



# Pinetree Matters

RESPECT

HONESTY

TRUST

KINDNESS

## Message from our Head of School.

The Summer term is always a hectic one in school with Yr 11s sitting exams, Sports Day and end of year events. After what has been a busy year many of the pupils and staff are looking forward and excited about the prospect of the summer break, and hopefully some fun in the sun. The summer term like all terms has its challenges but this term has also been filled with lots of achievements.

The Year 11s completed their journey with us and on the whole tried extremely hard during the exams so a big well done to them. All pupils were kind and respectful to the Yr 11s during this period in line with our principles. With this in mind I have been really impressed by the number of pupils who have made progress with both their learning and behaviour this Year and I want to congratulate those doing well.

The Summer term has been action packed for the staff and pupils, and this one has been no different. Whether it has been parents' evenings, college visits, life skills trips or careers Day it has been non-stop. Change and seeing others move on are always difficult for anyone. After a long year I need to give a massive thank you to all who have continued to show high levels of commitment on a daily basis.

Whilst it has been a Year with many challenges, it has been a Year when so many of our pupils have achieved so much. This was all on show at the celebration event. Whether this was the Duke of Edinburgh accreditation or improving attendance. These achievements are only possible to with the support of the whole Pinetree community. The school community is so important and the support for and of parents is continues to be a core value for the school. So, I thank all the parents who continue to support the school and subsequently their child's education.

Summer is a great time to spend with family and friends who during term we often neglect, so I hope we all spend some quality time with them over 6 weeks and enjoy the break.

We then look forward to welcoming everyone back in September ready to listen to your Summer tales. From everyone at the Pinetree School, a thank you and see you in September!

## Staff News

Many of you will already be aware that Miss Dale has returned to us following her period of Maternity leave. As a school we are delighted to have Miss Dale back in the school.

I want to use this space to thank all members of staff at school for their continued hard work and commitment to our pupils.

## School Community News

You may be aware that we recently set up a school ASC (Academy Stakeholder committee). This is used to support the school in making school an enjoyable environment for pupils and ensure they make progress. This has already had impact on the school community, talking to pupils and staff and supporting the school to achieve its wider outcomes. We are always looking for new members to join. If this is something you are interested in please get in touch.

## Dates for the Diary

### Term Dates:

School opens: 3  
September

School closes 27  
October

Half term: 27 October  
– 2 November

School opens: 3  
November

School Closes: 19  
December

Summer Holidays: 20  
December — 6  
January

### **School Events:**

17<sup>th</sup> October – Theme  
Day – Building positive  
relationships

12<sup>th</sup> December – Theme  
Day – using technology  
safely

17<sup>th</sup> December – School  
Christmas Day  
celebration

## Attendance

Attendance is really important and you can find your pupils attendance figure as part of the end of term report attached to this newsletter.

The top performing form this term are: ACORN OUR Yr 7 group with a group attendance of 89%

Our best individual attendance is 98% from 4 different pupils across the school.

## HOUSE POINTS SYSTEM

This year we introduced the House system. This is to encourage our pupils to not only follow our school values but to also work as a team to earn bigger rewards. It's been really pleasing to see how invested the pupils have become, with them all trying to earn as many house points as they can each week. The cheering and support from the whole school as each weekly winner is announced has been phenomenal with everyone being genuinely pleased for the winner.

Now at the end of the Year we have both termly and yearly winners!

### Summer Term Winners:

Winning House with 835 points is Green House

Highest Earning Boy with 255 points is Oscar C For Red House

Highest Earning Girl with 197 Points is Yazmin S for Yellow House

### And now the results we've all been waiting for..... The End of Year Results:

The Overall Highest Earning Boy with 599 points is OSCAR C for Red House

The Overall Highest Earning Girl with 692 points is KATELYN J for Green House

And The overall Winning House..... In Reverse order:

5<sup>th</sup> place - Purple with 1075 points

4<sup>th</sup> Place - Yellow with 1803 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Blue with 2144 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Red with 2372 points

And the Overall winner with an amazing 3081 points is GREEN HOUSE

## THEME BASED LEARNING DAYS

Our first Theme day of the term was collaboration and the ways in which both pupils have to collaborate with each other but also the ways other things in the world work together to create masterpieces.

In Food Technology, pupils made a Layer Cake! They all had to contribute towards the cake they were making with each group and pupil having a particular role within the group. All had to work together to make it work.

In Computing pupils were playing Massively Multiplayer - using Makey-Makey controller and circuitry components to create working dual-controllers for pairs to play games with. Pupils had to create this themselves and then had the chance to play the games themselves.

In PE pupils were working together to communicate effectively through practical challenges and they had to work as a team to get these completed.

In Art and Design pupils created A Bug's Life. This involved pupils creating collaborative art involving insects and the wider nature.



Our second theme day of the term has been around using technology both the positive parts and the new parts of technology that can be concerning and pupils need to understand.

In Food Technology pupils were growing and harvesting grain and exploring ways in which flour and other things out of food to make them meet dietary requirements. Pupils were exploring ways in which they make things gluten free. Pupils were making two versions of cupcakes one that is gluten free, and the other were normal ones. Pupils then had to compare the two and which they preferred.

In Art and Design pupils were exploring AI Deepfakes and mass generated digital art. Pupils had to try and tell the difference between real and fake pictures and videos. The pictures were much easier than the videos. In PE pupils looked at how sports use technology to master technique and improve performance. This included doing the high jump and trying to master the technique as a result of analysing video footage. In English pupils looked at Storytelling and technology and specifically how texts are being generated through the use of AI. Pupils had to illustrate how they thought a picture would look following on from a piece of AI generated text. They also looked at some stories which have been written by AI and how these compare to authors' work. Overall, the day was largely enjoyable and the pupils behaved well.





The Pinetree  
School

## Events and trips

In July we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual celebration event. This gave us as a school community the chance to celebrate each other's achievements alongside parents and carers. Three pupils from each subject who have made exceptional progress were nominated by teachers.

During the event an Art exhibition was held to highlight and display all the wonderful work pupils had done in Art across this year, this included some exemplars of English and DT work. It was great to see pupils showing parents/carers their work and telling them what they had learnt. There was so much on display from GCSE final pieces to whole school art projects. Thank to Mrs Adkins for putting this on.

Once pupils and adults had eaten and strolled through the Art gallery each subject was called upon to give out their certificates and prizes for their chosen pupils. We had 20 prizes to give out from Attendance to DofE. 1 by 1 pupils came up to a lovely round of applause from the hall to receive prizes from the staff. It shouldn't be lost what a magnificent achievement this is for our pupils to do this especially in front of others. I was extremely proud of them.



This term we have had a careers theme day which focused on all the different careers that our young people would be able to achieve once they leave school. The pupils had the opportunity to speak with and use some of the equipment from the forestry commission where they learnt parts of their job and why they have to do some of their work. Pupils also had the chance to speak and practice their hairdressing skills with a trained hairdresser. We had the military police from the RAF show the pupils the different pieces of equipment they have to use and part of their job. We had an archaeologist where pupils had to dig for 'goodies' and put the pieces back together.

For PE we had a Karate company show some of the enriching careers that can be had following a PE path. We were also really lucky to have a police car come and allow the pupils to explore the car. We also had the NHS come and show the pupils basic first aid and explain the job and how a career in the NHS looks. The pupils really enjoyed the day and were impeccably behaved.



There has also been an array of other trips and visits this term. These have included a carousel of careers activities with different employers. A trip to Banham Zoo that Green house chose as part of them winning the House of the term award. There have also been trips to the local cinema, The Sainsbury Centre and Norwich Castle and more. Overall, the pupils have really enjoyed all the opportunities to go out and explore learning outside of the classroom and have generally behaved well on all the trips out.



The Pinetree  
School

# PINETREE MATTERS

## Learning in Focus

On July 11 we had our annual Sports day event. This year was the first year where we incorporated a house competition into the day as well as individual winners and participation awards. The Sports Day focused around 4 different activities and events. The pupils went around the different events in their house groups. Pupils went around the different activities from Archery, High/ Triple Jump, Discus/ Javelin, Sprinting events and a sport related quiz. Like all Sports days it was really important that all pupils were encouraging of their peers especially those within the houses as well as wanting to win for themselves. All the pupils earned points for their house and these all contributed towards the eventual winner. Due to the hot weather extra rest breaks were taken and pupils allowed extra drink breaks. There was even time in the afternoon for a staff vs pupil sprint and some staff pupil relay and the highlight of the day was seeing Mr Rice retain his crown of winning the 100m sprint much to the disgust of many of the pupils. After a very hard fought battle and a day conducted in good spirits it was **Blue House** who were eventually victorious in winning the Sports Day Cup.



For the first time this year we launched The Duke of Edinburgh at Pinetree and it was a great success! Students took an adventure to Lambourne End. Here they pitched their own tents and explored the famous woodland, along the way they took part in various adventurous outdoor activities varying from mountain biking to orienteering and camp cooking. Throughout the two days students worked hard as a team and developed their independent life skills further. This was a great opportunity, and all students involved have now gained a nationally recognized qualification. The pupils described the trip as a great experience and felt a great sense of connection to both their peers and the staff on the expedition.

All those involved should be proud of their hard work and efforts. We hope that next year's cohort can share the same success. As a school we are very proud of what was achieved by all across the Duke of Edinburgh award. Hopefully this can become an annual award our pupils can participate in.

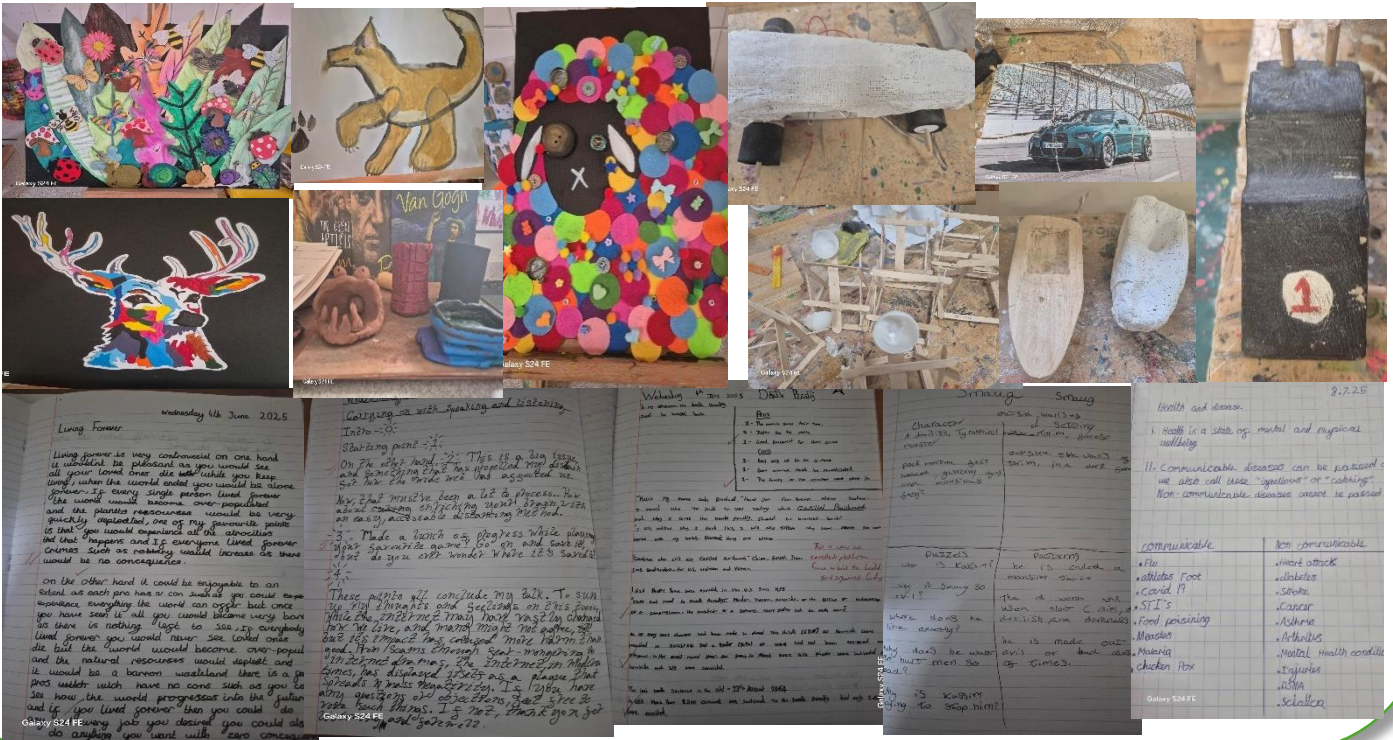




The Pinetree School

# PINETREE MATTERS

## HIVE LIKE WALLS?



## Notice Board

Communication between home and school continues to be a vital way of ensuring that both parties are informed of any attendance/trips/issues and any other information that needs to be shared to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential and are fully supported.

As you are aware, there are several ways in which we can communicate: via telephone, email, letter, Website, Parents Events. The school telephone number is 01842 752756 and email address is [office@pin.unity-ed.uk](mailto:office@pin.unity-ed.uk)

First Day Calling messages are now sent via SIMS, Intouch

As you are aware the safety and well-being of your child/ward is paramount to us at school. Therefore, it is imperative that the school is informed if your child is going to be absent from school, (please contact the school on the day as early as possible using one of the above procedures, a message can be left). Alternatively, please acknowledge our telephone call or contact via Parent App. If it is a medical appointment then evidence of the appointment is required. If there are any changes in home circumstances e.g. change of address, telephone number etc. please contact the school so we can update our records.

Dinners are ordered daily and pupils should pay on the day or in advance – payment can be made via cheque or BACS ([please contact the school office for the BACS details) Dinners cost **£2.55** per day regardless of whether it is a hot dinner or packed lunch