

December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing at the end of an extremely busy term to thank you for your ongoing support and inform you of key information relating to the end of this term and beginning of next.

Our next edition of Park Post will be published in January, in the meantime I would like to share a few highlights of the last term:

- **Mary Poppins:** A great cast and tech crew entertained us brilliantly with their performances. Well done to all involved. The cast are performing at Gunwharf on Monday, 16 December.
- **Mock elections:** After a number of politics sessions in PD time, all students voted and the Labour party gained a majority at Park.
- **Reading at Park:** All students and their mentors have been reading aloud each day. Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to Reading Plus. Remember - students in all years can access this and you can log on at home and read with your child.
- **Park Lectures:** Our university-style lectures are open to any student every Monday week B. So far, they have explored themes of dualism and women in literature. These continue next term.
- **Years 7 and 8 'Much More Than' carousels:** So far 60 Year 7 students and 70 Year 8 students have been to our small-holding, developed enterprise projects at PDP, improved their culinary skills in our school kitchen and taken part in construction skills at our Apex Centre. All students in Years 7 and 8 will have these experiences before the end of the school year.
- **Years 10 and 11 mock results day:** As always, this was an important afternoon. Some were disappointed and motivated to work harder, others celebrated success and were inspired to achieve even more.
- **Year 9 careers interviews:** Over 80 students have already had their interviews, thinking about future ambitions and how to achieve these.
- **Revision and GCSEpod:** Over 1000 GCSEpod have been viewed by Years 10 and 11 this year. Please continue to use this at home, it is a great way to revise and learn.
- **Yes! trips:** These continue every other Saturday. So far this year, students have visited London, Brighton and Southsea.

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Reports for Years 7,8, 9 and 11

For parents of students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 11, you will find your child's report along with this letter. Year 10 parents have already received this at the recent parents' evening or in the post. Please take time to discuss your child's progress with them, including attendance, behaviour and reward data.

Changes for next term

Year 7 classes: We have spent the first term at Park getting to know our Year 7 students and as part of this process have undertaken a range of assessment activities. With this in mind, there will be changes to Year 7 class groups from January. Please be assured that your child's learning interests are at the centre of every decision made and students will be given new timetables at the start of next term. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Binns, Head of Year 7.

Consequences: From January, students gaining a consequence level 5 for disturbing the learning of others or truancy will complete their time after school 2.45 - 4.15pm the next day. Parents will be informed and we expect your support in letting your child know that these behaviours are not acceptable. Detentions and this after-school time is not negotiable.

Reminders for the New Year

Attendance and punctuality: Thank you to most parents who ensure their child attends school every day and does so punctually. Evidence and experience tells us that children who attend school every day are happier and achieve more. We have issued a number of fines this term to parents whose children have not attended school regularly. We have also been trialling a new texting system to say "well done" to students who achieve 100% attendance each week. Please let us know if you have any feedback.

Uniform: I am proud of the way our students present themselves at Park. However, a small number of students have had to be reminded of our expectations recently. Please ensure your child arrives to school in the correct uniform. Details can be found on our website.

- Students must wear black trousers or a black skirt to school. Leggings are not acceptable
- Facial piercings are not permitted
- Hoodies are not replacements for school cardigans or jumpers.

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**Key Dates for the New Year:**

- Monday, 6 January - Students return to school
- Thursday, 9 January - Year 11 parents' evening – please use this link to book appointments: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/parkcommunity>
- Monday, 27 January - Year 10 and 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 Options evening
- Friday, 6 March – Inset day
- Friday, 3 April – Race at our Place
- Monday, 6 April to Friday, 17 April – Easter break

End of term arrangements

We break for Christmas on Friday, 20 December - students will leave school at 1.30pm. At Park, this is always a special day of the year. Students will attend normal lessons periods 1 and 2, before taking part in four Christmas activities with their school families, including our traditional Christmas dinner paid for by the school. This is another example of how we are different to other schools.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child makes the most of life at Park. We wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and fantastic New Year and look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday, 6 January 2020.

Yours faithfully

Ella Capaldi
Head of School