



**Year 8 Newsletter**  
**March 2024**

**Key Events**

- April 15<sup>th</sup>** – First Day of Summer Term 1
- May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Bank Holiday
- May 24<sup>th</sup>** – Last Day of Summer Term 1

**Merit and attendance update for Year 8**

Year 8 have amassed a fantastic 31,292 merits so far this year! Well done to all pupils! Notably, Izzie Manchip (8FMR) leads the way with 453 merits so far with Callum Lillington (8ALS) not far behind on 425 merits! The number of collective merits is testament to how hard Year 8 have been working this term. Congratulations to the pupils.

**SMSC Sessions**

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural. For one lesson each term, every Tutor Group is given an additional hour from the school timetable to focus on a key topic that falls under the SMSC umbrella. In January, we focused on Resilience and trying to complete the Pringle challenge (see photos) and in March, the focus was Discrimination. The pupils have engaged well in these topic areas and Tutors have worked hard to deliver engaging and interesting sessions.



**Message From Mr Shaul**

It has been a successful and busy Spring term for Year 8. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the Year 8 Parents Evening' with staff having the opportunity to update parents on their child's progress so far. This is the only opportunity for parents to share these face-to-face meetings with subject teachers. We hope the evening proves beneficial for you all.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding work, please can I take this opportunity to remind you that all online communication between pupils and staff at the school should take place via office 365. Pupils can access their office email and Teams in the pupil's zone on the school website.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

**The House Competition**

The Year 8 House competitions got underway in January with a boys 6-a-side football tournament after school. The three Houses, Portsdown, Castle and Solent provided squads of at least ten players and each House played against the other two Houses twice. At the end of some competitive, closely fought games, the blues of Solent ran out as winners with Castle (Yellow) in second place and Portsdown (Red) in third place.

The current House standings (as of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March), including all events, are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Portsdown with 17334 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Castle with 16195 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Solent with 16141 points

**World Book Day 2024**

Thank you to all staff and pupils, particularly Mrs Norton in the LRC and the English Department for making WBD 2024 on the 7<sup>th</sup> March an enriching experience. Activities such as quizzes, book swaps and competitions were all enjoyed. Meanwhile, Gangsta Granny stood in for Mr Shaul and took control of the Year Office to ensure things ran smoothly!

