



Newsletter

Issue 2:2017/2018

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Did you rock around the Christmas tree?

Wish the snowman brought the snow?

Listened to children who sang Christian rhymes?

If you did anything like that, then hooray you're free to stay festive with this newsletter.

Mel and Kim, Wizzard and Cliff Richard boogie tunes can wait till next Christmas now!

My late gift to you is full of news, features and achievements from staff and students alike.

I also spoilt the senior staff as well with plenty of WhatsApp messages to open...

If you stayed off the naughty list this Christmas and New Year, then tuck in to some guilt-free reading.

Turkey would've been much nicer, but for all the veggies and vegans out there...

Enjoy the nut-roast, I walnut stop you.

Half-term Headlines

Our top story comes from Teaseldown.

One of our students wrote a great article on the pros and cons of snow days.

As a media professional in training, I was very impressed because I felt it would fit perfectly into everyone's favourite moany tabloid, the Daily Mail.

Control and click the link: [SEE IT HERE](#)



These aren't muddy cowpats, but sweet pin rolls lovingly cooked by a Brook View student recently!

Yum, yum in their tum...

Cat lover?

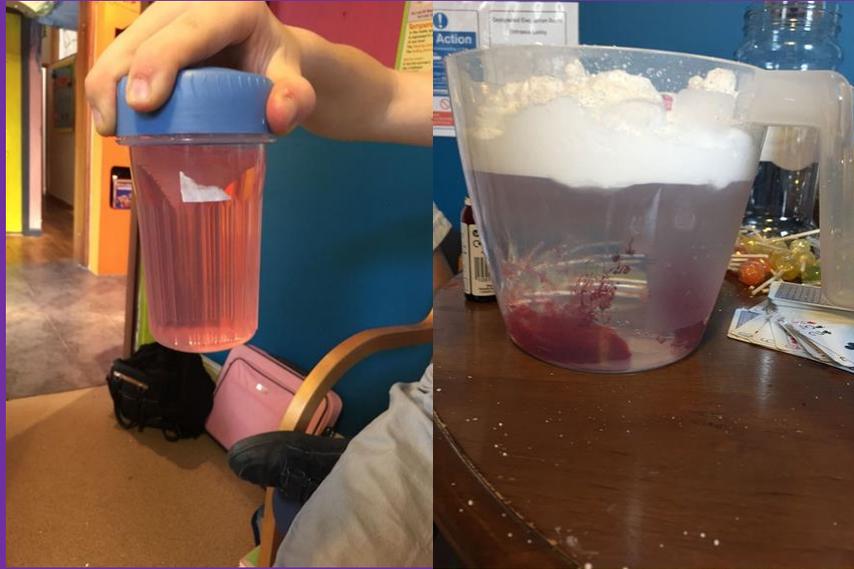
Then your heart will be purrfectly warmed as a student gave a helping hand to the good folks at the RSPCA animal rescue centre.

With this cute photo it's easy to see why they had a miaowzing time!



One of our school's greatest strengths is adapting the curriculum to each student.

This piece of practical learning created a storm in a jar and helped a student understand this topic in greater depth.



All the schools were invited by our colleagues at Essex County Council to set up stalls at a Christmas craft fair.

Based in ECC's HQ (County Hall, Chelmsford) on December 5th.

Items sold by our own staff and students included homemade pumpkin marmalade, hot chocolates, candles, Christmas decorations and stockings which looked and tasted lovely.

The candles had a very waxy, sickly taste so these were promptly spat out of course!



In total, the schools raised almost 150 pounds for charity, which is super-duper!



I was absolutely delighted to win a Jack Petchey Award for Outstanding Achievement in just my first term at College.

Receiving a certificate, pin-badge, invitation to an awards ceremony as well as a £250 grant to help benefit the student community.

To find out more about the Jack Petchey Foundation and its inspiring mission please check out the link below.

<http://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/index.php>

A massive thank you to everyone who nominated me and to my ex-school for playing a big part into helping me be the best I can!

Staff Uncovered

This month, our staff were asked...

Your favourite way to spend your free time?

- **Family and close friends**
- **With my girlies and good food. (Although I don't have a lot of free time)**
 - **Free time?????????**
 - **Reading**

I hope the poor staff member who did question free time had some over Christmas and New Year.

I'm lucky for now in that I have quite a lot of free time.

I don't even know what to do with it all at times!

Welcomes/Farewells

Some new staff are joining the schools from this January and I'll look forward to introducing them to you in the February edition.



Shaun from Primrose Hill decided it would be better to take a new career path after three years as a student mentor.

He played a pivotal role in helping most of our new and old Primrose Hill students settle in school and was a walking History boffin.

I'm pleased to hear some staff are keeping in touch and we wish him all the best for the future.

Apply for a role with us if you fancy helping students overcome barriers and achieve success.

Remember though, only exceptional people get offered a job.

See: <http://exceptionalideasltd.co.uk/now-hiring/>

Nerdy Nora's Festive Fact



"Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard."

Don't like facts, just ignora.

She'll get the message one day..



This month's Best Before is the addition of a sensory room to Primrose Hill.



We've recently added this to all our schools, so it can be used as a calming space as well as for some therapeutic lessons where a good chat is required.

How pretty, hey!

New Year Webolution

The website and social media accounts are starting to receive some more attention which will help make finding news and information a lot easier.

The team are also looking at making areas of the website more interactive and social by providing a secure school community hub for messaging.



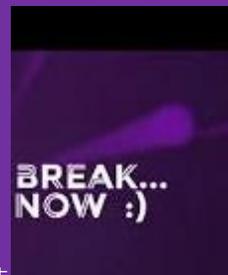
I will also be making some format changes due to recent feedback and as a progressive company that doesn't stand still I have to adapt my own content over time of course!

This will begin February 2018, as a special January edition is now in the proof-reading, editing stage.



This newsletter wishes you a belated Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and hope there was time for a much-needed rest!

For some it may have been easier to do than others, but the fun, family-time, laughter, relaxation and festivities that makes this time of year memorable for many, don't have to be only at Christmas.



Just a little while till the next

Any Ideas?

For our schools, the website or for this student newsletter?

Contact us using our website feedback page, or get in touch through social media, active on:



(students must NOT follow staff on social media for Child Protection, E-Safety reasons)

That was the news, Goodbye!

The Editor