



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Update 5 July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This newsletter shares some great moments from life at Park over the past few weeks. It includes a double page spread on our whole school approach to Refugee Week. Alongside our SMSC curriculum and whole school assembly, students engaged in various workshops to think about what it means to leave your home in search of refuge. We were fortunate to be joined once again by '432 Nomads', a group of poets and performers based in Portsmouth, for an interactive morning of performance. 'Bridge to Unity' also ran a workshop for students reflecting on the life of a refugee.

Last week we said an official farewell to Year 11. As always, their final assembly was full of laughter and tears as we took time to reflect on their journey at Park and wish them every success for the future. Many students joined us in the evening for Leavers' Ball. We are sure you will agree that students looked amazing.

In the meantime, Year 10 are now embarking on their second week of work experience. Many have had visits from school staff over the past week to review their experience so far and it has been fantastic to hear how well they are doing. Miss Jervis and Miss Conner have been capturing photographs, comments and employer feedback to share with everyone.

Well done to Years 7, 8 and 9 for your excellent attitude and hard work in your end of year exams last week. I know Year Leads were extremely proud of your efforts. For Years 7 and 8, the tests were broken up by their trips to London, which hopefully helped provide a good balance between hard work and fun.

This week in school we welcome Year 6 for Freshers' Week. They will spend the full week learning about life at Park and ensuring they have a strong start in September.

Finally, we are looking forward to our Festival of Sports this Thursday. A reminder that students should wear a t-shirt in their house colour, where possible, with their usual PE kit.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi



Year 7 Parents and Carers REMINDER



Power of Music Concert

Remember to book your tickets for the Year 7 Power of Music concert on 12 July 2-2.45pm. A letter has been sent out and we would like as many of you as possible here to watch your children perform.



Friday 12 July at 2pm



Front Lawn Sports Day

We had the pleasure of supporting Front Lawn with their sports day. It was a beautiful day and a fantastic event to be involved with. The team were brilliant and full of energy as it was a very active day for them.

The team had to communicate well throughout the day transporting equipment and important messages to help the event run smoothly.

Heroes of Park:

- Alfie*
- Ruby*
- Darcie*
- Fletcher*
- Liam*
- Freddie*
- Joey*
- Leo*



Mr Herriot



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PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S YEAR 11

Leavers' Ball

CLASS OF 2024

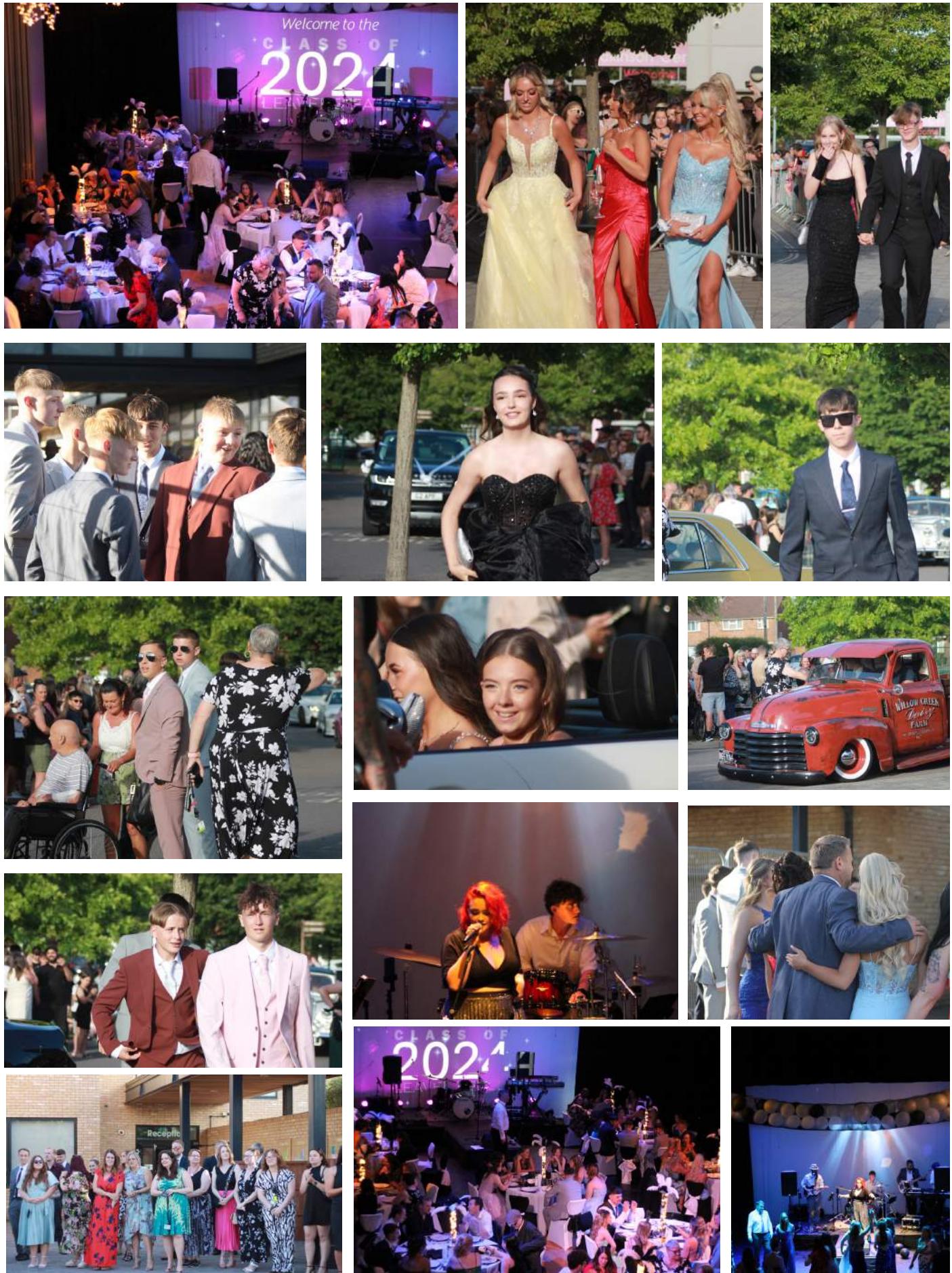
Year 11 celebrated their time at Park Community School in style. Leavers' Assembly during the day and then their Leavers' Ball in the evening. Whilst shirts were signed with good luck messages in the day, the evening saw glitz and glamour with students able to celebrate with a variety of arrivals, a meal, a band for those with their dancing shoes, a casino, arcade machines, a sweet stall and more.

Mr Cavanagh





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Refugee Week

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Last week at Park students were given the opportunity to take part in different workshops around school, to immerse themselves in different cultures, celebrate the diversity in our community, our school community and think about the experiences of those that have fled their countries to seek sanctuary elsewhere, often with few possessions from home. Many are dehumanised along their routes to a safe place, causing untold trauma to those who have experienced these challenges - not only for themselves but for their families and friends, some of whom have been left behind.

The theme for Refugee Week 2024 was 'Our Home' - from the places we gather to share meals, to our collective home-planet – Earth. Everyone was invited to celebrate what 'Our Home' means to them.

We were delighted to welcome back Majid, Omar and Rishi to school. They were excited to share their culture with our school community and brought with them a range of artists to share their experiences of leaving their homes to settle in a foreign country and in our local community. We feel that it is vital that our students hear from those who have gone through such experiences, so they know that there is not just one story, but millions of stories, each one personal and unique. Students were treated to a wonderful array of poetry, rap, music and dance - all expressing their cultural experience, challenges and triumphs to our students.



Alongside this we were privileged to welcome Bridge to Unity, a local charity who support refugees from Afghanistan, the Ukraine and a range of countries across the globe. They ran a workshop for Years 7, 8 and 9 to illustrate the experience of refugees and enable our students to develop a deeper understanding of why refugees are forced to flee their homes and how we can support them once they arrive. They heard from Shitau, a refugee from China about his persecution due to disagreeing with the government and lack of freedom of speech, something we can take for granted. He fled, leaving his family behind, and is unable to return to his home country. He can communicate with his parents however he is unable to return to China to see them, something that he very much struggles with.



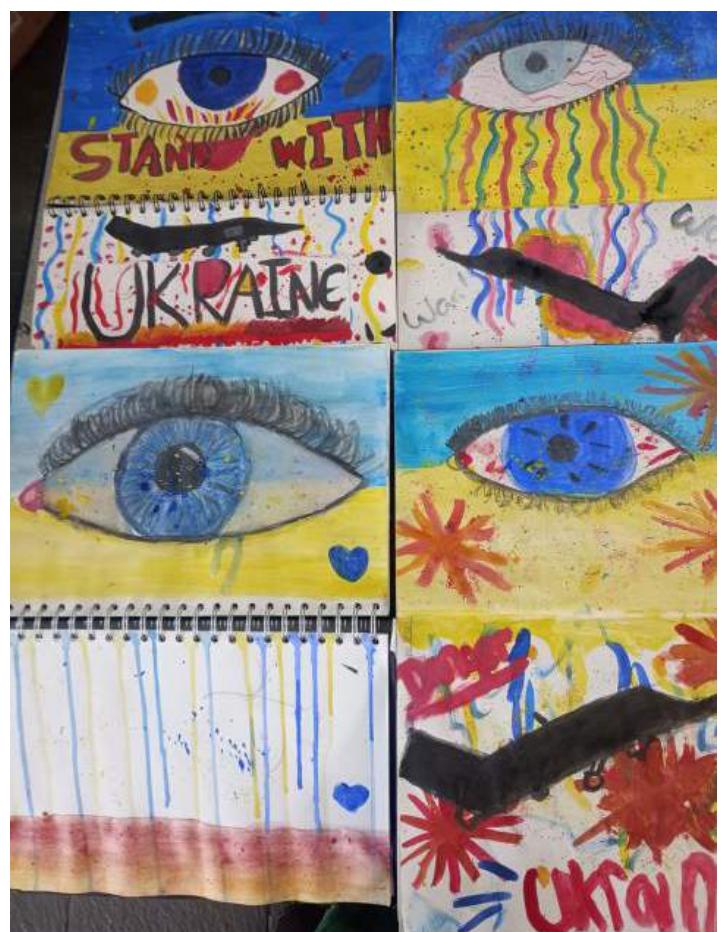


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Over the last few weeks, students have been looking at various artists who have created art linked to refugees. One artist is My Dog Sighs, a local street artist who uses images of eyes to share experiences. He has used the conflict in Ukraine in his latest work to continue to highlight the plight of residents and refugees impacted by the conflict. Students have been inspired to replicate his work in their art lessons to raise awareness of the challenges that all refugees face when leaving their countries to seek safety around the world.

The week encouraged us to think about the concept of home and the safety it represents for us alongside how it must feel to have to leave it behind.

Mr Bourton





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Year 7 and 8 Visit London

Last week, almost all of Year 7 and 8 visited London for the day. Along with time in the Science Museum, they also did a short walking sightseeing tour, visiting Buckingham Palace, The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. Lunch in St James' Park or Hyde Park was also a highlight of the day.

Mr Pycroft





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Year 7 on Much More Than Just A School Carousel last week



Sharps Copse Sports Days

We spent two fantastic days supporting Sharps Copse and their sports days.

Students worked with the Years 4,5 and 6 pupils in beautiful weather enjoying a day of fun activities. The team were excellent as each of them ran an event.

Then we worked with the younger pupils of Sharps Copse. We had a new team in attendance and they were equally as impressive interacting with the pupils and the parents throughout the morning.

Mr Herriot

Heroes of Park :

Day 1:	Day 2:
Ruby	Logan
Fletcher	Jayden
Freddie	Darcie
Liam	McKenzie
Alfie	Ralphie
Diego	Liam
Alfie	Fletcher
Caitlin	





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Hampshire School Games

We spent the most fantastic day at Winchester University supporting the Hampshire School Games with six of our brilliant ambassadors.

They shone brighter than the sun today and impressed everyone that was there. They delivered confidently throughout and loved the experience of leading in such high quality facilities. They were responsible for delivering athletics events including long jump, sprinting, discuss and vortex javelin.

Special mention goes to Ruby who was Master of Ceremonies for the event and opened the show in front of 1000 students. This was obviously taking Ruby out of her comfort zone and stretching her to perform under such pressure. However, she did not flinch and was brilliant.

This is perfect example of what our students can achieve when they accept the challenge and take a leap.

Heroes of Park:

Caitlin
Ruby
Ryan
John
Darcie
Alivia

Mr Herriot





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Gothic inspired writing extract by Georgia, Year 8

In the moonlit stillness of the graveyard, the dead bride emerged from her eternal rest. Her once white wedding dress now a tattered relic stained by the passing of time. Her veil, now a ghostly shroud, clung to her gaunt face, framing the hollow, dark voids where eyes once sparkled with life.

From these empty sockets, thick rivulets of ruby red blood oozed, tracing macabre paths down her cheeks, as if weeping. Her hands clutched the remnants of a bridal bouquet, brittle, mirroring the decay that had overtaken her once vibrant form. The sight of her blood-drenched visage ruined her wedding attire. She was a grotesque tableau of life and death, intertwined in a mournful eternal embrace.

Rodney P and Logic Rap Workshop with Year 7s

The Year 7 rap workshop with the well-known London-based rappers Rodney P and Logic, was a huge success. It was exciting to see students engaging so positively with the creativity that built them step by step through the creative process of how to write their own raps, and finally to the point of performing these on camera in the Media Suite. Logic, after working with the students, said: "This was better than a gig; it was really rewarding".

Other staff joining at various intervals were also impressed with the level of motivation and engagement from the students, and Mrs Freestone added that this was:

"An inspiring opportunity: the students were engaged and enthusiastic as they stretched themselves outside their comfort zones by creating and performing their raps."

"Lots of hard thinking, teamwork, and laughter! It was fantastic to see how proud the students were of the raps they created."

The feedback was extremely positive from all the wonderful staff who supported and participated with our students on the day, and especially the TAs who also got to perform some of their raps. A fun day was had by everyone, but most importantly the students showed how courageous, creative, and confident they were by the time they were filmed performing their raps!

The videos of the students' performances are being put together and will be shared – watch this space!

Mrs Tonks





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Financial Education Corner

What we have been doing in school...

Some of our Year 11 Apex students took part in a session dedicated to those who may wish to pursue a career as a sole trader.

Students discussed and learned more about areas of personal finance such as:

- National minimum and living wage
- Understanding a payslip
- National insurance
- Planning for the future and pensions

It was great to have so many back during study leave and during a stressful time with exams.

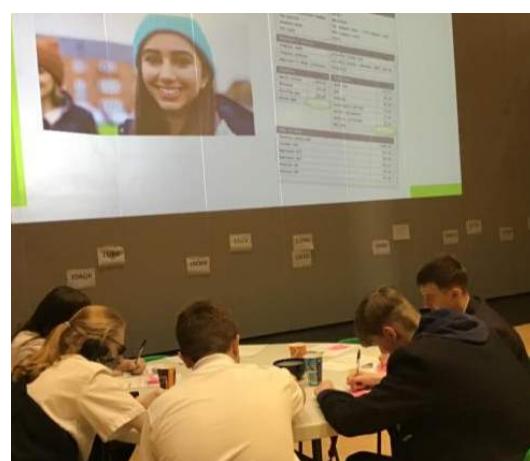
Students made great contributions sharing what they already knew and what they wanted to know.

Thank you to Laura North financial consultant with St James' Place for delivering the session.

- Fraud
- Identity theft
- Cyber crime
- Money rules and other topics

Lillie and Cayden are our first students to successfully complete the lessons in financial education with the London institute of banking and finance; a great achievement by both students.

Mr Murphy

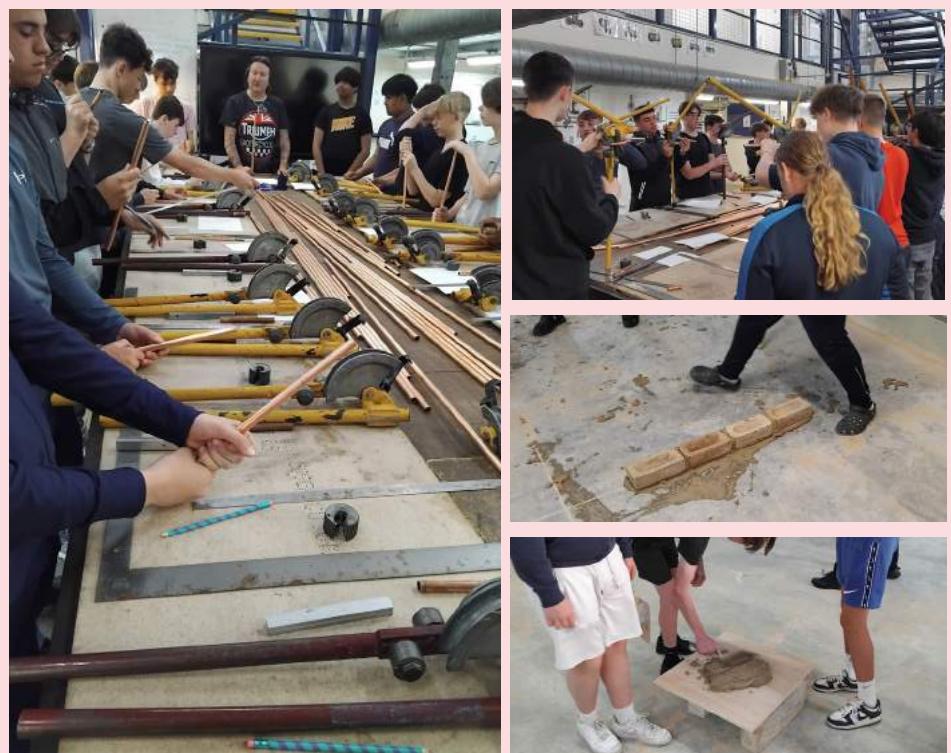


COPC Taster Day

Year 10 students visited the North Harbour campus of the City of Portsmouth College.

Students were able to explore courses such as plumbing, gas, electrical and bricklaying and they did Park proud. They were able to showcase well developed skills learnt from Apex as well as visualise their place at the college first hand by learning a new specialised trade. Students really enjoyed being hands on, stayed focused with a different structure and really took on board lecturers' constructive comments.

Mrs Conner



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Mental Health Support



Young People's Safe Haven

For 11-17 year olds living within Havant, East and South East Hants. Open 5pm to 8pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and 5pm to 7pm Thursday at The Pallant, Havant, PO9 1BE.
Just drop in, no appointment needed.

We offer:

- Immediate access to one-to-one targeted support session with a wellbeing practitioner
- Group sessions discussing important wellbeing topics
- Wellbeing activities, arts & crafts and mindfulness
- Meeting other young people and peer support
- A calm and positive safe space
- Alternatively, telephone one-to-one support can be arranged

Need support?

Feeling low?

Email: cypsafehaven@easthantsmind.org
Freephone: 0300 303 1580

www.easthantsmind.org
Registered charity no. 1116301





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