

Welcome

This week we came together as a school community to celebrate the festive season and also to reflect back on all of the achievements of this term. The Autumn Term is always the longest, but it has been wonderful to celebrate all of the achievements of our great pupils in House assemblies and Year celebration assemblies. This week I also had lunch with all of our Year 11 students who had performed particularly well in the recent mock exams both those who had achieved very high grades or the students who had significantly improved their results from the last set of exams when they were in Year 10. Finally, the Paignton Academy and wider Paignton community came together on Wednesday evening for our annual Christmas Concert. It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils sing, read and perform on their musical instruments during this service at Christ Church. A huge thanks to our wonderful Creative Arts department for organising this service and of course to all of our pupils who took part. I want to end by wishing all of our Paignton Academy families a peaceful and joyous Christmas holidays and I wish you all the very best for 2025. A reminder that school starts back at 8:30am on Monday 6th January.

With best wishes, Derwyn William

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner (Waterleat Road)

Last week was Christmas Dinner Day at our Waterleat Road Site. Students and staff enjoyed the delicious Christmas lunch along with a range of other Christmas activities! To kick off the festivities, students enjoyed a Christmas sing along in the hall. Finally, no Christmas is complete without capturing the memories! Our Paignton Academy Christmas photobooth was a real hit with both students and staff. It was a lovely occasion to embrace the Christmas spirit and very much enjoyed by all.

We would also like to offer a warm thanks to our catering team for the lovely food on the day.



Christmas Craft Workshop

Year 7 Students have been busy developing key transferable skills in a fun and creative sewing and craft workshop!

Using teamwork, problem-solving, and attention to detail, they designed and made their very own tote bags.

This hands-on activity not only taught them practical skills but also encouraged creativity and perseverance, demonstrating how learning can be both engaging and rewarding. Well done!

Cake Sale

Thank You for Your Support!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale on Friday! Your generosity and enthusiasm helped us raise funds for our community project in Sri Lanka 2026.

Together, we're making a difference. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress!



Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner (Borough Road)

Last week, we had an amazing time celebrating Christmas Dinner Day at our Borough Road site!

The canteen was filled with excitement as the children lined up for their Christmas meal, and everything looked absolutely delicious! It was so heartwarming to see all the colorful Christmas jumpers and to hear the cheerful Christmas music playing around us!

The students had a blast popping over to the photo booth to capture fun festive moments with their friends. It truly was a joyous occasion, enjoyed by both staff and students alike.

A huge thank you to our wonderful catering teams for making this day so special!



Year 10 GCSE Music

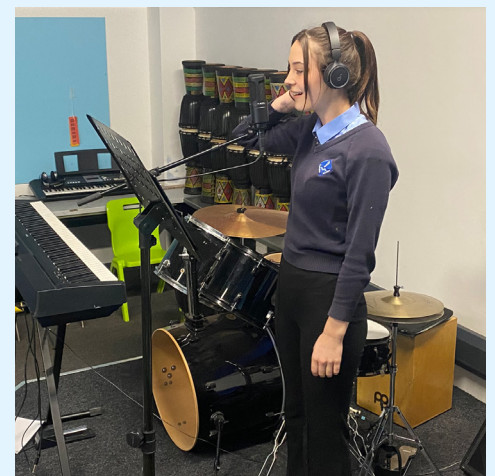
Last week, half of Miss Peter's Year 10 GCSE music class had their first solo performance and recording of these pieces for their GCSE music qualification.

Each student performed to the class whilst being recorded for the first time on the course. The students have all been rehearsing for their solo performances since September and the first batch of performances went very well!

Whilst listening to each other, the class also peer-marked one another's performances against the GCSE music solo performance criteria to develop their understanding of how they will be marked by the end of their course.

Everyone was supportive of one another and created a positive atmosphere. Alex and Luke also offered excellent technician help to ensure the recordings ran smoothly. Well done everyone - I'm looking forward to hearing the second batch of performances after Christmas for the remaining members of the class!

If your child is interested in choosing GCSE music as an option in the future, please contact your child's music teacher regarding any questions you have.



Last-minute Stocking Filler

Stuck for a Christmas present idea or a last-minute stocking filler? Students who read more achieve higher exam grades. Please find below a list of recommended reads for Years 7-11.

YEAR 7

Watership Down

by Richard Adams

Raptor

by Paul Zindel

The Island at the End of Everything

by Kiran Millward Hargrave

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

by Joan Aiken

Twelve Minutes to Midnight

by Christopher Edge

The Dark is Rising

by Susan Cooper

Wolf

by Gillian Cross

Some Places More Than Others

by Renee Watson

The Seeing-Stone

by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Boy and Going Solo

by Roald Dahl

YEAR 8

Welcome to Nowhere

by Elizabeth Laird

The Outsiders

by S.E Hinton

Chinese Cinderella

by Adeline Yen Mah

Coram Boy

by Jamila Gavin

How I Live Now

by Meg Rosoff

The Plague Dogs

by Richard Adams

Tightrope

by Gillian Cross

Shadowmancer

by G. P Taylor

Z for Zachariah

by Robert O'Brien

Treasure Island

by R.L Stevenson

YEAR 9

Monsters of Men

by Patrick Ness

Maladapted

by Richard Kurti

Hatchet

by Gary Paulsen

Boy Proof

by Cecil Castellucci

The Twilight Saga

by Stephanie Meyer

The Amnesia Clinic

by James Scudamore

Thief

by Malorie Blackman

Empire of the Sun

by J.G Ballard

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Burning Secret

by Stefan Zweig

YEAR 10

The Fault in Our Stars

by John Green

A Monster Calls

by Patrick Ness

We Are All Made of Molecules

by Susin Nielsen

13 Minutes: A Novel

by Sarah Pinborough

Paper Butterflies

by Lisa Heathfield

Rose Sees Red

by Cecil Castellucci

A Separate Peace

by John Knowles

Never Let me Go

by Kazuo Ishiguro

Long Walk to Freedom

by Nelson Mandela

The Road

by Cormac McCarthy

YEAR 11

Looking for Alaska

by John Green

Savage Her Reply

by Deirdre Sullivan

The Westing Game

by Ellen Raskin

The Kite Runner

by Khalid Hosseini

Game of Thrones

by George R R Martin

Birdsong

by Sebastain Faulkes

The Moonstone

by Wilkie Collins

Carrie

by Stephen King

The Last Lecture

by Randy Pausch

A Short History of Nearly Everything

by Bill Bryson

For more ideas and information including recommended magazines and newspapers for Years 7-11 check out the schoolreadinglist.co.uk

Theatre Production

Last month, our Year 9 students were lucky enough to watch a live theatre production called 'Sitting in the Grey', a Beyond Face production brought to Paignton Academy by Doorstep Arts as part of their Inspiring Futures programme.

Inspiring Futures addresses urgent questions around social justice, equity, amplifying voices and underrepresented stories. Some lucky drama students were even invited to attend a workshop after the performance where they got to meet the stars of the show.

A massive thank you to Alix and the Beyond Face - Theatre Company team, and Doorstep Arts for bringing this amazing opportunity to Paignton Academy!



Home Learning Help Workshop

On the evening of Thursday 28th November, a number of our parents and carers came back to school to participate in a parental workshop focusing on home learning and the use of metamemory to facilitate the progress of their children.

We would like to thank our Parents and Carers who enthusiastically took part in the sessions.

If this sounds like something you would like to get involved in, there will be further opportunities in the forthcoming new year.

We would be grateful if you could fill in the feedback form below. This will help us to improve on future Home Learning Help Workshops going forward.

Home Learning Help Workshop Feedback



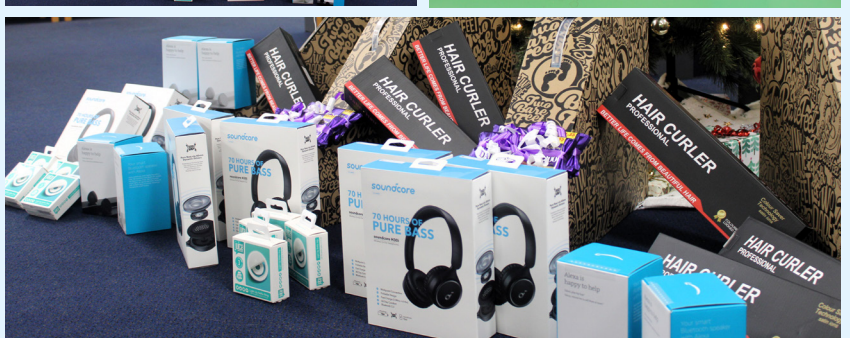
Golden Ticket Giveaway

This Christmas, we're spreading extra cheer with our Golden Ticket Prizes!

Each House has 8 exciting prizes, which are:

- Two Bare Feet Stunt Scooter
- Wireless Headphones
- Selfie Ring Lights
- Hair Curlers
- Alexa Echo Pop
- Cadbury's Chocolate
- £10 Vue Cinema Vouchers

These prizes will be awarded during the Final House assemblies. In addition, there will be Year Group Believe & Achieve Reward assemblies where students will be celebrated for their attendance, Tutor Awards, uniform awards, and subject excellence.





Sportsleaders At The Primary School Athletics Festival

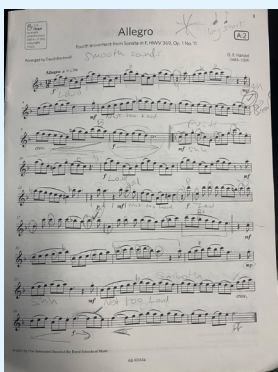
Over 100 sports leaders had the opportunity to put their skills into action at the primary sports hall athletics festivals this term. There were events for all age groups, testing local primary school children in a range of disciplines, including: long jump, high jump, sprints, throws, relays and speed bounce to name a few.

There were some amazing performances from all of the local schools and the sports leaders did an incredible job supporting them to excel and record their personal bests.

Encouragement, coaching and accurate recoding of scores, times and distances was the priority for the sports leaders, helping the events to run smoothly and professionally. The enthusiasm and engagement from everyone involved was uplifting, reinforcing the value of these types of events.

Mr Julyan, who organised the festivals commented, "The sports leaders have shown once again that they can rise to the challenges put in front of them and demonstrate incredible focus, creativity and teamwork. Many of the sports leaders were representing the Academy in their first event and I was particularly impressed with a number of the Year 7 students, who grew in confidence and effectiveness throughout these events."

Student Success



Alex in Year 10 has been building towards his next alto saxophone grading and has now successfully received his award for grade 4!

Alex's pieces were 'Allegro', 'Chanson de matin' and 'Entry of the Gladiators', all performed at a high standard.

Alongside this, Alex also had to demonstrate his proficiency in technical skills including scales and arpeggios, sight reading and

listening tests.

Alex has worked hard for this achievement and should be very proud of himself. True to character, he is already looking towards taking his grade 5 in alto saxophone!

If your child is interested in receiving individual musical tuition on an instrument, please contact your child's music teacher for more information.

Christmas Shoeboxes



Well done, everyone!

This year, as a school, we contributed 34 Christmas shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child appeal, providing small gifts for children who find themselves with absolutely nothing as a result of war, famine or other extreme circumstances.

Huge thanks to everyone who took part. We have made a real and positive difference to those children.

Happy Christmas!

Winter Concert

On Wednesday night, 60 incredibly talented and dedicated students delivered a captivating performance in the enchanting atmosphere of Christ Church, Paignton for the annual Academy Winter Concert.

The evening featured a delightful mix of bands, soloists, poets, dancers, and carolers, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

The night concluded with a standing ovation, marking a truly magical experience. This event was the culmination of months of hard work by students and staff, celebrating the festive season and showcasing the wonderful talents of our students, all under the guidance of the dedicated Music Department team, Miss. Kerek and Miss Peter.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the dedicated staff who contributed to making this event a success, our talented performers, and all the friends and family who came to support us. Your presence made the evening truly memorable!



Paignton Academy

Please like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up to date with Paignton Academy's news.



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 20th December 2024

Last day of the Autumn term

Monday 6th January 2025

First day of Spring term