



Perton Middle School

In Federation with Codsall Community High School and Bilbrook CE (VC) Middle School

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Newsletter April 2019

At the time of writing we seem to have got to Easter without the extreme weather that blighted our Spring term last year. In fact, it has the distinct feel of Spring about it as the evenings become longer and lighter meaning everyone feels that little bit better after the long winter!

Perton Middle continues to go from strength to strength as staff and students work together to provide an outstanding educational environment. The school continues to grow with more families picking the school than ever and there is talk of waiting lists potentially being put in place for certain year groups! There is a tangible sense of pride and an evident desire for even higher levels of achievement at Perton Middle School. I'm very grateful to Mrs Dadge and all of the staff for making the school such an exciting place to be.

In the new term there will be the joy of KS2 SATs for Year 6 as well as the start of the many transitional activities for Year 8 as they begin the process of moving up to the High School. Before we all know it we will be approaching the end of the summer term but we will make sure that we continue to work exceptionally hard at ensuring that our students get the very best deal possible.

I hope that everyone has a great Easter break.



Mr Harding
Executive Headteacher

It has been a very busy term. I hope that you enjoy reading about the many wonderful activities that have taken place. As well as thinking about the wonderful learning that is happening in our classrooms this term I would like to reflect on the great learning that is happening at home and out in our community.

Earlier in the academic year I wrote that we were looking to work with a variety of partners to offer a wider range of Educational Visits. We wanted to do this for two key reasons: firstly, we wanted to provide opportunities for students to learn outside their classrooms. Secondly, we wanted students to experience a variety of work settings. Knowing what you want to do when you leave school is proven to have a significant impact on students' motivation to learn. This term we have been lucky enough to visit Virgin Trains Training School, The Houses of Parliament and Pizza Express. We have taken a group of Y7 scientists to The Big Bang Fair, Y8 to the Careers Fair at the NEC and we have also run a visit to The Harry Potter Studios. If your work place can facilitate students visiting, please let me know. This doesn't have to be large groups we can arrange for smaller groups with a particular interest to visit where appropriate.

Alongside this drive to help students know what they want to do when they leave school, we are also committing time to helping students understand how they learn. Our Knowledge Banks continue to evolve and develop. Next half term will see a few changes to the activities the students are being challenged to do. We are also working closely with Codsall High as the high school staff are keen to build on the work that has been done with our KS3 students. We are very grateful to the parents for the support they are giving the students to ensure that they get the most out of these learning opportunities. Please remember if you have any questions please email your child's form tutor in the first instance who will be happy to help. Mrs Burrington continues to offer drop in sessions each week for any students who would benefit from some additional guidance.

It has been a term of exciting team challenges with students heading off to a variety of competitions. These have included many sporting competitions but also technology competitions, maths competitions and the 'Solutions for the Planet' project. We are very proud of the way our students are such wonderful ambassadors for Perton Middle School wherever they go. In fact, one member of the public was so impressed with our students behaviour when she attended The Young Voices Concert back in January that she took time out to search us out online, find our phone number and rang to speak to me about how impressed she had been. She explained she had travelled from Northampton to hear her granddaughter sing with another school choir. She had ended up seated near our school and was so impressed she felt compelled to contact me. She spoke of the students' passion for singing, their participation and how well they had been prepared. She also commented on their manners and their behaviour.

On behalf of all of the students and parents I thank the staff who organise and prepare the students for these visits and events. Such a lot of work goes into making sure everyone can get the most out of these special days and I am very grateful to everyone who gives their own time up to ensure the students get these wonderful opportunities.

We look forward to the summer term and the many exciting opportunities it will bring; I wish everybody a very Happy Easter!



Alex Dadge
Headteacher

First Day Absence

It is important on the first day of your child's absence, to call or leave a message before 9:00am with the school reception explaining their absence. Many thanks.



Water bottle

A lot of students are forgetting to bring in a water bottle, please could you remind your child. They can fill up their water bottles at break times and lunch times from the dining room.



Letters

Often students will forget to pass on letters to parents, so we advise you to check the website regularly:



Lost Property

A gentle reminder about lost property. We are still having a large amount of lost property in school, could you please make sure that all clothing including coats and general items are labelled clearly with name tags, as this helps greatly with the return of items to the rightful owner.



School Start Time

Reminder that the first bell in the morning goes at 8.35am and all students are expected to be on the premises ready for the second bell at 8.40am which is registration time. There is also concern that some pupils are arriving very late at school, often after the morning bell has gone.



You will appreciate that it is important for all children to arrive at school by the designated time and we would appreciate your help in ensuring punctuality in the future.

CONTACT US Tel: 01902 758244
Email: office@perton-middle.staffs.sch.uk

In line with safeguarding procedures, please inform the school of any changes to your child's emergency contact details. Follow our social media page to keep up to date with school news and events.



@PertonMSchool

Young Voices 2019

On Thursday 24th January, 105 students from Perton Middle School attended a Young Voices concert at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham.

Young Voices is one of the largest school choir concerts in the world. 6,179 students took part on the night that we were there and it was a fabulous experience!

We had to learn a repertoire of 13 songs (including some medleys lasting 7 minutes), which we rehearsed from September through to January and this included dance moves and singing in harmony. We did not only sing in English we sang one song in Tahitian!!

Mr David Lawrence was the conductor and he did a brilliant job of keeping us all together. The show also included performances from some very famous faces including Tony Hadley (of Spandau Ballet), Beau Dermot and Urban Strides (the street dance specialists). The evening was rounded off magnificently with a pre-recorded message from no other than Hugh Jackman, before we all launched into a totally amazing arrangement of songs from 'The Greatest Showman'



Next year we would encourage many more students to join us in this fabulous event. Please visit the Perton Twitter feed to see us in action!

Little big band update

Our school band have continued to meet on Wednesday after school and students are making great progress on their instruments. We performed a mini concert to parents and we will be texting you the date of our next informal concert. All welcome!



Comic Relief and 'Just Dance'

Red Nose day was about dance challenges, staff and pupils had a successful lunch time spent dancing in the hall to some of their favourite tracks. We raised the roof and made £253.80 for the charity. Well done to all!



School Uniform

If you are thinking of replacing any school uniform, please look at the photos below or the school website for guidance. Skirts should rest on the knee (not be tube style) and we do not allow trainers or skinny trousers. Many thanks for your support.

Boy's School Uniform



**Girl's School Uniform
(With Trousers)**



**Girl's School Uniform
(Jumper with Skirt)**



**Girl's School Uniform
(Blazer with Skirt)**



Year 7 and 8 knowledge banks

Knowledge Banks have taken another step forward and now include a revised set of tasks (following consultation with students) and a set of help sheets to show how these tasks might look.

The most important aim of the Knowledge Bank is to encourage students to really learn and retain the key information that has been identified in each subject. Revisiting tasks or doing a selection of shorter but more frequent tasks will really help to realise this aim. So if you are unsure how to help your child, remember this: any task that helps them to understand and retain Knowledge Bank information is a valid one. Quizzing on information used in homework tasks can also be done at home and is a very effective way of making learning 'stick'.

However, if your child still needs a bit of guidance, the Monday and Thursday registration drop-in sessions continue to run to ensure that everyone is able to access their homework

.And the final word from author Michael Rosen...

Why reading aloud is a vital bridge to literacy

Michael Rosen (The Guardian, 9 March, 2019) I was very lucky to have been brought up in a household where my older brother and my father read out loud to me as a teenager. It was a form of conversation or entertainment. They were "hey-listen-to-this" moments, taking in Dickens, Hardy, Catch-22, Catcher in the Rye, the Molesworth books, newspapers, magazines ... This week, it was suggested that in order to foster a love of reading, parents and teachers should continue reading aloud to children well into their teen years. To get a handle on why doing so is important, we have to take a step back and look at something that is right in front of our noses but not always obvious.

Continuous prose flows without hesitation. Sentences close. We can front-load, refer backwards and forwards, organise "points" in an argument. We can avoid repetition, and use syntax and vocabulary for emphasis colour. "Who", "which", "that" and "where" clauses get more use in writing than in speech. The way we speak is very different from the way we write - especially from the way we write continuous prose. When we speak, we hesitate, we contract phrases (as with "wouldn't've"), we repeat ourselves, we often leave gaps for others to fill in. Or we might just tail off. We use intonation and gesture to indicate or colour meaning. We use more pronouns than we do when we write, because we can specify who we are referring to with gesture and tone. We use a lot of ums and errs and "you knows" to give ourselves time to think or to hold a listener's attention. And we avoid front-loading sentences with phrases and clauses that delay getting to the main point.

What follows from this is that in order to understand and be able to write continuous prose, we need to spend a good deal of time immersed in it. One way to do this is to hear it read out loud. This gets round that moment of resistance when we see a slab of writing on the page.

PE and School Sport

We have had a very busy term, with a large range of clubs, fixtures and activities. As a school we are extremely proud of our students and how they dedicate themselves to be the best that they can be in PE lessons, extra curricular sports clubs and when representing the school.

Under 11's X-country Champions at the Grammar

In January our U11 x-country team ran at the grammar school. Both the girls and boys' races were very fast, needless to say not only did we have winners on both classes but a large number of our runners returning to the finish line in the top 10. The results came in and Perton Middle School were crowned overall Champions.

Year 5/6 School Sports Games x-country

Programmed into the end of this term, Perton is to host the year 5/6 x-county. We are looking forward to some top class racing

Indoor Athletics

Year 5 and 6 competed in the School Sports Games Indoor athletics at Aldersley. No qualification this time, some fantastic performances. In the autumn year 7 boys, year 8 boys and year 8 girls all qualified for the level tree County Indoor Athletics Championship's at Fenton Manor this February. Amongst some very well trained athletes our students competed hard and gained some great results. Our teams coming mid table and did very well indeed.

Key stage 3 Gymnastic District Competition

The gymnastics club has proven to be very popular, with up to 30 students developing and refining their gymnastic skills during lunch time club. In February we took an advanced team and individuals at beginner and intermediate level to the Cannock and Districts Gymnastic Competition. At advanced level the team came third and we also had a third as an individual in the same section. All the boys and girls competed admirably showing team work and respect at all levels

Key Stage 2 Swimming Lessons

Once again we have had a small select group of students who have been learning to swim. Once a week they have been taken over to Codsall Leisure centre to have specialised lessons. By all account their swimming coach is very pleased with their approach to learning and progress.

Middle School Dance Show

During this term Perton Dancers will made the annual trip over to Codsall High School, in order to perform in the middle and high school dance show. Many thanks to their coach Georgie Keys.



PE and School Sport

Netball Super League Trip - Wasps at the Ricoh Stadium

This year we went to Coventry to watch the counties top club netball team in action against Manchester, picking up students from Codsall High School on the way. Wasps having won the past eight matches, proceed to lose to Manchester during a very fast and physical match. A few selfies and autographs at the end with the star players. I am sure we will be looking to repeat this trip next year.

High 5's School Sports Games Level 2

Similar to the athletics, the year 5 and 6 high 5's 'A' and 'B' teams qualified in the autumn for the next round of the School Sports Games event. The location was at Cheslyn Hay and the matches were short and intense. The final league table had Perton in joint first position, having drawn one match and winning all the rest. Unfortunately, due to goal difference (1 goal) we were denied qualification to the next round.

Year 7 School Sports Games

Playing at Codsall Middle, the year 7 netball team also won their first round. This time winning with a convincing goal difference. They will now compete in the summer term at Keel university in the county level 3 competition.

Year 8 V Codsall Middle

Playing at home we saw two very competitive year 8 games of netball. The two stronger teams both taking the led at different times. The atmosphere was incredibly competitive, but also respectful. We look forward to these two squads merging next year at the high school.

Football

Years 7 and 8 boys are still in the county cup, along with our year 6 girls, all these teams are through to the quarter and semi-final. Good luck, we await the next rounds results.



Year 6 Football Girls



Year 7 Netball



Sportshall athletics at Fenton Manor

Swimming Meet

This year we have introduced a swimming meet between the local middle schools. Key stage 3 in February and key stage 2 in March. Up against some very good club swimmers Perton held their own.

P.E Summer Term 2019

PE kit, Jewellery and Fit Bits!

Just a reminder that the school PE kit states that children need to wear either blue football socks (£3.50 from reception). A number of students are not bringing socks which is very unhygienic, especially if they get their school socks wet and then have to wear them for the rest of the day.

A number of girls are having to be reminded to remove ear rings and jewellery before taking part in PE. Please remind your child that they need to be removed at the start of the lesson, or not worn at all on days when they have PE or an extra-curricular club.

Finally, a quite a few students are asking to wear their Fit Bits in PE lessons. I fully understand that students want to track how much exercise or steps they travel during the day, and support this positivity towards exercise. However, in PE lessons they need to be removed just as watches do as they can hurt other students when contact is made.

Extra-curricular clubs after Easter

A number of new clubs will start after the Easter break. Information will be given the first week back, with clubs commencing in the second week. Parents will receive notification of how to download the programme from the website and parents/carers will be able to sign their children up for a club online. Have a great Easter!

Mrs Brown

The Book Fair is coming!

With hundreds of titles at unbelievable prices of up to 75% RRP including current best sellers and box sets of our favourites.

Plus, we can earn commission on all sales to add books to our Library.

The Book Fair will be open in school
Tuesday 21st May and Thursday 23rd May
at break, lunch-time and after school until 4 o'clock
for parents and guardians too.



World book day

On Friday 8th March, the children celebrated our love for reading by taking part in World Book Day.

There were some amazing costumes of the children's favourite characters and many children dressed in their pyjamas to support the theme of 'storytelling'.

Throughout the day, all children took part in a 'share a story' activity followed by a quiz to test the children's knowledge of the books they read.



Bookworms book group

Throughout the winter, the Bookworms book group were reading the best KS2 fiction of 2018 for the Wolverhampton Children's Book Award.

The ceremony, hosted by Wolverhampton Grammar School, took place on 6th February. All the shortlisted authors spoke about their book and what made them write. Then, they led fun activities for the 100s of children from across the area. Jane Elsom was a worthy winner with her book 'Will you catch me?' and the biscuits were great too!



Year 5 Visit to Harry Potter Warner Studios

On Wednesday 20th March, year 5 went on a magical journey to the Warner Bros Harry Potter Studios.

We all had a great time and were even able to practice our skills at flying on a broomstick and taste the notorious Butterbeer. Year 5 were a credit to our school and really did make us 'proud to be Perton'.



Jaguar Landrover

On the 12th February 2019 representatives from the local firm Jaguar Landrover, came in to school to talk to year 8 girls to demonstrate the importance of women in engineering and to give advice on future careers

Dates for your Diary.

Dates correct at time of going to print— latest information is shown on the website.

Break up for Easter Holidays	15th-26th April 2019
Students and Staff return to school	29th April 2019
Early May Bank Holiday	6th May 2019
Year 6 SATs week	13th May - 17th, 2019
Book Fair	21st May 2019 23rd May 2019
Year 6 Visit to Chasewater Outdoor Education Centre	22nd May —24th May 2019
Year 8 HPV vaccination	23rd May 2019
Break up for Half Term	27th May—31st May
Students and Staff return to school	3rd June 2019
KS2 Ten Pieces Music Concert Dudley Theatre	20th June 2019
Class Band to The Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock	25th June 2019
Y8 Taster Day	26th June 2019
Y8 Induction Evening for Parents at CCHS	3rd July 2019
Year 8 Drayton Manor	18th July 2019
Year 8 Presentation Evening and Disco	17th July 2019



<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

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