

# POLESWORTH MATTERS

ISSUE 39

## Elf the Musical



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# Politics

Students in **Year 12** studying Politics were able to gain an insight into the inner workings of the House of Lords in December. Students took part in 'Learn with the Lords: Question Time' - a virtual lesson with four members of the House of Lords. In the first half of the event a panel of four members of the House of Lords shared responses to the following question: Is the House of Lords effective in scrutinising the government? This is an area students examine and some of the insights from the panel really supported the learning of our Sixth Form students. The members of the Lords included Barroness Baron, recently appointed as a Shadow Minister for Education; Lord Rooker who has long experience in both Houses and offered some really erudite thoughts on the nature of governance;

Baroness Finlay of Llandalf who has a medical background and sits on several committees and Lord Storey a former headteacher and is the Lords Spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats in the Lords.

Students from across the country posed questions to the panel on a range of topics and one from The Polesworth School was also included which was: 'do you support the current government's position to remove the hereditary peers?' The virtual environment allowed us to slow down and reflect on the points being made by the speakers and connect it to the course. A valuable and interesting exercise for students.

In the aftermath of what has been described as the most important American election of modern times, **Year 13** Politics students had the opportunity to hear from an American voter a couple of weeks ago. Lexi Holland kindly agreed to come and speak to students on all things connected to the American election and the United States in general. Lexi, an Arizonan, voted by postal vote from the UK for the first time for this election and it was fascinating to hear on the nature of the election in comparison to UK elections. Students were fascinated to hear about the level of detail that voters are furnished with prior to voting. This comes in the form of booklets outlining the arguments and the range of ballot initiatives that are voted upon beyond the votes for candidates to the White House, Congress and the Governor's mansion. Student questions ranged from the importance of immigration to the election outcome to Trump's potential impact to whether the United States has roundabouts, and everything in between!

We are very grateful for Lexi giving up her time and it really helped to bring the election to life for students. Very much more than shading within the lines on the voting slip!

### Year 9 History Trip to Bletchley Park

On June 27th, 1941, British cryptologists helped break the secret code used by the German army to direct its strategic military operations on the Eastern front in the Soviet Union, known as 'Enigma' for its mystery. The German army adapted the machine for wartime use and considered its encoding system unbreakable. They were wrong.

Bletchley Park codebreaker Alan Turing, developed a machine designed to decipher Enigma codes. Turing's prototype 'Bombe' unit, named Victory, was first installed in the spring of 1940. It took more than a year, but using the code transcribed from the German, Turing and his team would later crack the code that was being used to communicate with German U-boats in the North Atlantic. Polesworth Students were able to experience the site that all of this took place at Bletchley Park earlier this month.

As well as exploring the site and witnessing how a country estate grew into one of the most significant covert intelligence centres in British history, students also took part in a workshop in which they themselves were tasked with breaking German codes. Using the rotors and code switches, students had to identify the messages that were being relayed using the same system that the 'Wrens' of Bletchley recorded. They saw the dispatch vehicles responsible for carrying secret messages and saw a working version of the 'Bombe' in action. It was a really interesting and thought-provoking day out which really got students thinking about the different roles that played out during the war effort. As one student put it: 'I hadn't thought about how we knew where the Germans were located and the amount of people involved in finding out.'



# The Great Debate

Have you ever wondered what could be achieved with those of a shared vision and expertise in different walks of life around the dinner table? Well one of our students, AL in Year 11, has. Every year the Historical Association holds an annual national debate that includes hundreds of students across the country researching and speaking on a topic connected to History and its impact. This year the topic in question was: **How can your local history tell a global story?** To answer this question students are encouraged to look at people, places, events, and initiatives that have happened in the past in their local area or one that they feel a connection to which has gone on to have a global role or impact. AL chose the Lunar Society as her local historical group that went on to have a global impact.

The regional heat was held in Nuneaton at the end of November and AL competed alongside 10 other students from schools such as Bishop Vesey, Lichfield Cathedral School and Lawrence Sheriff School. Each student has 5 minutes to deliver their speech to the other competitors and the watching audience. They then faced questions from the panel of 3 judges, who were made up of university lecturers, authors and former teachers. AL's speech was entitled: 'From Dinner Club to the World: the Lunar Society' and one of the questions posed was 'which of the members of the Lunar Society would you invite for dinner?' AL's answer was Matthew Boulton due to his influence and business acumen in aiding those such as Watt to rise in prominence to the point of having their steam engine widely distributed. Her speech had charted the importance of those dinner party guests who used to meet in the late 18th and early 19th centuries on the closest Monday to a full moon in Birmingham known as the Lunar



Society. Many of them remain household names such as Benjamin Franklin and Josiah Wedgwood. AL said that she chose the Lunar Society 'as they are relatively unknown, but they stand out for their remarkable achievements.' AL eloquently and passionately spoke of their influence and connection both locally and to the wider world.

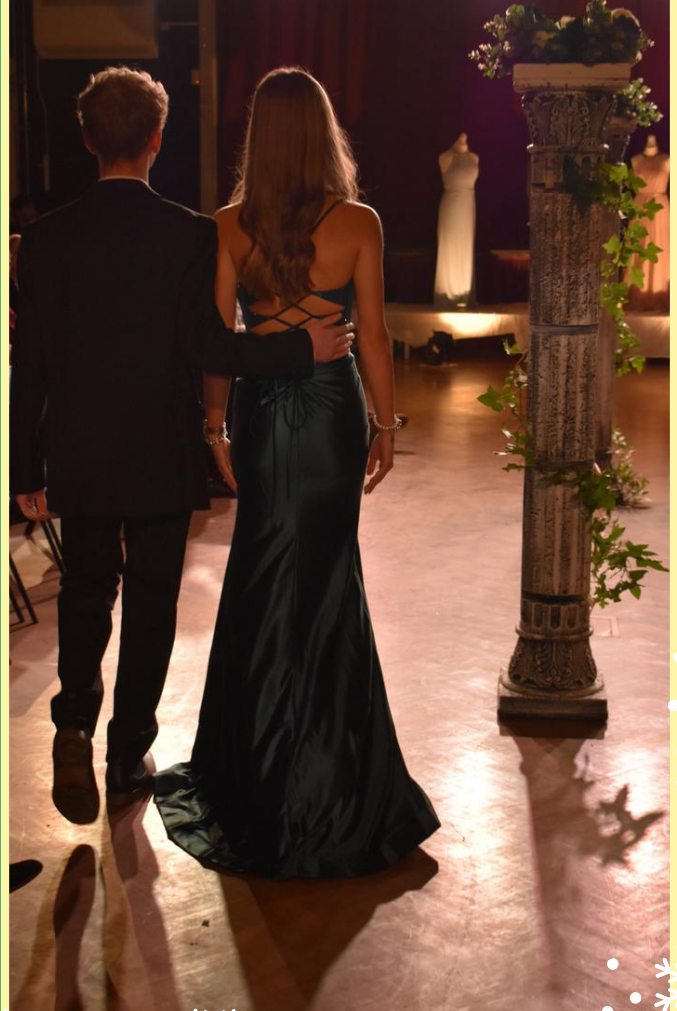
Having delivered and heard all of the other speeches, featuring topics from Sutton Park to Francis 'Quashey' Barber, the results were announced and AL won! She will now go on to the national semi-finals to be held in the new year.

AL said 'I felt I had been able to develop my own expertise and a sense of identity and what it is like to speak publicly.' Her knowledge and passion really came through to the judges. Good luck in the next round!

# Year 11 Prom Fashion Show



# Year 11 Prom Fashion Show



# Extra-Curricular PE Activities

## November

### December



Well done to the **Year 7 Inter-House Football** teams. Some very competitive matches:

Stratford drew 2 all with Warwick.

Kenilworth beat Arden 7 - 4.

Some great performances including some goal saving tackles from HE! LF made some excellent decisions as centre back helping his team recover from 2 goals down to get a draw.

LF, LB and MP were elected players of the matches from the referees. Well done to all.

### December



Well done to the **Year 7/8 girls Football** team who played at the district indoor tournament. Excellent attitude and sportsmanship throughout. Self managed with great leadership from EM.

Outstanding goals from EM, HD and LM and fantastic keeping from IS who helped us hang on for two 1 - 0 wins. They tired later and suffered a tough 2 - 1 defeat but pulled back with a 1 - 1 draw to finish. A pleasure to take these girls to Queen Elizabeth Academy.



Well done to the **Dodgeball players** in the county competition. Great sports game values shown by all. Respect for the opposition and each other. Teamwork in helping each other to try and win. Fair play by adhering to the self governed rules. Well done to all.

Congratulations to the **Year 9/10 girls Football** team. A fantastic performance by all to see them finish 2nd overall.

#### Year 7 Inter-House Games

1st round:

Warwick 5 - 0 Kenilworth

Stratford 5 - 0 Arden

Player of the match on each pitch VJ and MI.

Warwick earned a bonus point in league for fielding a mixed team. Well done to all.

#### Badminton Fixture v Hartshill

U14 A team won 8 - 0

U14 B team won 8 - 0

U16 team won 7 - 1

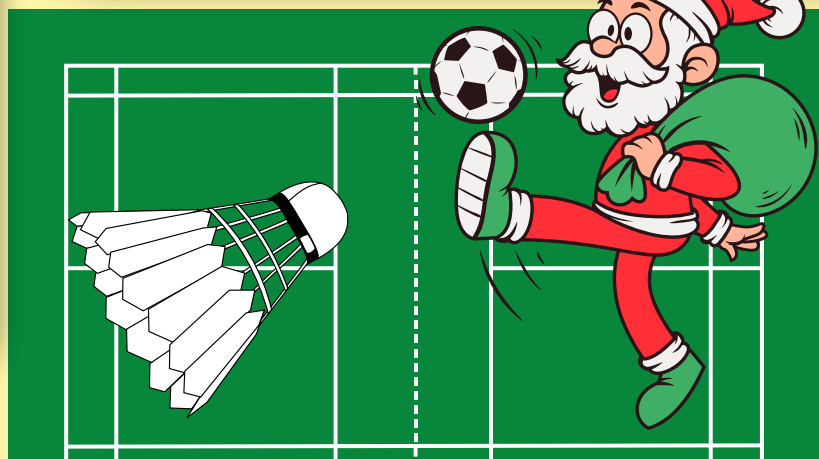
U14 A team v U16 Hartshill won 6 - 0

Great attitude and sportsmanship showed by Polesworth badminton teams with a dominant win over Hartshill. Well done to all involved showing great polesworth values of:

Respect for opposition and rules of the game.

Responsibility for organisation of teams and helping each other.

Ready to play with great attitudes.





# Extra-Curricular PE Activities

## December

Our sports leaders were fantastic as we hosted the **Primary School Sports Hall Athletics competition**. We had two competitions throughout the day with over 250 Year 5 and 6 students attending from 10 different primary schools. 40 sports leaders were involved at different points throughout the day.

Our leaders worked hard to organise and run the competitions and we were proud to see how they helped and encouraged all the young students with so much enthusiasm.

The visiting teachers all commented on how hard they worked and how much fun their students had.

Thank you to the PE department for helping organise the leaders, moving teaching areas to allow use of the Sports Hall. Without such a great team these events would not take place.

Well done to those that took part in the **Year 8 Fitness Inter-House competition**. They were all brilliant and worked really hard! We even had 2 year 7 girls step up for Arden as they enjoyed it so much a few week ago. It was such a close call with 1st and 2nd, we had to do a quick decider at the end. The results were Arden in 4th, Warwick in 3rd, Kenilworth in 2nd and Stratford were the winners.

Well done to the **Year 8 Netball** players (and some support players from other year groups) in the inter-house netball. An excellent display of competitive sportsmanship from all involved.

4th- Stratford

3rd- Arden

2nd- Kenilworth

1st- Warwick

And a special thanks to EG in Year 13 who coaches and umpires every week.

**Year 7 Inter-House Football**.....what a great 3 weeks of competitions that has had some very exciting games and outstanding performances from teams as well as individuals. We have had about 40 students competing and officiating over the past 3 weeks. Well done to the team captains for organising their teams each week. There were 2 matches with Warwick who beat Arden and Stratford and got a last minute win against Kenilworth. Players of the matches were HE and OK.

Overall results for the competition-

1st- Warwick

2nd- Stratford

3rd- Kenilworth

4th- Arden

Special thanks to the referees TP and CD for helping each week.

Well done to all.



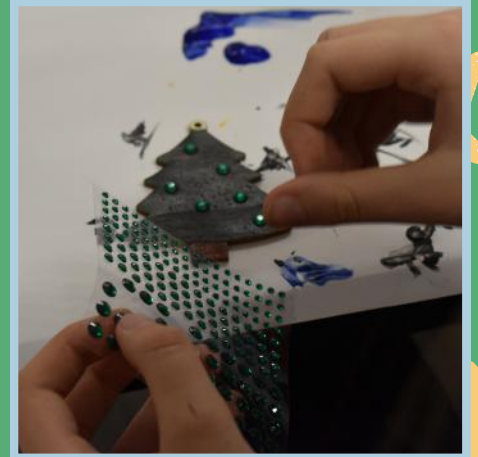
# Bereavement Group

On Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 18th December 2024, Mrs Asbury our School Counsellor and Well-being Coordinator held a bereavement group in our art block at break and tutor times for any students that wished to attend.

Many of the students decorated Christmas tree baubles and wooden shaped decorations in memory of someone they had lost.

There were some truly wonderful decorations created at this group which students were able to keep and take home.

Thank you to all of the students that took the time to come to this group.



# Mrs Broome's 8T Science Class

## Extracting DNA from Strawberries

8T are learning about inheritance..

We have been talking about chromosomes and have been learning how to extract DNA from strawberries. We took a pestle and mortar and some chopped strawberries, added sand as an abrasive and macerated the berries. We added an extraction buffer with detergent and salt and then incubated at around 60 degrees. The high temperature broke the cell walls down, the detergent dissolved the fatty cell membrane. The role of the salt is to coagulate the DNA.

After heating we filtered the pulp from the pink filtrate (juice) and had ice cold methanol dripped into the tube by a teacher.

The DNA does not dissolve into alcohol but creates layers. The jelly substance seen in the close up is DNA.



## Key Dates

**Friday 20th December**

Break up for Christmas

**Tuesday 7th January**

Students Return to School

**Saturday 11th January - Friday 17th January**

Year 8, 9 and 10 Ski Trip

**Wednesday 22nd January**

Year 8 HPV Injections

**Monday 27th January**

Year 11 GCSE Fine Art and Photography Trip

**Tuesday 28th January**

Year 10 GCSE Fine Art Trip  
Year 10 Science Trip

**Thursday 30th January**

Year 9 Parents Evening



SUCCESS IS EARNED  
ONE DAY AT A TIME!

Start by showing up.



# Job Vacancies



## Cover Supervisor (2 posts)

32.5 hours a week term time only (39 weeks per year)

Grade F Points 6-11 - £19,196 - £20,786 (actual salary)

Hours of work: 8.15am to 3.15pm (including 30 minutes lunch break)

Are you looking for your next challenge? Would you like to join a school where relationships are key and contribute to an caring and nurturing environment where young people flourish under the guidance of a dedicated and professional team of staff?

We are seeking 2 dedicated Cover Supervisors to join our team of staff. As a member of our staff you will be instrumental in laying the foundation of outstanding standards of education and creating a stimulating and purposeful environment where our pupils can make excellent progress.

### What we offer:

We have a great deal of experience in the further development of our staff. Our appraisal approach is one of coaching under the banner of 'Growing Great People'. We offer a supportive and welcoming environment with an excellent induction programme. We pride ourselves on our relationships across our school community - 'Staff are proud to work at Polesworth and staff retention is high' (Ofsted, 2023). 'There is a respectful and caring culture across the school' (Ofsted, 2023).

### What you offer:

We are seeking a passionate and driven individual with good communication and organisational skills and a desire to make a difference to the lives of our pupils and their communities.

### Next Steps

If you have any questions about this opportunity please contact us via e-mail, [n.holland@thepolesworthschool.com](mailto:n.holland@thepolesworthschool.com).

The Polesworth School is part of The Community Academies Trust, a multi-academy trust with the express purpose of transforming schools in community Hubs, through applying a holistic view of education.

Closing date for applications is: 9.00am on Friday 10th January 2025. Interviews will take place shortly thereafter. To apply, please follow this link: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/136459/EDV-2024-PS-55488>

The Trust Child Protection Policies and Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Statement can be found at: <https://www.communityacademiestrust.org/en-GB/trust-information>

Community Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Community Academies Trust is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offender Act 1974. We expect all staff to share our safeguarding commitments and to undergo appropriate safer recruitment checks, including enhanced DBS checks and a willingness to demonstrate commitment to the standards which flows from Community Academies Trust vision and values. The role is covered by part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016 and therefore the ability to speak fluent spoken English is an essential requirement for this role.

Community Academies Trust supports Equal Opportunities Employment. Community Academies Trust Company Registration No. 0747273-6

"Education is for improving lives and for leaving your community and world better than you found it"