

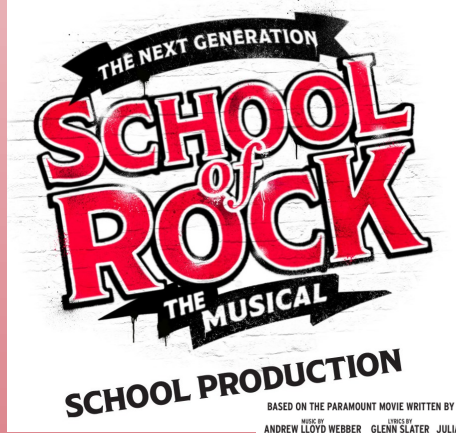


# SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL<sup>®</sup> NEWS



December 2018 Issue

[www.springfield.uk.net](http://www.springfield.uk.net)







We were proud to present the musical 'School of Rock' on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December. Springfield pupils put on a fantastic upbeat 'rock n roll' show and the audiences thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We received some great feedback from parents:

"I just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the show last night (not one I've seen before), a real treat. The children really seemed to enjoy themselves and it was really special to see them all working together across the year groups."

"I would just like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to all involved the School of Rock production. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance last Thursday and I thought that Megan was a fantastic lead. I am very aware of the countless hours and dedication that it takes to stage a show and all of your students performed with complete commitment and obvious enjoyment, which will have been fostered by the hard work, passion and talent of your creative team. Well done everyone! "

We were especially thrilled this year to have a range of ages involved in the show from Year 7 to Year 11. Well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Brown, Head of Drama



# FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It's been an exciting and busy term at Springfield; while I believe most of us are looking forward to the well-earned Christmas break, the time just seems to have flown by since we returned!

When I wrote to you in the last Springfield News, we were celebrating the fantastic GCSE results of Year 11<sup>2018</sup>; now our current Year 11 pupils are 'enjoying' their first experience of formal mock examinations, complete with the challenge of revision (engaging for some, tedious for many), the silence of the dusty sports hall and those pages and pages of tricky questions! Good luck Year 11 – there has been a tangible improvement in your motivation, maturity and aspiration this term, and so we hope that you are encouraged and focused by your progress when you get your papers returned; make sure that you listen to and act upon your teachers' feedback.

In his article on page 13, Mr Cufley writes in detail about our wonderful GCSE Awards Evening with guest speaker Mr Steve Frampton OBE. This was without doubt a highlight of November; Mr Frampton's resounding message linked to the high aspirations of Portsmouth's pupils, and the need to ensure that schools and colleges have the fiscal and other resources that they need to support all pupils to fulfil their potential; this is definitely a message that we endorse at Springfield.

The leadership team and I, along with a number of other members of staff and pupils, were certainly 'put through our paces' by the Challenge Partners

team during their three-day review visit to the school (page 10). This is a challenging but extremely formative process to go through, and the feedback regarding all elements of the school's work reviewed has been positive and encouraging - 'GOOD across the board'. My sincere thanks go to all colleagues and pupils for their positive participation in the process and, more importantly, for the hard work and dedication that goes into securing such strong outcomes.

Parents will, no doubt, share our deep concern regarding recent reports in the media of increasing 'gang culture' and violence affecting young people across the UK, often in city areas such as Portsmouth. In response to these media reports Springfield directly commissioned Dean Coady OBE, a former Parachute Regiment Soldier and distinguished Police Officer (who leads the organisation Urban Pure Solutions) to contribute to our Year 8 PSHE programme; Mr Williams writes more about this on page 19. The opportunity for pupils to learn about this disturbing issue and how to be safe has been very well received by the whole school community; a number of colleagues from the Police and local authority joined the sessions with a view of cascading the learning elsewhere across the city. We hope that Dean will be able to work with more pupils in the future.

Many families may remember Springfield's former Chair of Governors, Mr Good, who became The De Curci Trust's first Chair of Trustees when Springfield formed a multi-academy trust with the

Solent Schools in April 2017; Mr Good played an instrumental role in leading this significant step in Springfield's history and governance. Mr Good is retiring from this position after many years of distinguished service – although he remains as a Member for the Trust – at the end of this term. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of Springfield and the Trust for his wisdom, support, leadership and good humour over the years; he will very much be missed from The De Curci Trustee Board.

Final thanks go to the Year 7 pupils – they know who they are! – who have been keeping the duty staff and I entertained during our lunchtime duties with their never ending supply of Christmas cracker jokes. Recent favourites have included "Did Rudolph go to school Miss? No he was elf-taught!" and "Why didn't Rudolph get a good school report Miss? Because he went down in History." I dare say that we will have heard worse before the festive season comes to an end!

I hope that you enjoy reading the features in this edition of Springfield News and that they give you an insight into the many exciting activities that take place at the school. All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Sara Spivey**  
CEO,  
Headteacher

P.S. To all the staff involved with the School of Rock Production - I loved it!



# HOUSE NEWS

The house system continues to go from strength to strength with over 25,000 points awarded for everything from good work to participation, competition wins and helping out. The battle for the house cup remains very close as all houses vie for all the points that they can get. Our recent house week saw double points up for grabs for all those with 100% attendance and for those getting involved and 'participating' in clubs, revision sessions and a multitude of other exciting activities. I would like to thank our tireless and enthusiastic Heads of House and the student house leaders who so ably support them. You will see below and on page 5 more information and images relating to recent house competitions and the first students who have earned one of the coveted enamel house badges by achieving 100 house points. Very well done to you all! I hope that lots more students will join you in the spring and summer terms.

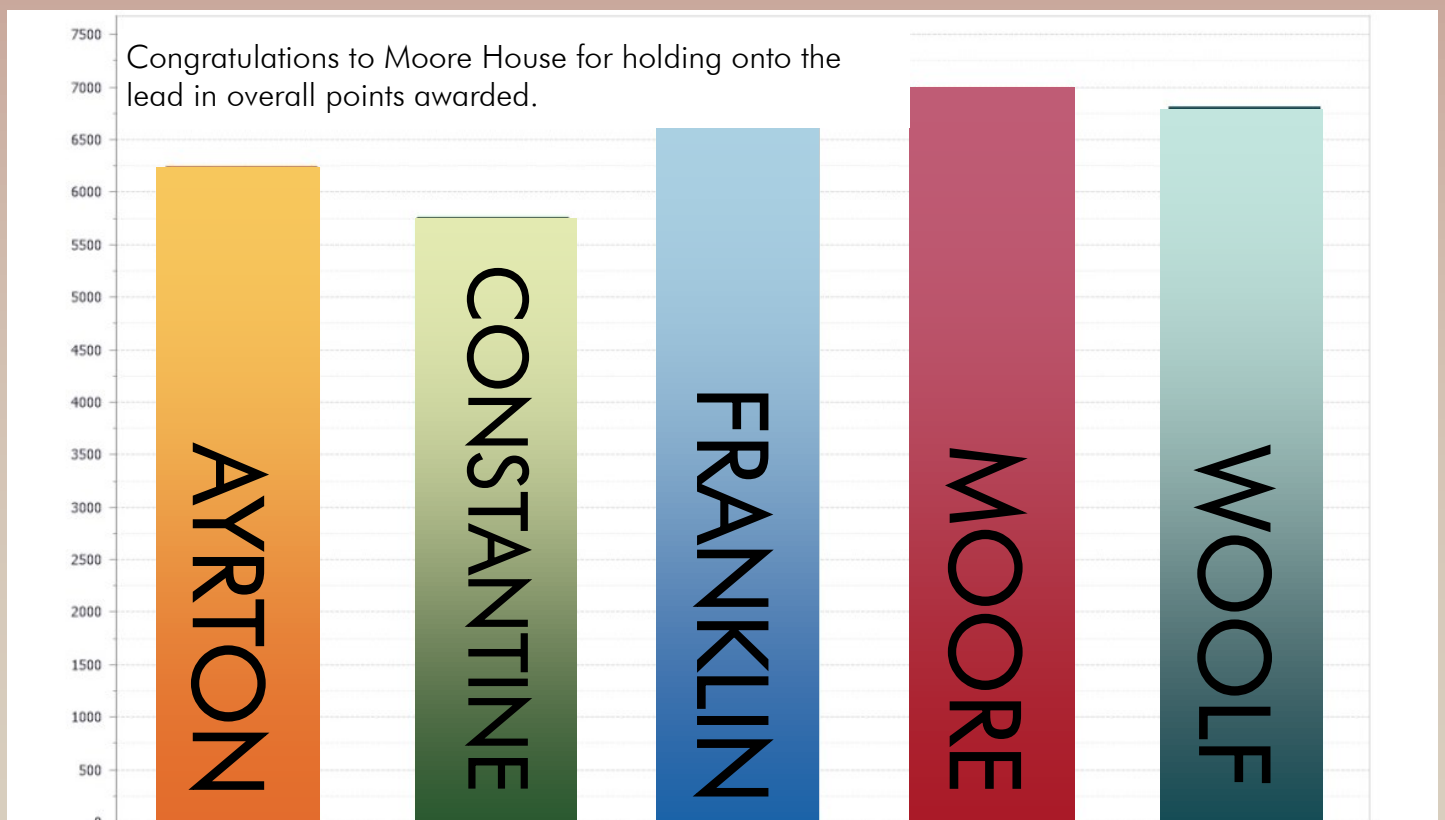
Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher

## Shoe Box Donations to NHS QA Hospital

I am so pleased with the generous gifts that pupils have donated and with such lovely messages inside. Often when times are very difficult for patients and they are going through some lonely times it is right to show acts of kindness, especially at this time of year. We are very excited to go to QA Hospital to hand deliver the Christmas gifts. Thank you Woolf House for the amazing donations. I am sure they will be very much appreciated!

Mrs Dave, Head of Woolf House

# HOUSE POINT SUMMARY





# 100 POINTS = HOUSE BADGE

Ayrton, Moore, Franklin and Woolf were delighted to present the first pupils to achieve 100 House Points with their well deserved House badges this week. Well done to you all! Below are pictures of the pupils who have achieved 100 points and over. Well done also to the two top point holders in Constantine (also pictured below) who are nearly at 100 points and will no doubt be receiving badges very soon!

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher



Ayrton's pupil with the most House points pictured with Mr Dennett



Kasey Rudman (8E)  
and Daisy Ashcroft (8E)



Katie Immins (7D)  
and Madeline Young (7R)



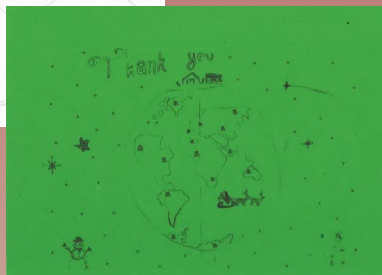
Freya Norum (7F), Olivia Lawrence (7L)  
and Luke Watts (7L)



Filip Lehota (8D)

# POST CARD COMPETITION

Every term pupils have the opportunity to send a personalised thank you post card to a member of Springfield staff of their choice. This term pupils were again given the chance to enter the competition to draw a picture for the post cards, the theme was 'Christmas Around The World'. We had some amazing entries this term and all entrants were awarded house points for participating. The overall winners were awarded extra house points. The four winning designs are now being used and are shown below. Well done to: Chloe Collins (9N), Isabel Graham (8D), Freya Norum (7F) and Mia Rose (10G)



# SMOKE FREE COMPETITION

Back in October, the Heads of Houses announced a competition launched by the NHS: In no more than 300 words, tell us why people should quit smoking for good. We could write a poem, a story or a personal experience. Winners of the NHS competition would have their piece of writing published and displayed around the Queen Alexandra hospital. It was decided that we would also hold our own in-school competition. The prize: a voucher and house points. There were many entries but there could only be three winners. Eventually, the teachers narrowed the choice down to: Rhianna Caulk (7R), Matthew Sinnott (7P) and me (Molly Firth (8G)).

Molly Firth (8G)

Pictured to the right: Molly Firth and Matthew Sinnott with their winning entries





# AWARDS EVENING 2018

## 'A Celebration of Outstanding Achievement – a Night to Remember'

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, our class of 2018, along with their nearest and dearest, gathered to receive well-deserved tributes and recognition of a year of hard work and outstanding achievement.

With smiling faces and enjoying the anticipation and excitement in the room, our former Year 11 pupils looked forward to celebrating their successes amongst old friends and supporters who had been behind them to this point in their education.

With a fantastic Guest of Honour, Mr Steve Frampton OBE, due to speak and trophies all buffed and ready, the evening was set fair for the School to celebrate once more a year of high achievement and exemplary community service, as well as to recognise those staff who had recently given distinguished service to Springfield.

The whole evening was a delight; from the opening bars of the musical prelude given by Gemma Andrews, to enjoying the sumptuous praise and advice for the pupils from Mr Frampton; the stunning award ceremony itself, with a skilful piano interlude from William Forsey - it was a wonderful celebration as anticipated. The inspiring and generous address from some of the 2017/18 Senior Prefect Team capped the evening off perfectly before everyone could enjoy some well-earned refreshments in the TCC.

The event itself was slick and well-choreographed and we have the wonderful Mrs Norum to thank for that. Helping Mrs Norum, many more members of the staff team work alongside Ms Spivey to elevate this event to make it one of the highlights of our school year and my personal thanks to all involved.

As Chair of Governors, it is always a great honour to be part of such a wonderful celebration and I would like to place on record my sincere congratulations to all the prize winners.

I must also show a huge debt of gratitude to the many, many businesses and fellow academic institutions who support our Awards Evening. Without you all, our annual achievement celebration would not be what it is today. THANK YOU!

Finally, I will formally endorse the recognition of the three people who received a Headteacher's Distinguished Service Award this year: Mrs Marion Hallsworth, Mrs June Hutchinson and Ms Kate Senior. They have all served the school in different ways, but their contributions, their commitment and their professionalism have made Springfield a wonderful learning environment for our pupils to achieve their very best.

Alan Cufley, Chair of Governors



# CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRINGFIELD MENTOR

Huge congratulations to Colin Young who visits Springfield every week to mentor some of our pupils. Colin won the 'Amazing Mentor' award at the EBP Amazing People Awards on Tuesday 27th November. Colin has been mentoring at Springfield for over 10 years and supports and encourages pupils to try their hardest to make the most of the opportunities available at school. EBP South Limited commented at the ceremony "His people skills ensure he is always up to date by liaising with the

pastoral staff. He is always prepared to go the extra mile e.g. visiting pupils on work experience, discussing with parents and training other business mentors in school. He is fully aware of all safeguarding issues and is a trained counsellor".

We are incredibly lucky to have Colin's talents and experience. The huge scale of his impact over time makes him outstanding in terms of business mentoring. Well done Colin for this well deserved recognition.

Mr Lomas, Head of Enterprise and PDL



Colin Young pictured next to Mr Lomas (above right) with his award

## ADMISSIONS

Congratulations again to our pupils who supported the school's open evening with the staff team in October. They have certainly charmed the local community – Springfield's 'first preferences' for 2019 have increased by 5% and 'total preferences' have increased by 11%.

Springfield is currently consulting on a proposed change to its Admissions Policy for 2020/21 for pupils attending a feeder school that is part of The De Curci Trust. For further information and to take part in the consultation, please see the school's website: <https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/policies/Admissions-Consultation-Letter-2020-21.pdf> (School Life - Policies - Admissions Consultation Letter 2020-21)

Miss Kelly, Assistant Headteacher





# PREPARING FOR EU DEPARTURE

Over recent months the Brexit debate has continued to dominate for obvious reasons. As things stand the UK is set to leave the European Union on 29th March 2019. However, the detailed outcomes and implications remain, at this stage, unknown.

The Government has started to release a series of briefing documents which at least raise awareness of the potential issues. Below we have highlighted some of the more 'factual' based advice that is available, which has been shared with us by Portsmouth City Council.

**Passports:** Guidance suggests that passports will still be immediately useable as long as they have at least 6 months remaining before their expiry date. **We would recommend that you check your child's passport and apply now for renewal if there would be less than 6 months left on a passport.**

Guidance is available at [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-ru ... tent=daily](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-ru...tent=daily)

**Travel Insurance:** EHIC cards are likely to become invalid. The school has travel insurance to cover all school trips and the school is liaising with the insurance company to confirm arrangements and policies post policy renewal.

Beyond that, there is no information or clarity concerning other potential issues, e.g. flights, coach transport, travel delays at ports, etc.

Parents can access the all new guidance released via the Government's preparation website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/brexit>.

The school works with STF accredited travel providers where possible, as this gives us greater support and financial protection in the event of significant issues post departure.

If you have any queries, please contact the relevant trip leader or me.

Mrs K Parker, Educational Visits Coordinator



# CHALLENGE PARTNERS

## Springfield's Work is 'GOOD' Across the Board!

We are delighted that the Challenge Partners review team again found Springfield's work to be 'GOOD' across the board and specifically for 'School Improvement Strategies', 'Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment' and 'Outcomes' (results). Springfield's review – not dissimilar to an Ofsted inspection - took place over three days (19th-21st November 2018). Review activities included joint observations of lessons across the full age and subject range, student voice discussions, meetings with middle and senior leaders and detailed scrutiny of the school's GCSE and assessment results.

With respect to teaching, the review team noted that 'Through strong support, challenge and regular monitoring, the headteacher and senior leaders have ensured that the quality of teaching remains high.' Commenting on our students' approach to lessons, the reviewers wrote, '... behaviour for learning is very positive ... A striking feature of many lessons is the way students debate sensibly, settle easily to learning independently or collaborate effectively to research or investigate.'

Outcomes were also praised: 'the school has maintained its strong GCSE results ... In 2018 there were improvements in the average GCSE grade and higher proportion of students reached grade 5 and above in English and mathematics compared with 2017'.

The review team consisted of a highly qualified and experienced team: the Vice Principal of an 11-18 school in Kent, an Assistant Headteacher from an 11-18 academy in London, the Executive Headteacher of a Special Schools consortium (KS1-5) in Kent and a Headteacher from an 11-16 girls' school in Northamptonshire; the Lead Reviewer had over 30 years of experience in Education, including working as an HMI.

The Challenge Partners organisation is a charity, the mission of which is '... to improve pupils' outcomes and reduce educational inequality through effective collaboration, enabling every pupil to experience the combined wisdom of the education system.'

<https://www.challengepartners.org/>

The extremely positive report reflects the hard work and dedication of the staff team who strive constantly to improve outcomes across the board for our pupils. I thank them sincerely for what they do to enhance the life chances of our community's children.

To read the full report, please go to the About Us / Inspection Reports section of the website:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/home/inspection-reports>

Sara Spivey, Headteacher



## GDPR

Due to the new GDPR regulations please note that occasionally we do not list all pupils' names/ photos in featured articles. This is because we do not have parental permission to do so.



# SEND REVIEW

Springfield, along with a number of other schools in Portsmouth, has recently taken part in an exciting SEND review to identify areas for improvement within our existing provision. I was fortunate enough to attend SEND project conferences in London and Portsmouth. I have also had the opportunity to visit other local schools to work collaboratively with SENCos on developing the best provision for SEND students. This project links with work facilitated by The Portsmouth Education Partnership.

The process began in June 2018 and finished in November 2018. The school had a coach who acted as a 'critical friend', set targets and discussed SEND issues with the school. We received the very positive final progress report at the end of November. David Bartram OBE, who has previously supported Springfield's SEND department, quality assured the review and report.

The final report highlighted that 'Much work has been done by the school to fully embed SEND and ensure pupils with SEND are kept high profile'. There is now more support for staff on effective differentiation, noting that 'All teachers had an appraisal target with a special focus around DP (Disadvantaged Pupils) and SEND this year'.

As well as the newly refurbished SEND area, which has transformed the physical space for SEND to provide small group rooms and areas for 1:1 teaching, the department now has an HLTA (Behaviour and Inclusion) and an Administrative Assistant.

The report also praised the fact that 'Pupils with SEMH (Social emotional and Mental Health) are now better represented' and 'there are good examples of where departments have focussed on pupils with SEND and worked together to develop their practice'. Good work with the local colleges which ensures that pupils with SEND have smooth transitions into further education was commended.

It is great to see so many improving outcomes for pupils with SEND. Although the final report was overwhelmingly positive, there is always plenty of work to be done and room to improve! I would welcome any feedback or comments from parents: please get in touch if you would like to be involved with either helping to write the Information Report or meeting with me to discuss SEND provision.

Miriam Rooks, SENCo

## SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER MAGAZINE

Congratulations to Mr Waites, our trust's Chief Financial and Operating Officer, for having his first leadership article published in School Business Manager Magazine (December 2018). His piece, entitled 'Starting as a senior business leader in an academy or MAT', outlines ways in which the transition into new role can be made easier for senior staff. He has already been asked to write a further piece for the publication in the New Year.

<https://sbmmagonline.co.uk/>

Ms Spivey, CEO, Headteacher



Nathan Waites pictured above with  
Ms Spivey

# PRODUCT DESIGN

We are proud to present some of the great pieces of Product Design work produced by pupils across the year groups this term. This includes personalised table tennis bats, bird houses and key rings!  
Well done to you all on some creative design work.  
The Design Technology Department



Schools Engineering Challenge 2019 is coming to the Design and Technology department at Springfield. This event will run for 10 weeks with weekly sessions lasting one hour. BAE Systems are the ambassadors running the sessions. There will be both theory and practical elements involved and the concept is for the students to design their own boats. In July some of our pupils will be attending an event day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard where they will be able to test their boats and participate in a series of challenges including a speed trial, an accuracy trial, a cargo transportation trial and a survivability trial. This is excellent opportunity to work with BAE Systems learning about engineering. For further information please contact Miss Allen. This challenge is open to all Year 9 students.

Mrs Allen, Teacher of Design Technology



# SUSTAINABILITY

During tutor time we were learning about ways to be more sustainable. One of the things we talked about was eating insects, so our Tutor, Mr Dennett, brought in some edible mealworms and grasshoppers for us to eat. I tried the mealworms which tasted alright but I didn't want to try the grasshoppers as they were bigger and didn't look as nice. To my surprise, I would try eating insects again and would definitely recommend them to other people. I think insects are a very good food source and are easy to prepare and cook. I think one day it will be normal for people to eat foods that we once thought would be strange.

Tilly Burt (7P)



Pictured above Mr Dennett offering some tasty mealworms and grasshoppers to some 7P pupils!

# GOVERNOR VACANCY

Springfield is seeking applications from parents, notably of KS3 pupils, who have the skills, experience and dedication to join the governing body. First and foremost, we need people who can work effectively as part of a team to support and develop our school.

If you would like to nominate yourself or you know someone who could be persuaded to put themselves forward to be a governor, please take a moment to review the application process which is described in the 'About Us/ Governing Body' section of the school website:

<https://bit.ly/2Pkh3OY>

Last May's edition of Springfield News features a piece about the role of a school governor:

<https://bit.ly/2OITqjx> (May edition, page 24.)

If further details or an informal discussion would help, please make contact with me or my Vice-Chair, Chris Batstone, through the school office or Governors' Clerk, Mrs Jean Loy ([clerk@springfield.uk.net](mailto:clerk@springfield.uk.net)). I'd love to hear from you.

Alan Cufley, Chair of Governors



# MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT!

Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth schools are coming together through this initiative to remind families of the vital importance of good school attendance (over 95%). The key message behind the campaign slogan: 'Miss School, Miss Out' and poster images (see below), is that if children fail to attend school regularly then they risk 'missing out' on future job opportunities because their progress (and subsequent grades) are likely to be much lower than they might achieve with better attendance.

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher

**WHAT  
COULD THEY  
BECOME?**

Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

**MISS SCHOOL MISS OUT**

1 in 5 pupils in Portsmouth had one week of unauthorised absence from school last year. Don't let that be your child. Get them to school today and see what they could become.

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/attendance](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/attendance)

**YOU'D  
MAKE  
THEM GO  
TO SCHOOL  
IF THEIR LIFE  
DEPENDS  
ON IT.  
IT DOES.**

Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

**MISS SCHOOL MISS OUT**

1 in 5 pupils in Portsmouth had one week of unauthorised absence from school last year. Missing school leaves gaps in learning which can limit options in life. Don't let your child be that one in five. Find out why attending school matters.

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/attendance](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/attendance)

## DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY

Whilst in school breakages and/or damage are rare I wanted to take this opportunity to remind students and parents of our charging policy in relation to damage and breakage (a link to this policy can be found on the school website under 'school life' and 'policies'). The policy states that 'parents will be normally charged for the cost of replacing items lost, damaged or defaced including library books'. If school property or equipment becomes broken or damaged as a direct result of the actions of a student we will write to parents requesting a payment to recover the full replacement or repair cost. I hope that parents and students will understand that in circumstances where students are clearly culpable for such damage then the school is not in a position to cover repair costs.

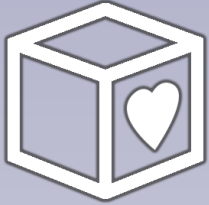
Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher



# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

If you have any safeguarding concerns (relating to any child) during the school holidays please refer to the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board website [www.pscb.org.uk](http://www.pscb.org.uk) and/or call MASH (Multi-agency safeguarding hub) on 02392 688793 (office hours) or 0300 5551373 (out of hours). Emergencies (serious imminent risk) should be reported to the police on 999.

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher



## The Red Box Project

Springfield are pleased to be participating in The Red Box Project. This is a nationwide project that provides free menstrual products within schools. The Red Box Project was founded in March 2017 by three friends who wanted to give young people in their local area access to sanitary products after reading about 'Period Poverty' in the news. If you would like to donate menstrual products please

contact me via the school contact email: [contact@springfield.uk.net](mailto:contact@springfield.uk.net) or drop your donation off at reception. For more information about the project please visit: [www.redboxproject.org](http://www.redboxproject.org)

Mrs Evans, School Nurse

# ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Can we respectfully remind parents/carers of the following:

- Calls for illness must be made on the morning by 9am. A call must be made on every day of absence.
- Medical evidence will be requested for 5 days or more of illness. This does not mean 5 consecutive days.
- Any appointments must be given notice in advance via email/phone/note.
- All absence/appointment calls to be made to attendance line (023) 92381185 (answerphone messages to be left if busy).
- Any absence requests for anything that isn't a medical appointment must be made via a Leave of Absence form.

# SAFETY ONLINE

Safety risks online are well known and our young people can be vulnerable if they don't follow a sensible approach to protecting themselves when they are 'online'. We do teach students in school about how to be safe online, but parents obviously have a key role to play. Our website contains a wide range of useful links (under 'school life' followed by 'safeguarding'). I would urge all parents to take a look at some of the links which contain a wealth of useful information plus tips and suggestions on how you can support your children to be as safe as possible. As a school we also subscribe to 'Digital Parenting' magazine, a Vodafone 'hard copy' publication (linked to the 'Parentzone' website). This resource also has an array of easy to digest guidance. If you would like a free copy please ask your son/daughter to request one from their relevant year office.



Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher

# POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS CLUSTER GROUP

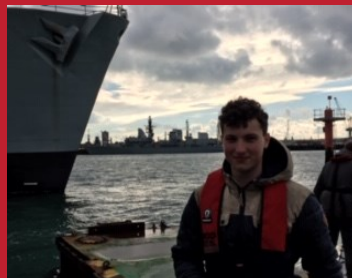
Springfield School has recently joined the 'Pompey's Military Kids' cluster group which was set up by the 'Naval Families Federation' and Portsmouth City Council.

The Boleh Trust, who have been working with pupils in Portsmouth schools in collaboration with 'Pompey's Military Kids', ran an exciting **sailing** experience on Tuesday 30th October and some of our pupils were pleased to take part. The aim of the event was to encourage the pupils to work together, build confidence as well as gaining some **sailing** experience. Needless to say a great day was had by all. Thank you to Boleh Trust for this great opportunity.

Mrs Latif, Head of Music



## MEET THE MARINES



We were very fortunate to secure a small number of places at a day's event entitled 'Meet the Marines' which was held on Thursday, 1st November 2018 on Whale Island, Portsmouth. The day was aimed at giving pupils the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a Royal Marines Commando. Events included a weapon stand and indoor shoot, a climbing wall, physical training activities and amphibious boats. It was an exciting and informative day.

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher



# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The first term has been a busy one for the school council with several decisions to be made and items to be discussed. The main two involved the School Environment and Charity committees. Members of the School Environment Committee were asked to get involved with decision making around the new menu in the school canteen with a food tasting session last week. That menu has gone live and it felt great for the students to be directly involved in a traditionally emotive subject like canteen food!

The Charity Committee got together over the last few weeks and made decisions about what to do with all the money raised at various times over the last year. The charities they decided would be the recipients were: Rowan's Hospice, The Portsmouth Autism Support Network, Aldingbourne Trust (who run Make in Fratton), Canine Partners, Macmillan, African Adventures and the Christmas Jumper Appeal. Each charity will receive around £250 or more thanks to the efforts of the young people in the school.

## School Council Communications Committee

Pictured to the right: Megan Bartlett (9P), Mieszko Polak (9R), Hana Abu-Gusseisa (9S) and Archie Crockett (9P)



# SPRINGFIELD IS SMART

Thanks once again to all our students who wear their uniform with pride and in accordance with our simple and clear guidelines. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents of the following specific expectations: Skirts - plain black as directed, reaching the knees or longer. Tight, stretch fabric or jersey skirts are not acceptable. Please avoid layers, frills, embroidery or very flimsy fabric. Trousers - smart, full-length, plain black as directed. No jeans or jeans style trousers with back pockets and studs, cords, tracksuit bottoms, leggings or cotton jersey fabric. Wide fashion belts are not suitable for school. Trousers should be regular. Shoes – plain black; no trainers, canvas shoes, high heels (2" maximum), open toes/slingbacks or platform shoes. Boots are not acceptable. Jewellery - a watch and one pair of plain stud earrings are the only items of jewellery permitted. Studs that enlarge the pieced hole in the ear are not permitted. Other jewellery worn will be confiscated. Students in breach of our guidelines will be asked to make corrections in accordance with our updated 'incorrect uniform flowchart'. Where immediate correction is not possible students will be given 24 hours to make necessary changes. Persistent refusal to follow our guidelines will be considered defiance and could lead to isolation if the matter is not corrected. Thank you in advance to students and parents for your ongoing support in helping us to maintain high standards of uniform.

Mr Wilburn, Deputy Headteacher

# THANK YOU STAKEHOLDERS

We were pleased to host another successful stakeholders' tea on Monday 17th December 2018 in our Treble Clef Cafe. The informal event had a festive feel with background music provided by two of our talented music pupils. Guests were able to network with each other and members of the senior prefect team as well as teaching staff, the senior leadership team, governors and trustees. Head Boy Harry Stoneman and Head Girl Ella Williams concluded the event by giving a speech thanking our stakeholders, governors, trustees and staff for the ongoing support they give to the school. One of our longstanding stakeholders commented: "It was good meeting a few new faces from the school and other people who give up their time, plus ones I knew. The students hosting us were great too." Thank you to all of our stakeholders for the time and expertise you give the school.

Mr Lomas, Head of Enterprise and PDL



## MRS WHITTINGHAM'S RIDDLE

The answer to last edition's riddle (What do an island and the letter 'T' have in common) is 'they are both in the middle of water!'

## MR DENNETT'S BRAIN TEASER

The answer to last edition's teaser: (On a certain planet  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 5 = 3. If the same proportion holds, what is the value of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 10 ?)

$\frac{1}{2}$  of 5 (=2.5) is considered equal to 3

=> the original answer (2.5) is increased by (0.5) or 20% in this country.

So  $(\frac{1}{3}) * 10 = 3 \frac{1}{3} = 3.333...$

Now, this should be increase by 20% of 3.333... which is 0.66...

So, the answer in the country we are talking about =  $3.33.. + 0.66..$

= 4

**If you're just looking for the answer- it's 4**

**New Teaser:**

A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a carton for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many cartons did he ship?





# CHRISTMAS MEAL



During the week of 17th December, Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils prepared and cooked a Christmas meal. They have also learnt how to set a formal dining table. We had great fun, pulling crackers, wearing a hat and telling each other jokes. Most of us even ate some brussel sprouts!

Miss Wines, Teacher of Design Technology

# TEXTILES CLUB

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 Textiles Club pupils! They have worked very hard to create some beautiful ornaments and even a 3D Christmas Tree. All have produced very excellent pieces.

Mrs Dave, Teacher of Design Technology



# STAYING SAFE AND AVOIDING TROUBLE

Year 8 were recently fortunate enough to work with Dean Coady, OBE, a highly decorated former member of the police force who has extensive expertise working with various disenfranchised groups across the country and the world. Dean worked with them during their PDL lessons about the temptations presented by the world of crime and gangs and the importance of resisting that temptation. The sessions, during which students discussed various strategies for how best to stay away from situations in life that could lead them into trouble, were very well received by all of the classes involved. As a follow up, Dean tasked a small group of boys to put together a presentation of what they learnt while working with him and deliver this to the Years above and below, which they will be doing in the new year. For more information about the work Dean Coady does, visit his website:

<https://urbanpuresolutions.com>

Mr Williams, Head of Achievement for Year 8



Pictured above Dean Coady presenting to a Year 8 class

# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS



Maddy with her medal and team mascot

Congratulations to Maddy Brown (9P) who was invited to the GB/England Synchronised Swimming Development Squad age trials on 1st December 2018. Maddy was invited to trial after competing with her team (13-15 age group) at the National Age Group competition in November where her team gained a gold medal and became national champions!

The trials took place on 1st December and Maddy was delighted to find out that she has a place on the 13-15 age group national team. Maddy will be representing her country at the Synchronised Swimming Age Group World Championships in Slovenia in September 2019! Good luck with all your training Maddy and we can't wait to hear how you and your team get on next year.

Thank you to Mrs Brown for sharing this news with us.

SYNCHRONISED  
SWIMMING

## NATIONAL TREE APPEAL

Springfield were contacted by the National Tree Appeal who offered us the opportunity to improve the environment by planting some clusters of silver birch trees on the school site. Of course we jumped at the chance and pupils planted the trees in clusters in two corners of the school field and in front of the library. Our intention is to add some benches under the trees to create some relaxing shaded areas. Thank you to the National Tree Appeal for this opportunity.

Mr Lomas, Head of Enterprise and PDL



## YEAR 7 NOW SETTLED AT SPRINGFIELD

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for a very successful Year 7 parents' evening in November. Students have settled well and are making good progress. Thank you to Ania Ali (7P), Freya Norum (7F), Maya Polak (7P) and William Woodward (7S) who helped the evening run smoothly.

Ms Byerley, Head of Achievement for Year 7



# SPRINGFIELD SPORTS

Springfield Year 7 had a football tournament on Tuesday 4th December 2018. We arrived at Milton Cross and our first game was straight away. After a slow start in our first two games we picked up our game and started winning. We won four games 7-2 and the other game 3-1. Next we played against Mayfield and if we beat them we would win the tournament and progress onto the next stage. We were 2-0 up and then equalised (2-2) but the final result was 4-2 to Springfield! The tournament leader read out the results and after Springfield's many goals we had won the tournament on goal difference. We now go onto the regionals and if we win that we have the opportunity to play in the nationals!

Oliver Jones (7F)

Pictured below: Fletcher Ellis (7S), Oliver Jones (7F), Archie Martin (7E), Henri Graham (7L), Lennon Jeram (7R), Joshua Pitts (7R)



FOOTBALL

## RUGBY

Congratulations to the Year 10 Rugby team who won in their recent Hampshire Bowl/Shield league game against The Island Free School, Isle of Wight. In a very wet, muddy and windy game the boys, despite being one player short, played some excellent team rugby with great heart and commitment. Springfield scored early and were then two tries up within 15 minutes which stayed that way until half time. The second half started with an Island try and then a quick reply score from Springfield. This continued in the same way with the Year 10s returning scores after conceding. Eventually, with our boys battling at every ruck and maul and making tackle after tackle, the Island school ran out of steam. An outstanding performance by Springfield winning 28-19. This result also takes them top of their group and sends them through to the county quarter finals.

Mr Snook, Head of P.E.



## Teaching & Learning

# AUTUMN TERM FOCUS DAYS

These are themed days that are part of the Personal Development Learning (PDL) Curriculum aimed at giving extra breadth to the curriculum now highly prized by employers and post 16 admissions tutors alike.

Year 7 had an early focus day called 'Getting to know you' in late September as part of their induction and settling process. Tutors were able to spend a sustained period of time with their groups to ensure pupils were fully equipped to be good all rounders in lessons. so far so very good.

In a very busy and crucial year for Year 11 pupils they had their only focus day in October based around study skills. As so many of the exams they will take in the summer rely on knowledge recall, the Life Skills Company were invited to run their session called 'Maximizing Success'. Here the pupils were shown the best ways to learn facts and to embed them in their long term memory.

In early November, Year 10 pupils worked with an organisation called 'CragRats' who concentrate on pupils being able to future proof themselves in a task called 'Metropolis'. Here they planned the societal needs of cities of the future understanding how they could live in them successfully.

Finally in late November, the Year 9 enjoyed a performance from Solomon Theatre about abusive relationships brought about through alcohol. In the workshops that followed pupils were able to uncover why each character behaved as they did and liked how well developed each character was. They certainly had their eyes opened to the consequences of any kind of drug abuse, a highly effective visit.

Watch this space for the next batch of focus days in the new year.

Mr Lomas, Head of Enterprise and PDL



Above some of our Year 10 pupils enjoying the CragRats session and to the right Year 11s gaining valuable study skills



# YEAR 11 MOCKS

Year 11 are breathing more easily once again after two action packed weeks of mock examinations. The two week period was designed to imitate the actual examinations so that pupils became familiar with the processes and routines associated with the real examinations. As with the Year 10 examinations last year, pupils needed to familiarise themselves with the pressures and time limitations of being in a formal examination. I have to say they rose to the occasion really well, adapting quickly to the incessant demands and varying time limits of one exam after another.



Now that the mocks are over, pupils are keen to know how well they have done but won't find this out until the 11th January. Their results will be given to them in an envelope on that Friday, imitating the actual exam results day. Last year this had the effect of galvanising Year 11 pupils for the final 5 months of their school careers. Those who haven't worked particularly hard tend to get a 'wake up' call from their mocks whereas those who have worked hard can see that this will bring rewards.

To all Year 11 I would say - it is never too late to start working towards your final examinations, take every opportunity to attend revision sessions, lesson 0 and lesson 6 and listen to the expertise of your teachers who are here to help.

Have a good Christmas - let January 11th be the start of the final positive 'push'...

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher

My experience during the mocks helped me learn a lot about how the exams will be structured and the techniques I need to practise, which will definitely help me in the future. The mocks were also extremely stressful and at some points I found myself becoming worried about what would come in the exams, but I quickly learnt that if you worry about an exam and become stressed it will actually hamper your scores. I would definitely change how I revised since doing past papers in subjects such as Science really helped; also general revision was useful, since some of the questions were based on basic general knowledge. I am thankful that we have mocks because I was able to make mistakes and learn from them so that when the actual GCSE exams come round those 9s are well within my grasp! Anticipating these mock results is the most stressful thing, since you don't know if they're going to be terrible or not. However, if you have a solid revision session everyday then knowledge will get refreshed and you feel reassured.

Hadi Abu-Gusseisa, (11P)

## GET IN TOUCH

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



# CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

## Cracking Reads for the Festive Season...

Throughout the academic year pupils in Years 7 and 8 regularly participate in the Accelerated Reader (A.R.) Scheme during their English lessons and Tutor time. The programme is designed to help all pupils, from reluctant readers to gifted and talented students, to achieve their full literacy potential by helping them read books that are at their optimal learning level. It aims to raise literacy standards, diagnose problems and motivate pupils of all ages and abilities. Pupils begin by taking an online 'Star Reader' test which is an assessment of reading skills and comprehension. This determines their correct reading levels, and they are then able to select from a wide range of books within that 'zone of proximal development'. Springfield Library currently has over 4500 resources that are colour coded and numbered on the spines to make it easy for pupils to identify their A.R. level. Once they have completed their chosen book they are then able to take an A.R. quiz on that specific title, aiming for a pass mark of 85% or above. Success helps generate more enthusiasm for reading. Data compiled from the tests and quizzes enables teachers to monitor pupils' literacy development and vocabulary skills, introducing individual intervention strategies where necessary. Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool, but like any skill, reading requires practice. The more engaged time allocated to it at a high level of comprehension, the better, and data suggests that 35 minutes a day is a good point to aim for. As all learning requires reading it is vital to encourage children to become more able and confident readers, so please encourage your children to be active readers at every opportunity. What better way to unwind over the Christmas holidays than to curl up with a good book? Here are a few suggestions for boredom busting festive reads. Not all of them are A.R. quizzed, but hopefully there's something to appeal to everyone:

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis, 'The Box of Delights' by John Masefield, 'A Boy Called Christmas' by Matt Haig, 'The Hero Pup' by Megan Rix, 'Mistletoe and Murder' by (the aptly named) Robin(!) Stevens, 'The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding' by Agatha Christie 'Hetty Feather's Christmas' by Jacqueline Wilson, 'Doctor Who: Twelve Doctors of Christmas' (BBC Books) 'Letters from Father Christmas' by J.R.R. Tolkien, 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas 'Can Reindeer Fly? The Science of Christmas' by Roger Highfield (Non-Fiction)

### In the centenary year marking the end of World War 1:

'Silent Night: The Remarkable Christmas Truce of 1914' by Stanley Weintraub  
'The Christmas Truce' by Carol Ann Duffy

### Short Stories:

'Almost Midnight: Two Festive Short Stories' by Rainbow Rowell  
Let it Snow: Three Holiday Romances ' from John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle

'Winter Magic: An Enchanting Collection of Stories from Award-winning authors'

### Festive fun:

'Santa's Christmas Joke Book' by Katie Wales

### Traditional Christmas Ghost Stories:

'Ghosts of Christmas Past: A chilling collection of modern and classic ghost stories' by Neil Gaiman

'Classic Ghost Stories: Spooky Tales to Read at Christmas' by various authors (Vintage Classics)

And of course, the most heart-warming, timeless, festive classic of all...

'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens



A book is a gift you can open again and again - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Mrs Williams, Librarian



# SPRINGFIELD CALENDAR

FIRST DAY BACK AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019

PROFESSIONAL CLOSURE DAY - THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2019

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY - MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2019

JANUARY	
Friday 11 January 2019	Year 11 Mock Results Assembly
Thursday 24 January 2019	Professional Closure Day
Wednesday 30 January 2019	Ski Trip Parents' Information Evening
Thursday 31 January 2019	Year 10 Subject Parents' Evening
Thursday 31 January 2019	Year 7/8 SLS Literature Quiz
FEBRUARY	
Monday 4 February 2019	Year 7 Focus Day (Anti-Bullying)
Wednesday 6 February 2019	Year 7/11 DP Parents' Evening (Invite Only)
Thursday 7 February 2019	GCSE Drama Mayflower Theatre Trip
Saturday 9 February 2019	Year 11 Art Trip to Pallant House
Monday 11 to Friday 15 February 2019	House Week
Tuesday 12 February 2019	Year 8 Subject Parents' Evening
Friday 15 to Wednesday 20 February 2019	Year 9/10 Ski Trip

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.

Did YOU know that there's a NEW



LUNCHTIME CLUB?

Tuesdays with Mrs Bartlett in C27 – covering all aspects of Media Studies!

**WHY STUDY MEDIA?**

Studying media helps YOU get better results in other subjects!

**HISTORY** – interpreting the past to us show how we became what we are.

**GEOGRAPHY** – defining our own place in the world.

**LANGUAGES** – helping define how we communicate with each other.

**SCIENCE** – adopting the leading edge of technological innovation and learning how things work.

**ARTS** - we experience all the arts as no other age has ever done.

**DRAMA** - helping us understand life by presenting it as larger-than-life, and compel us to think in terms of the audience.

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... BECAUSE THEY GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO STUDY YOU!

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