IN THIS ISSUE:

Open Evening
A fantastic evening welcoming prospective parents and pupils

Dance Festival
Proud to host the annual Chiltern Learning Trust Dance Festival

Y7 Lawn Party
Welcoming our new Year 7 families in style

FIRST CLASS POST

Issue 048: Sept - Oct 2026

Important Notice

We kindly ask you to avoid parking along the private access road towards Putteridge Bury when spectating at sporting events taking place on the school field.

Please ensure if you are dropping off or picking up your child, that you park at least a five minute walk away from school. There should be no stopping on the yellow zig-zag lines directly at the front of school between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm or parking/waiting on single yellow lines (where restrictions exist) or on double yellow lines in surrounding roads.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Putteridge High School

Chiltern Learning Trust

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Head of School Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share a brief update and express what a privilege and joy it has been stepping into my new role as Head of School.

Over the past few weeks, I have been thoroughly impressed by our students' excellent attendance, punctuality, and outstanding attitudes toward learning. There is a wonderful energy across the school, and I would like to highlight a few recent achievements across our year groups:

- **Year 7** have settled in remarkably well. I have particularly enjoyed visiting their reading lessons and seeing their enthusiasm for books.
- **Year 8** represented our school community beautifully during our recent Open Evening, acting as brilliant ambassadors.
- **Year 9** have demonstrated impressive detail and creativity in Art while drawing cell structures.
- **Year 10** have shown real commitment to their learning, with over 100 students attending Wednesday after-school study sessions to revise and create Core4 revision resources. This shows such diligence and a strong work ethic.
- **Year 11** have embarked on their mock examinations with a mature, dedicated, and positive mindset.

It has also been fantastic to see our sustainability garden thriving, with a great variety of fruit and vegetables growing in the greenhouse. Alongside this, our calendar has been packed with enriching opportunities, including hosting the CLT Dance Festival and welcoming Odd Arts for inspiring student assemblies.

Additionally, we have launched the National Wellbeing Award this term. We are currently collating the feedback from our recent parent survey into a clear action plan to enhance our wellbeing offer for students, and we will share more details with you very soon.

Whether you completed the survey, attended our SEN, Year 7, Year 10, or Year 11 Information Evenings, or simply supported your child at home—thank you for your continued partnership and support of our school community.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming students back ready for the second half of the term.

Kirsten Senior
Head of School

News & Events

23 SEPT

Tackling Racism Through Theatre

Putteridge High School welcomed OddArts to deliver an engaging and thought-provoking workshop exploring racism and how to respond to it.

Through an interactive performance, students had the opportunity to reflect on scenarios involving racism, share their perspectives and consider how to navigate challenging conversations with confidence and respect.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of recognising when a situation requires the support or intervention of a trusted adult, empowering students to challenge discrimination and contribute to a more inclusive and respectful school community.

1 OCT

Year 7 Lawn Party

This term, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families to the Putteridge community with our annual Lawn Party.

It was a beautiful afternoon filled with connection and community spirit. Parents had a fantastic opportunity to meet their child's tutors, connect with other families across the year group, and gain valuable insights during our Year 7 information presentation. Alongside the discussions, families enjoyed a relaxing selection of lawn games, as well as delicious cakes and snacks. It was a warm, welcoming, and fun afternoon for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers, and students who joined us and helped make the event such a success. We are thrilled to grow our school community and look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

2 OCT

Dance Festival

Our school proudly hosted the annual Chiltern Learning Trust Dance Festival, filled with incredible energy, passion, and standout talent from start to finish.

A massive thank you to the team at Next Generation Youth Theatre, who led inspiring, high-energy workshops throughout the event. We were immensely proud of every pupil who took to the stage. The dedication and skill on display were truly next level!

6 OCT

Open Evening

A huge thank you to all the prospective students and families who joined us for our Open Evening! It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout and to share a vibrant glimpse of life at our school. Visitors had the chance to explore our departments, meet our dedicated staff, and experience what makes our school community so special.

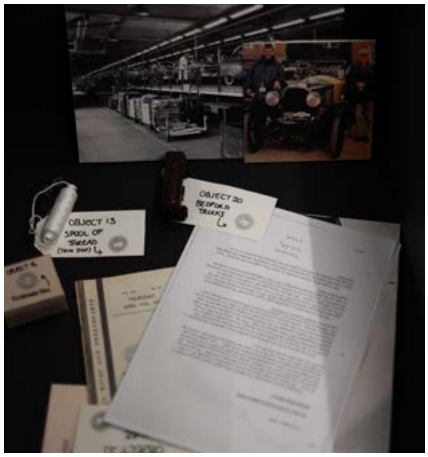
We would also like to extend a massive thank you to our incredible staff, student ambassadors, and volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes to make the night such a resounding success. We look forward to welcoming everyone again next year!

15 OCT

Museum in a Box

Year 8 history students studying the Industrial Revolution have been engaging with local history- specifically the history of Vauxhall using the 'Museum in a Box' provided by Luton Made!

They learnt all about work in the factory and its impact on Luton's economy and society. Huge thanks to Luton Made for a brilliant local learning experience!



Safeguarding

Safeguarding Newsletter: Staying Safe and Well This Winter

Putteridge High School | Safeguarding Team

As the clocks go back and the evenings get darker and colder, it is important that every student travels to and from school safely and arrives ready to learn. This edition covers staying safe on the journey, why attendance matters so much in the winter months, and the support groups we are currently running at lunchtime.

Travelling to and From School in the Winter

Be seen, be warm, be prepared

- Wrap up warm. Please make sure your child wears a coat, hat and gloves every day. A warm student is a more comfortable, focused and safer student.
- Be visible. Bright or reflective items, a light on a bike or scooter, and a charged phone torch all help drivers and others see students in poor light.
- Charge the phone. A phone with a battery is a safety tool. Please encourage students to leave the house with a full charge. It needs to be off and in their bags in school hours but necessary for walking home when dark outside.

Plan the journey

- Know the quickest, safest route home. Agree it as a family. The quickest route is not always the best one, so stick to well-lit, busy roads and avoid shortcuts through parks, alleyways or poorly lit areas.
- Walk with friends. There is safety in numbers. Encourage students to travel with friends where they can, and to let someone know if their plans change.
- Let family know they are on their way. A quick message when leaving school and on arriving home gives everyone peace of mind.

Stay connected with Life360

Many families find location-sharing apps such as Life360 useful for keeping track of each other, particularly on darker evenings. If you use an app like this, we recommend talking with your child about why you are using it so that it feels like a shared safety measure.

Talking about strangers

We teach students to stay alert and trust their instincts. Please talk to your child about the following:

- If someone they do not know approaches them, makes them feel uncomfortable, or asks them to go somewhere or get into a vehicle, they should say no, walk away quickly and go to a safe, busy place.
- They should never feel they have to be polite at the cost of feeling safe.
- They should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible, even if they are unsure whether it is serious. Concerns can also be reported to the school safeguarding team, or to the police on 101 (or 999 in an emergency).

Attendance in the Winter Months

Safeguarding and attendance are closely linked. When students are in school they are safe, supported, learning and socialising with their friends. We do not want students at home alone when they could be in school.

Sick, or just not feeling it?

We all have mornings when it is dark, cold and

hard to get out of bed. Here is a simple guide:

- **Genuinely unwell:** if your child has a high temperature, is vomiting, or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home and contact the school attendance office on the first morning of absence. NHS guidance on when to keep children off school is a helpful reference.
- **Mild cold or just not feeling it:** in most cases students are well enough to attend. Getting up, getting dressed and making the effort is a habit that pays off.
- We do not authorise attendance for stomach aches or headaches.
- We are listening to parent feedback in relation to asking for medical evidence, we have taken this feedback on board and will only ask in genuine circumstances when we have a concern. We will still ask for it on occasions as we want to ensure we are coding your child correctly.

Top tips for winter attendance

- Pack a **coat, hat and gloves** every day.
- Carry **tissues and hand sanitiser** to help stop germs spreading.
- Set out uniform and bags the night before so mornings are calmer.
- Keep a regular sleep routine, even when it is cold and dark.
- If your child is worried about coming to school, please talk to us. We would always rather hear from you early.

Thank you for your continued effort in getting students to school every day. It makes a real difference.

Lunchtime Counselling Groups

We are currently running two small group sessions at lunchtime, led by our wellbeing team:

- **Grief counselling group:** a safe, supportive space for students who have experienced loss.
- **Exam stress group (Year 11):** practical strategies and support for managing pressure and anxiety ahead of exams.

If your child would like a space, please email **svictor@putteridgehigh.org.**

Useful Links

- NHS: Is my child too ill for school?
- Life360 (family location sharing)
- NSPCC: Keeping children safe
- Childline (free, confidential support for young people, 0800 1111)
- Winston's Wish (supporting grieving children)
- Child Bereavement UK
- YoungMinds (mental health, exam stress and parent support)
- Police (non-emergency 101, emergency 999)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

EAL Department Update

Introduction & GCSE Community Languages

My name is Mihaela Popa, and I am pleased to introduce myself as the school's English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator. Our department is dedicated to supporting our multilingual students and ensuring they thrive in every aspect of school life. Every year, we offer students the opportunity to take an extra GCSE in their home language, and to help us put the right arrangements in place, please email me if your son or daughter speaks another language or if you require a list of available languages.

Additionally, if you feel your child needs any support with their English language skills in school, please do not hesitate to contact me so I can ensure they receive the right assistance. Working together with families is key to our students' success, and you can reach me directly at mpopa@putteridgehigh.org

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to working with you!

Mihaela Popa
EAL Coordinator

Counselling

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful start of the new academic year and we will continue to support children's wellbeing as best as we possibly can.

School Counselling
Just to remind that we have one to one, groups and drop in school counselling sessions, if your child is struggling with emotional wellbeing. Children are welcome to self-refer or to speak with their pastoral staff.

Our newly launched therapeutic group supports children, whose parents have long term sickness and grief/loss. Another group is for children, who struggle with managing exam stress. Children are encouraged to speak with their Pastoral Leads or directly with me (the School Counsellor).

There are some changes in our collaborative work with CAMHS.
The name of the NHS service has changed from Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to the **Community Access Service (CAS)**. All former MHST teams are now CAS teams and cover one of the five Luton neighbourhoods. CAS offers one to one and low-level group support.

If you would like the school staff to refer your child to CAS, you and a member of staff will need to complete the CAS parent consent form for the consultation to occur.

CAS has their own NHS data system called Rio, where your child's details will be stored and shared. The school will also keep a separate log on the school system.

The school consultations with CAS are held every 2 weeks. No contacts to CAS will be made in between our allocated times.

Following the consultation, the child or young person will progress to one of three pathways:

1. Advice and signposting
2. Accepted for CAS support
3. Referred to SPOE (Single Point of Entry, for other CAMHS services)

Once the child is accepted the CAS will then send an outcome letter to the school, parent/carer, and GP.

CAS groups
Group interventions are our low-level support offer for children and young people with emerging emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties. Groups provide early intervention, build resilience, develop coping strategies and improve emotional wellbeing before difficulties escalate. Most groups are delivered to 4 to 8 children or young people by two CAS practitioners, allowing for participation, discussion and peer learning in a safe, supportive space. Some interventions, such as Self-Esteem Groups, may be delivered separately for boys and girls. This allows facilitators to tailor discussions and activities appropriately, recognising that experiences, challenges and support needs may differ.

Some reflections.
I would like to invite us all to reflect on the nature of our wellbeing. We often hear the idea that someone's troubled mind is someone's troubled brain. From the perspective of interpersonal neurobiology (Dan Siegel), the mind is not simply something contained within the individual. It emerges through the flow of energy and information within us and between us. Our relationships shape us, just as we shape the relational worlds we inhabit.

When we, adults, feel internal pain, we seek another soothing adult (or even a pet animal). This is our natural attachment instinct. When children are struggling, they seek another person for support. And if there is no "other" person to support them, children might resort to other coping mechanisms, which may not always be healthy. Or it can manifest through challenging behaviours. What helps children (and adults) is when someone connects with us and our life experiences. Especially before correcting those behaviours and maladaptive coping mechanisms.
We encourage children to seek counselling, to explore anything that troubles them in a safe and contained space.

We are all different. We have different cultures, belief systems, abilities and disabilities, different senses of identity and belonging. We are all having different brains. No two brains (or nervous systems) are the same.
We all have unconscious biases. How about we challenge ourselves? When we encounter new ideas or thoughts from someone, what if we imagine the speaker as a person of a different gender or skin colour? Acknowledging and accepting our uniqueness feels so important. This is so true within the brain and body, within our relationships, and within the larger communities and world of which we are all a part.

With best wishes,

Svetlana Victor

House News

Current Leaderboard

104 **121** **112** **112**

Blue House

House Captains

A massive congratulations for our House Captains for their fantastic applications and success in the interview process. We have also appointed Deputy House Captains this year, to help support our Captains. Your new House Captains are:

Y7 - Bella & Andrei (Deputy: George)
Y8 - Lacey & Jack (Deputy: Blake)
Y9 - Adelina & Carl (Deputy: Gabriela)
Y10 -Maya & Elliot (Deputy: Ewurabena)

Your house captains will be responsible for organising competitions and teams for inter-house competitions. Please speak to them if you are interested in taking part in a competition, or have new ideas for competitions we could bring to life!

Recent Inter-house competition results:

- Year 7 Mario Kart - 3rd
- Year 8 Basketball - 3rd
- Year 10 indoor football - 4th
- Year 8 Mario Kart - 4th
- Year 7 Basketball - 2nd
- Year 7 information evening darts - 4th
- Year 7 information evening basketball - 4th
- Year 7 Just Dance- 2nd
- National Teacher Art competition - 2nd
  Congratulations to our winner, Andrei!

Message from your Head of House:

Well done for a positive start to the year Blue House, we have lots to be proud of. It has been lovely to see such large turnouts to inter-house competitions and everyone taking part. I would love to see more of you putting your names forward to take part in competitions, remember we get points just for you turning up to the competitions. If you would like any competitions being created that we currently do not run, please speak to the House Captains or myself, and we will do our best to run it.

I would like everyone to start getting ready for our new House Day Event! This is a day full of competitions within your lessons, with a live leaderboard of scores from everyone in the school, from each lesson of the day. This day can massively change the results board and is definitely going to be an exciting day!

Think about how you can make a positive impact on those around you. Remember, each of us represents not only the Blue House community, but also the broader Putteridge and Luton communities. Small acts of kindness, supporting one another, and being respectful can make a difference to our communities. All of this will contribute to your Character Journey and becoming First CLASS citizens.

Let's have another positive half term after your well deserved break! Let's start to make our way back up the leaderboard! Let's Go Blue House!!!

Upcoming house competitions:

- FIFA
- House Day - 26th November
- Christmas tree competition
- Indoor football

The leaderboard can change so quickly, please ensure you are turning up to competitions and taking part. We get participation points just for having a team for the event!

Green House

House Captains

Year 7 - Faith & Samuel (Deputy: Harry)
Year 8 - Aoibheann & Alfie
Year 9 - Deborah & Darsh
Year 10 - Melody & Dominic

Recent Inter-house competition results:

- Year 7 Mario Kart - 4th place
- Year 8 Basketball - 1st place
- Year 10 indoor football - 1st place
- Year 8 Mario Kart - 2nd place
- National Teacher Art competition - 1st place
- Year 7 Basketball - 1st place
- Year 7 information evening darts - 2nd place
- Year 7 information evening basketball - 2nd place
- Year 7 Just Dance - 3rd place

Message from your Head of House:

Firstly, a huge congratulations to this year's new House Captains. We as Green House look forward to working with you and seeing your leadership skills develop throughout the year.

We have made a great start to the year with lots of competitions already having taken place. This year sees a new competition for the students.... FIFA! We are looking forward to the competition that this will bring.

We also have introduced another new competition this year, our House Event Day which is taking place on Thursday 26th November. Information about this day will be shared with staff after half term.

Reminders

Please submit an entry for every competition if you can. Remember, we achieve points for the amount of entries to the competitions and not just for your house captains will be the first port of call for competitions. Please see them in the first instance if you would like to take part in a competition.

For lunch time competitions please bring a packed lunch to eat if you can so we can have a prompt start.

Red House

House Captains

Year 7 - Adelina (others TBC)
Year 8 - Emily & Zach (Deputy: Laura)
Year 9 - TBC
Year 10 - Lexi & Jaiden (Deputy: Lottie)

Recent Inter-house competition results:

- Year 7 Mario Kart - 2nd place
- Year 8 Basketball - 2nd place
- Year 10 indoor football - 4th place
- Year 8 Mario Kart - 1st place
- National Teacher Art competition - 4th place
- Year 7 Basketball - 3rd place
- Year 7 information evening darts - 1st place
- Year 7 information evening basketball - 3rd place
- Year 7 Just Dance - 3rd place
- Year 9 FIFA- 2nd Place

A Message from Your Head of House

Firstly, I want to say congratulations to this year's new House Captains. You have all worked really hard and I am impressed how well you have been doing so far. For the year 9 and year 7 boy house captain, due to the influx of applications, I will be announcing that first week back after half term. I also want to say well done to everyone in Red house. We have participated in so many different inter-house competitions and seeing this has been brilliant. I hope you have a restful half term and we will aim to get to 1st place by the end of term.

Reminders

Remember, we achieve points for the amount of entries to the competitions and not just for winning.

Your house captains will be the first port of call for competitions. Please see them in the first instance if you would like to take part in a competition.

For lunch time competitions please bring a packed lunch to eat if you can so we can have a prompt start.

Yellow House

House Captains

Y7 - Lottie & Artie
Y8 - Sophie & Malachi
Y9 - Ella & Harvey
Y10 - Andi & Phoenix

We are delighted to introduce our new House Captains for this academic year!

After a competitive selection process involving thoughtful applications and interviews, these standout students were chosen to represent yellow house and serve as role models across our school community.

Their main roles will involve organising teams for inter-house competitions. Showing up to inter-houses to show support and to motivate.

Please join us in congratulating our new student leaders! We look forward to seeing the energy, dedication, and sportsmanship they will bring to their roles this year.

Recent Inter-house competition results:

- Year 7 Mario Kart - 1st place
- Year 8 Basketball - 4th place
- Year 10 indoor football - 4th place
- Year 8 Mario Kart - 3rd place
- National Teacher Art competition - 3rd place
- Year 7 Basketball - 4th place
- Year 7 information evening darts - 3rd place
- Year 7 information evening basketball - 1st place
- Year 7 just dance - 1st place
- Year 8 Boys football - 2nd place

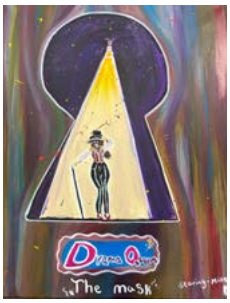
Message from your Head of House

What a fantastic start to the academic year it has been for Yellow House! This first term has showcased our exceptional team spirit and sense of community, with students from every year group throwing themselves wholeheartedly into inter-house competitions—whether on the sports field, in creative arts, or through academic challenges. Our new Year 7s have settled in brilliantly, embracing school life with enthusiasm and quickly finding their feet, while our older year groups have continued to set an inspiring example by maintaining a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive House ethos. Thank you to everyone for your incredible energy and dedication; let's keep this momentum going into next term! Lets go Yellow House Tigers!!!Captains and to every student who stepped up, cheered loudly, and gave their all for Yellow House Tigers! Let's carry this fantastic momentum forward into next year—keep striving high, supporting one another, and let's bring home even more house points next year!

Key Takeaways

- Fantastic start to the year with great participation and team spirit showcased at inter-house competitions.
- Regularly check Google classroom and speak to house captains for upcoming competitions and how to get involved.
- Make suggestions to myself and house captains for future competitions.
- Participation counts!! Keep on showing up for yourself and yellow house for full participation points.

Below: Inter-house BTS. Tina the Tiger - Our Mascot! Some yellow house entries to the National Teacher Day Art Competition!



Notices

Appointments, Absences & Early Collection Procedure

We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community to reach out for excellence. For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Where absences or appointments are unavoidable please report these via the process detailed on our attendance page:

https://putteridgehigh.org/Information/Attendance/

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of the following support payments, your child will be entitled to receive FSM:

- Universal Credit – from 1 April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Pupil Premium

The government provides schools with additional funding to support or enhance the learning of pupils who are currently or have been entitled to FSM. The additional funding received through the Pupil Premium grant can help fund valuable support including extra tuition, additional support staff or providing after school activities.

Pupils do not have to register for pupil premium funding – they just have to make an application for FSM, students then attract pupil premium funding for their school.

Further details and to apply please click here.

Important Safeguarding Notice:

Please Save Our School Number We have become aware that recent phone software updates include new features that automatically screen or block calls from numbers not saved in your contacts. Because of this, some parents with these settings enabled are missing vital calls from the school. This is a serious safeguarding issue, as we must be able to reach you immediately in an emergency. Please take a moment today to check your phone settings and ensure that our school number, 01582 415 791, is added to your safe list and saved in your contacts.

Pre-loved Uniforms

Should you need to request anything from our stock of pre-loved uniform please visit the web page below for more information:

https://www.putteridgehigh.org/Information/Uniform/

School Vacancies

For all of our current vacancies visit our MyNewTerm page.

https://mynewterm.com/school/Putteridge-High-School/144311

mynewterm

LOST PROPERTY POLICY CHANGE

Please be aware of an immediate change to our Lost Property procedure:

All unclaimed items will now be stored for a maximum of one month before being donated to charity. We can no longer store them until the end of term.

Please remind your child to check the Lost Property rail frequently which is located behind reception.

We strongly recommend clearly labelling all items, especially PE bags, as it prevents mix-ups.

Thank you for your cooperation

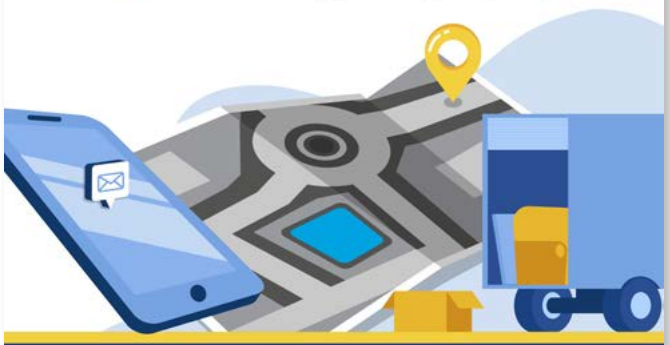
Putteridge High School

Chiltern Learning Trust

Have Your Details Changed?

Remember to please inform the school or update your contact details on Bromcom if these have changed

centraladmin@putteridgehigh.org



Putteridge High School

Chiltern Learning Trust

We are a Nut Free School!

No nuts of any kind should be brought to school - please be mindful when giving snacks to your child to bring to school for break time. We have students who suffer from airborne allergies.

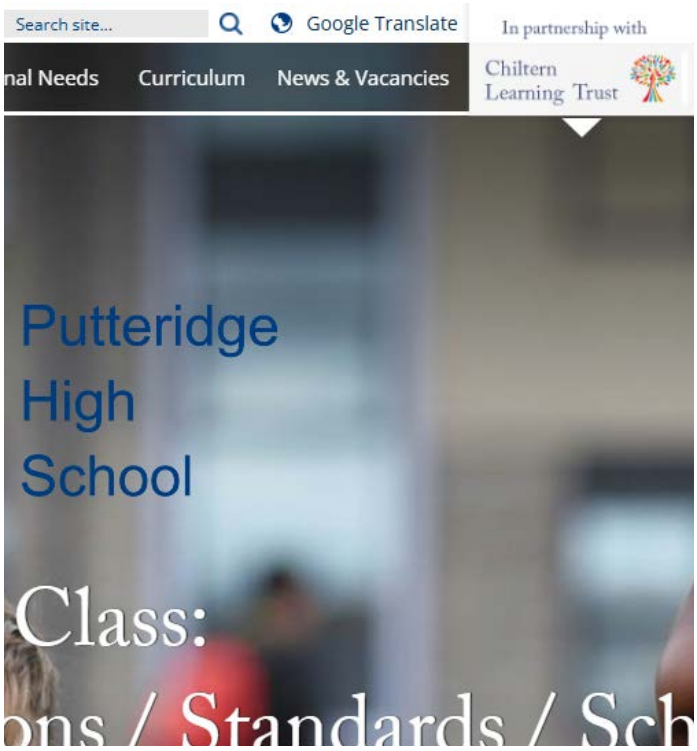
Putteridge High School

Chiltern Learning Trust

Vape Alarms

We would like to make you aware that vape alarms have been installed in our school toilets. The alarms are active during the day and in the evening so we wanted you to be aware of this in case you were to come in for a school or community event. The school site is a non-smoking/non-vaping area and your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Did you know, you can alter our website content into different languages. Click the Google Translate option at the top of any page on our site.



CONSIDERATE PARKING

Putteridge High School | Chiltern Learning Trust

Avoid the Front Gates

Please be considerate when dropping your child to school and avoid driving to the front of the school.

Respect our Neighbours

Please be respectful of the local neighbours and ensuring driveways are not blocked

Your Childs Safety is Important

A calm, less congested area keeps all students safe during drop-off

Privacy Notices

2026 privacy notices are now available on our school website

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

31ST OCTOBER

Putteridge High School | Chiltern Learning Trust

APPLY NOW

STAY UP TO DATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Key Dates

26 OCT

Half-term Holiday
School will be closed from 26th - 30th October

2 NOV

Autumn Term 2
Students return to school

11 NOV

Talent Show
Our annual talent show returns on 11th November

25 NOV

Christmas Lights Spectacular
A festive celebration for our Whole community

27 NOV

Staff Training Day
School closed for students

18 DEC

Christmas Holidays
Students will finish at 12:20

Follow us on Social Media

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all the latest news and events at Putteridge High School.

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