# PORTAL HOUSE PAGES

#### Autumn& Winter Newsletter

#### VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

Top stories in this newsletter Shakespeare







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14/12/2023

France

## Swimming the Channel



In July Mr Renihan and Mrs May took on the challenge of a channel relay swim in a team of five.

The swim took a total of sixteen hours, thirty two minutes and the team raised over £1600 for the pupils at school to have an 'adventure budget.'

Another one of our members of staff who also raised money for school this summer was Tim Malpass. Unfortunately he was unsuccessful when he attempted a Joss Naylor (48 miles, 30 mountain tops and 17,000 feet).

Tim has admitted that he did not train hard enough and he plans to try again in the summer of 2024.

Tim is a prime example of resilience.

#### Shakespeare Workshop



Key Stage 3 were invited to Folkestone Quarterhouse to attend a Making Sense

of Shakespeare Workshop hosted by Ben Crystal. During the workshop we

learnt about how Shakespeare crafted his plays and how they might have been

performed. At the end of the workshop, students were invited

to take part in a small performance which involved acting out a scene from 'Macbeth.' It was great fun watching the boys begin to think about voice projection and delivery!

# A Christmas Carol



Key Stage 3 were invited to Sir Roger Manwood's School to watch their performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. The school had spent over 2 months rehearsing the play and everyone agreed that it was great! We all thought that the actors played the roles in perfect keeping with the text and that the sets were wonderful. It was especially nice to see one of our former students playing the role

of Fezziwig and we enjoyed seeing how well he was getting on after leaving Portal House School last year.

#### Skywalk Ropes



One of our Enrichment activities this year has been doing the Skywalk Ropes Course at Folkestone Leisure Centre.

Here one of our students can be seen doing the course with black out goggles.

#### Help at the Allotment



This is Jayson and Bobby helping clear the





allotment, tidy the vegetable patch and preparing a hole to build a firepit. Both boys showed character, having a go at using tools, and doing things they had never done before.

They showed resilience and worked as a team, which was wonderful to see, they really helped and supported each other to complete the work, taking it in turns and sharing tools. It was great fun working with them to develop an

understanding of what it needed to prepare and grow your own fruit and vegetables. Both boys were very happy to get to take some vegetables home. This included some cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes and blackberries.

## **Cake Decorating**



In enrichment, Vicky Ives, a cake decorating specialist, has been working wonders and passing on her amazing talents, supporting the students and teaching me the skills required to decorate cakes. She has been organising

equipment, ingredients and master classes

for us all to learn and here are some of the amazing results. Thank you Vicki and well done to all the students



involved.

# **British Library**



We had a lovely day at The British Library this term when we attended The Realms of Imagination exhibition.

We viewed real costumes from famous TV shows and films including some of the props used in A Game of Thrones and costumes from The Dark Crystal.

This was a wonderful experience and a first time in London for some of our pupils.

## Work Experience



Two of our year 11's have been enjoying an experience with The National Trust at Wanston Farm. Wyatt and Finlay have been helping The National Trust clear out old gun sheds and clear rubble around one of the old gun turrets, adding to Dover's history. They have both had very high praises from the members of The National Trust for their efforts and enthusiasm. Even got invited to their Christmas dinner! Wyatt's passion is history so this was right up his street, he was invited to join them for work experience on a Thursday afternoon as well as his

enrichment. We are very proud of these boys, they have been very mature and hardworking in this fantastic experience.

# Poetry Published!!!!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a number of our pupils who have had their short stories and poetry published with the Young Writers.

Keep up the good work!

Logan Thornton Frankie Smith Mason Quinell Harvey Baunton Dunn Zack Richards Jensen Williams **Ryan Eaton** Lucas Connelly Taylor Hixon Hayden Watts Alex Nazer Jacob Overal George Henderson Ryan Morgan Logan Brown

## Ten for £10



We would like to congratulate a year seven pupil for reading. Bobby Grindley read ten books and was presented with a £10 Amazon voucher for his efforts.





#### **Sporting Success**



Our Key Stage 3 Football team took on The Orchard School earlier in the term at Kent University Sports Park. The team played really well and ended up 3-1 winners, which is the first time our KS3 team have beaten them.

Yr 8 students were invited to a Kinball event at Three Hills Sports Centre in Folkestone. It is a new sport sweeping the country and the World. Players have to work as a team to keep the huge ball from hitting the ground.



#### **Christmas Traditions**



As per Portal House tradition, Year 7 were invited to decorate the school Christmas tree which this year had been grown by our school chef, Kevin!

The boys had lots of fun wrapping each other up in tinsel and hanging decorations on themselves before finally getting down to the real task of decorating. We are sure you'll all agree that the result is spectacular! Well done Year 7.

## **End of Term Reward Trip**

24 pupils gained enough rewards vouchers to join the end of term trip to Gillingham Ice Rink. The boys started by hanging off the rails in fear but by the end were performing pirouettes with the penguins, we hope you all enjoyed the experience as much as the staff did.





For those pupils that didn't quite have enough reward vouchers for this trip, let's start January well and get on the weekly board with bronze, silver and gold certificates, and hopefully you'll be joining us on the end of term 3 trip to Ninia Warrior.

#### **GCSE Art and Design**

Well done our Year 11 artists - some great work produced in your mock and throughout year 11 so far - you have all now submitted your Portfolio - this is 60% of your overall grade and you have worked so hard! Some very good results that you should be individually and collectively very proud of.

Next term we begin your Externally Set Assignment (40%) which culminates in the 2 day timed period in April when you will use your experiences to create the final outcome. Students will get the choice of starting points in January - we are excited to share these with them and see what our creative bunch will come up with in this more independent period of the course.



# **Termly Class Achievement Points**

The classes with the most points this term are: 9P = 332 11H=173

Individual KS3: 3rd - Symon Krolak 2nd- Vinnie Joe Fagin 1st - Oscar Sinnot Spires & David Greenan

Individual KS4: 3rd - Logan Brown 2nd - Rvan Eaton 1st - Ethan Jarvis

House Points: 3rd Poseidon = 2794 2nd Hades = 2956 1st Ares = 3656



## **Outstanding Cooking**

In Year 7, the boys have been making Rocky Road, Year 8, chocolate Peaty Puddings, Year 9 chocolate traybake, Year 10 Nutella puff pastry Christmas trees and year 11, triple chocolate

