



A huge thank you to all of our families for their very kind donations. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity. You will certainly help to make lots of families in the community very happy over the festive period.

PCS Newsletter - 15th December 2023





Headteacher Update

Dear PCS Families

We have all been so proud of the students at PCS and I hope you will see from the links on the newsletter page, all of the wonderful, creative, charitable and enriching activities that they have been involved in.

There are so many opportunities for students to participate in such a wide variety of activities and it really is excellent to see them getting involved and making the most of them.

The launch of the House System as brought a fun and slightly competitive edge to the school and the positive way the students have embraced this has started to have an impact on the way they work together as a team and support each other.

Our named charity, the RNLI, is already benefitting from contributions and the raising of awareness, which at a time when people are struggling themselves, shows how empathetic our students are.

Please have restful winter breaks and look after each other.

Rachel Henocq
Headteacher



Year 7

After a strenuous and productive term, we find ourselves eagerly anticipating the start of the Christmas holidays. This term has been filled with opportunities for learning, progression, and successful endeavours, and I am delighted to inform you that the majority of Year 7 students have continuously impressed us.

I have had the pleasure of visiting numerous classes throughout the term, and it has been pleasing to see the students enthusiastic and engaged in their learning. Additionally, a considerable number of students have taken advantage of the various extracurricular clubs we offer, such as dance, football, netball, drama, chess, and anime. S

ome have even represented the school in football, netball, and cross country events. Others have showcased their talent by participating in the annual music concert through singing or playing musical instruments. Special congratulations go to Myah, Tianne, and Amelia, who spent countless hours rehearsing and performing in this year's Christmas show, "The Snow Queen."

I strongly encourage all Year 7 students who have not yet joined an afterschool activity to give it a try. There is something for everyone, and these clubs provide a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and acquire new skills.

Furthermore, Year 7 students have enthusiastically embraced a range of enriching and thought-provoking events presented by external speakers. These events included the geography game show, a road

safety performance by the East Sussex Road Safety Team, the One Punch workshop by the Connor Saunders Foundation, and an animal welfare and careers workshop by the Raystede Animal Rescue Centre.

As we previously announced in our newsletter, students had the chance to become part of the student leadership team. I would like to extend my congratulations to Harry K (Alfriston), Naomi L (Firle), Skye L (Wilmington), Josh K, Katia C-P, Roxy, and Ollie F (Jevington). They will join students from other year groups in making positive changes for both the school and the community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Year 7 students and their families a safe and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday, 3rd January.

Ms. McCaughan, Ms. Fernee & Ms. Robinson



Year 8

Dear Year 8's and families.

We are rapidly approaching the end of another term at PCS. It has been my first full term as Pastoral Lead for Year 8, and it has been fantastic getting to know lots of you and seeing focused, productive and meaningful learning occurring in your classes. I am blown away by the amount and diversity of talent in the year group, ranging from academic prowess to sporting superstars.



The penultimate week of term demonstrated this, as many of our Year 8's participated in the stunning school show the 'Snow Queen'. Lots of Year 8's gave up a massive amount of their time to help put this performance on, and it really showed, as it was excellent!

I am astonished by the amount of contribution this year group dedicates towards the school community, and will continue to strongly encourage this.

Our year group has a very large representation at student council, students have given up their own time to participate in discussions around school improvement, including suggestions on making our school environment eco-friendly. It's been great to see students carry on these discussions outside of the student council sessions and be so passionate about this pressing issue.

We have such a variety of afterschool activities at PCS and it is wonderful to see so many Year 8's involved in these. Many have been developing their creative writing skills with Mr Myson at his weekly creative writing club, whilst others have been improving their chess skills at the chess club. I would like to encourage students to revisit the array of afterschool activities on offer and set themselves a challenge of attending one in the new year!

We have some incredibly talented sportspeople in year 8 who have been representing the school in a variety of sports. Each time they return from an away fixture, I receive communication from the staff that took them there or the school they visited to tell me how fantastically polite, kind and sporting they are. Well done!

On the subject of physical activity, I would like to say well done to everyone who has attended our Friday morning 'ParkRun' event, it has been such a great way to get to know some of you and it really is a fantastic way to start a Friday!

I would like to thank all the parents who came to the meet-the-tutor event. It was great to meet so many of you. Looking ahead to the New Year, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of coming to school every day. This is the most important thing to do to ensure we are not missing out on any valuable learning.

As we normally do towards the end of term, we are seeing more Year 8s who are not fully equipped for school. Could I ask that you take the opportunity to restock on pens, pencils and rulers (great stocking fillers) so that you are ready to learn in the new year.

I hope you have a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Mr Millar, Mrs Brooks & Mr Radmore



Year 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and cooperation throughout this term. We value the strong partnership between us, the Year 9 Pastoral Team and you, parents and carers,

which greatly contributes to the success and well-being of our Year 9 students.

In the spirit of Christmas, PCS planned an array of exciting events and activities for our students in the last few weeks of term. The school's annual musical 'The Snow Queen' took place last week, providing an opportunity for our talented musicians, singers, and performers to showcase their skills.

The shows were magical and filled with delightful performances and joyous celebrations - well done to all our Year 9 students who took part.

In addition to the Christmas show, Year 9 have been involved in charitable initiatives including the food bank appeal to spread the spirit of kindness and generosity in our community. We encourage all students to actively participate in these initiatives, whether it's through volunteering, fundraising, or contributing to charitable causes. Let us continue to come together as a school community to make a positive difference in the lives of others this season.

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at PCS has been phenomenal this year - our biggest number to date - well done to our Year 9s! I am sure this is going to be an invaluable and rewarding experience for our students as they progress through the scheme.

Our Year 9 student Leadership Team is continuing to make us very proud - contributing to support our fantastic Christmas Lunch celebration this week - lots of students were talking about the experience - a massive thank you to all of our team who helped out.



On behalf of the Year 9 Team, we would like to wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas. May this festive season bring you warmth, love, and cherished moments together.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the upcoming year, ensuring that your child's education and well-being remain our utmost priorities. Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Merry Christmas to you and your families, we look forward to seeing you all in January 2024!

Best wishes,

Miss Pollard, Mr Thomsett and Mrs Waite



Year 10

Dear Year 10 and families, Year 10 have completed the first full term of their GCSEs and we are really starting to see the young adults that they will become.

We have been really impressed with the number of students who have successfully organised work experience placements and feel sure that they will go on to represent PCS brilliantly in the workplace next summer.

If your child hasn't yet organised a work experience placement, don't worry as there is still time; the Christmas holidays could be the perfect opportunity to speak with family and friends about their

career paths and to consider which path might be right for your child.

Please ask your child to go and speak with our excellent careers advisors in the library if they are still struggling after the holidays.

An impressive number of Year 10 students were involved in the school production of The Snow Queen last week. The show was a real success and they were so proud to have been part of the show and part of the team that made it all possible.

The music department also boasts a wealth of Year 10 talent and I am hoping that some of our young musicians will play the year out in our Christmas assembly on Friday following their successes in the Winter Concert. Well done to all our performers for getting involved and enriching our school community.

The music department also boasts a wealth of Year 10 talent and I am hoping that some of our young musicians will play the year out in our Christmas assembly on Friday following their successes in the Winter Concert. Well done to all our performers for getting involved and enriching our school community.

Whilst Christmas and the New Year are a time for celebration, they are also a time for reflection. If you haven't had the best term, now is a great time to look back on the year and consider what changes you want to make in 2024.

Be honest and realistic: what do you want to change? Can you make one small step in the new year to make this happen? How can you be a better friend or classmate? How can you be a better learner?

In these dark winter days it can be difficult to focus on the positives, but the solstice is coming and from 22nd December the light starts to return to us, slowly but surely.

Remember that brighter days are just around the corner.

We all wish you a wonderful, and safe, Christmas holiday with your families.

Merry Christmas to those who celebrate and a restful holiday to all,

Mrs Willis, Mrs Powell and Mrs Elliott



Year 11

Merry Christmas Yr 11 families,

As the year draws to a close, we have a great deal to celebrate. I have lost count of the occasions staff have sent me emails to express how amazing the pupils have been in class. The majority really have started the year excellently.

This is a busy and important year and your children have already achieved so much: mock exams, college visits, college applications, mock-employer interviews, the Christmas play, and of course lots of learning!

Some college interviews have already taken place and we have another set of mocks and another parents' evening in the calendar for after Christmas.

We know that some students are beginning to feel the pressure of



the looming examinations, so do encourage them to talk and help them to plan for the year ahead.

We will be running some exam anxiety workshops in school and there are a number of revision sessions available each week within subject areas.

There have been many families that have been struck down by illness this term, but do try to encourage your children to attend school if at all possible.

The time between now and exam season will fly by, and every lesson really does count in the run up to the summer examination series.

It is with great sadness that we say our farewells to Mrs Didcote, my fantastic assistant head of year.

Quite frankly it feels like I'm losing my right arm and I'm not quite sure how I'll function without her. Mrs Didcote has worked at PCS for over 20 years in many areas of the school. But she really has found her calling working in the Pastoral team, supporting the pupils and giving them a stern talking to when and if they need it...the balance has been just right. I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Didcote all the best in the future.

All that is left for us to do is wish you all a happy, healthy and restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Miss Leggett and Mrs Didcote



THE SNOW QUEEN

BASED ON A STORY BY
HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

AUTHORED BY
RON NICOL

DECEMBER 6TH, 7TH & 8TH
6.30PM AT PCS
TICKET PRICES - £3.00 STUDENTS & £6.50 ADULTS

This amateur production of "The Snow Queen (Nicol)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

The New PCS Houses

Firle



Jevington



Wilmington



Alfriston

