



much  
more than  
just a school



January 2020



Dear Parents and Guardians

Thank you for ensuring your children have arrived back to school for 2020 looking smart and ready to learn.



As we begin this important term, we also take time to reflect on the last one. Please find our latest edition of Park Post enclosed. It captures some of the many experiences students at Park had last term and, I hope you will agree, it serves as a great reminder of all that we do.



### Assemblies and Challenge Day

Our theme for this half term's assemblies is, 'Why are we here?' We are exploring the importance of making the most of education and the science of memory. Our assemblies are available on the school website - please take time to ask your children about the themes and continue the discussions. Student planners also have resources about the Learning Scientists; these focus on the strategies for remembering that are used in lessons and as part of homework.



Wednesday, 12 February is Challenge Day. All years will work with their teachers and external speakers to explore important areas of their personal development and learning.



### Attendance

Your child must be in school every day unless they are too ill to attend. All students have reviewed last term's attendance and set targets for this term. Congratulations to the 246 students who achieved 100% attendance last term. They have been wearing their attendance badges with pride.



Over 90% of parents have now signed up to the INSIGHT app which allows you to view your child's attendance, behaviour and homework. If you have not yet signed up and need help doing so, please contact a member of our IT Services Team at [itservices@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:itservices@pcs.hants.sch.uk).



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Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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### **Homework and Revision**

A reminder that homework is set every week. Teachers set this online, but students also record this in their learning handbooks. Please take time to check these with them.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 also have access to GCSEpod, a fantastic online resource that consists of brief videos on every topic for every subject. This is a simple and effective way to revise. Please make sure your children are accessing this. If they have forgotten their log on details, any teacher can reset these for them.

### **Student Review Day – Thursday, 13 February**

We look forward to seeing all parents and guardians with their children on Thursday, 13 February for an appointment with their mentor. On this day, Year 11 and their parents will also be able to take part in workshops which will focus on revision in the run up to the Summer GCSE exams and strategies parents can use to support them.

### **Year 10 GCSE Review**

We are currently reviewing the Year 10 courses due to finish this year and considering whether students would achieve better outcomes if they take these at the end of Year 11. The Department for Education and Ofsted have raised concerns nationally regarding early entry. Therefore, we are undertaking a review to ensure each student will achieve their best.

Some courses will finish at the end of Year 10, but it is likely that some others will continue into Year 11. I am happy to discuss any questions or concerns you have about your child with regard to this and will consider your views carefully before finalising our decisions. Please contact Mrs Storey to share your views or concerns on [k.storey@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:k.storey@pcs.hants.sch.uk). I will write to you confirming final decisions once this review process is complete.

### **Key Dates for this term**

- Monday, 27 January - Year 11 mock fortnight begins
- Thursday, 13 February – Student Review Day
- Friday, 14 February – Inset day
- Monday, 17 February to Friday, 21 February - half term
- Thursday, 5 March – Year 8 Parents' evening
- Friday, 6 March – Inset day
- Friday, 3 April – Race at our Place
- Monday, 6 April to Friday, 17 April – Easter break

We look forward to seeing all parents and guardians on Thursday, 13 February for appointments with mentors.

Yours faithfully

Ella Capaldi  
Head of School