, spending time swimming in the school pool when we were still lucky enough to have one. She first competed for her country at 13 years old and went on to be the first British female swimmer to win a World Championship Gold medal. Katie was able to share her passion for swimming and sport with our leavers and also talk to them about the importance of resilience and perseverance; working through a serious injury and being able to return to competitive swimming was a highlight of her career. We were grateful to Katy for generously giving her time to celebrate our young people's success with them; they were certainly very happy to meet such an accomplished and inspiring guest.

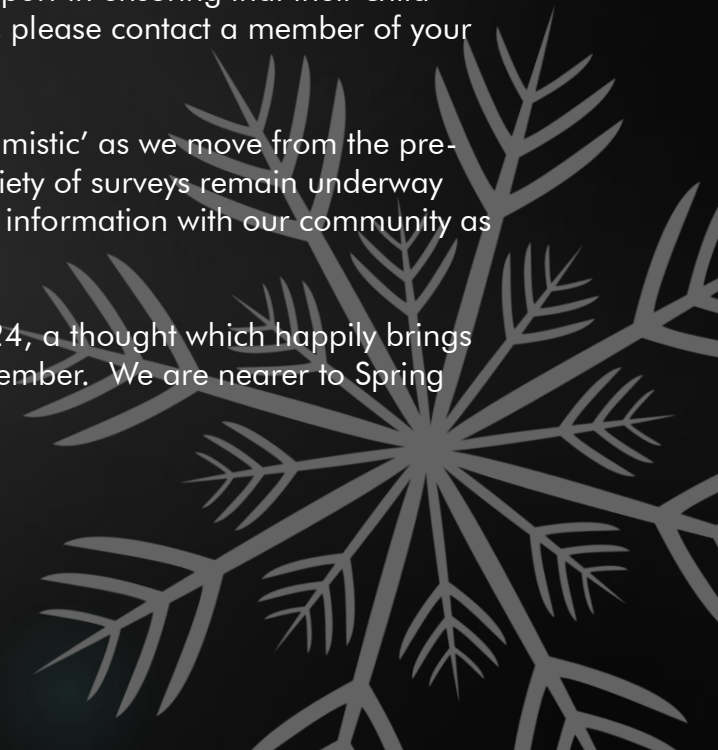
Education is rarely out of the news, and families may have seen the Portsmouth News headline (13 December), 'Not learning their lessons', which linked to an article highlighting that the number of pupils missing school without permission is well above average in Portsmouth and has risen significantly since Covid-19; it also reported an increase in the number of suspensions being issued in Portsmouth Schools. There are a number of complex factors contributing to this problem, and schools cannot address them in isolation. However, families will understand that children cannot make good progress in their formal learning and personal development unless they attend school and, when in school, engage with their lessons and learning. While at Springfield the picture is slightly more positive than at some other secondary schools, attendance is not as good as it was prior to the pandemic, and we are concerned that some children are missing out over the longer term. There is a direct correlation between good attendance and good progress/GCSE results, and consequently the future opportunities available to pupils. Parents are legally responsible for making sure that their children attend school. We understand that this is not always straightforward and would like to thank parents/carers sincerely for their ongoing support in ensuring that their child attends school on time every day (other than in exceptional circumstances). If parents need additional support with this, please contact a member of your child's Year Office Team in the first instance who will be happy to signpost support.

Families will be aware that Springfield is part of the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme and we remain 'cautiously optimistic' as we move from the pre-feasibility to the feasibility stage and learn more about how the DfE team manage potential projects of this scale. A variety of surveys remain underway and we have been advised that the design and planning stage is likely to run until September 2025. I will share further information with our community as it becomes available, noting again that the project itself has yet to be formally confirmed.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Springfield News. The Spring Term commences on Tuesday, 2 January 2024, a thought which happily brings to mind the words of Oliver Herford; "I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to Spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

On behalf of the Springfield School community I wish you a happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2024.
With kind regards

Ms S F Spivey
Headteacher, Springfield School
CEO, The De Curci Trust



HOUSE NEWS



Week commencing Monday, 27 of November, our pupils and staff celebrated House week. Pupils had the opportunity to get involved in a number of different House events and earn points for their Houses. These activities ranged from Geography quizzes to Maths puzzles, an English spelling competition and a Year 8 Singing Competition, which took place on Tuesday, 12 of December (see pages 33 and 34). Pupils were able to gain double House points for being effective citizens within their community and for achieving 100% attendance for the week.

Mr Peachment, Head of Achievement, Year 8



Well done to Moore who have overtaken Ayrton and are now taking the lead!



AWARDS EVENING

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2023 leavers success celebrated during upbeat awards evening.

Our annual awards evening, hosted by Ms Spivey (Headteacher), Mr Peachment (Head of Achievement for Year 11 - 2022/23) and Mr Cufley (Chair of Governors), took place on Thursday, 23 November when we celebrated the success of our 2023 leavers. Former Head Boy Matthew Bennett commenced the celebrations with a superb piano rendition of 'All Blues' by Miles David. Winners were then presented with an array of awards and certificates sponsored, very kindly, by a host of local organisations.

We were also delighted to honour four former Springfield colleagues for their distinguished service at Springfield over the years. Our guest of honour this year was former Springfield pupil Katy Sexton, MBE, who gave a motivating speech to our 2022 leavers about her experience of being a former swimming World Champion and Double Olympian and the determination and resilience she showed during those years. Our 2023 senior prefect team also gave an upbeat speech about their time at Springfield, reminiscing on experiences during each year they were in school from Year 7 to Year 11. A special thank you to Katy Sexton for joining our celebrations and to all our sponsors for your generous support!

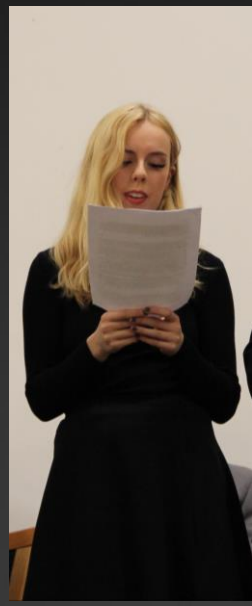
Ms Kelly, Head of School



SPRINGFIELD
SCHOOL

AWARDS EVENING

Thursday
23rd November 2023



HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Congratulations to:

Daisy Althorpe (7S)
Oliver Astle (8P)
Ryan Chacko (8G)
Callum Fry (7P)
Tess Gibbons (7P)
Malak Hazi (7N)
Favour Joseph (9P)
C R (7F)
Casper Rajzer (7D)
Olivia Shipp (9S)
Austen Taylor (7P)
Joshua Thomas (7N)
Tyler Tucker (9F)
Brooke Williams (11R)
C Y (7P)

The listed students all received a Headteacher's Award this half term. The awards were given in recognition of a range of reasons including exceptional work, exemplary behaviour, commitment, enthusiasm, resilience, good results and achievements in a range of subject areas. Students were presented with their certificates by Ms Spivey and Ms Kelly.

Please note that due to GDPR some names of students who were awarded are not listed in full and some photographs are not shown in this newsletter.

Mrs Norum, Support - Marketing and Administration





HOME-SCHOOL JOURNEY

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Home-school journey including arrival and departure from school

Whilst we remain 100% committed to keeping all our children safe in school we also extend our duty of care to ensuring that pupils arrive and leave safely from school. To this end we run a school day duty rota with staff deployed in strategic 'school gate/entrance' positions at the beginning and end of each day. Staff are easily identifiable as they wear our hi-vis duty vests. Parents and carers have the responsibility to ensure that their children travel safely to and from school and, where applicable and appropriate, our pupils themselves must take personal responsibility for these journeys. I have listed below some pertinent reminders categorised by mode of transport:

On foot (as a pedestrian)

Observe the highway code, stick to pavements and always cross a road where road users can see you.

Cycling

Observe the highway code and ensure that you are wearing suitable personal protective equipment including a well-fitting helmet and hi-vis as required. You should also have lights on those darker days. Bicycles should not be ridden on site.

<https://www.think.gov.uk/cycle-safety/>

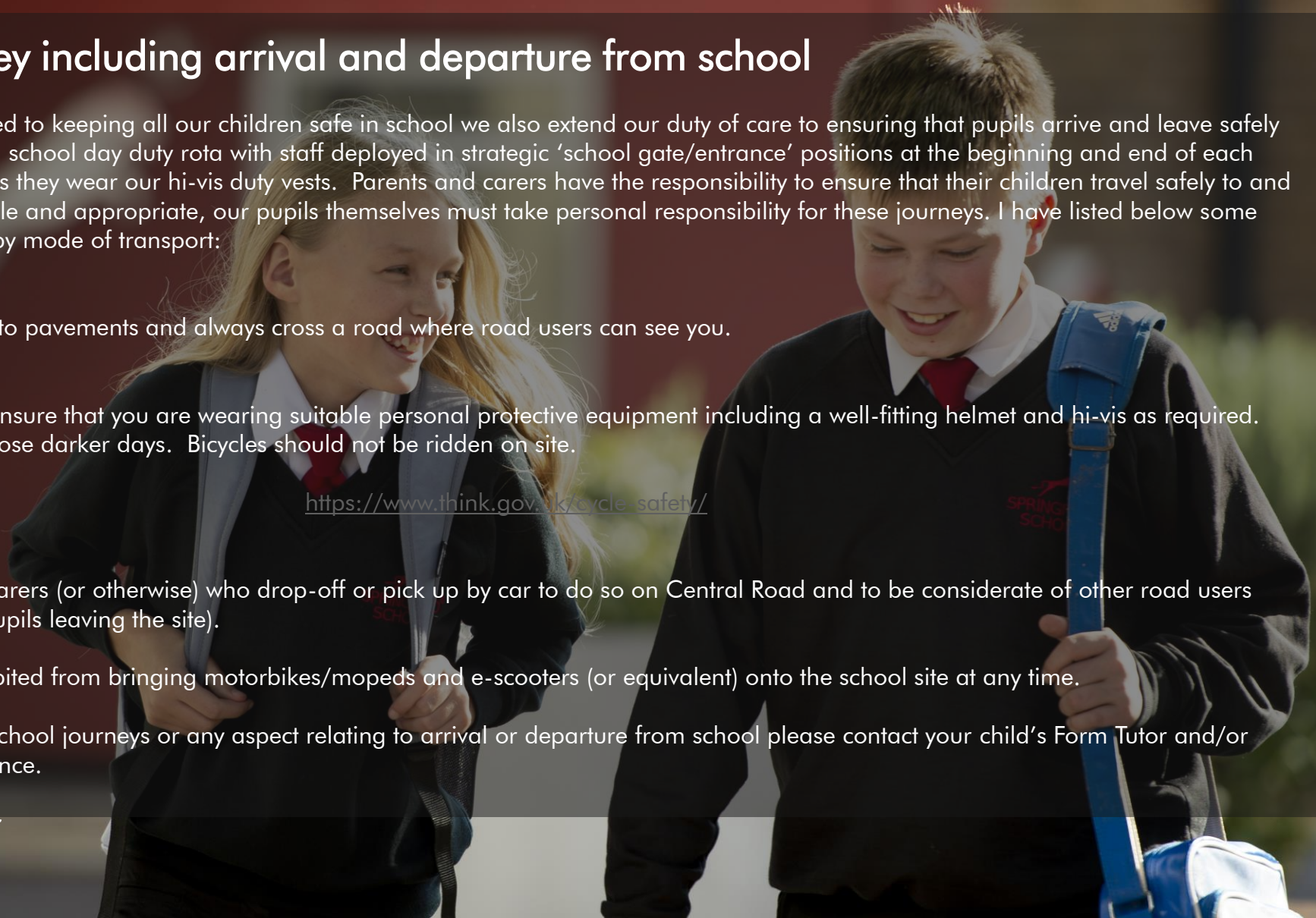
'Drop-off/pick-up' by car

We would ask that any parents/carers (or otherwise) who drop-off or pick up by car to do so on Central Road and to be considerate of other road users and pedestrians (including our pupils leaving the site).

Please note that pupils are prohibited from bringing motorbikes/mopeds and e-scooters (or equivalent) onto the school site at any time.

If you have any concerns about school journeys or any aspect relating to arrival or departure from school please contact your child's Form Tutor and/or Year Office Team in the first instance.

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher



ONLINE SAFETY

Filtering and monitoring update.

As part of our ongoing drive to ensure that all our pupils continue to be safe online, we have recently introduced new software to allow us to more effectively monitor pupil activities in this context.

Internet filtering is the process of checking and 'blocking' potentially harmful websites and online activities. This function is currently undertaken by Portsmouth City Council as part of the school wide area network (SWAN). We remain responsive and dynamic in this regard as the internet continues to evolve and change.

Monitoring is the process of 'watching' what our pupils are doing when they are online and completing tasks using a range of software. The purpose of this is to ensure that pupils are working effectively and learning (in the same way that a teacher would watch and observe completion of a bookwork task for example). The second purpose is to ensure that staff can pick up on any activity which may give potential cause for concern from a safeguarding perspective. This could, for example, be a repeated attempt to access an inappropriate website or the use of a particular word or phrase. Monitoring can take various forms including; staff observation of a pupils screen: observation of multiple screens via central monitoring software and 'automated' monitoring.

The automated software currently used by the school for this purpose is pre-programmed with a wide range of keywords, phrases and is categorised by type. The software covers online activity and also monitors work done on other types of applications/software used by pupils in school. Trained staff in school carry out routine checks and follow up with further investigation and intervention as required. Should we have concerns we will, as with the majority of safeguarding matters, make contact with parents/carers at the earliest opportunity. If deemed necessary we may also be required to refer the matter on to an external agency in a timely manner.

The best form of support for online safety in general is 'education' and all staff take responsibility for this along with teams (and visitors) who deliver specific inputs for our pupils. Parents also have a vital role in checking, monitoring and talking about online safety be it on a PC, mobile phone or other device. For further information and guidance on online safety can be found by following the link below:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/school-life/safeguarding>

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher



CAREERS ASSEMBLIES

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This half term, Springfield pupils have attended a number of assemblies to help them consider future plans.

Year 11

Year 11 pupils heard a talk from local organisation Unloc, promoting a careers-focused residential experience called Portsmouth Inspires <https://unloc.online/portsmouth-inspires-funded-by-ncs>. Pupils opting to attend will experience a series of encounters with local businesses, including Southsea Deli and Victorious Festival. We are pleased to hear that 15 pupils from Springfield have signed up. If any Year 11 pupils were disappointed to miss out on a free residential experience on this occasion, a similar opportunity will be offered in an assembly in January (run by the National Citizen Service). On 24 November, a speaker (Georgia Flint) from Havant and South Downs College came to outline the courses the college offers on its two sites and to explain what a day at college looks like in practice. Georgia reminded pupils that they can ask to change courses after an application or an offer has been made, and also emphasised that it is possible to put in more than one application for post-16 study or training.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 interested in studying medicine in the future were able to attend an online talk with a doctor last week. They heard about the various elements of a degree in medicine, ranging from physiology and pathology to histology and pharmacology. We were also given advice as to the importance of work experience and volunteer work so that pupils can demonstrate empathy and commitment at interview.

The majority of pupils in Year 11 have seen Sarita Khosla-Malhotra, our independent careers advisor, on a one to one basis. If any Year 11s have yet to make an appointment or need additional support with an application, they should go to the school library on a Thursday or a Friday to make contact with Sarita. Cont...

Year 10

On 23 November, Kim Hill from the University of Portsmouth gave an assembly on future pathways, including university as an option. She gave examples of students who have followed their passion when making their degree choice and who have gone on to be successful in their field. An example of this was a fashion student who was shortlisted for a national award for designing sustainable clothing and a biology student who was able to work on an exciting environmental project. On 8 December, Year 10 pupils heard about apprenticeships as an option for when they leave school: they will have a chance to speak directly with local apprenticeship providers at a school event in early February. Pupils and parents/carers can find more information about this option here <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#> It is now possible to undertake degree apprenticeships at university.

Year 9

On Wednesday, 22 November PC Lamper and PCSO Sarahs visited to talk to Year 9 pupils about careers in policing. PC Lamper spoke about the different routes into the force as an officer, from more direct entry to being 'on the beat' to joining investigation teams through a graduate route. We heard about the challenges of the job but also about the rewards of making strong friendships and the satisfaction of helping victims of crime. Options such as joining the armed unit and the dog unit were outlined. PCSO Sarahs, who is going to be Springfield's new point of contact with the force, told pupils how important it is to stay physically fit in the role. On 13 December, they then heard a talk about apprenticeships from the 'not for profit' organisation PETA. Pupils were told about the kind of careers an apprenticeship can lead to, the fact that an apprenticeship can be opted for at many stages (not just at the end of Year 11) as well as the entry requirements. Any parents or pupils with questions can visit PETA's website <https://www.peta.co.uk/9/418/apprenticeships> or contact Emma Quance at EQuance@peta.co.uk

Year 8

Year 8 pupils, who will make option choices next term, had a useful talk from City of Portsmouth College about factors to consider when choosing subjects. Portsmouth College has merged with Highbury and is now one college, with four different campuses. School leavers can opt for A levels, T Levels, apprenticeships or vocational qualifications if they choose this college. Pupils were told to look at the website <https://www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk/> or to email the college at info@copc.ac.uk if they have any questions following Lee's assembly.

Year 7

Year 7 pupils attended an assembly on 20 November run by an outreach worker from the University of Portsmouth. The speaker made pupils aware of the importance of thinking ahead and outlined the different routes available after leaving Springfield. On 4 December, they then heard a talk about apprenticeships from the not for profit organisation PETA. Pupils were told about the kind of careers an apprenticeship can lead to, that they can be opted for at many stages, not just at the end of Year 11, and the entry requirements. Any parents or pupils with questions can visit PETA's website <https://www.peta.co.uk/9/418/apprenticeships> or contact Emma Quance at EQuance@peta.co.uk.

AWE CAREERS EVENT

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29 February 2023

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 and their families may wish to sign up for this online careers event with the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment (based in Aldermaston). The talk will cover the apprenticeships and graduate programmes offered by AWE. Pupils interested in STEM and defence may be interested in finding out more about the kind of jobs offered.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/awe-careers-information-evening-tickets-751576765337?aff=oddtcreator>



Virtual
**AWE CAREERS
INFORMATION EVENT**
29TH FEBRUARY 2024



education
business
PARTNERSHIP
Inspiring our future workforce



ebop
south

BEBRAS

The Bebras Competition is an annual problem solving competition that runs in over 50 countries globally. The Computing department takes part every year and uses the results as part of our House competition too. Everyone who participated earned one House point with extra points for those students who got a merit or distinction award. The students photographed (left and on page 15) obtained a gold award certificate. The top ten students in each year group are also listed on the results poster (page 15). Well done to everyone who took part.

Miss Rudd, Teacher of Computing





SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL



UK BEBRAS

6 - 17 November 2023

Year group leader boards

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Molly H	7S	Cheng Z	8D	Joe C	9S
Florence L	7S	Alfie B	8S	Alsafah S	9E
Millie M	7N	Elisa S	8G	Daniel S	9G
Isabella C	7N	Leanne S	8G	Sam S	9P
Ebony B	7N	Charlotte G	8N	Harry G	9D
Callum F	7P	Evie S	8G	Matthew W	9S
Leon A	7E	Adam K	8N	Josh C	9F
Alexander C	7N	Elena M	8R	Alice W	9F
Hunter W	7F	Ollie M	8S	Salma N	9E
Daisy A	7S	Betty M	8S	Ruby ED	9D
Emily K	7D				

ICELAND



SECRET WATERFALLS AND GEYSERS

'Our recent school trip to Iceland was unforgettable. We stayed at the Heradsskolinn Hostel. We visited Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach, explored the LAVA Centre and had a tour of an ice cream factory. Two things really stood out: one unforgettable moment was when we bathed in a geothermally heated 'secret lagoon' hidden in the Icelandic countryside with a beautiful view. Another memorable experience was the glacier hike. We walked on a massive glacier wearing crampons on our shoes to keep us from slipping.'

Tim Lehota (10D)

'My first ever alone trip without my parents, my first school trip! Iceland was an educational trip but fun for me, I enjoyed it so much. The weather was very cold, and there were lots of places to see, spectacular views and so many activities including swimming in the secret lagoon, visiting Gullfoss Waterfall, geysers, an ice cream far and the bridge between continents.'

Nina Mohibzada (11N)



'The Icelandic people were very welcoming and knowledgeable. They were keen to share this knowledge.'

Sam Shepherd (11S)

'Iceland is a beautiful country located in the North Atlantic Ocean. During our amazing trip, we got to journey across the country's amazing landscape of wide expanses of lava fields that have cooled and begun growing moss and mighty mountains that stretch into the clouds. As a large group we got to venture up glaciers whilst wearing crampons which was a new a fun experience, we were lucky enough to get close to a dormant volcano, take a dive in a great hot spring, gaze upon several waterfalls and we explored the volcano museum. The teachers who went on the journey with us did an amazing job and deserve a pat on the back. Overall, Iceland is a must-visit destination for nature lovers and adventure seekers. I would recommend anybody who is thinking about going on the trip to do so.'

Jake Cooper (11N)

'Seeing the glaciers in person gave me true insight into just how severe climate change is.'

Sam Shepherd (11S)

'I was surprised to capture the towering glaciers and volcanic plains in one photo.'

Sam Shepherd (11S)



SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

19



Well done to the Class of 2024. These young students have been chosen to complete the Scholars Programme – The Brilliant Club for Southampton University. Students will work with experienced university tutors who will share their knowledge and passion for learning. Students will develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university.

Ms Allen, DP Coordinator

Colby Aitken (9S), Olivia Cobb (9P), Isabella Curry (9G), Alys Dugan (9D), Matilda Dunthorne (9R), Evie Eggett (9E), Alana Gabibullajeva (9S), Cora Jepson (9D), Ameera Karim (9S), Lucy King (9D), Evie Lloyd (9G), Sarah Mahmood (9E), Aalia Shah (9N), Freya Shergold (9F), Sam Shirley (9P), Alsafah Sofa (9E) and Antonina Wojtaczka (9D)

COUNCIL OF PORTSMOUTH STUDENTS

20

The School Council for 2023/24 has been elected and the following students were successfully voted in by their peers:

Bodene Underhill 7P
Jiayi Guo (7E)
Betzy Jones (8L)
Emma Butcher (8L)
George Evans (9F)
Colby Aitken (9S)
Amelia Matthews (10L)
Soren Brown (10S)
Jimmi Henderson (11L)
Isabel Joe (11E)

The School Council had their first formal meeting and were presented their official School Council badges. The first act of the council was to carefully select the charities they wish to support for the Christmas Jumper Day on 15 December the charities include:

- Naomi House
- Help for heroes
- Book Trust
- Young Mind Charity
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Mr Chaplin, Head of Achievement (Year 9)





NATIONAL
SPACE ACADEMY

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Students are enthused by inspirational masterclass in science education.

On Tuesday, 14 November we were very fortunate to host Ed Gentle and Ellie Peacock from the National Space Agency at Springfield to deliver their talk about the physics and complexities of space. We participated in various experiments to develop our understanding of phenomena in space and links it made with physics, especially at GCSE. We demonstrated this by getting involved in measuring the effect of the thickness of lenses when measuring magnification to imitate a telescope (heavily used to photograph space), we created a gravity well using marbles to mimic the elliptical orbit of planets in our solar system, and used light spectrum glasses to understand the role that refraction plays by breaking light into its different visible electromagnetic waves. During this experience, I was fortunate to be able to put on an astronaut suit which used very advance technology to keep it insulated which is especially useful when faced with extreme weather conditions. At the end of this experience I had developed an understanding of the importance of the National Space Agency in regards to up-and-coming developments in space technology and I deepened my knowledge of physics which I have applied to my academics. I would recommend this to everyone who has the opportunity to participate in it!

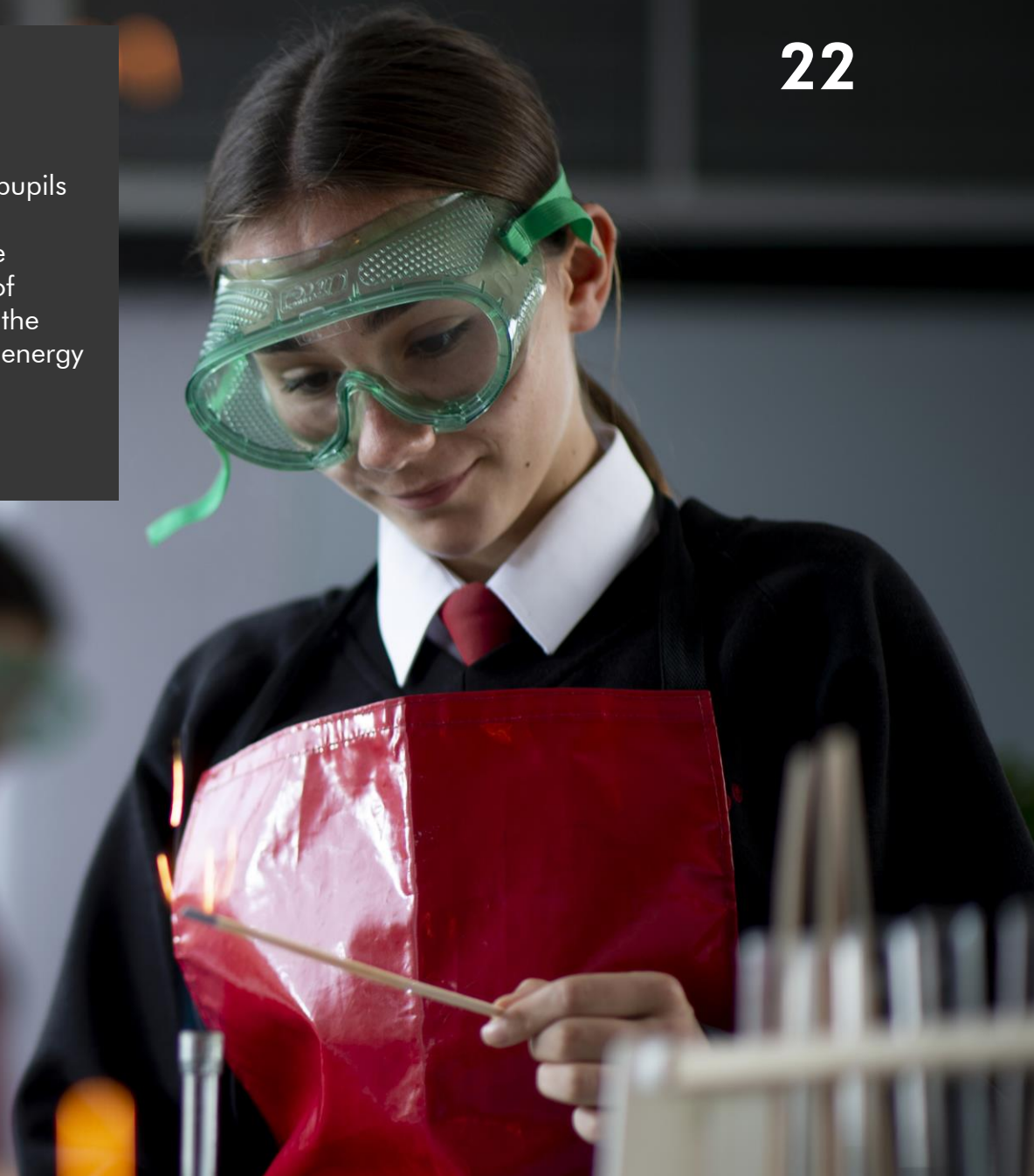
Penelope Andriunavciute (11P)



Year 8 Science Event at Admiral Lord Nelson School (ALNS)

On Friday, 1 December, four pupils from Year 8 collaborated with pupils from ALNS in a 'Winter Science' event. Ollie Mo (8S), Ayzer Ali (8S), Tommy Cole (8R) and Mason Proietti (8P) explored different Science practicals in order to develop their knowledge and understanding of Science based skills. This involved using Bunsen burners to explore the different colours of flames and burning different foods to calculate energy consumptions.

Mr Peachment, Head of Achievement (Year 8)





NIKOLAUS- SCHACHTELN

Our Year 7 students' imaginations are sparked whilst learning the festive German tradition of der Nikolaustag.

My German 7D class have been making Nikolaus-Schachteln (Santa's box) models. This was to celebrate 'der Nikolaustag' which is celebrated on 6 December. German children leave their shoes/boots outside their door on the evening of 5 December. If they have been 'good', their shoe/sock is filled with chocolates, oranges, nuts, apples, sweets etc. However, if they haven't been so good, children receive a lump of coal from 'Sankt Nikolaus'. The model making challenged students as all of the instructions were written in German.

Miss Wardrop, Teacher of MFL





KRAMPPUS

On 8 December, 7L German class learned about 'Krampus' - a cruel demon from Austria who steals children at Christmas time. It is an Austrian tradition and Netflix have even made a film out of it. Part of the lesson involved someone wearing the Krampus mask, coming into the lesson to try and scare the class. Suffice to say 7L were well and truly scared!

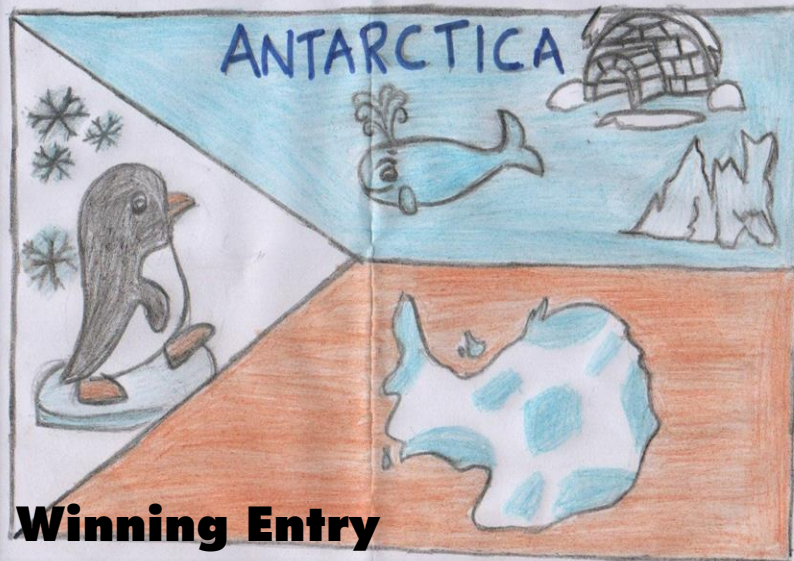
Mr Surgeon, Head of MFL



ANTARCTICA DAY FLAG

For the second year running, Year 9 geographers have had the opportunity to design a flag to represent the continent of Antarctica. Several countries have territorial claims to Antarctica and so it does not have its own flag. We received several brilliant designs and narrowed it down to the best designs from each class before selecting the overall winner. The top three were from Alicia Clark Cole (9E), Riya Babu (9G) and Freya Winslade (9D). The winning entry from Riya has been sent to Antarctic scientists who will take it with them to their research base in Antarctica and send us a picture of it with them in their location later this year.

Mrs Whitelock, Head of Geography





HOMework

Year 7 historians have been working hard this term and have produced some excellent homework pieces (as shown on pages 26 to 28). A competition was held before the first half term to design a 'Future Wall' on a topic of their choice. Many of the homework pieces submitted were truly excellent and our overall winner, chosen by the Head of School Ms Kelly, was Leo Scobie (7G) (page 28). Well done Leo!

Pupils have also created some outstanding castle cakes and models replicating the motte and bailey design favoured by William the Conqueror following the Norman invasion in 1066. Thank you for all of your efforts and keep up the hard work.

Mrs Jackson, Head of Humanities

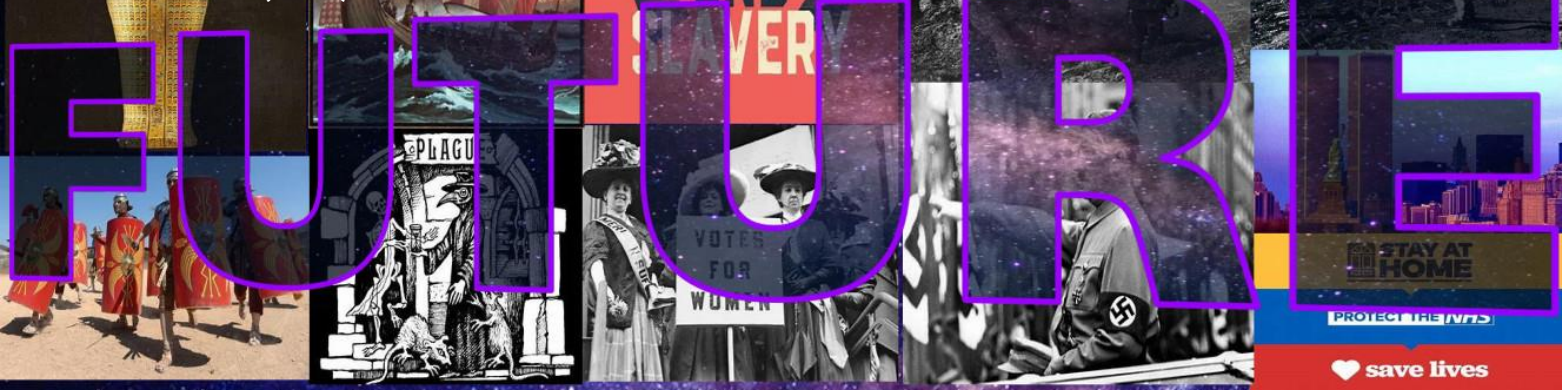
MOTTE &

27



BAILEY

Leo Scobie (7G)



The Romans and the Egyptians

I chose the Egyptians because they are very important to the human history, they invented and made lots of things that we still use today like pens, keys, locks, paper, toothpaste and probably more. I chose the Romans because they are important to the human history by introducing fast food, advertising and trademarks, plumbing and sanitation, towns, architecture, roads, our calendar, currency, Latin, bureaucracy, underfloor heating, bath houses, and Hadrian's wall which we all take for granted today.

Vikings and The Black Death

I chose the Vikings because they are important to the human history by giving us our modern language by fusing English and Old Norse. They also taught us how to build ships such as longboats and they made skiing popular as it originated in China. They also invented the hair comb as they were very well groomed. I chose the Black Death as it was a historical illness called the Bubonic Plague which started when a ship docked from Asia and rats came off and it is claimed that 20 million people died. It started in 1346 and ended in 1353.

Abolition of Slavery and The Suffrage movement

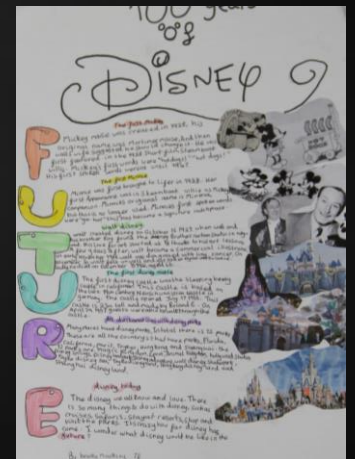
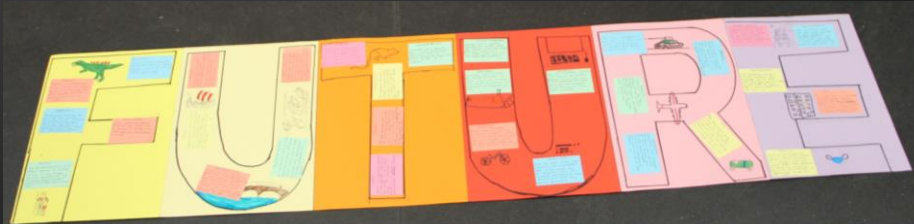
I chose the abolition of slavery as it is important because it shows when black people took control and stopped being told what to do and stopped being used as slaves. I chose The Suffrage movement as it is an important moment in human history because it is when women protested for them to be able to vote and make it even between men and women.

World War 1 and World War 2

I chose the world wars because they are a historical event affecting the whole world, where England, Germany and others fight for control of the world. Different countries join forces, like Germany, Italy and Japan who were the Axis countries. Whilst France, Great Britain and the United States became Allies. World War 1 was from 1914 to 1918 lasting 4 years and World War 2 was from 1939 to 1945, lasting 6 years. In the end the Allies won both wars. Adolf Hitler started World War 2 after trying to take over Poland, Luxemburg and the Netherlands but Great Britain said no and Hitler declared war.

Modern day

I chose when man landed on the moon because it is a historical moment for mankind as it was one of the biggest achievements we have ever made as human beings. Neil Armstrong the US astronaut that landed on the moon made it memorable by marking a US flag on the moon. I chose 9/11 because it is a historical moment that will forever be remembered when 2 planes crashed into the twin towers and thousands sadly passed away. I chose covid 19 because it is a recent historical moment of the coronavirus and when everyone went into a global pandemic. Because of the virus everyone had to have multiple vaccines to protect themselves, but the vaccine initially took quite a while to perfect.

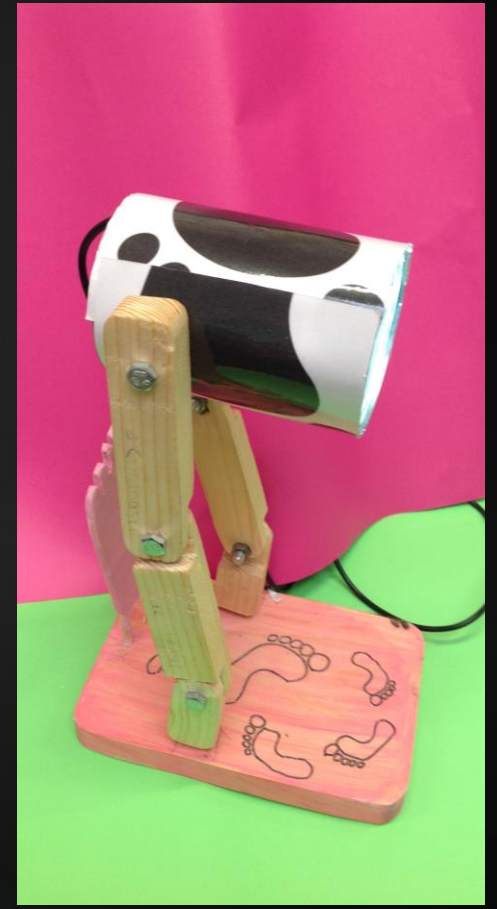
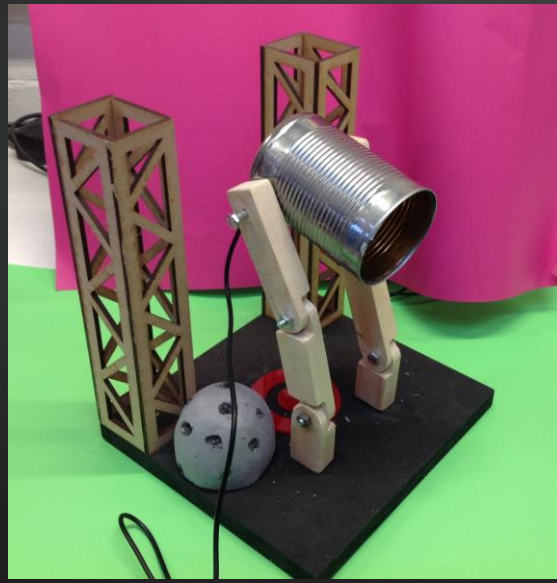


SUSTAINABLE LAMP PROJECT

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Year 9 GCSE Product Design students were asked to design and make a sustainable lamp which is fully operational. I am pleased with their hard work and final outcome for their first GCSE Project well done Year 9 students.

Ms Allen, Teacher of Design Technology





THE DE CURCI TRUST

Fostering a love of learning is central to what we do

We share a vision of promoting high aspiration and achieving excellent outcomes for children

www.thedecurcitrust.co.uk

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

We aim to:

1. Create aspirational students for whom success and the pursuit of excellence is an expectation.

2. Empower our students to maximise their potential and develop the skills they need to live independent and happy lives.

3. Provide a relevant academic curriculum which supports students to become responsible citizens, well equipped for the technological and global society in which they live.

4. Develop system leadership at all levels and ensure that it drives creativity and improvement across the school.

5. Increase the occurrence of 'outstanding' teaching across the school.

Teach
PORTSMOUTH

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On Wednesday, 15 November, Springfield attended Teach Portsmouth's 'Become a teaching assistant information' event. Attendees were given talks by a variety of educational professionals, including Teaching Assistants (TA), Learning Support Assistants (LSA) and Senior Leaders, in which they were informed about the routes into becoming a TA or LSA and what the job entails.

Attendees then had the opportunity to visit stands, including Springfield's, to find out more about individual settings. Mr Dennett (Springfield's SENDCo) spoke to over 30 prospective LSAs and a proportion of them signed up for 'Springfield LSA Taster Day' on Monday, 27 November.

The 'Springfield LSA Taster Day' involved a small group of prospective LSAs taking part in a tour with the SENDCo, interacting with pupils during an 'Art and Me' intervention and meeting the current LSA Team. One of the attendees emailed to say "It was really interesting to see the role of the LSAs both in a small class and in an intervention, and the team of LSA staff were very friendly and welcoming."

The taster session was a success as we had more applicants for the LSA vacancy than we have previously had- we wish them the best of luck in their interviews!

Mr Dennett, SENDCo

SENSORY ROOM

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Over the past couple of weeks I have made notes of comments students have made about our new sensory room. Please see them below:

'This is so calming and has helped me to chill. I am ready to go back to lesson.' Year 11 student

'The bubbles are so cool and the noise is calming.' Year 8 student

'It is quiet and I like the colour catch as I only have to focus on doing that one thing.' Year 7 student

'I lay there looking at the night sky and forget about the business of the day.' Year 9 student

'This is so cool! It gives me time away from everything and everyone, just to be me.' Year 10 student

'I like Frank (the hug pug) as sometimes I just need a hug.' Year 7



The Music department was pleased to visit our trust feeder school, Solent Infant School for the Solent Schools' Christmas Fayre on Friday, 8 December 2023. Brooke Williams (11R) who is a talented singer, was invited to provide some musical entertainment for the pupils and parents at the event. It was delightful to watch our infant and junior school pupils skipping around the playground, dancing and singing along as Brooke sang an uplifting, festive set of tracks. Many staff and parents also commented on how enjoyable the music was, and were very grateful to Brooke for singing at the Fayre.

Mrs Latif, Head of Music



SINGING COMPETITION

After taking part in a successful and enjoyable Year 7 singing competition last May, our Year 8 pupils were keen to have another chance to present a performance again this year. So, the first ever 'Springfield Sings at Christmas' competition was launched earlier this term with every tutor group choosing a festive song and rehearsing as a tutor group in Music lessons, as well as in some morning tutor sessions, to prepare their performances.

Cont...

The competition took place on Tuesday, 12 December. Throughout the event, the hall was alive with the buzz of festive spirits (plus a few nerves!) while the pupils sang well loved numbers such as 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' and 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'. The judges, led by Ms Spivey, alongside Mr Waites and Mrs Evans, gave valuable and constructive feedback to each tutor group, and while they were out deliberating their choice of winners, pupils were entertained by one of our talented Year 11 singers, Brooke Williams (11R). The judges returned to announce that three groups would return to the stage to take part in a final 'sing-off' before eventually deciding on the prizes.

The winners this year were 8D, who sang a fine rendition of 'Last Christmas', and impressed the judges with their group cohesion, volume, and conveying the song message clearly. 8L followed in second place, performing 'Do They Know Its Christmas?' complete with bells and placards. The third place prize went to 8E who sang 'Winter Wonderland' with a guest appearance of a dancing snowman! Well done to all pupils in Year 8 for taking part and for bringing lots of fun, energy and festive cheer with them.

Miss Latif, Head of Music





On Tuesday, 12 December, a group of Year 10 music pupils visited a local residential home to sing some festive music to the residents. We were delighted to be invited back again this year to Kinross Care Home to visit some of our elderly neighbours. Pupils entertained them with a variety of Christmas songs and carols and were rewarded some chocolates gifted by the home. Well done to the pupils involved for their act of community kindness. It was very much appreciated and enjoyed by the Kinross staff and residents and they have already asked for us to go back next year!

Mrs Latif, Head of Music



FESTIVE MUSIC

RACING

DRIVER

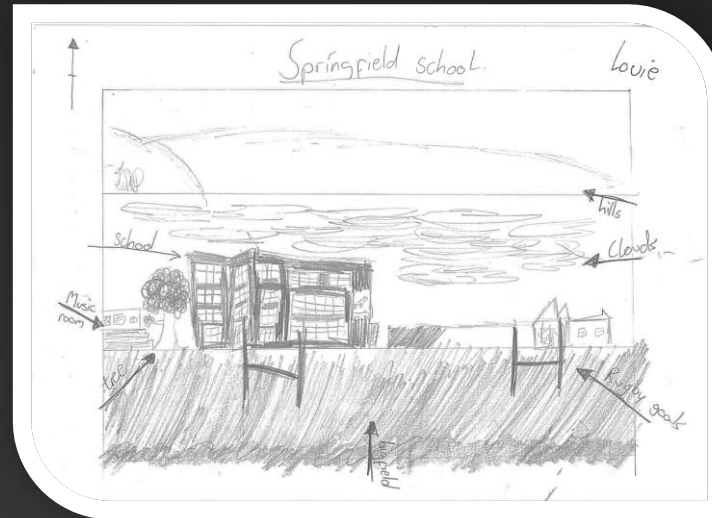
My name is Alex Rule and this is how I became a professional racing driver. It all started with my dad. He has been a rally driver for years. I have also been going to Goodwood since I was 3. I first started at Teamsport Karting. It was a great starting point. I worked through their academy in 3 weeks and then started to race outside. I did one year of the South Coast karting championship and then a year of Club 100, which is my favourite championship. I am doing the Junior Rotax and I love it. I am a driver for Fusion Karting and taking part in the European Championships. Next year I am racing a Mazda MX-5 with Nigel Brain. This is me!

Alex Rule (7N)



CREATIVE WORK

We are pleased to share some great class work by Springfield pupils Louie and Faith. Louie produced this extremely detailed field sketch of Springfield School (on the right) during Geography and Faith used her creative skills to make this beautiful giant paper snowflake (below).



Over the last half term, Year 8 geographers have been studying a topic called 'our unequal world'. Their homework for this topic was a choice of three tasks. The brief on the task sheet was to create a new development game to be played amongst your friends, which helps others know more about other countries and how developed they are. Oliver Astle (8P) produced this (shown on the right) amazing game of snakes and ladders, professionally made from his original plans. Outstanding effort Oliver, well done.



Mrs Whitelock, Head of Geography

FOOTBALL

Back row, left to right: Georgia Psaila (10E), Imogen Fitch-Ballard (9D), Isobel Child (10E), Daisy Boswell (10R), Edee Abery (10S), Lorelei Palmer (10L) and Sophia Welch (9S)
Front row, left to right: Roxy Williams (9P), Millie Thomas (9P), Lola Archbold (9G), Sophie George (9L), Matilda Watts (9G) and Isabella Tea (10L)



The Under 16 girls' football team made their way to Miltoncross Academy on 8 November for the first round of the Portsmouth Cup. The girls were a little nervous as they have played Miltoncross before in previous years and it has always been a close game; however this did not stop them from going there with a positive mentality. The game kicked off and straight away the girls were on the front foot playing lots of balls into the box. Our first goal came from Daisy and shortly after she scored again with a beautiful finish. More goals followed from Georgia, Millie (2) and an unfortunate own goal. Miltoncross got one back just after half-time but this was shortly followed by goals from Georgia and Isobel making the score 9-1. Miltoncross scored again but a brilliant penalty from Roxy ensured the girls finished with a 10-2 win. That positive mentality and motivation to win really paid off. A great performance by all and a host of goal scorers!

Miss Woolgar, Teacher of PE

Well done to the Year 7 boys football team on making such a positive start to the season. So far Springfield has beaten The Portsmouth Academy, Prior School, Milton Cross in the league; and I am pleased to say we are through to the quarterfinals of the Hampshire Cup. We have a big squad, where it is great to see so many pupils wanting to be part of the team's success. Well done to all the boys that have played, but a special mention has to go to Robbie Pook (7G), Presley Wallis (7R), Jack Bessey (7E), and Mason Hale (7N) for their hard work and commitment in games.

Mr Peachment, Head of Achievement (Year 8) and Teacher of PE

BRONZE DOFE

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Congratulations to Imogen Baker (10G), Frank Poulton (9D) and Alex Kitchen (9R) who successfully completed their Bronze DofE Expedition as part of their Sea Cadet training on the ranges at Longmoor at the end of October. They did extremely well in very wet conditions. This included putting up tents, cooking and walking in the rain. Really impressive!

Mrs Goodship,
Assistant Headteacher

Some of our Year 11 Bronze DofE students pictured with their certificates and Ms Kelly, Head of School.

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Year 11 students who have completed their Bronze DofE this year are shown below. Seven of whom have also signed up to complete their Silver award with us.

Dilanas Andriunavicius (11F)
Penelope Andriunaviciute (11P)
Bethany Anthony (11R)
Jake Cooper (11N)
Reggie Dugan (11G)
Rosie Firth (11G)
Liona Fusha (11D)
Evie Hyland (1P)
Dylan Khatkar (11L)
Maisie King (11E)
Pearl Knight (11N)
Riley Luff (11L)
Joanne Mathew (11F)
William McClenaghan (11L)
Lucy Mengham (11D)
Taryn Mich (11G)
Ben Mills (11E)
Finley O'Toole (11S)
Florence Savory (11E)
Sam Shepherd (11S)
Eva Welch (11N)

Mrs Whitelock, DofE Coordinator

STAFF BAKE OFF

On Thursday, 14 December 2023 Springfield staff went head to head in a staff bake-off. The entries were judged by Head Boy (Samuel Shepherd) and Head Girl (Bethany Anthony) alongside Mrs Hale (Teacher of Science). Well done to the winners Miss Payne and Mrs Hicks for their tasty and aesthetically pleasing entries.

Ms Allen, Teacher of Design Technology



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

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HAF Wonderful Winter Launch: 16-23 December 2023

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS

HAF FUN POMPEY

YOUR FREE

FESTIVE FLEX

16-23 DECEMBER

SPORTS, FOOD AND FANTASTIC EVENTS

Go to www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey

Follow Family Life Pompey

Email HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

SCAN ME TO BOOK

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Sailing, Archery & Tower of Terror**
Andrew Simpson Centre
18, 19, 20 December, PO5
- 3 x 3 Basketball**
Chain Net Apparel
19, 20, 21, 22 December, PO2
- Solve a Crime Scene with Head of Forensics**
CM Foundation
21 December, PO1
- Swimming & Christmas Craft**
CM Foundation
19 December, PO5
- Boxing**
HoP Boxing Academy
18, 19, 20, 21, 22 December, PO5
- Panto & Scavenger Hunt**
Kings Theatre
19 December, PO5
- Ice Skating**
Motiv8
19, 21 December, PO2
- Rock Climbing**
Motiv8 - Rock Up
20 December, PO2
- Climbing, Archery & Laser Tag**
Peter Ashley Centre
19, 21 December, PO6
- Cook a Christmas dinner**
Pompey in the Community
18, 19, 21 December, PO4
- Put on a Panto!**
The Young Creatives
18 to 22 December, PO4
- Film and Music Night**
The Young Creatives
21 December, PO4
- Football, Basketball, Obstacle Course & Dancing**
URBOND
20 December, PO5
- Ice Skating**
URBOND
21 December, PO1

Please be advised during the winter holidays some of Portsmouth City Council's HAF providers offer pay as you go spaces throughout the city. These include sports, Santa visits, theatre, storytelling, laser tag, art workshops, day camps, and much more. More information is available

here: <https://www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey/haf-pay-as-you-go/>

There are other providers, who are not hosting HAF Fun Pompey activities through Department for Education funding, who also offer pay as you go activities in the school holidays. This page is designed for HAF Fun Pompey providers only.

Some of our providers are OFSTED registered so you can use tax free childcare vouchers and if you are on Universal Credit you can back up to 85% of your eligible childcare costs for children under 17. Check out your childcare options here -

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

There are funded spaces for those on benefits-related free school meals (excluding school meals for reception - year 2) and pay-as-you-go spaces too!

We also recommend following Family Life Pompey Facebook page - <https://m.facebook.com/FamilyLifePompey/> and looking here for ideas: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/benefits-and-support/cost-of-living-hub/low-cost-activities-and-entertainment/>

TEACH PORTSMOUTH

Say thank you to a member of school staff.

Calling all parents and carers! Has someone in our school gone above and beyond for you and your family? Teach Portsmouth are asking you to share a special thank you message as part of a new initiative to celebrate staff members.

Your child might have been supported by a teaching assistant to overcome challenges in the classroom or a senior team member has provided strong leadership and advice that you needed.

There is no restriction on who can be thanked (as long as they work and are still based at our school). To share your thank you message, visit the Teach Portsmouth website and complete an online form. Thank you messages will be shared with schools, in June 2024 on a printed document for all to see.

Visit www.teachportsmouth.co.uk/thankyou today!



Thanks to 9Q Photography class for this year's design.



Dame Rachel De Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, would like to encourage all children to take part in the Big Ambition survey and have their say. Children and parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Further information can be found here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>

CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you about any achievements or stories of particular interest relating to Springfield students. Please email us at: contact@springfield.uk.net



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter



@spfldUK

CHRISTMAS MATHS PUZZLE

Christmas Ornaments 2

Arrange the ornaments in the box so that no more than 2 are in any line horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

Clear Refresh Page

This is Christmas Ornaments Level 2. There are versions of this activity for different sized grids.

Level 1 (2 by 2) Level 3 (4 by 4) Level 4 (5 by 5) Level 5 (4 by 6) Thrice

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Arrange the ornaments in the box so that no more than three are in any line horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

Teacher: There are also self-checking versions of this activity for different sized grids.

2 by 2 3 by 3 4 by 4 5 by 5

CALENDAR

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FIRST DAY BACK AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAK: TUESDAY, 2 JANUARY 2024

PROFESSIONAL CLOSURE DAY: FRIDAY, 19 JANUARY 2024

HALF TERM: MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2024

JANUARY

3 January	Year 8 Tutor Parents' Evening
2 to 5 January	Year 11 Art/Photography Mock Exams
11 January	Up for Uni Trip
11 January	GCSE Drama Trip
11 January	Year 7 to 9 Targeted Parents' Evening
Week commencing 15 January	Year 9 Assessments
16 January	Year 10 and 11 Targeted Parents' Evening
19 January	Professional Closure Day
Week commencing 22 January	Year 10 Assessments
25 January	Year 9 Focus Day
Week commencing 29 January	House Assemblies/House Week
Week commencing 29 January	Year 7 Assessments
Monday 29 January	Year 8 Careers Super Day (EBP)
Tuesday 30 January	Worldwide Geography Quiz (3pm to 9pm)
Wednesday 31 January	Year 8 Living Rainforest Trip

FEBRUARY

2 February	School Show Dress Rehearsal (Primary Schools Visit)
Week commencing 5 February	Year 8 Assessments
5 February	Year 9 Reports Issued
6 February	School Show
7 February	School Show
8 February	School Show
9 February	School Show

Please note all above dates are correct at publication, but could be subject to change.

Please check the website/study planners for up-to-date information.