

Friday 13th February 2026

## A Message From Mr Landers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been an eventful and deeply moving half term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect. This has been a period marked by remarkable achievements, inspiring experiences, and, unfortunately—the profound sadness of losing one of our own. Through it all, the strength and compassion shown by our learners, families, and staff have reminded me once again what a special community we are privileged to be part of.

There is much to celebrate from the past few weeks. Our Year 11 students have demonstrated exceptional commitment as they continue preparing for their GCSE examinations and working on their college applications. Their determination and perseverance have been truly impressive, and we are proud of the focus they have shown during such an important stage in their school journey.

We were also delighted by our pupils' achievements in the Dudley Maths Challenge, where several of our learners performed brilliantly and represented the school with real enthusiasm and talent. Opportunities such as these not only showcase academic strengths but also encourage teamwork and confidence.

This half term also saw us host a series of powerful theatre productions centred around themes of safety, wellbeing, and mental health. These performances sparked important discussions among our students and provided them with meaningful insights into issues that affect the lives of young people today. We remain committed to supporting their emotional and social development just as strongly as their academic progress.

Another highlight was the visit from Girton College, Oxford, as part of our Aspire to HE programme. Their workshops and discussions helped our learners think ambitiously about the future and understand that places at top universities are within their reach. Raising aspirations and showing pupils the breadth of possibilities available to them continues to be a core part of our mission.

However, amidst these achievements, we have also faced an unimaginable loss. The sudden death of a much-loved pupil in Year 8 has left our entire community heartbroken. This has been an incredibly difficult time, and the grief felt by students, staff, and families has been profound. In the face of this tragedy, though, we have witnessed extraordinary kindness. The love, generosity, and support shown by our learners and families—towards the pupil's family, and towards one another—have been deeply moving. Your compassion has been a source of strength for us all, and on behalf of the school, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks.

As we look ahead, we do so together: proud of what we have achieved, mindful of what we have lost, and united in our commitment to support, encourage, and care for our young people.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr A Landers, Principal



## MFL

Learners are celebrated each week by all staff in the MFL department and each half term, each weeks winners are put into a pot to be drawn out for a chance of winning a £10 Amazon voucher.

A huge well done to all of this half terms weekly winners (listed below) and keep an eye on our socials to see who has been drawn as the winners of the Amazon voucher!

Year 7 Winners - Ayat Z, Myleigh C, Ruqiyah A, Samara C & Muhammed S

Year 8 Winners - Lexi-Anne W, Alex K & Chris O

Year 9 Winners - Crystal M, Alesia M, Sophie B, Lily C, Precious O, Erin S & Kiki O

Year 10 Winners - Angel M, Aisha B, Dilpreet D, Shaniya W, Jessica W & Zhovan A

Year 11 Winners - Matthew C, Zulfa S, Chloe G, Alfie B, Varinder D & Fatima D

## Challenge Academy

This half term, a small group of Year 7 students have been taking part in a targeted intervention programme at Baggeridge Challenge Academy, with a focus on building confidence, resilience and teamwork through outdoor learning.

During their sessions, students have been encouraged to step outside their comfort zones and work together to overcome a range of physical and mental challenges. Activities have included high ropes and wall-climbing challenges, alongside practical survival skills, all designed to promote problem-solving, communication and perseverance. The programme has given learners the opportunity to develop self-belief, learn how to support one another, and reflect on how resilience can be applied both in school and everyday life.



## Lost Property

Please remind your child that if they ever lose something in school, to come to the Resources office to see if it has been handed in.

We have also placed a rail in the canteen that is full of lost coats, jumpers and bags for learners to check if they have lost anything previously.

Can you also remind learners to try and keep everything they bring into school as safe as possible and remember to put names on belongings so we can get items back to their owners easier.

Thank you for your ongoing support and co operation with this.



## Parent App

Please ensure you're signed up to our new parent app My Child at School.

It is vitally important you have this app downloaded to enable full communication between the Academy and home. We are limiting the amount we post home and also allows parents to keep an eye on everything their child is doing whilst at the academy.

It is available to download on all devices via the app store.



## Stars of the Month

A massive congratulations to the following learners who achieved the most merits per form for this half term!

### Year 7

Jack M  
Poppy J-S  
Kayla M  
Leanda Z  
Denny W  
Ranwa R

### Year 8

Ismail B  
Kyra O  
Abel C  
Tanweer M  
Gerrard T

### Year 9

Rayan K  
Abu-Bakr S  
Haniyah M  
Tinuola A  
Awin A  
Erin S

### Year 10

Chantae D  
Fatima B  
Arnav J  
Brandon B-H  
Dilpreet D

### Year 11

Lamees M  
Amy G  
Alesha B  
Jt G  
Touheed A  
Archie B



## Uniform Plea

As you may be aware, as an academy we give out lots of loan items to learners on a daily basis. As a result, we are finding that stock levels are getting lower as not all items are being returned.

If you have any pre loved uniform that no longer fits or isn't being used any more, we would really appreciate it if you would consider donating this to us so we can replenish some of our loan items. Thank you for your continued support.



# Breakfast & Homework Club

All students are invited to attend our Breakfast & Homework Clubs

These run Monday - Friday  
in Room A03

**Breakfast Club**  
8.00am until 8.40am  
Free breakfast provided!

**Homework Club**  
3.10pm until 4.00pm



[facebook.com/PegasusDudley](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusDudley)



[@PegasusDudley](https://twitter.com/PegasusDudley)



# Computing

As part of their Python project, Year 9 learners have researched the key principles of the Data Protection Act (DPA). Their focus has been on understanding how personal data should be handled responsibly when designing and writing programs. They have been learning about the Data Protection Act as can be seen in Olamide O's work here:

## Purpose and Principles of the Data Protection Act

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Fair and Lawful</b>	Data must be processed fairly and lawfully.
<b>Purposes</b>	Collected for specific lawful purposes only.
<b>Adequacy</b>	Data should be adequate, relevant, and not excessive.
<b>Accuracy</b>	Information must be accurate and up to date.
<b>Retention</b>	Data should not be kept longer than necessary.
<b>Rights</b>	Respect individuals' rights under the Act.
<b>Security</b>	Protect data against unauthorized access or loss.
<b>International Transfers</b>	No transfer outside EEA without adequate protection.

## Contacting the Academy

When attempting to reach us via email, please be aware that our office email address (office@pegasusacademy.org.uk) is monitored but does not go directly to the member of staff it is intended for - we aim to respond within 24 hours.

Please see below some email address you may find useful and will go straight to the member of staff you need.

Attendance - attendance.office@pegasusacademy.org.uk

Reception - reception@pegasusacademy.org.uk

## Term Time Absence

Can we please remind you that if you are planning to take your child out of school during term time for any reason (including for religious festivals), you will need to complete a Leave of Absence Request form providing your intended dates, before your child takes any time off school.

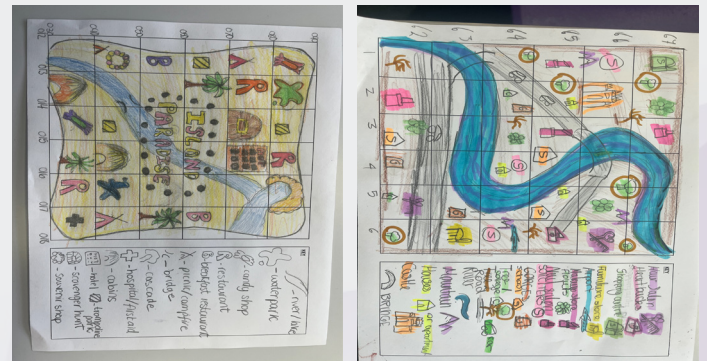
This will be given to the Principal for consideration and approval.

Please note that term time holidays will not be authorised and you may be liable to a fixed term Penalty Notice if you choose to take your child on holiday during term time.

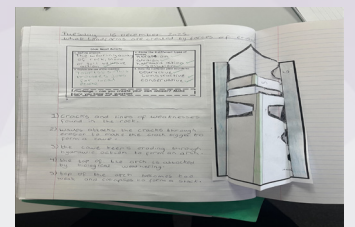
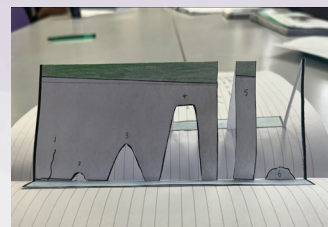
Please speak to the attendance office for more details.

## Geography

It's been a busy start to the new year in our Geography department. Year 7 geographers have summarised their 'where in the world topic' by designing their very own maps at home. It gave learners a chance to be creative and competitive - Miss Bratt has loved seeing them all!



Year 8 have been applying their geography knowledge of erosional landforms at the coast by making their very own annotated pop-up sea stack! The learners loved getting creative and seeing geography come to life in their own books.



And finally, The Pegasus Flag has made it to Antarctica!

The flag has arrived this year at Sky Bly Field Station. It was taken by Simon Verspeck who is a field guide with British Antarctic Survey!



## Punctuality Reminders

Punctuality is important to ensure that no learning is missed. Late arrivals to class disrupt the lesson for the teacher and those learners who arrived on time. Learners who arrive late will be issued with a line. If they arrive late twice in one week, they will be issued a detention. Learners who arrive after 9.10am may be given a 'U' mark which means they will lose the whole AM mark. Please continue to support your youngsters to establish good routines to arrive on time daily by following these tips:

- Ensuring that they have a good bedtime routine (including not staying up too late or having screen time late into the night).
- Ensuring that they have arrangements in place to wake them up (this could be an alarm set or arrangement to be woken at a set time) and have a realistic morning routine.
- Ask to see your child's planner to monitor their lates yourself and encourage/reward them when they are getting it right, ie not getting any late lines, or apply sanctions at home for late lines.
- Have a conversation with them and us if you are concerned about what you see in their planner.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 23rd February 2026 - Academy re-opens for all learners after Half Term**

**Thursday 26th February 2026 - Year 9 Parents Evening**

**Thursday 12th March 2026 - Year 9 Pathways Launch Evening**

**Wednesday 18th March 2026 - Year 10 Parents Evening**

**Friday 20th March 2026 - INSET Day (Academy closed for all learners)**

**Friday 27th March 2026 - Academy closes for Easter Holiday**

## Speed Typing Competition

Our Business & Computing department ran their annual Speed Typing Competition for Year 7 & 8 learners this half term. It gave learners the chance to show off their skills to try and win some excellent prizes!

A big well done to everyone who gave it a go, it appears we have some very fast typers in the building!

### Year 7 Winners

- 1st Place - Joanna K with 53.6 words per minute winning an Echo Dot
- 2nd Place - Sufyaan M with 53 words per minute winning a selection box
- 3rd Place - Sienna W with 34.9 words per minute winning a selection box

### Year 8 Winners

- 1st Place - Olivia V with 54.4 words per minute winning an Echo Dot
- 2nd Place - Ahmed D with 40.2 words per minute winning a selection box
- 3rd Place - Aisha M with 35.3 words per minute winning a selection box



## PE

It's been another fantastic half term over in our PE department with sporting fixtures continuing and a host of extracurricular clubs taking place after school.

This half term has been a busy one for our basketball teams with the Year 8 boys remaining undefeated for the second year in a row!

The Year 9 boys have had a couple of convincing wins this basketball season and are developing well as they prepare for Year 10. The girls have also played a couple of matches this half term, including beating Beacon Hill, and it is great to see them improving as a team.

We have had around 15–20 learners attending basketball training regularly this half term across both KS3 and KS4. With the next half term starting after the February break, we're looking forward to the football season kicking off as well — giving our teams another exciting opportunity to compete and develop!



## English

This half-term, we have seen a rise in the number of learners who attend debate club which has been great to be a part of.

These learners have been working on their communication skills as well as how to form a formal opinion. Our most recent topic has seen students debate about whether or not the UK should become a dictatorship!

As a department, we are looking forward to seeing the professional development that these students will continue to grow, as well as the critical opinions that they are beginning to develop.

For anybody wishing to join the club, please speak to Mrs Yates in B15 for more information!

## UK Maths Challenge

Learners from Year 9, 10 and 11 recently competed in a National Competition organised by the UK Maths Trust and we can now confirm that the results are in!

A massive well done to the 19 learners that achieved a certificate for their outstanding efforts.

The results (In terms of the house competition):

1st place - Athena (awarded 100 points)

2nd Place - Apollo (awarded 75 points)

3rd Place - Zeus (awarded 50 points)

Well done to all 60 learners that took part and we hope that you enjoyed it.

Here is a question from the challenge to feast your eyes on, do you have what it takes to solve the problem?

11. In the addition shown, the digits  $C, I, K, M, T$  and  $U$  represent different digits.

$$\begin{array}{r} U \ K \ M \ T \\ + \ I \ M \ C \\ \hline 2 \ 0 \ 2 \ 6 \end{array}$$

What is the value of  $T + I + C + K$ ?

A 6

B 15

C 16

D 25

E More information needed

A further congratulations to 3 of the highest performers in the competition pictured below. Tianna E & Professor A achieved a silver award and Joshua B achieved the gold award - well done all!



These national competitions run annually, if you want more information about any of the upcoming Maths competitions, pop over to the department and speak to Mr Nation.



facebook.com/PegasusDudley



@PegasusDudley



# Safeguarding

Please see below some very important articles that Miss Griffiths wanted to share with you all this half term. As always, we hope you enjoy the well deserved break and come back well rested after the holiday!

At the National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional and personal development. In one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many topics which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) for further information and resources.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.4% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings, vaping in school toilets, and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**NICOTINE ADDICTION**  
Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, worsen mood, affect sleep and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

**WHAT IS VAPING?**  
Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice or e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on a device). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

**LACK OF AWARENESS**  
A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, either because of the product's appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the long-term addiction risk as they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

**POTENTIAL TOXICITY**  
Many vape liquids have been found to contain "heavy metals" such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury - all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

**WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS**  
Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria - resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

**UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS**  
The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing heavy chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the manufacturers include unregulated products that are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked - presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

**SCARCE INFORMATION**  
The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vapes don't comply with the UK content label of 1%, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging - with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

**VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS**  
Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some e-cigarettes can produce some respiratory and cardiovascular issues in lab rats in the form of asthma and heart. These ingredients aren't detailed on the packaging, instead hidden under umbrella terms "natural and artificial flavourings". Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

**UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES**  
The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes are very inexpensive (up to 20% off some cases) and because of the relatively short lifespan many people buy them in bulk, which means they are often used before the manufacturer's recommended lifespan. This means that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

**ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING**  
The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently mimicking the colours and flavours of the sweet or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and social media which depicts positively on social media which can lead young people to develop harmful ideas of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**  
In the UK alone, around 8 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. One to two million numbers of these products not being recycled, their components (including lithium battery and a chemical liquid - pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. They are also predominantly made of plastic and metal materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Centre  
Commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. Each year we run a range of programmes aimed at young people to help to improve their lives through a combination of individual and community-based activities.

nationalcollege.com @thenationalcollege /thenationalcollege

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.04.2023

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DEEPIFAKES

A "deepfake" generates photos, videos and audio via AI models trained on the subject to mimic their look and sound, making it appear they said words or committed acts that never occurred. While initially unsophisticated and easy to identify, deepfakes are increasingly more convincing as the technology behind them continues to improve at a solid pace.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**FAKE NEWS**  
With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of photos and clips to train AI from, deepfakes are often used to spread fake news, propaganda and scams. For example, in 2023, an audio deepfake of Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer designed to make him sound like he was berating an aid was pushed by propagandists on X.

**EXTORTION**  
You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake - you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you could become a target without even doing anything. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncomfortable position could make the victim pay up, even if the scenes depicted are entirely fictitious.

**SCAMS**  
With the right training material, deepfakes can be made from anyone's voice and appearance, and that means scammers can take advantage. In 2019, criminals skimmed the voice of an energy company's CEO to steal £220,000 from the company, and private citizens have also been targeted. In 2023, an Arizona mother was the subject of a fake kidnapping phone call, using deepfaked audio of her daughter pleading for her life.

**EXPLICIT MATERIAL**  
A 2019 report claimed that 96% of deepfake videos were pornographic in nature. In other words, users were realistically superimposing the faces of other people onto the bodies of pornographic actors. This is creepy in its own right but can also lead to the kind of extortion highlighted above if the video looks convincing enough. Indeed, the FBI warned about this phenomenon in 2023.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**KEEP THOSE PROFILES PRIVATE**  
To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio, or video of the subject. This means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media, where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers away.

**USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE**  
More sophisticated deepfakes won't have obvious signs but can still be spotted with critical thinking and investigation. If you see a friend or family member in what you think is a deepfake, you could contact them directly and clear it up with them. For public figures, look them up to discover if the video you saw was legitimate. Also employ critical thinking - think about why this clip could have been made.

**KNOW THE SIGNS**  
While deepfake technology has come on in leaps and bounds in recent years, there are still telltale signs to look and listen out for. The process of creating deepfakes can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. If the mouth doesn't seem to be moving in relation to the words spoken, that's another telltale sign. For audio, listen out for mispronounced words and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

**INFORM AND EMPOWER CHILDREN**  
As well as emphasising the need for privacy and not trusting everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easier to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers, or other adults. Make sure they're aware of the harm this technology can cause and the ethics of manipulating someone's image in this way.

# Business Studies

A huge well done to Ms Aston's Business Studies learners who successfully ran the tuck shop at our recent Valentine's Day Disco! Their professionalism, teamwork, and enthusiasm helped make the event a fantastic success.

A special shoutout to Chantae, Angel, and Professor for all their hard work and brilliant effort throughout the evening!

