

Our first ever sponsored walk was also a huge success. It was great to see all of the school out in the local community and acting as true ambassadors, displaying exemplary behaviour - which has been commented on by people on various social media platforms. Despite it being an intended 10 mile walk, the vast majority of students walked over 13 miles (some of us less, due to injuries sustained along the way!).

We ran our first two Parent Engagement in Learning Evenings yesterday for Years 10 & 11. I would like to thank the parents, carers and students who attended and from your immediate feedback, you seemed to find it useful. The aim of these evenings is to explain a bit about what your child will be studying across the year and how you, as parents, can support them. Recent studies have indicated that you can improve your child's progress by four months every year if you actively engage in their learning and schooling. I hope that we see more of you at our next event. The slides have been sent to you and the students today.

As expected, illness has also been quite prevalent this term. It is important that we try to encourage students to attend school, as any days missed means potentially significant learning lost. Also, there is increasing pressure from external sources to ensure high attendance and we are desperately trying to work with families to support them through this process. In addition, I also want to reassure you that I am working with some staff members to get them back into school so that they are able to deliver the quality lessons that our students deserve.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank two members of staff. Miss Du Toit has 'half-left' the school to pursue a full-time teaching commitment. However, she remains a member of staff for the rest of this year as she has agreed to continue to teach and tutor our Year 11 Music students after school; so we will say our official goodbyes in July. The second farewell is to Cheryl, my PA. Cheryl has been an absolute asset to our school and to me particularly. I would like to thank her for all of her support over the years as well as her counsel; she will be truly missed. I wish her the very best in her new position in one of our sister schools.

So, have a great half-term break and we will see you next term.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

Neil Pritchard

HEAD TEACHER

REWARDS - MR LEWIS

We would like to extend our wholehearted congratulations to all our students for their outstanding demonstration of our core school values: Respect, Determination, and Excellence throughout this term.

An exceptional effort has been made, with over 2,000 Tier 2 rewards earned and more than 300 Tier 3 reward cards issued and entered into our prize draws — a truly exceptional achievement. Well done to each and every one of you!

Looking ahead to Term 2, there will be even more opportunities to be recognised, with additional Tier 2 points now available for the completion of high-quality homework. We encourage all students to continue striving for success in demonstrating our values.

A special congratulations to our 15 prize draw winners to date, who will each receive their prizes this week.

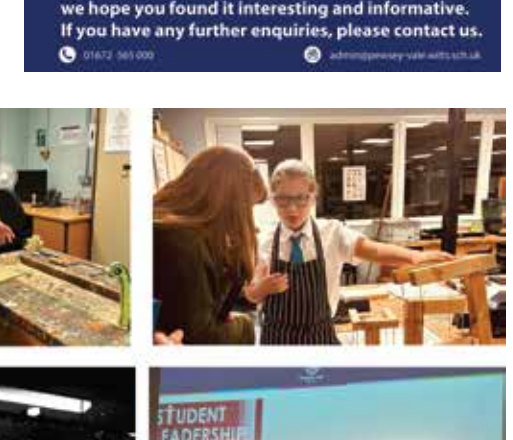
Keziah A-A	Isla H
Kian N	Molly H
Maverick H	Harrison B
Abigail E	Eve M
Abbie H	Jake S
Emilia L	Hayden H
Rubie F-G	Frank W
Theo M	

Keep up the fantastic work — we are incredibly proud of your efforts.



We are very proud of our extended school family and the bespoke care and opportunities we offer all our students.

Thank you to all the students, staff, PTFA and guests for making it another successful event.



SPONSORED WALK - MR HAYDON

Friday 26th September saw us embark on our very first 'sponsored walk'. Staff and students laced up their walking boots and headed off into the beautiful Wiltshire countryside, embracing the 10 mile route that lay ahead with energy and laughter.

With the weather on our side, student's displayed outstanding determination, encouraging and supporting each other to complete the route successfully (with the help of the ice cream van at our midway point). Despite some tired legs and sore feet towards the end of the day, the sense of achievement was everywhere.

We received some lovely feedback from local people during the day;

"I have just been on a dog walk and came across, in fact became part, of the sponsored walk Pewsey Vale School were holding this morning. I can't say enough positive comments about the children and how lovely, well behaved, and positive they all were. We stopped a few times to let groups of children pass, all were patient, positive, polite, even having a joke and a comment with us. This is so uplifting to experience, and I wanted to say a huge well done to Neil Pritchard and the teaching/supporting staff to enable this to happen. I hope the sponsored walk brings some funds for the school so the children can continue to benefit from this. And the children have done something healthy and fun to put them into a great frame of mind for the weekend."

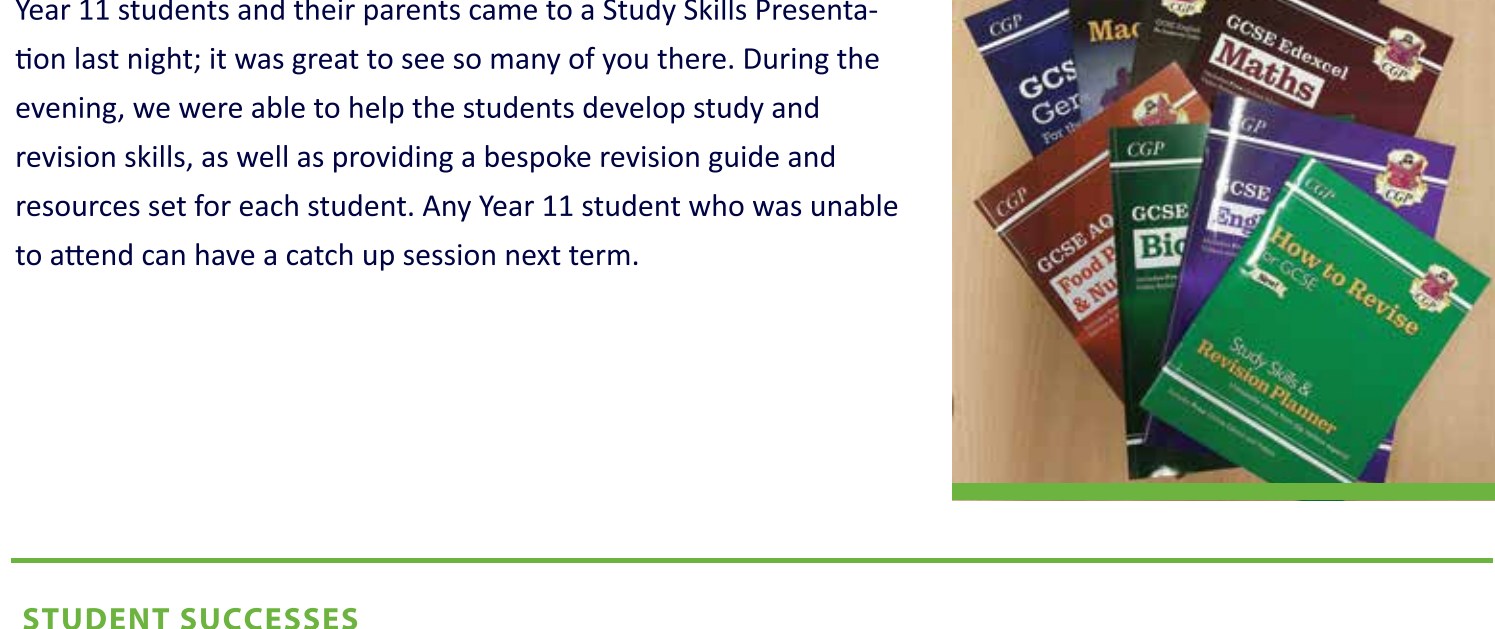
Alongside the walk itself, students were busy raising sponsorship support and have raised funds to support areas such as enrichment and rewards.

A massive thank you goes out to everyone who took part, volunteered or sponsored our walkers. We are already looking forward to doing it again next year!



YEAR 10 & 11 PELE - MR PRITCHARD

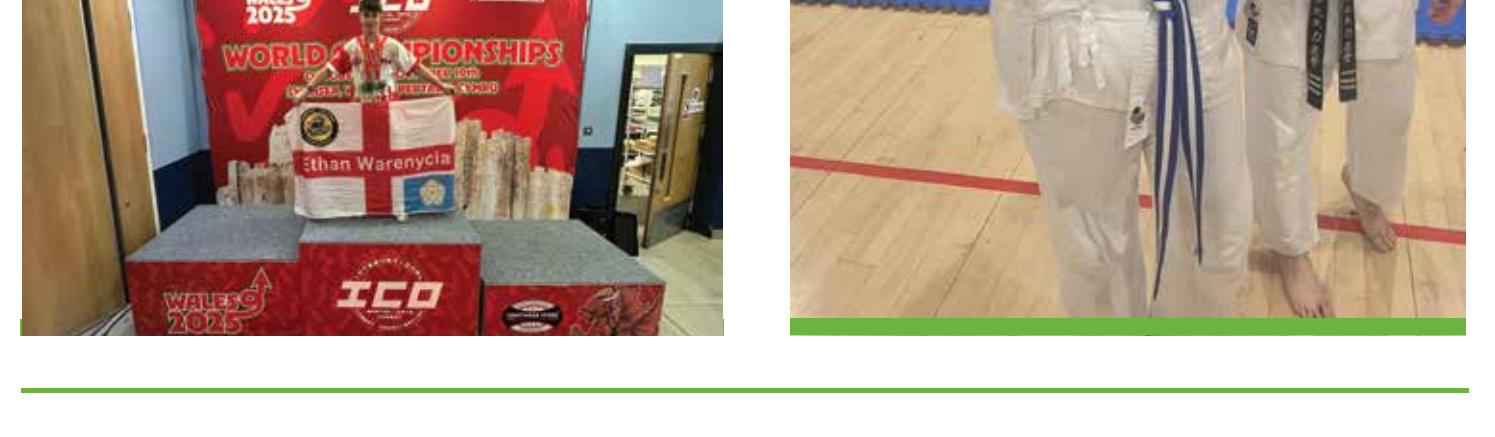
On Tuesday 21st October we held our Parent Engagement and Learning Evening for our Year 10 and Year 11 students. Both sessions were well attended by both students and parents, and were able to hear all about what they will be learning this academic year. The Year 11 students and parents were also given a Study Skills Presentation where we were able to help the students develop study and revision skills, as well as providing a bespoke revision guide and resources set for each student. Any Year 11 student who was unable to attend can have a catch up session next term.



MATHS - MR WATKINS

In preparation for their Maths Baseline Assessment, Year 9 took part in the MathsWatch100 competition which ran across all schools in the Acorn Trust.

Congratulations to Courtney R who was one of the best-performing students across all four schools. Honourable mentions go to Alfie M, Jacob B, Cameron W, Amelia R and Paige Q who also performed really well. These students will receive free pizza as a reward, and be entered into a raffle with the possibility of winning Amazon vouchers. Well done to all the students who took part.



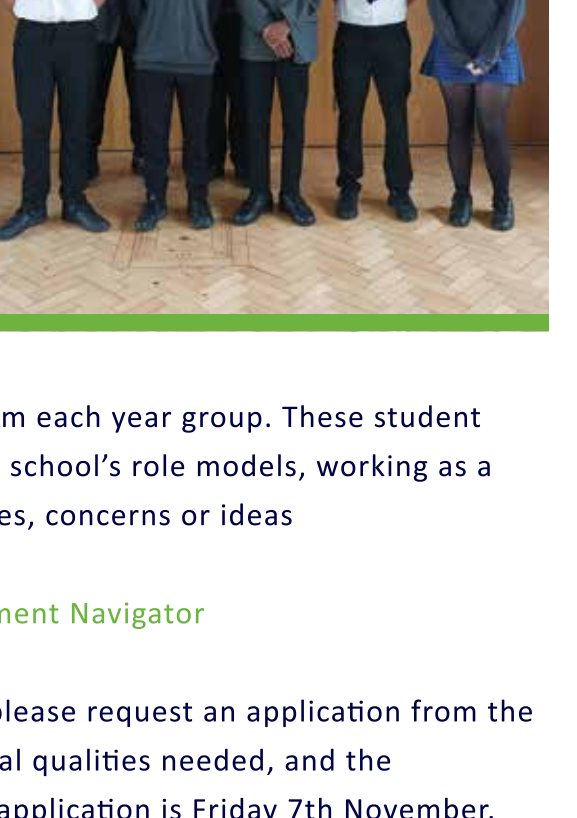
PHOTOGRAPHY - MRS VICKERY

Year 10 have made an outstanding start to the newly offered GCSE Photography course here at PVS. The students have learnt so much already and have enjoyed lots of hands-on practical work. We have focused on early photography methods including working on cyanotypes, pinhole cameras and photographs and have also explored macro photography this term. There has been some amazing portfolio work and the students can't wait to start our Gothic project in term 2. Well done everyone!



YEAR 11 STUDY SKILLS EVENING - MR PRITCHARD

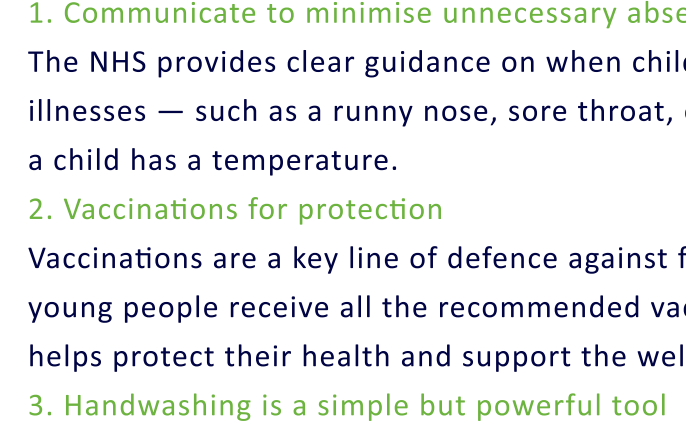
Year 11 students and their parents came to a Study Skills Presentation last night; it was great to see so many of you there. During the evening, we were able to help the students develop study and revision skills, as well as providing a bespoke revision guide and resources set for each student. Any Year 11 student who was unable to attend can have a catch up session next term.



STUDENT SUCCESSES

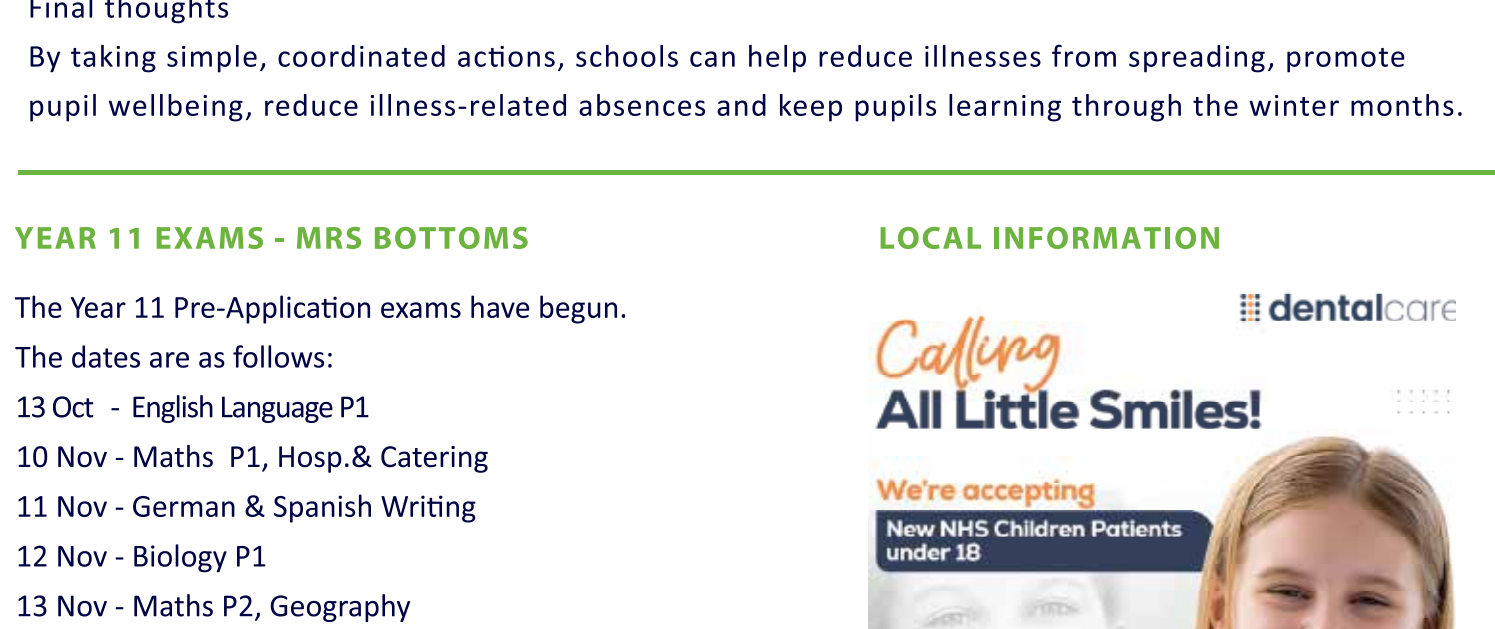
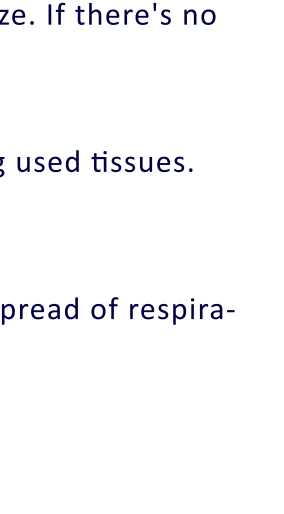
Huge congratulations to Ethan W who represented England at the recent ICHO World Combat Martial Arts Championships in Swansea, Wales. He gained a fantastic SILVER medal in both the Light Continuous and the Team Points Fighting categories.

Well done to Melanie R for gaining her Blue Belt in Karate. A blue belt in Karate signifies that a student is advancing past the beginner stages, showing a developing proficiency in techniques and a deeper understanding of the art. Well done Melanie, keep up the great work.



ART DEPARTMENT - PEWSEY CARNIVAL - MRS SLATER

I would like to congratulate some of our Year 9 and 10 students (Isabelle R, Willow C, Courtney P1, Charlotte C, Izzy S and Ella H) on creating a beautiful large carnival mural, for the COSSORS shop in Pewsey High Street. A huge triumph from the girls, with a very short turnaround and support from The Summers family, to transport it into town. I look forward to working with the same talented group of students for next year's creation!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP - MRS YOUNGS

I would like to introduce you to this year's Senior Student Team.

Kupa C - Head Boy
Bethany Q - Head Girl
Harry E - Deputy Head student



Supporting this team as Senior Navigators are; Jasmine K, Sophie O, Oliver H, Leon D and Olley S. We are very much looking forward to working with this team and seeing what improvements and activities they implement, supported by our full Student Navigator body, making up the Student Voice.

Our Student Voice is made up of elected student Navigators from each year group. These student Navigators represent the Voice of the student body and are the school's role models, working as a point of contact for students to approach with any specific issues, concerns or ideas relevant to their position i.e.;

- Curriculum Navigator
- Well-being & Enrichment Navigator
- Sports Navigator
- Creative Navigator

If your child is interested in the position of student Navigator, please request an application from the School Office. This form will outline the job description, personal qualities needed, and the application process. The deadline for students to hand in their application is Friday 7th November. They will then sit an informal interview with chosen members of the Senior Student Leadership Team.

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS THIS WINTER: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance

Chief Scientific Adviser at Department for Education sets out small actions for maximum impact.

As the colder months approach, we can expect to see increases in common airborne viruses. Illness is the biggest single reason for school absence; while some absences due to illness are unavoidable, many can be reduced through simple, proactive measures that minimise the spread of infections.

1. Communicate to minimise unnecessary absence

The NHS provides clear guidance on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild illnesses — such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough — do not require time off school, unless a child has a temperature.

2. Vaccinations for protection

Vaccinations are a key line of defence against flu and other preventable illnesses. When children and young people receive all the recommended vaccines in the national immunisation programme, it helps protect their health and support the wellbeing of the whole school community.

3. Handwashing is a simple but powerful tool

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs, particularly those that cause diarrhoea or vomiting.

4. Catch It, Bin It, Kill It approach to respiratory hygiene

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases, but simple everyday habits can help stop infection from spreading. Encourage these easy habits:

Catch it: Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. If there's no tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
Bin it: Throw the used tissue straight into a bin.
Kill it: Wash hands with soap and water after coughing, sneezing, or touching used tissues. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

5. Good ventilation to provide fresh air

Good ventilation can help remove air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of respiratory infections such as colds, flu and COVID-19.

6. Cleaning to keep a safe and healthy school environment

Regular cleaning helps reduce the spread of germs on surfaces.

7. Behavioural reminders: Small habits, big impact

Children benefit from regular reminders about hygiene and illness prevention.

Final thoughts

By taking simple, coordinated actions, schools can help reduce illnesses from spreading, promote pupil wellbeing, reduce illness-related absences and keep pupils learning through the winter months.

YEAR 11 EXAMS - MRS BOTTOMS

The Year 11 Pre-Application exams have begun.

The dates are as follows:

- 13 Oct - English Language P1
- 10 Nov - Maths P1, Hosp. & Catering
- 11 Nov - German & Spanish Writing
- 12 Nov - Biology P1
- 13 Nov - Maths P2, Geography
- 14 Nov - Chemistry P1, History (Weimar & Nazi Germ)
- 17 Nov - Spanish Listening & Reading, Maths P3
- 18 Nov - History (American West), English Lang. P2
- 19 Nov - Physics P1, Drama Component 1
- 20 Nov - Music, German Listening & Reading
- 21 Nov - English Lit P2

Students will attend normal timetabled lessons when not sitting an exam. Registration will take place in the

LOCAL INFORMATION

THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Please could we ask parents and carers that if you would like to speak with a member of staff regarding your child, please email your child's tutor, subject teacher or appropriate member of staff. If you would like to have an appointment with a member of staff, please can you book this in advance through the school office. Our staff are exceedingly busy during the school day and may not have the capacity to meet without an appointment. Many thanks for your understanding.

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