

# SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – TERM 1

25/10/2024

## Welcome from Mr Kneller, Headteacher

Term 1 of this academic year has been one of the longest terms I have experienced in 29 years of education. Whilst this has left staff and students with fatigue it has allowed us to achieve a lot.

We have continued our focus on improving the culture at Patchway in terms of having high basic expectations. Uniform has improved significantly, and the young people are now wearing their uniform with more pride. Behaviour incidents and suspensions have continued to reduce, whilst attendance has seen a steady increase. Our internal monitoring systems and those of the Olympus Academy Trust are evidencing further and ongoing improvements in the quality of teaching and learning, teaching staff have spent the two INSET days receiving further training on high quality teaching techniques. All of this means we are providing an improved standard of education for our community which will enhance the life chances of the students we serve.

As is evident in this newsletter we have also been able to provide significant enrichment activities. Our recent drop-down day provided opportunities for Year 7 to visit Noah's Ark Farm to develop their work in languages, Year 8 to build on work in Religious Studies and visit several contrasting places of worship, whilst Year 9 immersed themselves in a Science day all around space and visited the National Space Museum. Year 10 and 11, in addition to receiving additional support in English and Maths, were supported with the mental health and wellbeing. A wide variety of enrichments clubs have also been offered this term and been well attended by all students.

Over half term we will be notified which contractor has secured the contract for our new build. We will work with this contractor to finalise a design over the coming months, and I will invite parents into the school next term to share initial plans and seek feedback. This is hugely exciting for our community and will provide state of the art facilities for both students and the community to learn in.

I wish you all a happy, safe and restful half term break and look forward to welcoming back our amazing students, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Best Wishes,  
Stephen Kneller



## Key Dates:-

- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
Inset Day
- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Start of Term 2
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 7 and Year 8 STEM  
Careers event
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 10 Envision - In School
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 11 Mocks begin
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 10 Envision - Off site
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
Nasal Flu for Year 7- Year 10
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
Year 11 Geography Trip
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 10 Envision - Off site
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 11 Nasal Flu
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 11 Parents Evening  
(Mock Results)
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
Late start for all students-  
10.00am
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
Last day of Term

AMBITIOUS | RESPECTFUL | EXCELLENT



# Welcome to Year 7

Our new year 7 students have got off to a fantastic start at Patchway Community School. Teachers have been commenting on how polite and engaged all the students have been.

Well done to all students (and parents) in making sure everyone had the correct uniform and equipment from the start of term. We regularly check uniform for high standards. The uniform policy can be found on our website: <https://www.patchwaycs.org.uk/Uniform/>

Don't forget Monkhouse (our uniform supplier) are still offering a 20% discount in store only, until Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## Point of Contact

The tutor will be the first point of contact for any concerns or queries you have for your child. Please find below the email addresses which can be used for any communications. All staff can be contacted via email by using: [firstname.surname@olympustrust.co.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@olympustrust.co.uk)

|    |                                  |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 7p | Mrs B Benjamin / Miss K Sterling | <a href="mailto:bethan.benjamin@olympustrust.co.uk">bethan.benjamin@olympustrust.co.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:kanesha.sterling@olympustrust.co.uk">kanesha.sterling@olympustrust.co.uk</a> |
| 7A | Mr F Barringer                   | <a href="mailto:finlay.barringer@olympustrust.co.uk">finlay.barringer@olympustrust.co.uk</a>  |
| 7T | Mr A Forward                     | <a href="mailto:andy.forward@olympustrust.co.uk">andy.forward@olympustrust.co.uk</a>  |
| 7C | Ms A Cornish                     | <a href="mailto:anna.cornish@olympustrust.co.uk">anna.cornish@olympustrust.co.uk</a>  |
| 7H | Mrs L Gilroy                     | <a href="mailto:leanne.gilroy@olympustrust.co.uk">leanne.gilroy@olympustrust.co.uk</a>  |
| 7W | Miss R Vina-Perez                | <a href="mailto:rut.vinaperez@olympustrust.co.uk">rut.vinaperez@olympustrust.co.uk</a>  |

## A Message from Ms Abigale Boyce – Head of Year 7

Thank you from me to all the Year 7's for an amazing start to Term 1, you have all adapted so well to secondary school life and earning an amazing amount of positive behaviour points. Noah's Ark Zoo Farm school trip was a fantastic day, we were very wet, but the year group took it in their stride and enjoyed the day. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my new year group and I am so pleased I get to take them through the year, and I look forward to Term 2. Well done to everyone in Year 7.



STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT

*We always love to hear about achievements out of school and share these on our website and social media*



As a school we encourage all parents to talk regularly to your child about online safety and social media. Please see our website for more information.

[Patchway Community School - Online Safety](#)

## Year 7 Individual Student Recognition

A special well done to our Year 7's who were nominated by their tutors for making a particularly good start to PCS and really demonstrating the core values of the Patchway way – **Be Kind**, **Work Hard**, and **Take Part**.

- **Finlay E** - Finley is always positive, gets involved in discussions and activities and is always happy to help new students/be kind to others. He is curious, enthusiastic and always tries his best.
- **Jacob M** - Jacob comes in with a great attitude, is helpful and kind to others. He makes sure people feel included and is an inquisitive learner. He is always happy to get involved in activities.
- **Paige A** and **Samual A** – These two students have both had a brilliant start to the year. They have engaged well with all lessons, and are always happy, positive, and willing to get involved with everything school life throws at them.
- **Conor M** – Conor is always being helpful and participating with FASE reading. He has had a positive start to the term.
- **Esmay C** – Esmay has had a strong start to the term participating in lots of different clubs and making friends.
- **Ruby M** and **Rhys D** – Ruby and Rhys have both had an amazing start to the year. They are always fully engaged in lessons, and both always demonstrated a positive attitude. Fantastic efforts!



### Lexi-Rose W

**Lexi-Rose W** has been selected to represent her country in cheerleading. She's made Team England AA Advanced and will be travelling to Florida in April 2025 to compete in the world championship.

This is an amazing achievement at 12 years old. Lexi has worked hard, giving her full commitment outside of school to her passion of cheerleading.

Congratulations Lexi and good luck in the World Championship.



# Years 8, 9, 10 and 11

The rest of the school have also returned to the new 2024/2025 academic year with a positive start to their learning and have been ambassadors in role modelling to our younger students.

See below for what the year leads had to say about their individual year groups...

"Our Year 8 students have settled well in this term, we have had lots of positives on the behaviour log, which is lovely to see. I really enjoyed going on the Y8 school trip to see the places of worship, the children were very well behaved and respectful in the Church, Synagogue and Mosque. I can't wait to continue our journey together this year."

**Year 8 – Ms Cousins**

"Year 9 students have come back from the summer holidays more mature and self-motivated. I have been impressed with the attitudes to learning and responses to rule changes in school. Highlights so far for me include The National Space Centre trip and our Year 9 boys Rugby team playing fixtures against other schools within the trust."

**Year 9 – Mr Plummer**

"Year 10 have transitioned smoothly into their new timetables, embracing their chosen options with dedication and focus. They have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to their studies, working hard to achieve their best."

**Year 10 – Mrs Fenlon**

"Year 11 have had a vastly positive first term back at school. They have thrown themselves into they're studies and have engaged well with their P7s."

**Year 11 – Mr Haskins**

# GCSE Results

Congratulations to the class of 2024 at Patchway Community School who have achieved come excellent GCSE results. All students should feel incredibly proud if themselves.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of grade 9s being awarded to students and the percentage of students achieving grades 9-7 has risen compared with previous years too. The percentage of students gaining a grade 5 or better in English and Maths has improved slightly.

Outcomes for students who have Special Educational Needs, and an Educational Health Care Plan have also improved.

# Mock Exams

Year 11 Mock examinations:  
November 2024

## Mock Timetable:-

| November |                                   |  |  |  |                                |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
|          | MONDAY                            | TUESDAY                                | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                       | FRIDAY                         |
|          | 11                                | 12                                     | 13   | 14   | 15                             |
| AM       | MOCK<br>ART                       | MOCK<br>History/Geography<br>2:00/1:30 | MOCK<br>English Language<br>1:45                 | MOCK<br>English Literature<br>1:45             | MOCK<br>Sport<br>1:30          |
| PM       | MOCK<br>ART                       | MOCK<br>Maths<br>1:30                  | MOCK<br>Biology<br>1:10/1:45                     | MOCK<br>Maths<br>1:30                          | MOCK<br>Chemistry<br>1:10/1:45 |
|          | 18                                | 19                                     | 20   | 21   | 22                             |
| AM       | MOCK<br>Maths<br>1:30             | MOCK<br>H&SC<br>1:30                   | MOCK<br>Computer Science<br>2:00                 | MOCK<br>PHOTOGRAPHY/DT/<br>Engineering<br>2:00 | Mock: Catch up                 |
| PM       | MOCK<br>Religious Studies<br>1:00 | MOCK<br>Physics<br>1:10/1:45           | MOCK<br>Hospitality/Geography<br>Catchup<br>1:30 | MOCK<br>PHOTOGRAPHY                            | Mock: Catch up                 |

## Next Steps:-

1. Working hard pays off – do not have any regrets when it comes to results day 2025 and wishing you had worked harder!
2. Attend all the intervention and P7 sessions being organised.
3. Ensure that you're prepared for the examinations and have everything you need – Get organised!
4. Talk to your teachers and get all the resources you need. • Support is always available, you must ensure that you seek people out for advice and guidance.

For more information, please visit the Mock Examination PowerPoint from Mr Lewis on our Website.

# Safeguarding

Patchway Community School recognises its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work together with other agencies to ensure effective early intervention takes place to identify, assess and support children who may be suffering from harm. Safeguarding our students is paramount and we respond promptly and robustly to any child protection or safeguarding concerns.

Our staff selection and interview process assesses all candidates' suitability and commitment to safeguarding children. All our staff receive yearly updates as part of their child protection training and named Child Protection staff receive annual training and specific updates on a range of safeguarding areas.

## Let's meet the team...



Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Catherine Walbridge**

[Catherine.Walbridge@olympustrust.co.uk](mailto:Catherine.Walbridge@olympustrust.co.uk)



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Kevin Sibley**

[Kevin.sibley@olympustrust.co.uk](mailto:Kevin.sibley@olympustrust.co.uk)

## [Online Safety Hub - The Olympus Academy Trust](#)



## National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with domestic violence there is a great deal of support available.

Please see links below, but please also feel 'safe to speak' to a member of the safeguarding team. As we know, some of our young people have experienced domestic violence at home.

If you have any concerns about a student potentially experiencing domestic violence, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

- [Homepage - National Domestic Abuse Helpline \(nationaldahelpline.org.uk\)](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk)
- [Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men | Men's Advice Line UK \(mensadviceline.org.uk\)](http://mensadviceline.org.uk)
- [I need help - information and support on domestic abuse \(womensaid.org.uk\)](http://womensaid.org.uk)





# Drop Down Day

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October the school took part in our Enrichment Drop Down Day where students took part in a range of educational and enriching visits and in school activities to help support their wider personal development beyond the academic education they receive in school.

## Year 7

Year 7 headed out to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm supporting their learning of the Modern Foreign Languages curriculum. Whether learning Spanish or French they furthered their knowledge of numbers, colours, animals and the rules of adjectival agreement. Despite the awful weather conditions on the day, the students completed an animal hunt and took part in animal workshop before enjoying their free time to look at the animals and play in the play area. All the students had a wonderful time.



## Year 8

Year 8 had the opportunity to visit 3 places of Worship in Bristol, a Baptist Church, a Synagogue and a Mosque. The focus was on Exploring and analysing practices of the three Abrahamic faiths which students study in KS3 and into GCSE. It was an opportunity for pupils to learn more about the diverse range of cultures in our community, as well as providing a platform for pupils to ask questions to religious believers about their experiences with faith and how it shapes their lives. Our students really enjoyed their day.



## Year 9

It was an early start for our Year 9 students who visited the National Space Centre in Leicester. This trip provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to learn outside the classroom, explore real-world applications of their studies, and develop a deeper appreciation for the wonders of space. During the visit, the students had the opportunity to explore key concepts, including Earth and Space, Forces and Motion and the Properties of Materials. It was smiles all round on the students return to school.



Year 10 and Year 11

Year 10 and Year 11 stayed in school during Dropdown Day following a clasped timetable based on Mental Health, Wellbeing and Revision time. Students stayed in their tutor groups for most of the morning discussing Mental Health and 6 ways to happiness, they then had the opportunity to attend a workshop in the hall which was ran by an external professional delivering key information to support their Health and Wellbeing. After lunch students completed some crucial revision lessons in Maths and English. It was a positive day with lots of open and honest discussions around these important subjects and sharing the importance of looking after your own Mental Health as well as those around you.



**Stress Workshop– delivered by specialist mental health and well-being practitioners**

**Growth Mindset – a presentation from ‘Junior’ which includes:**

- Junior’s personal life story and a life in foster care
- The power of resilience
- Becoming the best version of yourself while in school and life/ growth mindset
- How to deal with anger
- Finding your passion
- Reactive vs proactive mindset
- The power of commutation and how to use it
- How to become more focused
- Self-love





It's been a busy but successful start to the academic year for Careers, Year 11 students started the term off with a trip to the University of the West of England and our Year 8's have finished it with a trip to the University of Bristol. We have had internal interventions that students have participated in, as well as a Mock interview Day for our Year 11's. Students have really enjoyed their involvement, and we have lots to look forward to in Term 2 – Please check out our diary dates on the next page..

## Year 11 visit to UWE

40 students were able to visit UWE for the to find out more about the realities of University life. Through games and activities, they learned what the frequently used jargon means (campus? undergraduate?) and how to balance their learning, finances and wellbeing. They went on a tour around the campus where highlights included the F1 car built by UWE students and, inevitably, the catering facilities. When asked, students said “they felt more inclined to aim for university than they had before they went on the trip”



## Renishaw visit for Neurodiverse students

A group of 9 students from Years 10 and 11 had a fascinating morning at Renishaw, a leading engineering firm in Gloucestershire which champions a neurodiverse workforce. We had a tour (where we met an interactive Gromit programmed by Renishaw staff), took part in some talks and activities and engineered our own multicoloured torches. The feedback at the end showed that overall students felt more positive about careers in engineering and understood both the apprenticeship and university routes available.



## Year 11 Mock Interview Day

We were joined by almost 40 members of the local business community for mock interview day this term. Students had worked on questions and CVs in PSHE lessons and tutor time and despite some nerves, presented themselves well. The interviewers were extremely impressed with our students' positive attitudes describing them as charismatic, open, friendly and ambitious. Well done Year 11!



### Year 8 visit to University of Bristol

To celebrate its 10th birthday, the Life Sciences department invited us to bring a group of Y8 students to see the facilities and take part in lab-based activities. We identified skeletons, looked at plant samples under the microscope, assessed how clean a river is and saw how some creatures camouflage themselves in the wild. As well as being a very enjoyable experience, this was a great opportunity to visit a University and understand more about the work of scientists from the professionals themselves.



### What's coming up...



#### **Year 11 - 1:1 Meetings**

All students are entitled to a 1:1 meeting with a qualified careers advisor to discuss their next steps for P16 education and training. Mrs Shute has started these this term and will continue to meet with student's next term. Some students ask for the meeting notes to be shared with parents/ carers so keep an eye on your inbox.

#### **Year 10 - Envision Team**

The team have made a great start this term and will continue with weekly sessions and one trip out to St James' place next term

#### **Year 7 and Year 8 STEM Event with BAE Systems**

On **6th November**, all students in Y7 and 8 will be watching a science show from BAE systems about electricity and its impact on our world. A poster for the event is attached [HERE](#)

#### **Year 10 - Work Experience Launch**

Y10 will be having an assembly in the first week back after half term to explain all about work experience (WEX) which will take place in the week of **3-7 March 2025**

#### **Year 9 to Year 11 - PCS Careers Fair**

On **29th November** we will be holding our careers fair in school during the school day.

#### **Allied Healthcare Professionals Event**

We will be welcoming members of the Allied Healthcare professions to school to tell our Year 10 students more about the 350 NHS jobs they may never have heard of. From prosthetics engineers to radiographers to paramedics, there is a job for everyone. Students will need to sign up for this event.

#### **Careers Drop In**

Students from all years are invited to chat to Mrs Shute in the Library on a Monday lunchtime to ask any questions they may have related to their future work and learning.

# General Information

## Insurance

If your child brings personal items, including mobile phones, into school they must make sure they are locked away and stored safely as the Trust insurance does not cover personal items that are brought into school. We would advise not bringing valuable items to school but, if this is necessary, you will need to arrange your own insurance cover.

Bikes and scooters are brought to schools at the owner's risk. Bikes should be parked in the relevant bike sheds and locked using a secure D-type lock or similar. The schools cannot take responsibility for any damage or theft of items from the school sites and this will not be covered by the Trust insurance

## Studybugs – Report absence securely and help improve children's health.

Patchway recently introduced a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called 'Studybugs'. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Get it from Microsoft

Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health  
See what illnesses are going around  
Secure system, all communications encrypted

Working in partnership with: NHS, Department of Health, NHS Digital, NHS.uk, NHS App, NHS Choices, NHS 24, NHS Direct, NHS.uk, NHS App, NHS Choices, NHS 24, NHS Direct, NHS.uk

Studybugs

### Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs:-

1. It's integrated with our systems, so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health.

## PCS on social media



## Enrichment 2025

Don't forget if you would like your child to go on either of our residential trips next year, you need to sign up before the deadline date on **31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email our Office Manager Tania Hull.



# Other News

## Half-Term Book Character Pumpkin Carving Competition

- Carve a pumpkin in the design of a book character and write a short summary explaining what the book is about.
- Send a photo of your pumpkin and your summary to Mrs Roberts at the following address:
- [Kerry.Roberts@olympustrust.co.uk](mailto:Kerry.Roberts@olympustrust.co.uk)
- Amazon vouchers and other prizes are available for the winning entries.

The deadline for entries is **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**



If your child is interested in joining a rugby team but transport and accessibility is an issue, then both North Bristol and Bristol Saracens are part of the STAR rugby scheme.

This is a scheme set up to allow access to rugby for all. They provide access and resources that a young person and family might need to enable them to engage with the sport from kit to transport.

For more details, please contact Mr Forward ([andrew.forward@olympustrust.co.uk](mailto:andrew.forward@olympustrust.co.uk)) and he will support you with the relevant details to sign up and join.

Our school uniform supplier, Monkhouse, is offering a huge **20% off** everything **in-stores only**, starting on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024** and finishing on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**.

If you need to top up on any uniform, P.E. kit items or need a refresh on your everyday essentials and stationery, now is the time to shop (**offer not available on the Monkhouse website**).

