

POLESWORTH MATTERS

ISSUE 42

Year 8 & Year 9 Ski Trip

Sunday 9th March - Saturday 15th March





year 11

PROM TICKETS

*are now available on
ParentPay!*

*TICKETS CAN BE PAID FOR IN 1 PAYMENT, OR IN 4
INSTALLMENTS (MARCH PAYMENT STILL AVAILABLE!)*

See ClassCharts for full details



Upcoming Music Events

THE POLESWORTH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

TALENT SHOW!

SHINE LIKE A STAR

WEDNESDAY
2 APRIL | 7 PM
POLESWORTH MAIN HALL

**SEE MRS GLOVER IF YOU
WOULD LIKE A SPOT IN THIS
YEARS SHOW**

MATILDA AUDITIONS

YEAR 10-13
WEDNESDAY
9TH APRIL

YEAR 7-9
THURSDAY
10TH APRIL

SEE THE NOTICEBOARD IN INIGO
FOR MORE DETAILS



Easter Egg Bingo

Thursday 27th March
2.00pm - 5.30pm

Main School Hall

£5 for 5 games

Open to the whole community

B 9
I 17
N 39
G 58
O 75

B 9
I 17
N 39
G 58
O 75

Sixth Form Tutor Group Competition

We started our first Sixth Form Tutor Group Competition with a Netball shoot out on Thursday 6th March. Five students from each tutor group volunteered to shoot for points. A great time was had by all, with some tutor groups getting quite competitive! The results were as follows:

Year 12

HOL – 7pts
BRT – 10pts
LEW – 13pts
WLK – 15pts
GDR – 22pts

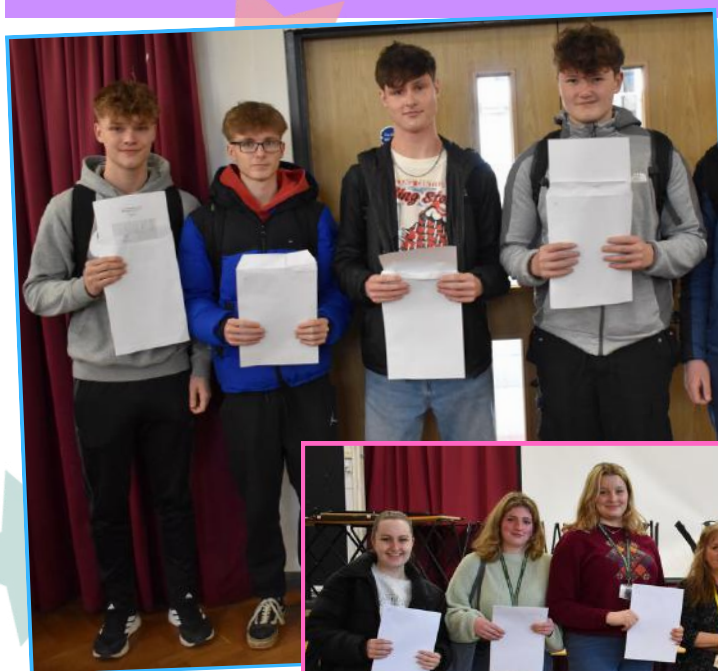
Year 13

DAN – 7pts
HAD – 7pts
BIR – 9pts
LAL – 10pts
MLJ – 12pts
HIL – 15pts

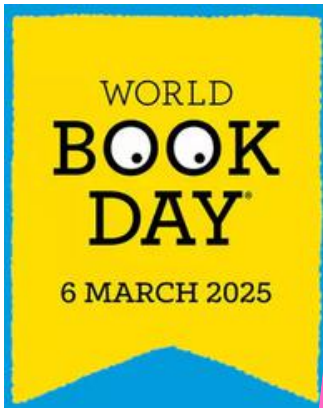


Well done to 12GDR and 13HIL! We look forward to the next one which is the Football penalty shoot out! Mrs Harris and Mr Cairns

Year 13 Mock Results Day



World Book Day- Weekly Library Events



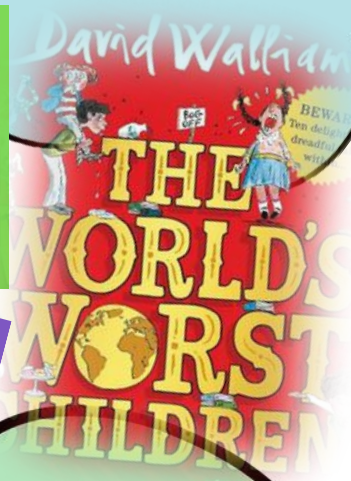
Monday:
Book Title Pictionary
and Charades



Tuesday:
Roald Dahl's
Matilda: The Musical
at Movie Club



Beanbag Storytime:
David Walliams
Short Stories



Thank you to all of the students who came and took part.
Plenty of prizes were awarded!

Plus, everybody who attended an event, received 5 merits for their brilliant efforts, impeccable sportsmanship and enthusiasm!



Science Club - Thursday 6th March

The theme for this half term at Science Club is Witchcraft and Wizardry. On Thursday 6th March this was linked to herbology. Year 7 students used the distillation equipment to extract limonene from oranges. They demonstrated their experimental skills beautifully and demonstrated some excellent problem solving skills.



Library Treasure Hunt:
(Four separate teams, four separate hunts – working together to figure out clues, teams rallied to collect all 6 of their hunt items – and the fastest team won)



Keeping Children Safe Online

A 2021 Office for National Statistics (ONS) report found that nearly a third of children had accepted a friend request from someone they did not know and around 1 in 10 children (11%) aged 13 to 15 years reported receiving a sexual message, while 1 in 100 reported sending a sexual message. Barnardo's offer the following advice.

What types of harms do I need to be aware of as a parent?

There are different types of inappropriate, concerning and illegal content online. From bullying, violent videos and 'sexting' to blackmail. We know that those that want to harm our children can use chat rooms, gaming and social media to befriend and groom children. Children report that they can be quickly exposed to content they didn't search out. Therefore, it's vital not to blame children and keep calm if you are faced with this as a parent. The responsibility always lies with those that want to harm. The risk of online harm differs by age and what they are doing online. So, finding age-appropriate ways to educate children is essential. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) have some great animations to show younger children. Plus, they're split into age brackets with key messages you can revisit as a parent.

What age should you start to talk to your child about online safety?

For younger children, it's best to use technology together and use that time to discuss what to do if something unusual or scary pops up. As they get older, they will need more independence but keep those conversations about online safety going. Remind them to tell someone if they need help, are worried or something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Children feel that conversations about the internet and online safety should be frequent and not a one-off. Regular dialogue allows children to lead the conversation and leaves space for them to ask questions and share concerns. For older children, it allows us to explore what they are doing online. These conversations will change as they grow and mature but started early, they get easier. You can find more information about having a conversation with your children at Barnardo's online safety hub.

As a parent, how can I stay up to date with platforms, such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and their safety and settings. What are the biggest dangers to children online right now?

The dangers that pose the most risk to your child will depend a lot on how they use the internet, what is already being done to keep them safe, and what they already know about using the internet safely and responsibly. A simple and effective way to hear about the latest online trends or what your child is getting up to is to talk with them about their life online.



Keeping Children Safe Online

By maintaining an open dialogue and encouraging them to talk to you about their internet use, parents can help children access the amazing resources and opportunities the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe. The risks to each child are different depending on what they are doing online and the ever-changing tactics of those who want to harm. Therefore, it is most effective to equip your child with the skills to identify harmful or uncomfortable situations, seek support and offer them regular opportunities through conversation to talk with you.

Do you have advice on keeping children safe when they're using an Xbox or PlayStation?

The best way to keep your child safe when they are playing games or using games consoles is through discussion. Talk with your child about the games they enjoy playing and where possible, sit down and play these together. Speak to your child about what else they do on their consoles, aside from play games. For example, what else do they access? Who do they communicate with? Next, establish and support realistic boundaries with your child, whilst encouraging safe choices. For example, make sure young people know not to share their personal information or anyone else's when playing online games. You may also want to think about the amount of time your child spends on these devices or take control of in-app purchases. Childnet's family agreement has some great ideas for areas to focus on with your family. The UK Safer Internet Centre also has further information specifically relating to the use of games consoles. Internet Matters and Thinkuknow are excellent tools to explore parental controls available through games consoles.



- Equip yourself with some basic knowledge by using internet sites.
- Ask your child to show you what new apps there are.
- Speak with other parents or older teens to see what they are doing online.

Key Dates



Friday 21st March – Sunday 23rd March
Year 10 History Trip

Wednesday 26th March
SEND Coffee Afternoon



Thursday 27th March
Easter Egg Bingo (Community Event)

Wednesday 2nd April
Talent Show



Wednesday 2nd April – Sunday 6th April
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifying

Thursday 10th April
Year 12 Parents Evening



Friday 11th April
Break up for Easter Holidays



App Safety

The apps every parent needs to know about!

For many parents, keeping up-to-date with the technology and apps kids are using can feel like just another chore. Digital Awareness UK, the online safety and digital wellbeing organisation, has shared what apps it thinks parents really ought to know about.

We know that parents find it difficult keeping up-to-date with the risks, age ratings and features of the apps their kids might be using. For the vast majority, **Snapchat**, **Instagram** and **Facebook** are household names, but here are a few other suggestions that may be worth researching.

VSCO

If you hear your child talking about VSCO (or Visco), then they're probably talking about the image editing app. For a monthly subscription, the app allows users to edit and post pictures and videos using filters to make them social media ready.

VSCO has two million users, because in addition to its flashy filters, it doesn't allow users to comment on or 'like' posts, unlike similar apps.

The 'VSCO Girl trend' is where it gets interesting, and many young teenage girls aspire to be one. A VSCO Girl is said to be 'on trend' in terms of how they dress, act and post on social media. It is reported that the VSCO Girl is environmentally conscious and typically identified by messy buns, baggy t-shirts, scrunchies, shell necklaces and 'effortless beauty'.

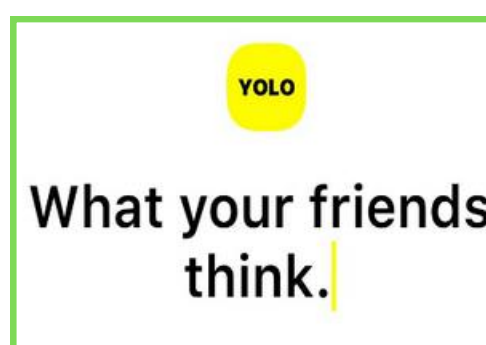
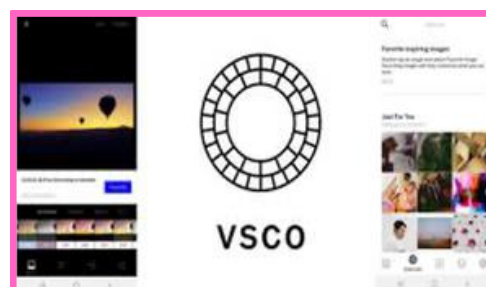
You can't make your VSCO account private or see who's following you, so talk to your child about the consequences of sharing private information. Location-based information appears on shared images; however, location sharing features can be disabled. It may also be worth speaking to your child about how they present themselves online and the pressures that they may face to fit in with trends.

Tellonym and YOLO

Tellonym and YOLO are currently winning the race to be the most popular anonymous messaging apps used by teens, with millions using them to chat and voice their opinions without being tracked.

YOLO can be used in conjunction with your child's Snapchat account and Tellonym can be linked to their X, Snapchat and Instagram accounts. While we find that today many teens are aware of the downsides associated with anonymous apps (such as abuse), they still appeal to those who want to have honest conversations with others about anything from what they look like to how popular they are.

As with all anonymous apps, both Tellonym and YOLO come with the possibility of your child receiving abusive messages, so ensure your children know how to manage online bullying – not just through 'blocking' and 'reporting' but by talking about what's happened. It's important to discuss with your child the benefits and consequences of sharing opinions anonymously and to think about how they would respond to something upsetting.



App Safety



TikTok

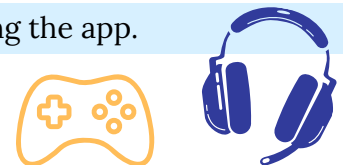
With more than 500 million monthly users, TikTok has young people dancing and lip-syncing across the world right now and it certainly doesn't seem to be getting any less popular. TikTok allows users to upload short videos of themselves set to popular music and audio. Videos tend to be humorous with fun filters provided by the app.

Like Instagrammers and YouTubers, TikTokers are users who can be extremely influential and earn large sums of money. Many students see them as celebrities and aspire to become successful TikTokers themselves.

The app offers endless creativity, self-expression and imagination, but comes with similar risks to other social media networks such as exposure to inappropriate content, grooming and bullying.

Your child must think carefully about what they share and with whom when using the app.

Discord



The social aspect of video gaming can be just as important as playing the games themselves, which is why it's important for parents to get to grips with how apps such as Discord are used by their children.

Like leading live-streaming platform Twitch, Discord allows users to chat to other users publicly and privately while playing their favourite video games.

Students say that connecting with other players through chats adds a bit of competition or even mentorship. There are features within the app that allow users to make new friends over common interests and be part of huge communities.

As with any app that provides one-to-one or group chat features, Discord can lead to bullies or groomers interacting online with your child, or the possibility of them seeing inappropriate content. Have a good play around with the app's Privacy & Safety settings to ensure you and your child are happy with them, as well as discussing the benefits.

Join our Sixth Form!

If you are currently in Year 11 and interested in joining our Sixth Form this September 2025, please see the variety of courses that we offer at A-Level, their entry requirements and our online application form to apply by scanning the QR code below. The deadline for applications was Friday 7th March 2025 however late applications will be considered but some courses may already be full.



PE Success

Badminton Teams League Results!

Well done to everyone involved in the below matches:

U16 Boys- 2nd

U16 Girls- joint 1st

U14 Boys- 2nd

U14 Girls- 1st



Year 9 Rugby-

Well done to the Year 9 Rugby team who had some fantastic performances against 3 other schools. The lads won 2 games comfortably and then achieved a well deserved 11 draw with Higham Lane. Every single one of them gave it their all with exemplary behaviour and respect, showcasing what Polesworth School is all about. Well done lads!

Year 7 Football-

Year 7s took on St Thomas More in a very tough 11-a-side game losing 5-2. All of the boys did themselves proud and gave their all. Unfortunately they let 2 goals go in the first few minutes but then quickly adapted to the different format and big pitch, scoring two well worked goals. Well done lads!

Year 8 Netball-

Well done to the Year 8s who played at the Nuneaton Academy for a tournament against 6 other schools. The students played excellently against some well drilled teams. The respect, teamwork and effort was fantastic! Well done girls! We also took our fantastic Year 12 student, EG, who supported in coaching and umpired matches. Her skills were complimented by other schools as well!

Well done to all of the students below:

KC
CR
BR
MH
LM
RH
AP
PW



Warwickshire Attendance Service

Please be aware that The Polesworth School will make a referral to Warwickshire Attendance Service when a child has been taken on a holiday during term time. Below is a article that we have been asked to publicise to parents by Warwickshire County Council.

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under S444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Warwickshire Attendance Service

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25-

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 for each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notice will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

Science Club - Thursday 13th March

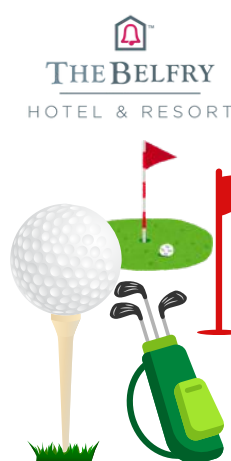
On Thursday 13th March the focus of Science Club was alchemy and the students carried out reactions to turn copper coins gold!



Year 12 Visit from The Belfry

The Belfry Hotel and Resort visited the school as part of an initiative to enhance teaching and learning regarding careers in golf and hospitality. The staff gave a presentation regarding the different careers at the resort, including manufacturing, marketing, hospitality, horticulture and events management. The 32 students were then involved in a marketing task, which enabled them to create an event within budget restrictions and consider a new initiative for the hotel and resort. The 32 students were all dressed to impress and took on this business and travel and tourism venture in their stride. They presented to the group and were awarded prizes for their ingenuity.

Our next adventure will take the students to the resort to meet professionals and learn about the career opportunities on 12th May. Finally, a group will be allowed to visit as VIP guests at The Masters during the Summer holidays and see how the event is managed. This extraordinary opportunity will enable them to see workshops with professional golfers, meet major media businesses such as Sky and see how VIP guests are accommodated. We are grateful for this opportunity, which has led to employment of sixth formers at the resort.



Mental Health Support, Anxiety & EBSA

We live in a time where 'mental health' is thankfully something we're becoming more and more aware of. Whilst this is undoubtedly brilliant that mental health is becoming less 'taboo', it does present new problems. Mainly, how do we support each other?

We are, of course, a school, not a health care provider. However, we take mental health incredibly seriously. Our priority is for children to leave us as successful young adults – they've learnt the value of hardwork and kindness. In order for us to meet this goal it's important that we all work together to support each other in times of need and to teach the children how they can reach out for support when they will undoubtedly need it.

But how?

Firstly, it's important to acknowledge that we all have 'mental health', just like we all have 'physical health'. Just like 'physical health' we all need to look after our 'mental health' and at times it needs additional 'care'.

As a school we have invested a huge amount of time (and money) in supporting children with their mental health. We have dedicated members of staff and regularly talk to the children about how they can help themselves and seek additional support if needed. This is vital so that students know what to do in any future situations.

- All students have a personal tutor. Their primary aim is to provide front-line pastoral care. An ear to listen and a voice to guide.

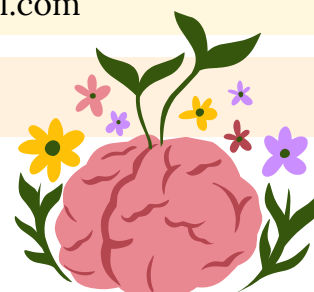
- Pastoral Team- Children often make excellent use of their Head of Year and Pastoral Support Officer. The team are highly trained and experienced in supporting students when they are having difficulties and working with them to find resolutions.

- Our Designated Safeguarding Team support students that have emotional difficulties.

- We are very proud of our partnership with the Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST). We regularly share their advice 'posters' via Polesworth Matters. When a student needs additional external support we refer them to MHST who triage the 'need' and potentially assign a highly trained specialist to meet with the student and give support/advice/techniques. We are about to offer all staff the opportunity to have a small amount of training on how they can support anxious children within their current role.

- MHST provide workshops for parents. If this is something you'd be interested in, please email us and we can look at setting something up: J.White@thepolesworthschool.com

- We have our own, full-time, fully qualified School Counsellor.



Mental Health Support, Anxiety & EBSA

EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)



Let's be honest, a lot of teenagers, from time to time, find getting to school difficult. They are often very tired and learning isn't easy.

EBSA is more than this.

EBSA is when children have long-term difficulty attending school due to 'push' (negative feelings about school) or 'pull' (home is 'comfortable' and they can do the nice things normally reserved for holidays or weekends).

Sometimes students experience EBSA because of something which has happened in school; someone has upset them, they are finding something difficult, they feel lonely etc. When these things happen we work tirelessly as a team to support the children to overcome these temporary barriers. Please reach out using the contacts below if you feel this is happening. It could be that they dislike school because there are rules they disagree with – if this is the case, unfortunately they need to accept that sometimes they might disagree with the rules, but that won't change anything.

If the problem is more long-term and a more 'specialist' approach is required, we have a designated member of staff to help. Please contact Mrs Grigg: (J.Grigg@ThePolesworthSchool.com). She can coordinate a whole school response and also, where suitable, involve external agencies to support your child to not only attend school, but to begin to enjoy school again.

Where else can you get support?

Head of Year:

- Year 7 – C.Shafiq@ThePolesworthSchool.com
- Year 8 – B.Haywood@ThePolesworthSchool.com
- Year 9 – R.Collier@ThePolesworthSchool.com
- Year 10 – H.Mason@ThePolesworthSchool.com
- Year 11 – R.Ravenscroft@ThePolesworthSchool.com
- Sixth Form – Sally.Harris@ThePolesworthSchool.com

- Look on the MHST website and the Polesworth School website

- If you have an concerns regarding your child, please email: Help@ThePolesworthSchool.com

**MENTAL
HEALTH
IS THE
PRIORITY**



Finance Manager- Job Vacancy

Permanent, Full-Time

£37,938.00 – £42,708.00 Annually (Actual) Scale K/L SCP 28 – 33 per annum

Start Date: As soon as possible

About this Role

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee and manage the financial operations, ensuring accurate budgeting, forecasting, and financial reporting.
- Lead and develop a team of two Finance Assistants, providing support, guidance, and performance management.
- Ensure financial controls, policies, and procedures are maintained and improved to support business growth.
- Prepare financial reports and provide insightful analysis to senior leadership to support decision-making.
- Identify opportunities for financial process improvements and implement best practices.

About You:

- Fully qualified or part-qualified accountant (CCAB, AAT or equivalent) with strong financial management experience.
- Proven ability to manage a large budget and deliver accurate financial reporting.
- Analytical skills with the ability to interpret complex financial data.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to engage with colleagues at all levels.
- Strong attention to detail with a proactive and problem-solving mindset.
- Proficiency in financial software and Excel.

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.

The main duties and responsibilities are as indicated in the role job description and person specification, other duties of an appropriate level and nature may also be required, as directed by the Head of Finance & Operations. Please note that the post holder may be required to work outside of normal working hours for activities, meetings and emergencies.

The post holder is required to support and encourage the trust's ethos and its objectives, policies and procedures as agreed by the Board of Directors, including child protection matters.

School visits can be arranged, please contact Nicky Holland on n.holland@thepolesworthschool.com if you would like to come and have a tour.

Closing date for applications is: 23rd March 2025 – Midnight

Early applications are encouraged. We reserve the right to interview and appoint prior to the closing date of this advertisement.

Interviews will take place on an ongoing and flexible basis.

Apply online: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/136459/EDV-2025-PS-69479>

Your future begins
with your presence.

**Attend today,
succeed tomorrow.**

#attendancematters