



24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Holocaust Memorial

Our History team organised an event on Wednesday the 22nd January to commemorate Monday's Holocaust Memorial Day. Year 9 students joined thousands of people across the globe to come together through live streaming. To mark the 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenau, Mala Tribich MBE, gave a powerful and important testimony of surviving the ghettos and concentration camps of Poland. I am so proud of the students who took part, they witnessed such a sensitive and impactful talk and behaved impeccably, with the respect Mala Tribich deserved. Students have since approached staff asking insightful and meaningful questions about how such an event as the Holocaust could happen; discussing the importance of such testimonies as warning for society in the future. On Monday we will publish a reading list on our website (in latest news) in recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day, I do hope you and your child(ren) find the suggestions insightful.

Reading

The news is great because it keeps us informed about the world, connects us to current events and sparks meaningful conversations. It empowers us to make educated decisions, understand diverse perspectives, and stay engaged with societal issues. By staying updated, we can actively participate in shaping our communities and future.

Try these recommendations from The Day

Economics [Do Olympians earn more than McDonalds' workers? - The Day](#)

German [Nach dem Hurrikan: Amerika dreht durch - The Day %](#)

RE [Biblical themes inspire blockbuster movie hit - The Day](#)

AI research findings

Last year some of our year 10 students took part in some research with Cambridge University Press & Assessment. The research study explored the effects of Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) on learning, or more specifically, text comprehension and retention. The research was carried out by the Research Division of Cambridge University Press & Assessment (CUP&A) in collaboration with Microsoft Research Cambridge and New York City. The aim was to gain valuable insights that will inform our understanding of the effects of Generative AI in education, which may have important implications for learning and teaching.

The research paper is now in the public domain, please [click here](#) to read the report. Please note that this is a preprint version and has not yet undergone peer review, however, we are in position to share it with student and parents.

Parental resources and guidance

[For Parents - How to Deal with Online Scams](#)

Continuing the theme, ParentZone have put together a very simple but really useful webpage guide for parents which would be worth sharing. You can find the guide [HERE](#).

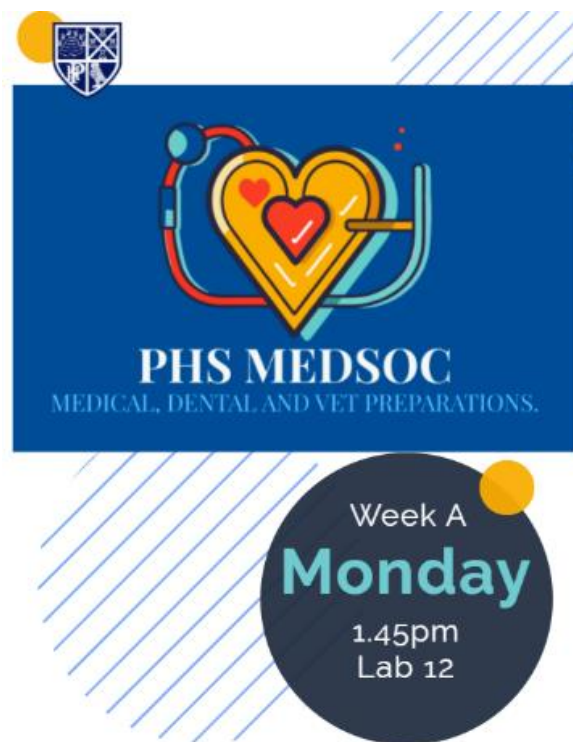
[For Parents - Free Webinar - Supporting Neurodivergent Children in the Online World](#)

. Internet Matters are putting on a free webinar (29/1) for parents & carers of neurodivergent children and young people who enjoy gaming online. Registration is required and teachers/support staff will find it interesting too. See [HERE](#) for more information.

Medical, Dental and Veterinary medicine offers

Many of our students apply for a place at University to study to be a doctor, dentist or vet and we are really proud of their dedication and commitment. Due to all their hard work a number of these students are now holding offers to study at their chosen Universities. Congratulations to them all. Since mocks are finished, now is a great time for all year 13 to reflect on how to move forward and ensure that they meet their offers.

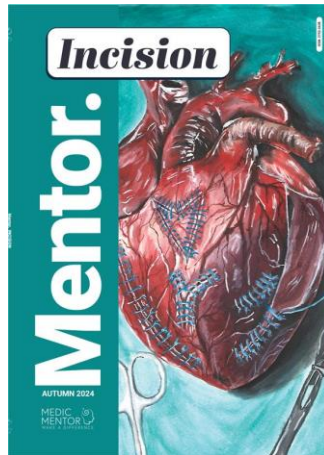
New MEdSoc student leaders



With a new year comes a great chance to introduce our new MedSoc Leaders – Amisha and Fazia in Year 12. They will now be working with Dr Doddrell to organise activities and events to support students from Year 10 to 12 in their pursuit of a career in healthcare. Please remind your child about Medsoc if they are considering one of these rewarding careers and to let Dr Doddrell know if they are interested.

Medical Art Competition – All Years Welcome

Is your child interested in media, art and science? Would they enjoy designing the front cover of a magazine?



Please encourage your child to get ready to showcase their creative flair and make a lasting impact through the National Artwork Competition. If they possess artistic talent and a passion for healthcare, them to shine. Imagine

how pleased your child would be to have their artwork featured on the front page of Medic Mentor's prestigious national wider reading magazine, reaching countless healthcare enthusiasts and professionals across the country.

The theme for the upcoming issue is "Under the Microscope," providing a fascinating and thought-provoking subject for young people to explore and express themselves through their artwork. We invite students from all years to submit Artwork on 'Under the Microscope' for February's front cover. Whether they prefer paintbrushes, pencils, or digital mediums, let their creativity soar as they create an A4 masterpiece that resonates with the theme. We encourage all students to unleash their imagination, captivate our judges, and leave a lasting impression.

Students should not submit AI art. Submissions to Dr Doddrell by 3.30pm on 31st January 2025.

School website latest news page.

This is where we celebrate student achievements and promote school related news. Please click [here](#) to read our latest news.

Dates for your diary.

All years

31st January submission to Dr Doddrell for the healthcare art project

5th February. Staff training afternoon. Students finish school at 1.15pm. Bus and train times have not been changed.

11th – 13th February School production of Frozen

14th February. Last day of half term. Normal finish time, full uniform.

24th February, first day back after the half term holiday, normal school day.

Year 9

30th January second of the parents' evenings via online appointments

6th February GCSE option deadline 3.30pm.

Year 13

6th February. Mock results published to students and parents

Best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.