

Dates For Your Diary

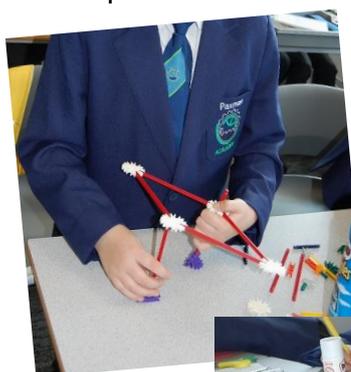
Thursday 19 th November 2020	Year 7 Meet The Tutor Evening
Wednesday 25 th November 2020	No Pens Wednesday
Thursday 26 th November 2020	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 27 th November 2020	Non-Pupil Day

Enrichment Day

Students took part in a British Values and STEM based Enrichment Day on Tuesday 3rd November. Both year groups participated in a range of workshops about democracy, tolerance and identity and tackled STEM challenges. Year 7 built innovative and creative bridges to span a given width, whilst Year 8 produced a basic light circuit placed on a paper tower to convey a message in Morse code.



The students all enjoyed the variety of the day and showed true Paxman Academy ASPIRE values.



Ms Newman
Head of Art / Technology / Performing Arts

Wellbeing

All students have been emailed a wellbeing survey to complete, via their school email address. We would love it if every student could complete it - it should only take five minutes to do so.

We know that this has been a very challenging time for a number of our families, and in some cases it has brought financial hardship. We were pleased to receive the following information this week from a local group offering food parcels over the Christmas period for families in Colchester. The Go4 Café, in partnership with other charities, are looking to support the work of our partnership charity Foodbank. If you would like this support, please speak with Miss Smith (Year 7) or Mrs Rayner (Year 8).

Mr Mussett
Deputy Headteacher

Remembrance Display



In celebration of Remembrance Day this week, students read the poem 'In Flanders' Fields' by John McCrae during form time. Using this poem as inspiration, as well as some First World War facts about life in the trenches, students reflected on why people wear poppies, and learned about the work that the Royal British Legion carries out in aid of veterans and their families who may have been affected by war. They then decorated poppies and wrote messages of thanks to all those who have served the country.



Students said that it was meaningful to remember soldiers and think about the sacrifices they have made. Their beautiful poppies are now on display in areas around the school.

Students also attended a special virtual Remembrance Assembly on Armistice Day, where Mr Damigella performed a moving rendition of The Last Post on his guitar, before we came together as a school to pay our respects during a two-minute silence.

Ms Taylor
Teacher of Humanities

Reading for Pleasure

We all know that reading regularly for pleasure is one of the best ways to boost children's confidence and performance across their school subjects. Reading expands vocabulary and uses parts of the brain that are just not exercised by the television or gaming!

However, it can be hard to know where to start in terms of books that are appropriate, especially for students in the early years of secondary school. This website <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/> gives some great tips for both modern and classic books that are appropriate for Years 7 and 8.



While the physical school library is not open, you can still access e-books through our E-Library. Details on how to use this and start borrowing books are available on our website [click here](#).

In addition to this, and thanks to the Bookbuzz initiative, all Year 7 students recently selected a free book from a selection of 17 titles, which we hope they enjoy.

Mrs Steele
Assistant Headteacher

Feedback

We are working hard to ensure that your son/daughter has the best provision possible during these difficult times. As always, we are open to new ideas and suggestions as to how we can improve further. If there is anything that you feel we can do, please let us know via your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

If you value what we are doing as a school, we would appreciate you leaving feedback via the Ofsted Parent View website. You will need to register via this link [click here](#)

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Mr Mussett
Deputy Headteacher



Last week saw Paxman Academy celebrating 'Tomorrow's Engineers Week' – five days dedicated to promoting careers available to students in engineering and possible routes into that area of work. There were different activities throughout the week, including:

- The Big Quiz - a fun, interactive quiz that students completed in one of their science lessons learning about what engineers actually do along with some fun facts. Did you know that a 'bug' in a computer programme is so named because a moth became stuck in one of the first computers and caused an issue with it?
- Meet the Future You Quiz - this was a chance for students to answer some personality-based questions to determine some potential engineering sectors for them to go into as a career. Some students were identified as 'future lifesavers' with careers such as biomedical engineers and 3D organ printing specialists, and others were identified as 'coding legends' with careers such as games developers and software engineers. These careers, and many more, can be found on the [Tomorrow's Engineers website](#).
- Research into engineering careers - after finding out some potential career choices, students carried out research into what the different jobs involve and how they might get into them. We used the National Careers Service (Government website) which details exactly the qualifications that students should aim to get for each career option, and the different possible routes into the career including apprenticeship schemes and university based entry. Here is an example for [becoming a chemical engineer](#).
- Engineering literacy session - the weekly literacy session for last week was engineering themed as well, exploring whether Iron Man's suit would be currently technologically feasible (some parts of it are!). Students practised using Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary to expand their knowledge and learnt about how

Tony Stark, even as a fictional engineer, used creativity and innovation to overcome problems.

Engagement from students throughout the week was outstanding, and they thoroughly enjoyed investigating and exploring the different career options available to them as an engineer. Many students were not aware of what engineers do, or thought you had to be a specific type of person to become an engineer, rather than understanding it to be the inclusive and welcoming profession that it is.

The week culminated with the launch of our Engineering Careers Poster Competition. ASPIRE points and edible prizes are available for entries to the competition, where students should produce an A3 or A4 poster reflecting at least one career in engineering.

Thank you to all involved and for the support from teachers in school with the various activities.

Mr Newton
STEM Coordinator

10 Great Reasons to become a scientist or engineer

- 1 Develop all this...**
 - Artificial limbs for the injured and medicine for diseases like Ebola
 - 3D games consoles and solar powered laptops
 - Make-up that automatically matches skin tone
 - Systems to reduce the risk of flooding
 - Driverless vehicles and spacecraft for future tourists
 - Smart fabrics with in-built digital technology
 - Supercomputers that predict the effects of climate change
- 2 Work in your favourite industry**

From food, medicine and renewable energy to sport, film and music – scientists and engineers are needed everywhere
- 3 Earn great money**

On average, engineering apprentices earn almost double the national minimum apprentice wage

Minimum apprentice wage vs Engineering apprentice wage

The average starting salary for people with engineering and technology degrees is 20% higher than for all graduates.
- 4 Make a difference**

Help tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, like responding to natural disasters, improving cyber security and developing clean energy sources.
- 5 Be in demand**

Between now and 2024, around 2.5 million jobs requiring science, engineering, technology and research skills need filling.
- 6 Choose your own route**

Go to college, do an apprenticeship, get a university degree or combine different routes.

APPRENTICESHIP
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY DEGREE
- 7 Have your pick of future careers**

Capture tidal energy, design a robot, discover a cure for cancer... or do a job that doesn't even exist yet!

Continuing with maths and science – especially physics – keeps your options open for as long as possible for jobs in science, engineering, technology, law, business, space, architecture and much more.
- 8 Travel the globe**

Work in dynamic teams with people from different backgrounds, on exciting projects all over the world.
- 9 Gain respect**

Be remembered for your work and go down in history for designing incredible structures, making awe-inspiring advancements in technology, discovering planets or identifying crucial genetic codes.
- 10 Design, create and innovate**

Subjects like design and technology, art and computing can help pave the way to careers that revolutionise the way we live.

Find out more about careers in science, technology, engineering and maths:

engineering: [tomorrowsengineers.org.uk](#)
 biology: [rzb.org.uk/make-a-difference](#)
 chemistry: [rsc.org/careers/future](#)
 physics: [physics.org/careers](#)
 maths: [mathscareers.org.uk](#)

The Big Bang Tomorrow's Engineers

Road Safety

As you may be aware, there are concerns about motorists both speeding and parking inconsiderately on our surrounding roads. We also continue to witness issues of poor driving on a daily basis with drivers stopping abruptly, failing to indicate and dropping their child off on corners or areas where restrictions are in place. Since opening our doors in 2019, we have been working with the local council to implement safety measures, and two of our Year 8 students have fronted a petition calling for zebra crossings, which is ongoing.

Following a recent road traffic survey after pressure from local residents and councillors, a scheme was put forward over the summer for flashing 20mph school signs to be installed on Walnut Tree Way. I am pleased to announce that funding has been authorised for this project and we are awaiting scheduling of the works. We are hopeful that this is just the first stage of traffic calming measures and we will continue to work with the council to implement further works.

You may query why the work announced is limited to the one road. At the time that the requests were put to the council, we were only using one set of gates near the corner of Paxman Avenue and Walnut Tree Way. Therefore, the council's first response was to slow traffic down approaching the sharp corner here, enabling a safer crossing for students. We know that this is not enough but it is a start and confirms that our concerns are being heard.

Please be assured that we are continuing to liaise with the council about parking issues at the start and end of school on all surrounding roads, as well as speeding traffic in Paxman Avenue. Our local councillor is also endeavouring to get some Police enforcement in place.

As other schemes are discussed, we will continue to keep you informed.

Mr Bickmore
Site Manager

Random Acts of Kindness Week

In the penultimate week of last half term, Mr Samjawon and I challenged Year 8 students to participate in a 'Random Acts of Kindness Week'. The aim of the week was to increase positivity, spread happiness and enhance the community spirit at Paxman Academy.

A 'Wall of Kindness' covered in blank post-it notes appeared in each form room and students were encouraged to think about incorporating genuine acts of kindness for others into their week; not huge gestures or gifts, but small kind acts that would make a big difference. The students' response was fantastic, and over the course of the week, these blank notes were replaced with details of kind acts and deeds that they had been involved in. Just some of the many gestures included holding doors open for each other, paying each other compliments, helping each other with class work challenges, supporting and encouraging each other, offering others advice, and taking the time to get to know less familiar peers during social time.

All forms embraced the challenge, but 8HN went above and beyond. By the end of the week, they had a busy, almost full kindness wall, and their effort was rewarded with cookies, which everyone appeared to enjoy! A huge well done to 8HN for their collective efforts. Congratulations also to the following students who received Kindness Ambassador Awards and badges for their outstanding participation over the course of the week: Mahrin, Dominic and Abbie (8HN), Savannah (8HA), Sophie (8CA), Harley (8HM) and Maisie and Josefina (8HS).

I hope the success of the week has inspired the students to continue to build random acts of kindness into everyday life - upon seeing for themselves that a little bit of kindness can travel a long way! The week was a lovely positive way to end the first half term back at school. Well done Year 8!

Mrs Rayner
Year 8 Pastoral Support Manager