Headteacher’s Blog

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
As we break up for the Summer holiday, I would like to express my gratitude to our amazing youngsters and fantastic staff for a great year at Plantsbrook. This year has seen major changes on our school site and major changes to our routines as a result. Students and staff have coped remarkably well within the upheaval and it really has been ‘business and usual’ as far as possible. I am very proud of all of them for showing resilience, adaptability and great Team PB spirit.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and families for your support this year. By working together with you we know that it is much more likely that our students can live up to our motto ‘be the best that you can be’.

PRESENTATION EVENING
Many of our fantastic students were rewarded for their hard work and achievements by being invited to our two Presentation Evenings on 14th July.

Well done to all of them and to the speakers Rachel and Ben, our fantastic musicians who entertained us and also to our readers who did a great job. A brilliant team effort!

UNIFORM
Please can I remind you of our expectations on uniform? Over the Summer I would ask you to ensure that your child is correctly dressed for our return in September. They need, for example, to have proper all black school shoes. Canvas pumps are not part of school uniform, so please don’t let them convince you otherwise! For girls, skirts should be around knee length. Tight, lycra skirts are not suitable for school.

We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that they have the correct stationery and equipment too, including pens, pencils, a pencil case, a calculator, a ruler and an eraser. Valuable learning time can be lost if they do not have these items and they have to ask the teacher for them. I hope that you all have a lovely Summer - and get to spend valuable quality time as a family.

# Proudtobeplantsbrook @ thelearninghead

Ms T Campbell, Headteacher

We say Welcome to the following staff:
Mr A Ball - IT Apprentice

We say GOODBYE and GOOD LUCK to the following staff and wish them well for the future:
Mrs J Cartwright - Achievement Co-ordinator Year 10
Mr D Harrison - Technology Teacher
Mr J Hood - Music Teacher
Mrs P Fletcher - Food Technician after 30 years service
Mr R Jhalli - Assistant Subject Leader Maths
Miss C Jones - English Teacher
Miss C Lamb - Science Teacher
Mr D Leak - Assistant Achievement Co-ordinator Year 9
Miss H Pothecary - Maths Teacher
Ms G Thomas - Achievement Co-ordinator Year 11
Ms H Widmann - Maths Teacher

MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
Staff Training Day

TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
Year 7 students should arrive at school for registration at 8:40am, via Ebrook Road entrance. The remaining year groups will start at 10 am, giving the New Year 7 time to settle.

MONDAY12TH SEPTEMBER
Please note that school will finish early at 1:20pm on Monday 12th September in readiness for our Open Evening for the 2017 new intake.
**PARENT ALERT: CHOKING GAME**

The death of a 12-year-old boy in Birmingham after he is believed to have taken part in the ‘choking game’ has raised fresh fears about youngsters taking part in the potentially deadly ‘game’.

This week tutors have sensitively tackled this issue with students in form time, in order to raise students’ awareness to the dangers of participating in the ‘game’.

The ‘game’ has become popular among youngsters on the internet and social media. It is designed to induce a natural ‘high’ by depriving the brain of oxygen. This can be achieved by extensive hyperventilation, or by strangulation.

Social media has allowed the craze to spread more freely in recent years and it has become a growing problem in the UK. At least eight young people are believed to have died as a result of the choking game in the UK since 2010. This has spread over social media similarly to challenges like the ice bucket challenge but whereas the ice bucket challenge was harmless, the ‘choking game’ is potentially deadly to play and is nothing other than an extremely dangerous dare.

The parent of the 12 year Birmingham boy who died after playing the choking game wanted parents to hear this message. “It is so important that you talk to your children and make sure they know that one of many consequences of playing this game is sadly death” they said.

**Signs and symptoms**

It can be hard to identify. There might not be any signs of past participation. However, there are some physical and behavioural signs that could indicate a child has participated.

**Physical signs:**
- Blood shot eyes
- Bleeding spots under the skin on the face, especially under the eyelids and eyes
- Hoarseness in the throat
- Frequent, severe headaches
- Excessive need for privacy
- Foggy or disoriented after being alone
- Increased agitation or irritability
- Unusual marks (redness, cuts, bruises) on the neck
- Unexplained presence of belts, scarves, bungee cord or plastic bags
- Any of the above items tied to bedroom furniture and in cupboards

**Behavioural signs:**
- Discussion or mention of the activity or alternative names for the ‘game’
- Wearing high-necked shirts, even in warm weather

**Alternative names for the ‘choking game’:**
- The pass out game
- The fainting game
- Blackout
- Airplaning
- Space Monkey
- Dream game
- Flatliner

**Important messages to share with your child:**

This is a dangerous activity that could be harmful to you or your friends. Some children have done this and suffered injury, brain damage or death.

If your child knows someone who is doing this, they should tell a trusted adult. It is not safe.
HOW TO HELP KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

INTERNET SAFETY

Firstly, what is Pokémon GO? Pokémon GO, a smartphone game that has become a global phenomenon and was recently released in the UK. But the game, which involves catching Pokémon characters at real-life locations, is not hitting the headlines for all the right reasons. Both the police and NSPCC (The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) are warning users of the safety risks.

The video game allows players to battle, capture and train virtual Pokémon that appear over the top of the display from the device’s camera. Students can make use of the GPS on their phones to find “PokéStops” and “Pokémon gyms”. These are found on significant locations such as memorials and places of worship. Players must physically travel to that location to perform in-game tasks and activities.

So what do young people need to know? The aspect of Pokémon GO that is most concerning is the effect it has on the decision making process of young people. In-game rewards means that students can get ‘caught up’ in the game and could potentially put themselves in unsafe situations. A young teenager who would never consider getting into a stranger’s car may well view this invitation differently when it comes from someone that they have met at a local “Pokéstop”. Alternatively, they could go to a remote place to find a “Pokéstop” or a “Pokémon gym” and be vulnerable to dangers.

What can you do as a parent/carer? Talk to your child about this App and the potential dangers When they leave the house, make sure that someone knows where they are going and what time they are due back. Ideally, they should be there with other people.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-36796296 - articles about the Pokemon GO game
http://www.net-aware.org.uk/ - information about different examples of social media. Please check out which sites your children are using and how they are behaving on these. As parents, your children are solely in your charge over the Summer!

CONTACT DETAILS

Changed or changing your home/mobile number or email address? Please remember to inform the school.

If your child is injured or taken ill we must have a contact number to phone you in an emergency.

Please telephone the school with any new details or alternatively email: enquiry@plantsbrookschool.co.uk to ensure we hold the correct information.
The final installment for the Ski Andorra Trip is due this month, please ensure any remaining balance has been paid by the end of July. Please contact finance@plantsbrookschool.co.uk if you have any queries.
All students are expected to wear full school uniform and their appearance should be appropriate to a working environment. Shirts must be tucked in, top button fastened and ties clipped correctly. Coats may not be worn around the building. Sixth Form students are requested to dress sensibly, setting an example to other students.

**BOYS**
- Black blazer complete with badge
- White shirt
- Black or dark grey trousers
- ‘Clip-on’ School tie
- Black ‘V’ necked pullover (optional school badge available from school)
- Black footwear (not canvas)

**GIRLS**
- Black blazer complete with badge
- White shirt/blouse with buttoned collar
- Black or dark grey skirt or trousers (tailored, not ‘fashion’)
- ‘Clip-on’ School tie
- Black ‘V’ necked pullover (optional school badge available from school)
- Black footwear (not canvas)
- Plain tights or white socks

**BLACK FOOTWEAR**
Must be **ALL black**.
Must **not** be canvas.

**TROUSERS - TAILORED, NOT FASHION’**
Trousers should **not** be jeans or leggings.
They should also **not** be ‘skinny’.

And don’t roll them up girls!
UNIFORM CONTINUED

TIGHTS AND SOCKS
- Plain tights or white socks
- If you need socks over your tights, they should be black
- And no canvas shoes!

SKIRTS
- Lots of skirts have become too inappropriate to put a picture on.
- Short tight lycra skirts are not allowed

TIES AND COATS
- You MUST wear your tie
- You MUST NOT wear your coat in the building

SCHOOL UNIFORM - NEW SUPPLIER
We have an alternative supplier for our school uniform. Please see the school website for details of prices and order forms, or, alternatively, contact: Uniform Hub
Telephone Number: 07958 243555
Well Done!

Thank you to everyone who came to support our 2016 production of Little Shop of Horrors. The cast and crew are now officially ready for a holiday but are managing to keep going, powered by the lovely comments that we have been receiving from our audiences. We will be back in September with a brand new Drama Club open to all year groups, so please keep an eye out for more information. I will now leave you with a selection of photographs from the production. To see more of these and some rehearsal videos please find us on Twitter @PB_Arts

Mrs Downs, Subject Leader Performing Arts
On Wednesday June 29th we held our annual Sports Day at Wyndley Leisure Centre. Despite the horrendous weather conditions, students, staff and parents persevered to create a fantastic atmosphere centred around form group competitions.

The day started with Year 9 and 10 students competing in the morning, followed by Year 7 and 8 in the afternoon.

As it was my first Sports Day here at Plantsbrook, I was proud of each student’s demeanour as competitors, spectators and track marshalls.

All students who participated were a credit to Plantsbrook School and helped the organisation of the day run smoothly by showing a mature attitude.

I would like to thank all staff for their help to ensure the event was a success, 6th Form students for supporting the running of events, time keepers, scorers and parents that came to support their children.

The students showed endeavour, desire and teamwork to compete for their form class, with the winners being awarded their medals in assemblies.

Mr C Brough, Subject Leader PE
All teams that we took to the Summer Games were victorious in their competitions, taking 3 team Golds!
The girls were absolutely amazing in terms of their performance and their representation of the school.....a very proud day.
Incidently the netball team who took gold had many Year 8 players who played up into a Y9/10 competition so it was even more amazing.

**Trampolining Y 7-10**
Eve Clarke, Ellena Grey, Natalie Cooper, Jess Greaves
Jess Hunter, Morgan Lawrence, Heather Walmsley and Lauren Ross

**Netball : Y 8 -10**
Taylor Watson, Ellie Seager, Abi Tyson, Abi Steventon, Ashleigh Gwatidzo, Hollie Moore, Holly Tyson and Mia Dale.

Ms K Mason and Ms K Bryant, PE Teachers
On Tuesday 5th July I accompanied the choir from my old primary school, Maney Hill who were competing in the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham. Back in March I played for them when they competed in the regional stage of the competition in Tamworth and we were all really excited to hear in May that we had been put through to the national finals. The only negative was that we had a lot of work to do – especially me! I had three pieces to learn, two of which were harder than anything I’d done before. It was very hard at times; sometimes I felt like I wasn’t making any progress at all but had to keep on practising and try to believe that I would get there in the end.

On Tuesday morning I was feeling nervous and excited and then the coach was late, which made me stressed too! Luckily, we still managed to get there just in time. We were the very first group to perform so were waiting backstage whilst all the announcements and introductions were made. Suddenly, it was time to go on. I had a long piano introduction to play for the first piece and I’d never played this piano before. Luckily it went really well and the three pieces seemed to be over really quickly. We got really warm applause from the audience and everyone seemed really pleased with us.

As we had performed first, we had a long wait for the judging, during which time we listened to some of the other groups performing. The standard was incredibly high and some groups pieces and costumes were really impressive. After a picnic lunch we came back to hear the report from the judges. I think we were all really surprised at how positive our report was – and I was completely taken aback when the judge said that everyone should give a special round of applause to a ‘terrific young pianist called Will’ and I got a huge cheer from a full Town Hall!

In the afternoon we gave another performance on a stage in the foyer at Symphony Hall which was great fun. I loved the experience and it made all the hard work practising worthwhile.

William Dempster, Year 7 Student

Mrs M Smith, Assistant Subject Leader Art, Design & Technology

Year 13 student Manon Boucheny has been awarded a book and a certificate from the Furniture Makers Company for the coffee table that she designed and made as part of her A2 Product Design coursework. The table is made from reclaimed pallets and concrete. Manon researched all parts of the making process including making moulds for the concrete legs. Manon will now be entered into the National Competition.

Mrs M Smith, Assistant Subject Leader Art, Design & Technology
LLANGLOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2016

I am part of the Four Oaks Cluster Choir and on 6th July we took part in the annual Llangollen International Eisteddfod, a six day event that has been running for 70 years.

We performed two songs, The Rhythm of Life and Seal Lullaby and competed against 9 other choirs in our category. Unfortunately this year we came last, but if you watch our performance on YouTube I’m sure you would agree we sang really well.

It was a brilliant experience and I enjoy being part of this choir. At Christmas we performed at Lichfield Cathedral, Sutton Town Hall and Birmingham’s Symphony Hall and recently we were invited to sing as guest choir at Birmingham Town Hall.

Ben Songhurst, Year 7 Student

MFL REWARDS LUNCHES 13th & 15th JULY

On Wednesday 13th July, we had a Rewards Lunch for outstanding effort in MFL.

We got to eat food from France for example, brioche, croissants and pains au chocolat. It was a really great experience and we had a lot of fun. It was nice to have recognition for our hard work.

Students comment: Today, we had a French Reward Lunch. We enjoyed nearly all of the options of foods. Our favourite was crepes (pancakes) with chocolate in the middle.

By Kendell Blackwood-Downer
Year 8
YEAR 11 PROM
COULD YOU BE OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR?

THE FRIENDS OF PLANTSBROOK ARE URGENTLY
LOOKING FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY HELPER TO KEEP MEMBERS, STAFF AND PUPILS AWARE OF THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER etc

POSTING PICTURES OF EVENTS, LINKS TO FUNDRAISING IDEAS, UPDATING STATUS INFO etc

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, AND YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT

MARK SONGHURST (PTA SECRETARY) – 07947 397076

FRIENDS OF PLANTSBROOK NEWS

NEXT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5th AT 6pm IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

JULY WINNING Nos. 1st -17 /2nd -29 / 3rd - 49

BUILDING WORKS UPDATE – PTA MEETING 5™ JULY

At the last PTA Meeting all parents were invited to a presentation by Mr Farr and Mr Elson from our builders Carillion who gave an update on the progress of the new build.

A slide show presentation was given showing the stages of work completed to date, and that the current status is that the plan is ahead of schedule.

The pictures showed how the format of the building is energy and thermally efficient. Views were shown from the Canteen area, with its extra external space, vaulted ceilings and rooflights.

A full sound and light room is included for control of future performances.

The new V I suite even has space for a guide dog!

Mr Elson said that although work was being completed with the tightest footprint of the 8 builds being done, our school has the best working relationship with Carillion.

It was very pleasing to hear that rather than just building a school, it was more about leaving a legacy and all about the environment for our students.

Special thanks to Mr Farr and Mr Elson for their time and effort over the presentation.

MORE UPDATES TO FOLLOW
“From The People, about The people, for The people, by The People.” Anyone interested in taking part in this programme as an artist, an organisation supporting potential, new and emerging Disabled Artists, or as a venue or promoter then please in the first instance contact Robin Surgeoner via email at info@whyfestival.co.uk
For more information please visit: http://www.whyfestival.co.uk/

MEASLES, CHICKEN POX AND SHINGLES
We are asking for your cooperation in a vitally important matter.
One of our pupils from September 2016 is receiving medical treatment for a brain tumour. This puts the pupil at serious risk if exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles.
The best way to protect our pupil from measles is for all pupils to be immunised against measles. Please discuss measles immunisation with your GP if your child has not already been vaccinated. If you suspect your child has measles you should let the school know immediately.

Our pupil is also at risk from chicken pox and will need immediate medical attention if they have mixed in class or in the playground with someone with chicken pox. Please let us know immediately if you suspect your child has chicken pox or shingles.
Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of our pupil may be at serious risk. We depend on the co-operation of all parents and hope we can rely on your help.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS
Changes have been made as to how we collect information for Free School Meals. You no longer have to complete paper work and bring in evidence but it is all done by simply registering online at www.link2ict.org/FSM. You only ever need to register once and then school will automatically be updated of eligibility or any changes. This information is data protected as per the terms shown on the website. If you are unable to access the system to register, we can do this for you, please provide the following details - National Insurance Number, Date of Birth and Parent Full Name to finance@plantsbrookschoo.co.uk.
Please check your entitlement. If you have any queries, please ring Sue Ellis in Finance on 362 7310 Ext: 205.
On Friday 24th June we had the pleasure of talking to Winston Carnegie, a prison officer from Brinsford Prison in Featherstone. We had arranged for him to come in during Careers Week, but he couldn't make it, so he popped in to see us last Friday. He spoke to the Y10 Psychology class and the Y12 H&SC class P3 and then the 2 x Y12 Psychology classes P4. He talked to students about the prison system, how he became a prison officer, possible career pathways within the prison system, day-to-day routine in prisons and some real-life stories of what he has witnessed himself. The talk was really interesting and students were really engaged and had the opportunity to ask lots of really good questions. Students behaved impeccably well and we were proud of the mature approach they took to this amazing opportunity. Winston also demonstrated how prison officers would restrain a prisoner if they would defy instructions. Our very willing volunteers, Ewan Flemming (Y10) and Nathan Wait (Y12) acted as very disobedient prisoners and were shown how they might be restrained in prison - they were not harmed in this demonstration! We are hoping that Winston will come back and join us next year and share some more of his experiences.

Miss C Sullivan, Subject Leader Social Sciences

Student comments:

“Very informative & interesting to learn about prison life.” Jo Jackson, Y12.

“I thought the talk was very insightful into the role of a prison officer and the prison system as a whole.” Lauren Brown, Y12.

“I thought the talk was really interesting! It was cool to see what happens in prisons and how prisoners are dealt with.” Madeleine Dawson, Y12.

“Following the session with the prison officer I was able to see how different professionals apply their skills to helping others.” Hattie Boyle, Y12.

“It was really interesting to hear about someone’s job role from a psychology point of view and find out what my A-Level could potentially lead to.” Kirsty Pritchard, Y12.

“It was interesting to learn about prison life and what kind of things happen in prison.” Chloe Tomlins, Y12
On Friday 1st July we took 20 Y12 students to London for a 2 day & 1 night visit. The purpose of this visit was to allow students some real life opportunities to have hands-on experience of theories, studies and discussions we have had in the classroom centred around Psychology.

Once we had dropped our bags off at the hotel on Friday, we visited the Freud Museum at 20 Maresfield Gardens, London, where Freud spent the last year of his life after fleeing from the Nazi’s in Vienna in 1938. The museum houses Freud’s famous couch where he spent many hours analysing patients’ unconscious minds and also shows the many collectables Freud was fascinated with throughout his life. We also learnt about his daughter, Anna Freud, who continued his work after his death. Although some of Freud’s ideas were very radical at the time, at lot of his theories are still used today and he is regarded as the founder of Psychodynamic Psychology. We then made our way back to the hotel to check in and then went to Whitechapel to eat pizza! We had a fabulous meal at Pizza Express followed by a ‘Jack the Ripper Walking Tour.’ Barry was our tour guide and he took us around the streets in Whitechapel where the famous Jack the Ripper murders took place. It is fascinating that we might never know who the famous Jack the Ripper was!

On Saturday, we travelled to Bethlem Museum of the Mind where students got to explore mental illnesses through the ages. We got to see how the psychiatric institute was when it was founded in 1247 and how it has changed through the years. It is still a working hospital now, but very different to how it was back then. This museum was very informative and fascinating for both students and staff! Once we had travelled back into central London we visited the ‘Clink Prison Museum’ where we had a guided tour of the prison and an insight into how it worked in 1147 - it is considered the oldest prison in the UK. Poppy Sheffield and Kyle Brady were singled out as being ‘law-breakers’ and Poppy was put into hand cuffs and Kyle was to be electrocuted! Both were fabulous actors and this all added to the experience we had.

It was an absolute pleasure to take the 20 students away with us; they were impeccably behaved and did themselves and the school proud. We are hoping to run a similar trip next year, so keep your ears open!

Student comments:

“The trip was really good. We visited some exciting museums—especially the Clink Prison museum!” Kirsty Pritchard (Y12)

“The trip was very interesting and fun! I have now learnt more about psychology and made some fun memories!” Chloe Judd (Y12)

“The London psychology trip was interesting and fun! I developed a better understanding of Jack the Ripper and who he might be!” Tat-Leen Nijhar (Y12)

“The Freud museum was so interesting!”

“Our weekend in London was very educational and enjoyable as although I do not do Psychology, I learnt a lot about the mind and had a great weekend away with friends. I wish we could have gone for longer as I really enjoyed it!” Ilsa Booker-Smallwood (Y12)

“I really enjoyed the Clink prison museum as the tour guide involved different members of the group, making it much more interesting! It was great learning about the history of London’s prison systems.”

Poppy Sheffield (Y12)

Miss Sullivan, Subject Leader Social Sciences
SIXTH FORM NEWS

Our Year 12s have been involved in a series of events over the last couple of weeks to help them decide on their post-18 options.

UCAS EXHIBITION BIRMINGHAM NEC - TUESDAY 28th JUNE 2016

Our Year 12 students made their own way to the Birmingham NEC where they met Sixth Form staff and were signed in to the Higher Education Exhibition organised by UCAS. This event was free for students and gave them the opportunity to pick up prospectuses, attend seminars and speak to representatives from universities and colleges, gap year providers and employers. We hope the exhibition gave our students inspiration and motivation to make an informed choice regarding the post-18 options available to them.

PRACTICE INTERVIEW MORNING - WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2016

We were delighted to welcome a wide variety of representatives from various industries who had volunteered to act as interviewers for our Year 12 students and give them a taster of what to expect from an employment/university interview. Every student was given a 20 minute slot to meet with an “employer” who looked through their CV and interviewed them for a pseudo post.

The feedback from the employers was excellent: they were very impressed with our “fantastic students” and found it a “very positive session with engaged learners”. Our students similarly enjoyed the experience, gaining “more understanding on how interviews are conducted and what employers look for” and inspiring them to “look beyond the basic job role”.

We would like to express our thanks to the employers who supported us and their representatives: Birmingham City University, Carillion, Birmingham Children’s Hospital, University of Law, Lloyds Banking Group, Aldi, Rider Levett Bucknall, Lovell Partnerships, Razzamataz Theatre Schools, Platinum Training, Bevan Brittan and Ian Dodd. We would also like to thank the staff from the Inspiration Team who supported us with finding our volunteers.

TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

MONDAY 4th JULY 2016

Following on from the Sutton Coldfield Schools’ Parliamentary Debating Competition earlier this year, our two Year 12 debaters, Alexandra Parker and Jake Phillips, were invited to visit the Houses of Parliament, together with the other Sutton schools’ debaters. The trip was organised by the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, with the Birmingham Metropolitan College providing transport. The students were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament and, following lunch and a ‘question and answer’ session with Andrew Mitchell, were allowed to watch a debate in the House of Commons.

APPRENTICESHIP DAY—THURSDAY 14th JULY 2016

Jamie Dunn, an internationally recognised entrepreneur, talked to students about his 3 principles for success: Passion, People and Vision and encouraged them to set their own goals for the future. Students then rotated around 4 workshops from different apprenticeship providers: Creative Alliance, BPP (legal and accounting), Virgin Media and Carillion, where students received information and advice on alternative routes to the professions. Students found all of the sessions interesting and informative and we would like to thank all of our contributors for supporting the event.
YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

The majority of Year 12 students will be on work experience for the last week of term; this is a crucial part of their Sixth Form studies as many employers and university entry requirements now stipulate that applicants must be able to demonstrate skills within the workforce and knowledge of their chosen career. We will be contacting employers during the placement week to check on students’ progress and they will be given a Work Experience Diary to record evidence of skills learned throughout the placement. Students without placements will be given work experience tasks within departments at Plantsbrook School.

RESULTS AND SIXTH FORM REGISTRATION

2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

AS/A2 Results: Thursday, 18th August 2016:

Registration for Sixth Form Year 13

Thursday, 18th August 2016: 9:30am – 12:00pm

Students who do not achieve the minimum Year 13 entry requirement of 3 grade Ds or Merits should see Mr Legood, Miss Proctor or Mr Hulse to discuss their options. If appropriate, appointments can be made for Friday, 19th August 2016: 9:00am – 11:30pm

Students unable to register on these dates should register on Monday, 5th September 2016: 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the 6th Form Common Room.

Year 13 students will return to Plantsbrook School on Tuesday, 6th September when they will register in Cromwell Hall at 11:00am.

Timetabled lessons will begin at 12:20pm.

GCSE Results: Thursday, 25th August 2016:

Registration for Sixth Form Year 12 – Thursday, 25th August 2016: 9:00 am – 12:00pm

Plantsbrook Students (former Year 11)

Friday, 26th August 2016: 9:00am – 12:00pm – Students joining Plantsbrook Sixth Form from other schools.

Students unable to register on these dates should register on Monday, 5th September 2016: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

The new term will begin on Wednesday, 7th September. Students should register at 9:15am in Cromwell Hall. Timetabled lessons will commence on Thursday, 8th September 2016.
INTRODUCTION TO UNIFROG

Vikki Garner, a representative from Unifrog, launched this product with students to help them with their university/college and apprenticeship research, to record what they are good at and draft their CVs and Personal Statements. Students were shown how to log on; each student has individual access to information about the university/college courses and apprenticeship schemes currently available in the UK. Students can filter the system to suit their individual requirements.

We will be using Unifrog throughout Year 13, and later with our Year 12 students, as part of their post-18 studies and believe it will be an invaluable tool in helping our students through the application process. Students can access this system from home to utilise this tool and identify courses/apprenticeships that appeal to them.

Students were then given 2 Interactive Presentations by Alex Pycock, from Loughborough University, one on Social Media. How using it can impact on your university/job applications and secondly one on UCAS Personal Statements: What should you be writing?

We would like to thank all of our speakers for their talks which were very informative and highly beneficial to our students.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE DAY LOUGHBROUGH UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016

Year 12 students attended a series of talks at Loughborough University, including Student Finance, the application process and choosing the right course/university. They were then given the opportunity to speak to current university students, look around the campus and find out more about university life in general. Although we didn’t have the best of weather, the day was very informative and insightful. Many thanks to Alex Pycock and the School-College Liaison Team at Loughborough University for hosting us and to our Year 12 students who were excellent ambassadors for Plantsbrook Sixth Form.
HIDDEN COUNTRIES 2

Where are you going for your summer holiday? In each of the sentences below, the names of two countries are hidden. Can you find them all? **TIP:** Have your atlas open as this one is really tricky!

Rash decisions may lead to trouble so thorough analysis is required.

The king and queen eat breakfast and lunch in a fine palace.

Such a display could be either really grand or rather disappointing.

Give the dog a bone and give him a little water.

If an iron pipe rusts you just have to shrug and accept it.

**Last week’s solution:**

Slick Jim won £54000 on the lottery.

Please return your solutions to Math Department in E11 or Miss Dasley in E24 to be in with a chance of winning this term’s star prize! Well done to those pupils that have handed in correct solutions for the previous problems.