

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th October 2021	Half Term
Monday 1 st November 2021	All students return to school
Tuesday 2 nd November 2021	Year 8 & 9 Maths GL Assessment Tests
Wednesday 3 rd November 2021	Year 8 & 9 English GL Assessment Tests

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the end of our first half term where students have been able to participate in practical lessons and activities. It has been lovely to see students cooking, engaging with technology and doing practical experiments in science.

The term has been challenging, as the number of Covid cases has increased. Year 8 are currently on remote learning and we have re-visited some of our control measures in response to advice from Essex Test and Trace. I hope that the half term holiday will serve as a circuit breaker to help decrease the number of cases in our community, to enable us to continue to experience practical lessons and move around the building. The fact that we hosted the NHS immunisation programme earlier this week will make us a safer environment when we return on 1st November.

Throughout the term the school has remained calm and purposeful, with students behaving well, teachers teaching well and the whole staff and community pulling together. Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

We have been able to take part in a number of activities that we have not been able to for a long time, including sporting fixtures. There are a few articles in the newsletter that will keep you up to date.

I hope that you have an enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing students again on Monday 1st November, which is Week 1 on the timetable.

Mrs CA Moffat
 Headteacher

Book Club



This half term Year 7 students have been reading and talking about the book 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan, at lunchtime in the library. They have really enjoyed discussing the book and we are looking forward to the next book club after half term which will be Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney.

Please come to the library to sign up.

Mrs Martin
 Librarian

Lost Property

Please could you ensure that student names are on their belongings, as we are getting an increasing amount of unnamed lost property.

If students have lost belongings, they need to check the classrooms they have occupied to see if their belongings are there. If not, students can go to the Pastoral Office before school, during break, during lunchtime or after school to check if it is there.

All unclaimed lost property will be rehomed or recycled two weeks after half term.

Pastoral Team

Face Masks

All students should ensure that they have a face covering and a plastic bag in which to place the covering when not in use.

Students are able to wear their own PPE if they wish to do so and are required to wear face coverings whilst inside the building in communal areas.

Please make sure that your child has their face covering upon their return to school after the half term break so as to avoid a sanction.

Thank you.

Netball Fixture

Paxman Academy vs CCHSG - Year 8 and Year 9 Netball Friendlies, Tuesday 12th October

On Tuesday 12th October, our Year 8 and 9 netball teams experienced their first competitive action for nearly two years.

With two very strong teams visiting from the County High School, it was a fantastic learning opportunity for our students and it was brilliant to see so many students involved. Well done to our Paxman team players:

Year 8

Isla, Neave, Romane, Ruby, Lily, Zena, Fatuma, Aimee, Amy, Miley, Amber, Isabelle and Samya.

Year 9

Savannah, Lilly, Brooke, Jess, Keisha, Ebonni, Freya, Ada, Megan, Katie, Katie, Darcy and Maria.

U14 District Netball Tournament - Wednesday 13th October

Three Year 8 and six Year 9 students were selected to represent the school in the District Netball Tournament at The Gilbert School. The girls' effort was faultless which contributed heavily towards them finishing as runners-up in their group and reaching the semi-finals.

Well done Tillie, Savannah, Lily, Freya, Katie, Jess, Fatuma, Isla and Zena – a brilliant achievement against very strong opponents.

Miss Cowell
PE Teacher



Football Fixture

On Monday 18th October, our Year 8 football team travelled to Stanway for their first ever football fixture representing Paxman Academy. The team, led by their captain, Jeremiah, started well and tried to play their passing game, keeping possession. Sadly, the atmosphere of a vocal home crowd and the enormity of the pitch meant the Paxman team conceded a few quick goals. With the score 4-0 to Stanway at half time, the team talk focused on perseverance and a more physical mentality. The boys came out for the second half much more determined and displayed a more physical approach to stop Stanway playing. Paxman got their reward with a goal through Iain, after great running and passing from Zak and Kuba. The final score was 4-1 to Stanway.

Mr Aspinall
PE Teacher

Maths Resources

There are 3 free resources below that Eedi are offering on the issue of maths anxiety. This is one of the biggest issues today for children learning maths. So if you or your child have had problems with maths anxiety, then please utilise these excellent resources.

Mr Lamb
Head of Mathematics

1. Free webinar for parents on helping your Maths-anxious child

Using both the latest research and her vast experience in this area, Rachel will give practical advice on ways parents can help their children with their maths, whether they are struggling with maths anxiety or stuck on their homework. And they'll learn tips for keeping their own maths anxieties at bay too!

The webinar takes place on Wednesday 3rd November at 7:30pm. If you are interested, please feel free to use the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RaZto011RIGk7HzuDRVYMA

2. Free course for Maths-anxious Parents

In addition to the live webinar, we also have a short online course called "[Helping with Homework: For Maths-Anxious Parents](#)" that is ready to access now. It guides parents through a few of the ways they can help their child without having to know too much about maths.

3. Free course for Students with Maths anxiety

And while we're at it, just a reminder that our free maths anxiety course for students is still available [here](#). We have had over 2000 students already complete the course and some lovely praise coming in from those who have found it really valuable. They send through an email certificate upon completion of the course so you'll have something to show for your efforts.

Family Learning and Support

ACL are running half term sessions as part of their Family Learning Fair - visit <https://aclessex.com/> for further details. The dates and venues are:

- Rayleigh Library: 26 October, 10am-12noon
- Maldon Library: 26 October, 2pm-4pm
- Colchester Library: 27 October, 10am-12noon
- Great Parndon Library: 29 October, 10am-12noon

There will be enjoyable methods to support your child's learning, fun ways for children to develop language and communication skills and free online learning resources.

[ACL Essex](#) will also be running community and family learning taster sessions – including creating boredom boxes, Halloween crafts and much more.