



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

NEWS

February 2018 Issue

www.springfield.uk.net



2018 SKI TRIP



2018 SKI TRIP

From 2nd to 6th January 2018 I went on the school ski trip, an experience that I will never forget. It pushed me out of my comfort zone whilst having fun with my friends and learning a new skill too. I had the opportunity to spend my new year in a beautiful snow covered mountain; one night we even had over a metre of snow. Every night I fell asleep to snow falling down outside our window and I woke up to the beautiful snow scene in the morning. I think it was the most snow that I have ever seen! The first day of skiing was cold. We all fell over but got back up and kept going. On the first evening we went floodlit cross country skiing which was amazing. The lights glistened off the snow and there was a small hill; to get up we had to use our ski poles and bodies whilst trying not to fall over and knock down those who were climbing up.

Over the week the skiing did get easier but I still fell over! On the last day we went on a red slope and it was one of the hardest things that I have ever to do in my life; but once I had done it I felt so proud. If I had a chance to go on the school ski trip again I would say yes in a heartbeat, without even having to think - that is how amazing it was. I would definitely say it was one of the best experiences in my life!

Daniella Betts, 9L



From The Headteacher



Happy New Year to everyone in the Springfield community!

We have had a busy and very positive start to the term at Springfield. The school performance tables, finally published on 25th January, confirmed the very strong performance of Springfield's pupils in GCSE examinations. For the second consecutive year, Springfield's performance in the *EBacc is in the top 20% of schools nationally; we had the highest number of pupils (71%) entered and the highest percentage of pupils achieving grade 5/C+ (38%) of all secondary schools in Portsmouth – 9% higher than the next highest (EBacc) performing Portsmouth secondary school. Springfield's Progress 8 score (+0.31) and Attainment 8 score (50.5) were both well above average. Well done to the staff and pupils! Further details can be found on:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=851&geographic=la&phase=secondary>

Some schools have been criticised recently for not offering a truly broad and balanced curriculum for their pupils. Amanda Spielman, Chief Inspector for Ofsted, drew attention to this in her annual report in December 2017. She raised a concern that too many schools are focusing on a narrow curriculum with too few pupils studying geography, history or a foreign language. It was also highlighted that lower ability pupils in particular were being adversely affected by this. This is **not** the case at Springfield! Although our pupils start their GCSE courses in Year 9, our commitment to 'languages for all', requirement for pupils to study history and/or geography GCSE, and core IT programme of study ensure that pupils receive a broad and balanced education that will equip them well for the future. This is, of course, reflected in our high entry rate to the EBacc. Not bad for the largest completely non-selective state school in Portsmouth!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201617-education-childrens-services-and-skills>

Our most recent parents' survey results are now available in the 'About Us' section of the school website; sincere thanks to the parents and carers who completed the survey for us. We are delighted that the very large majority (an impressive 96%) of parents and carers agreed that their children were happy and well looked after at the school. Similarly, the very large majority of respondents stated that they believed their child was taught well. We did, however, note that a higher number of parents and carers than previously answered 'don't know' to the question relating to how well bullying is addressed in the school, particularly relating to one year group. We will, therefore, look to provide further information for parents over coming months regarding how the school supports pupils and promotes a positive ethos. Certainly, the proliferation of social media has made relationships between young people more complex and 'cyber bullying' is an issue for teenagers growing up today; we have a brief article on social media in this edition. Governors will also be reviewing the school's approach to mobile 'phones in school over the next few months.

This is a very short half term – only five weeks – and so it has been wonderful to see just how much the pupils have already achieved in their lessons and extra-curricular activities. I hope you enjoy the updates in Springfield News and on the school's website.

Kind regards

Sara Spivey

*The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) Award comprises English, mathematics, two sciences, a foreign language and history or geography at GCSE level.

Welcome to New Colleagues

This term we have welcomed some new members of staff to Springfield. To help you to put names to faces we have compiled some profiles. Let us introduce some of our new colleagues:

MS NIKOLOVA, TEACHER OF IT



Favourite Quote: 'Knowledge is power' Francis Bacon.

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? I like how supportive the computing team is. Students are very respectful and dedicated. I feel really well settled and at home. The school is amazing and well-led.

Where Did You Train? I have trained at Liverpool Hope University, Holly Lodge Girls' College and Savio Salesian College. I then moved to Bognor Regis in 2015 and worked at The Regis School for the last two and a half years.

MR VARDELL, TEACHER IN CHARGE OF R.S.

Favourite Quote: 'Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education' Martin Luther King.

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? So far I have enjoyed meeting an amazing range of pupils and staff, all of whom seem to have bags of energy! I have particularly enjoyed delving into ethical and philosophical debates with students who are keen to share their opinions.

Where Did You Train? I completed my undergraduate of American Studies and European History degree at the Portsmouth University before training to teach Religious Education at the University of Southampton.

What Would You Like To Achieve in a Year's Time? I would like to see all the students engaged in active and challenging R.S. lessons with an increased number of students opting for GCSE R.S.



MR BLOWERS, TEACHER OF MATHS

Favourite Quote: 'Fugit irreparabile tempus' (irreplaceable time).

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? So far I have been impressed by the commitment and hard work of the majority of the students I teach. They clearly have their eyes on the target ahead and are doing all they can to get there. Hard work today will pay off tomorrow and leaving it until later is not a wise course. I hope that my time here will have a positive impact on my classes irrespective of their ability.

Where Did You Train? I have been teaching for over 20 years after qualifying with the University of Exeter.



MRS COSH, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Favourite Quote: 'I'm still learning' Michelangelo. The great artist and sculptor said this when he was 87. His past successes (and failures) did not define him, he always wanted to learn more. I hope I can enthuse others to feel that learning at school is the beginning of a life long adventure.

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? Pupils at Springfield are so friendly and helpful; they've been happy to help when I'm standing around, looking lost. My classes are full of exciting ideas.

Where Did You Train? I trained at Portsmouth University a long time ago and I've worked in many other local schools. My last school was Priors School in Southsea.

What Would You Like To Achieve in a Year's Time? Over the next year I'd love to get involved with promoting reading both in English and in any other way I can help.



MRS BEVAN, ATTENDANCE ASSISTANT



Favourite Quote: 'Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world' Nelson Mandela.

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? The working environment is welcoming and the people professional and friendly.

Where Did You Train? Prior to being the Attendance Assistant here at Springfield, I worked in 'Safeguarding and Wellbeing' at Portsmouth College.

MISS LARTER, SUPPORT ASSISTANT - RECEPTION

Favourite Quote: 'Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something you've set your heart on' Tim Peake.

What Do You Like Most About Springfield School? All staff have made me feel welcome and part of the team.

Where Did You Train? Highbury College, HND in Business and Finance.

What Would You Like To Achieve in a Year's Time? To have completed my Level 2 Support Teaching and Learning in Schools qualification.



MR WAITES, CHIEF FINANCIAL & OPERATING OFFICER (DCT)

I'm just reaching the end of my fourth week working for the De Curci Trust (DCT), working with Springfield School, Solent Infant School, and Solent Junior School. I have already met with a huge variety of people across the Trust, from the Senior Leadership Teams of all the schools, Finance and Support Teams, Teaching staff, Governors, Pupils and Trustees. The one thing that has made my first few weeks a great joy, has been the overwhelming warmth, passion and pride shared by so many of my colleagues across each of the three schools. It is quite apparent that each person I have had the pleasure to work with genuinely has the best interests of the children at heart. My role encompasses many different factors, and I have really had to hit the ground running to gain a rapid understanding of each of the schools; my colleagues have been patient and helpful in response to the many questions I have had. The pupils that I have engaged with, from Reception children in the Infant School, to teenagers at Springfield, have been proud to share their ideas and discuss their work.



Following a career in retail and general management, I began working in schools some 10 years ago, firstly completing my Certificate of School Business Management, and more recently have completed a MBA (Education) at Keele University, with my dissertation focused on School Business Management. I am also a Fellow of the Institute of School Business Leadership, which gives me the opportunity to work on sector-wide consultations and development.

I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the vast array of people across the Trust, to help support its development, through collaborative working, sharing best practice, improving systems and procedures, to help support the teams across the Trust to enable each school and each pupil to be the best they can be.

Favourite Quote:

'All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual', Albert Einstein.

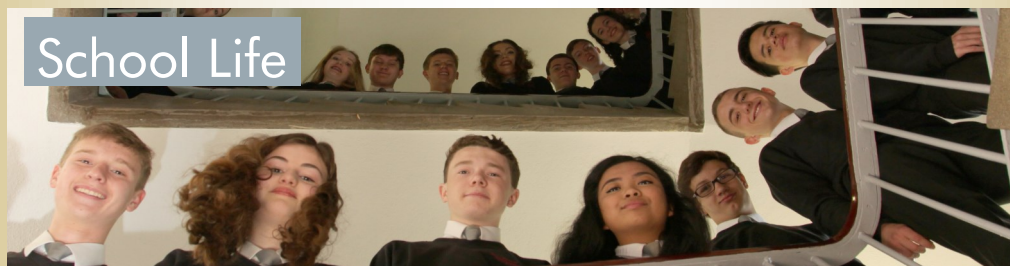
CONGRATULATIONS TO MR BOGOJE ON HIS PROMOTION



I am pleased to be taking the next steps in my teaching career here at Springfield as the newly appointed Head of ICT and Computing. Since joining the team in 2014 as a newly qualified teacher I have been welcomed into the Springfield community and given a great number of opportunities and experiences that have helped shape my professional development.

With a subject like Computing there are always exciting new ideas and developments having an impact on the content of the curriculum as well as developing new ways for our young students to learn. I am confident that as a department and as a school we will be ready to face these challenges head on and offer the best possible options for our learners. For example, we are currently reviewing the OCR Nationals as our preferred core IT qualification because the latest revised content covers many key aspects of our students' everyday digital lives. We will also continue to offer the Computing GCSE next year as an option subject for our most committed students. This is a very challenging qualification that provides a firm understanding of project development as well as using abstraction and decomposition to solve problems.

Mr Bogoje, Head of ICT and Computing



SEN/D Department - English Level 1 Functional Skills

The Special Educational Needs Department was very proud of the pupils who took their first English Level 1 Functional skills exam on 16th January 2018. Functional Skills is a qualification that compliments the GCSE curriculum. We now offer English and Maths Level 1 to some pupils who might take a little longer to master the skills required for the GCSE content.

One of the pupils wrote this after the exam:

'I have been doing Functional Skills in English for about four months. At the start I found the lessons hard but then it got easier and last week I did the test. The reading one in the morning was easy but the writing one in the afternoon was hard. I felt like giving up, but I didn't. I am proud of myself for not giving up! If I pass I will get my level 1 and then I can start level 2. However, if I don't pass I won't be too upset because I know I did my very best and I can try again next time. I did sort of enjoy the test as it was only 45 minutes long. I will be happy with the result I get because I know I did my best.'

Fingers crossed all pupils get the results they deserve when these are published in March.

Mrs Rooks, SENDCo

Social Media: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

A recent survey has shown that British teenagers spend more time on the internet than virtually anyone else in the world, with nearly one in four pupils in the UK considered 'extreme' internet users. Although social media can benefit young people's emotional wellbeing by connecting them to others online, there are many disadvantages also. As well as reduced attention spans (half of teens say they 'often' use social media while doing their homework), teenagers frequently put themselves at risk online. Cyberbullying is a real risk, with users agreeing that 'people say a lot more behind a computer screen than they would in real life'. Indeed, 52% of young people report being cyber bullied. In school we are aware of the problems caused by 'group chats', an ideal forum for bullying to take place. With the additional pressure to post photos and to gather as many 'likes' as possible, social media can have harmful effects on the emotional health of our children and encourage them to take risks. It should also be remembered that once something is posted online, it never actually fully disappears. Although we frequently revisit these issues in school, the vast majority of incidents occur out of school hours, and it is advisable therefore that social media usage is regulated and monitored at home.

There is lots of information available online to support parents, including <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/>

We would advise parents to educate themselves about social media and discuss the risks with their children. Enforced 'rules' and time-limits are essential. Consider whether it is really in your child's interests to have a smart phone at a young age; can they really manage '24/7' access to the internet and other applications?

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that all mobile 'phones should be switched off and stored securely in bags during the school day; please do not contact your child before 3.10pm on their mobile 'phone.

Ms Creighton, Head of Achievement for Year 10



Trenches Project

I am delighted to showcase some great examples of replica trenches in the photos below.

These were created by Mea Cowens (8L) and Zac Smith (8L).

This was part of an engaging Year 8 World War I History project that took place at the start of this term.

Mr Walters, Teacher of History



Prison Me No Way!

On 5th February we welcomed back the charity 'Prison Me No Way' who travelled all the way from Hull to take over the Year 9 timetable for the day. They highlighted the impact prison has on people's lives, how to stay safe and the consequences of poor decision making. Sessions included an interactive talk and play based on a street scene ('Confrontation Street'), the chance to view a replica prison cell housed in the back of a truck as well as a great variety of presentations from domestic abuse experts, ex-offenders and prison wardens. 'Prison Me No Way' commented that Springfield were one of the most polite, organised and friendly schools they had visited! Thank you to 'Prison Me No Way' for a fun, informative and engaging day.

Mr Lomas, Head of Enterprise and PDL

Pantomime Experience

On 19th December a group of Year 7 Springfield pupils went on a trip to watch 'Snow White' at The Kings Theatre in Southsea. We left after lunch and travelled by coach. When we arrived everyone was excited about the show.

We saw a really lovely recreation of 'Snow White'; it was funny, entertaining and great to watch. During the thirty minute interval we even had the opportunity to buy snacks and drinks which were all delicious. The second half of the pantomime was just as entertaining as the first; also, at the end (everyone's favourite part) they put a twist on The Twelve Days of Christmas song which was very funny. Sadly, all shows come to an end and as we got back onto the coaches most people were very tired but we had an entertaining afternoon. It was a fun experience and everyone enjoyed it.

Jeanne Kamakoue (7F)

Anti-Bullying Conference

Five Springfield pupils attended the city's Anti Bullying Conference, a huge event that took place at Portsmouth Guildhall on Tuesday 30th January. It was the first event of its kind to be held in the country, with a large selection of primary and secondary schools from the Portsmouth area taking part. The session involved identifying types, causes and effects of bullying and sharing ideas as to how these could be tackled by their respective schools. There were also talks from several speakers from various areas of expertise including representatives from the Diana Award and Portsmouth City Council. The pupils involved will now take the ideas they have learnt or developed to the Inclusion Committee, a branch of the Student Council, with a view to implementing them across the school.

Mr Williams, Head of Achievement for Year 11

The pupils involved and pictured below were Katie Binny (8L), Liam Edwards (9D), Caitlin Shipp (9S), Harry Stoneman (10S) and Rachel Shepherd (10D)



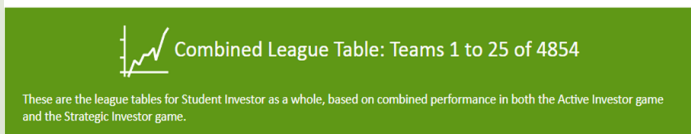
UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenge

Springfield pupils are participating in a national UKMT Maths Challenge again this year. Years 9, 10, and 11 completed the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge on 1st February 2018; Year 7 and 8 will be completing the Junior Challenge in April. The UKMT is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of young people in mathematics. THE UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year olds. They were established in 1996 and during the last academic year over 650,000 pupils from 4,500 schools have taken part in the three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competitions. Each challenge leads into a follow-on Olympiad round. UKMT also run mentoring schemes and summer schools for high performing students as well as training the team of six to represent the UK in the International Mathematical Olympiad. Look out for the results which will be published on the newsfeed section of our website later in the academic year.

Miss Hawkins, Teacher of Mathematics

Student Investor Challenge

I would like to congratulate the Springfield Student Investor Team who have made it to the semi-final of the Student Investor Challenge. A team of four pupils comprising of Harvey Martin (11E), Isabelle West (10G), Lucy Austin (10N) and led by Ryan Rahimikia (11E) have come first out of 4,854 teams in a national competition that has lasted four months. The Springfield team also dominated the practice round (which lasted one month). They started with basic knowledge of market economics and trading; through weeks of training (followed by months of practicalities in round one) Ryan coached the semi-finalist team to become competent traders. As well as this he coached two other teams! The participants were taught how to use technical analysis and also how to work well in short and long term scenarios. The teams were able to show that anything can be achieved with hard work and dedication regardless of obstacles such as competing against sixth forms and colleges.



These are the league tables for Student Investor as a whole, based on combined performance in both the Active Investor game and the Strategic Investor game.

IMPORTANT: Round One of the Student Investor Challenge ends at 4:30pm on 26 January 2018!

Switch to: [Active Investor League Table](#) [Strategic Investor League Table](#) [Final Practice Game League Table](#)

Rank	Team	School	Change
1	Ryan'sMandemFund	Springfield School	↔
2	RogueBrokers	Peter Symonds College	↔
3	RKMD123	Merchant Taylors' School	↔
4	Basket of Deplorables	Battle Abbey School	↔
5	Scorchio	Wycombe Abbey International School of Changzhou	↔

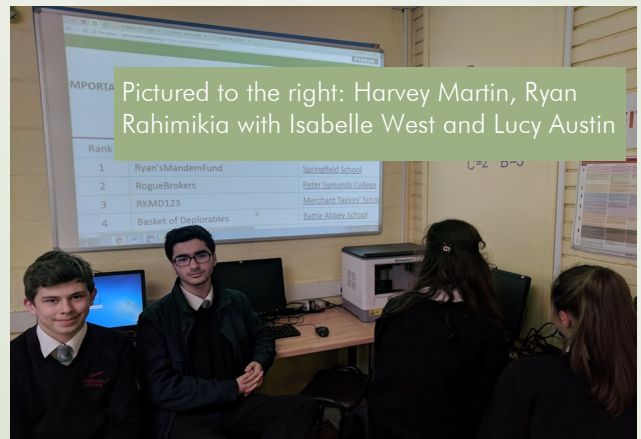


IMPORTANT: Round One of the Student Investor Challenge ends at 4:30pm on 26 January 2018!

Switch to: [Combined League Table](#) [Strategic Investor League Table](#) [Final Practice Game League Table](#)

Rank	Team	School	Change	Portfolio Value
1	Ryan'sMandemFund	Springfield School	+0.00%	£146,521.07
2	Mission 26	Kuwait English School	-0.00%	£133,152.58
3	The Sellouts	St Paul's School	-0.00%	£125,773.67
4	FCCBusiness	Faringdon Community College	+0.00%	£124,402.06
5	Lords of Mayhem	Shrewsbury International School	-0.00%	£124,076.97

The semi-finalist team have led the national table for most of the competition and have finished in first place at the end of round one. So far they have won the best team for the month of December and have received a monetary prize which they will be donating to their chosen charity. During the competition they have worked on two stock portfolios, each starting with £100,000 and have both made a substantial profit. The active investor portfolio gained ~48% and the strategic portfolio had finished +15%, beating the professionals! Well done and good luck in the semi-final. We wish all the best to the other Springfield teams who have a good chance of making it to the semi-final too.



Mr Teeling, Teacher of ICT and Computing



Twelve Years A Clerk

Back in 2006 when I took the job as Clerk to the Governors I thought I would do it for a year and here we are twelve years later! Why did I stay? Well, I quickly found myself infected by the enthusiasm of colleagues and enjoyed working here. I kept learning new things and developing skills I didn't know I had. Everyone I worked with at Springfield, governors, support staff and teachers, cared tremendously about the school community and the success of pupils and it rubbed off. I've been amazed by how much time and effort staff and governors put in to creating the best possible educational experience for Springfield's pupils. Last April Springfield, Solent Infant and Junior schools formed The De Curci Trust and I began to work for this Multi Academy Trust as Company Secretary. This role gives me the benefit of keeping links with Springfield alongside the opportunity to be involved in building on the success of the three schools going forward together. I'm sure that Mrs Loy, who takes over from me as Springfield's Clerk, will enjoy the role as much as I have.

Mrs M Hallsworth

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Springfield has an excellent record of high overall attendance coupled with low numbers of persistent absentees (<90% attenders), but as we make our way through the darker days of the winter and face the increased chances of seasonal illness I wanted to offer several reminders:

- Good attendance is critical to success at school (absences can quickly add up).
- Illness can be unavoidable but I would urge all students and parents to make sensible choices about taking days off and always aim to attend school every day.
- As always, if a day off is unavoidable please contact the school (023 9238 1185) to report the absence at the earliest opportunity with clear reasons.
- For longer term or persistent absence please be ready to provide evidence and discuss any issues (at the earliest opportunity) with your son's/daughter's form tutor or year office team.

To support student attendance and home school liaison we were very pleased to welcome Janine Bevan to our support staff team back in November. Janine has extensive experience of working with students on welfare related matters in her previous role at Portsmouth College. We know that Janine's rigorous yet friendly approach will be a huge asset in maintaining strong home-school relationships and continuing to improve attendance even further.

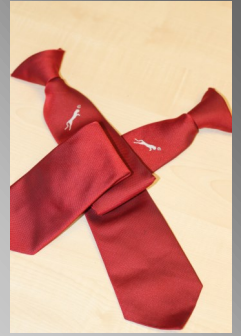
Mental Health Support

Mental health issues for young people can be very challenging and often make learning, socialising and living difficult. There is a current national recognition that mental health support for school age (and older) children needs to improve and the government have pledged to increase capacity within the NHS and schools to tackle this over the coming years. At Springfield we recognise this issue and all our pastoral managers and welfare related staff have received specialist training from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). We also benefit from a CAMHS 'clinic' running once every two weeks in school for initial assessment meetings/discussions. Other colleagues in school have run successful support sessions for students based on CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) techniques and we use opportunities within our PDL curriculum (including Focus Days) to discuss these issues and raise awareness. If you have questions about mental health issues or you are concerned that your son/daughter has a mental health issue this can be discussed with your son's/daughter's year office team. Another useful source of related information and services can be found here:

<http://www.childrensservices.solent.nhs.uk/ServiceCatInfo.asp?id=201>

Look Smart, Be Smart

A reminder to students, parents and carers that we expect all students to follow our uniform policy. We have seen a recent increase in students wearing boots to school. Students are expected to wear plain black shoes only.



Students who are dressed incorrectly will be warned, issued with a uniform report card (making clear the item which needs immediate correction) and parents/carers will be contacted. Persistent infringements will be considered as defiance and could lead to placement in internal isolation. Please support us in making sure our policy is adhered to. Full guidelines can be found on our website.

Our House Needs You!

19th February will see the official launch of our new house system (see December news for more detail). Students and staff have now been allocated to one of five houses: Ayrton, Moore, Constantine, Franklin and Woolf. Each house will have a Head of House (teacher) plus a range of student leadership posts. This exciting structure will become the new backbone for student rewards and offer a platform for teamwork, competition and a greater sense of belonging. More details will follow in the next edition.

Art Work



We are delighted to showcase below another great selection of drawings and paintings by our talented Year 11 Art students who responded to a starting point of 'Disguise'.

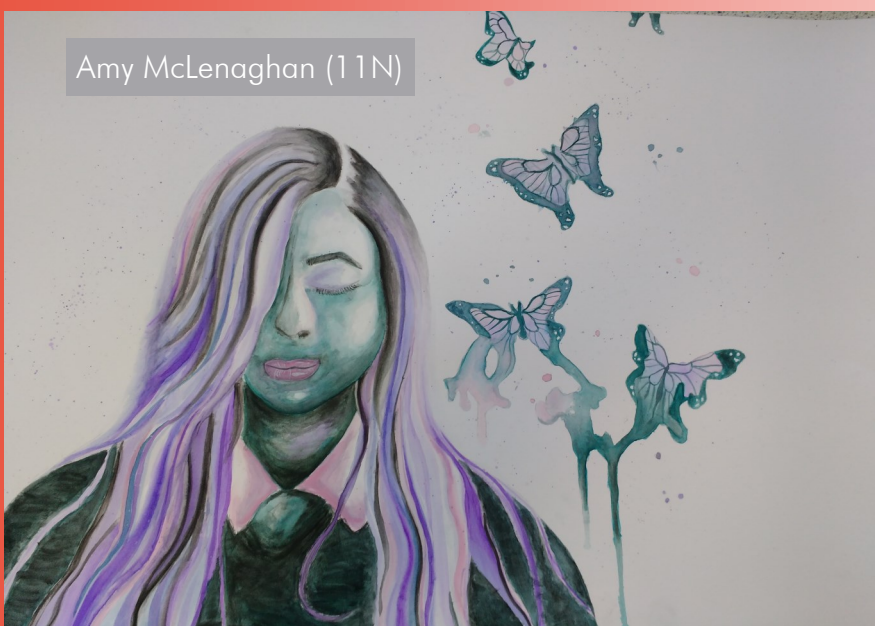
Mr Toghill, Head of Art



Isobel Carver (11D)



Emily Branscombe (11D)



Amy McLenaghan (11N)



Leah Rees (11G)

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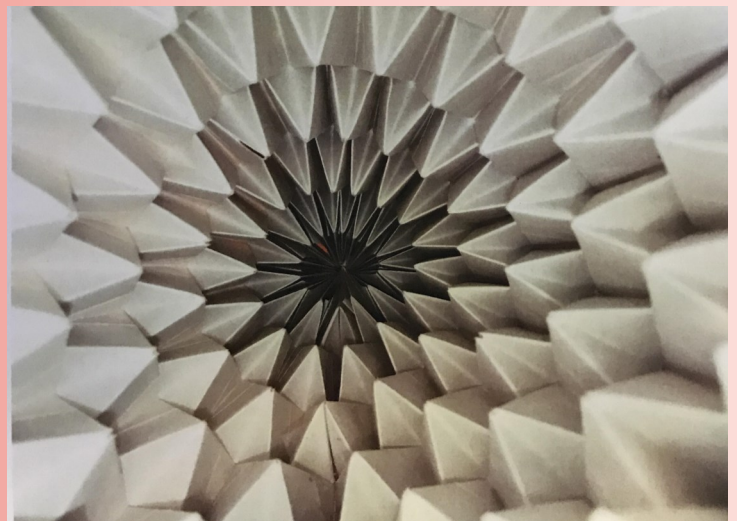
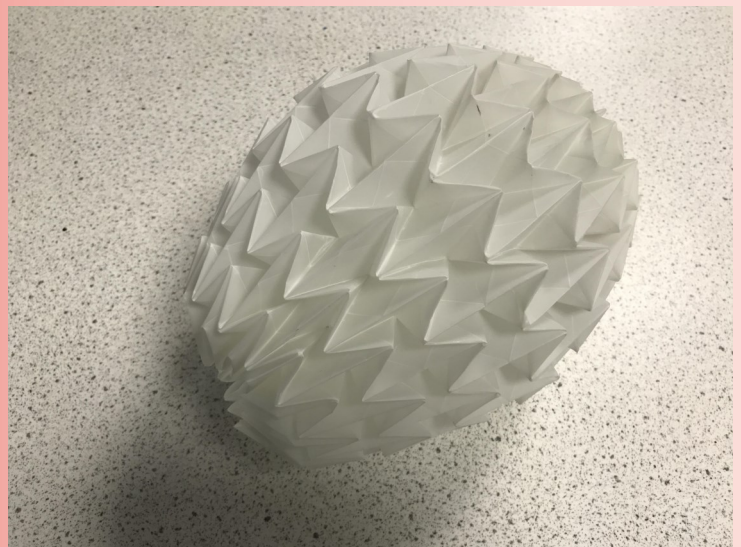
Jessica McLenaghan (11G)



Sam Tiller (11E)

We were very impressed by the fantastic selection of origami experiments created by Year 11 pupil Kayley Fan, 11S.

Mrs Millington, Teacher of Art





All Things Year 11

Now that 2018 is fully upon us, thoughts of all Key Stage 4 staff have turned to the next few months and preparing our Year 11 pupils for their final exams. A foretaste of what to expect came on the first Friday of this term when Year 11 opened their mock result envelopes in the TCC. As will be the case in August, there was a combination of smiles, frowns and group huddles around the envelopes. One pupil steadfastly refused to open theirs until well after the close of school – and stuck to this!

The pupils have been told to use these results as a guide as to how to approach the next few months. There will be a whole range of support sessions run by their teachers to help them – some have already begun and been running since well before Christmas. A programme of lesson 6 provision is now in full swing. Except for Mondays, when teachers have calendared meetings, there are lesson 6 sessions on every day. Year 11 have been attending these sessions but not all – if a teacher is voluntarily putting on an after-school session, pupils should make it their mission to attend.

Equally, some subjects are providing lesson 0 sessions. Again, these have been attended by pupils but not all. There is no special sign up or secret membership/handshake needed to access these sessions, they are open to all.

Starting with this February half term holiday, Mon 12th – Friday 16th, Year 11 teachers will be holding workshops in the mornings (<https://goo.gl/eSo9RG>). These have been published to pupils and are voluntary – although wise Year 11 will know they should be here, voluntary or otherwise. The same applies to the Easter holidays (second week) and the May half term holiday, programmes for which will be published on the website nearer the time.

With the exam timetable readily available on the website (within the 'examinations' section under the 'learning tab'), pupils can begin to plan their revision schedules. Art, Photography and Drama exams are held before or just after the Easter holidays but the main, sit-down-in-the-Hall exams commence on 14th May and end on 21st June. The much-heralded 'Leavers' Assembly' is also on this day. I am finalising the revision timetable for this period when pupils' timetables will change to include double revision slots before each exam and times when pupils can revise at home. When completed, I will put this in Year 11 tutor bases and also on the website for parents to note.

Each pupil's response to their mock results will be different. The best response is not to panic or 'switch off' because they did not do as well as they thought or because 'it's too hard'. The best response is to look these upcoming few months squarely in the eye and plan how to approach them with their teachers' help and parents' support.

We, as teachers, say this every year but it's an eternal truth, universally acknowledged:

There is still time to affect your grades in a positive way - work hard in lessons, listen to your teacher's advice, attend all extra sessions you can and do all this consistently.

It's too early to say 'good luck' just yet, better to say 'put the effort in now'....

Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher



Professional Closure Day - 25th January 2018

With the removal of National Curriculum levels and the introduction of the new GCSE courses, it has been essential to develop clear success criteria that are easily understood by pupils, parents and carers. Therefore, as part of their continuing professional development, teachers attended a series of workshops on the subject of effective assessment. These workshops enabled teachers to develop their practice in a range of areas including the use of questioning as an assessment tool, revision techniques to aid memory recall and the development of assessment 'flight paths' to aid pupils to assess their progress and understand how to improve their work. Departments then worked collaboratively to plan and develop these techniques to ensure that they were relevant to each class and in a common format to aid understanding for all. Feedback from staff was that the day was extremely engaging, informative and useful. We will, of course, seek feedback from students as part of the review process.

Mrs Robertson, Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 - The Next Steps

Now that the Year 11 pupils have assimilated their mock exam result they will be looking ahead to getting through the rest of the curriculum. However they need to be reminded that local colleges like to receive applications by February half term. This should not be big news for the pupils as each local sixth form college visited Springfield last September and October and pupils have had the opportunity to go to the numerous open evenings as well as have a 1:1 interview with our EBP Careers Advisor Melanie Lush.

Colleges will still accept applications after half term but cannot guarantee the pupil's first choice of courses. Lots of up to date careers events are constantly streamed to Year 11 tutors and the careers noticeboard at the bottom of A block has further information.

If the apprenticeship route is preferred pupils can find information at:

<https://vacancies.amazingapprenticeships.com/> or ask to see Melanie Lush our EBP Careers Advisor for more support.

We know exactly where pupils moved onto last year and the graph below is a typical summary of our destinations. I recently asked some alumni (Year 11 in 2015/16) for their top tips for our GCSE pupils, here is a selection:

"It is never too early to start preparing and use flash cards" (Cara Tudgay)

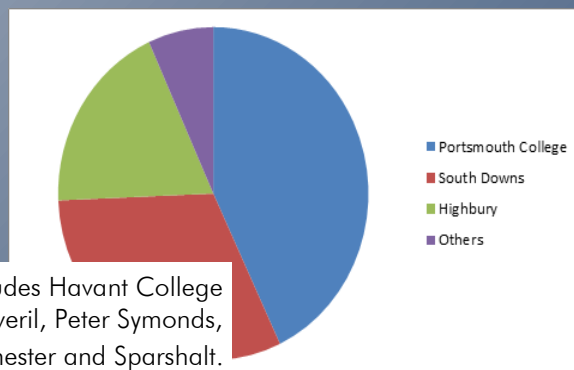
"Make a revision calendar and stick to it" (Lottie Kale),

"Go to all the revision sessions you can" (Hannah Hicks),

"Get someone else to test you or teach someone" (Freya Hardyman)

"Use the revision film clips on YouTube e.g. AQA Science" (Lauren Toms).

Springfield alumni and previous Head Girl Megan Griffiths went on to study at South Downs College. She achieved some incredible A level results (2 A*s and 2 As) and is now at the University of Oxford studying English Literature and Language. Lauren Veal and Charlotte Saunders both went on to study at Portsmouth College. Lauren has just secured her dream job as a Biomedical Scientist at QA Hospital in the Pathology Department and Charlotte hopes to get an apprenticeship with the BBC or ITV. Year 11, the world is your oyster!



KEY: South Downs College also includes Havant College
'Others' are Fareham, Barton Peveril, Peter Symonds,
PGS, Chichester and Sparshalt.

Mr Lomas
Head of Enterprise and PDL



The New Sports Hall Update

As many of you will be aware, there has been a hive of activity in recent months towards the front of the school, centred around the old swimming pool complex. In a joint partnership project between Portsmouth City Council and Springfield School, work has been underway to convert the old swimming pool, which had come to the end of its useful life, into a fully refurbished additional sports hall for the school. This has involved removing all of the old swimming pool equipment and filtering systems, for which parts had become obsolete, building a new floor over the old pool, and redesigning all of the changing rooms, toilets, and viewing gallery.

There is still much to do before completion, but work is progressing well with a flurry of different trades on site daily, to help fit out new electrical supplies, plastering, flooring and plumbing. The new centre is really starting to take shape, and we are all looking forward to being able to use this fantastic new facility in the not too distant future. During a recent quick site visit to check on the progress of the development, we were able to take a few photos of the work, which show the new flooring in the main sports hall, a section of the new plant room, and its amazing array of control equipment for the hi-tec underfloor heating; and of the new mezzanine level which will host additional equipment and facilities. We hope you are all as excited as we are to see the finished product, and our pupils enjoying what the new space will have to offer. Please see the pictures below of the work in progress.

Mr N Waites, Chief Financial & Operating Officer, The De Curci Trust



Mezzanine level



Control equipment for underfloor heating



Main Sports Hall





Springfield Sports

On 16th January 2018 some of our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils participated in the Portsmouth Schools' Table Tennis Individual Competition. Well done to Ollie Dawson (11L) who made it all the way to the final in what was our first competition for 10 years playing against some strong county players!

Mr Snook, Head of P.E.



Pictured above: Ollie Dawson (11L), Ashley Woolger (11D), Hugh Barker (11G), Kestar Loader (11P), Finlay Prowting (11F), Joe Wingham (11L), Sam Wingham (11E), Robbie Parker (9F), MacKenzie Morgan (9G)

TABLE TENNIS

TRAMPOLINING

Congratulations to Katie Binny (8L), who represented Springfield at the Southern Schools Trampoline Championships on Sunday 28th January and came first place in the Under 14 girls elite category!

Mr Snook, Head of P.E.



Katie's trophy

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter



@spfldUK

Mr Dennett's Brain Teaser

John has three times as many sisters as brothers. His sister Louise has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many children are there in the family?



The answer to last edition's teaser is: Looking at the house number next door is only inconclusive if the number is 13, as there are two combinations with this sum. As the woman has an oldest child, they must be the 2, 2 and 9 combination!



Mrs Whittingham's Riddle

What can you hold without touching it?

The answer to last edition's riddle is 'the moon'.

SPRINGFIELD CALENDAR

FIRST DAY BACK AFTER HALF TERM - MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2018
 PROFESSIONAL CLOSURE HALF DAY - THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2018 (AFTERNOON)
 EASTER HOLIDAYS - FRIDAY 30 MARCH TO SUNDAY 15 APRIL 2018

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 27 February 2018	Year 7 'Anti-bullying' Focus Day
Tuesday 20 and Thursday 22 February	Year 8 Sustainability Centre Trips

MARCH

Tuesday 6 March 2018	'Drop Everything and Read' & 'World Book Day'
Friday 9 March to Sunday 11 March	Year 9 Belgium Trip
Monday 12 March 2018	Year 11 Progress Reports Issued
Monday 12 March 2018	Year 11 Drama Performance (6pm)
Tuesday 13 March 2018	Year 10 Progress Reports issued
Tuesday 13 March 2018	Year 11 Drama Performance (6pm)
Wednesday 14 March 2018	Year 9 Progress Reports Issued
Wednesday 14 March 2018	'Soundsational' Guildhall Portsmouth (afternoon rehearsals and evening performance)
Thursday 15 March 2018	Year 8 Progress Reports Issued
Thursday 15 March 2018	Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam (all day)
Friday 16 March 2018	Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam (morning)
Friday 16 March 2018	Year 11 Food Nutrition and Preparation Controlled Assessment Deadline
Friday 16 March 2018	Year 7 Progress Reports Issued
Saturday 17 March 2018	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Walk
Wednesday 21 March 2018	Year 9 Subject Parents' Evening
Thursday 22 March 2018	Year 11 Textiles Controlled Assessment Deadline
Thursday 22 March 2018	Professional Closure Half Day (afternoon)
Friday 23 March 2018	Year 10 'Careers' Focus Day
Tuesday 27 March 2018	Year 11 English Mock Exam
Wednesday 28 March to Saturday 31 March 2018	Year 10 Naples Trip
Thursday 29 March 2018	Charity Non-Uniform Day

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.