



# Park Community School

## NEWSLETTER

## Fortnightly Update

4 March 2024

### Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Once again, this newsletter is packed full of Park students finding what they love.

In assembly this half term we have been exploring the teenage brain and the concept of 'Flow.' 'Flow' is that feeling you get when you are so immersed in something that any concept of time and effort disappears. Think about your favourite hobby or small children when they are playing. This links to Park students trying out new things and finding what they love.

We have been applying our experiences of 'Flow' to learning. We won't always be in Flow, but we can take what we know about these moments and apply it to getting stuck in lessons or revising independently.

Alongside this, we know this helps with good mental health. Our team of student mental health ambassadors had their first meeting with Mrs Leach and Mrs Seaman last week. They are working on developing Park's own strategies, as well as making it easier for students to access support when they need it.

Thank you for your support with ensuring mobile phones stay at home or switched off in bags. This has improved significantly since half term.

Finally, a reminder that this Friday 8 March is INSET day.



**Mr Anders**



**Mrs Capaldi**



**FREE BOOKS FOR ALL and the chance to win a £20 Amazon Voucher!**

We are giving students, parents and carers, a free book as part of our Park Literary Festival event!

Claim your free book from our huge selection of preloved books. Plus with every book taken home you will have the chance to enter our prize draw.



### YES Trip

On Saturday 24 February, 22 YES students went to the Historic Dockyard where they participated in Laser Quest and then spent time at Action Stations, before finding lunch at Gunwharf Quays.

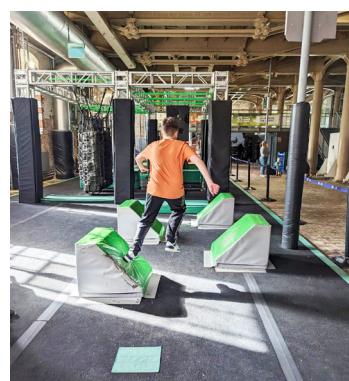
Laser Quest kept them active and competitive and by the end there were lots of achy limbs and red faces. Action Stations enabled the students to try climbing, drumming, and an assault course. Lots of new things were attempted and even those who were a little hesitant managed to try something new. Climbing was a particular hit with lots trying to beat their time to reach the top.

We strolled to Gunwharf where the students went off in smaller groups to find lunch. They happily returned to our meeting point to sit and share lunch together.

What was really interesting and lovely to see was connections being made between students who do not usually spend time together in school.

The students were a pleasure to take and were perfect ambassadors for Park Community School.

### Mrs Seaman





# Park Community School



## Year 10 Compete at Winchester College Technology Competition



## Year 8 Portsmouth University Taster Day

Year 8 students visited Portsmouth University for a taster day, where they experienced a wide range of sessions including CPR to restart a heart and animation history. They even got to have a go at working in the law courts presenting a case. The students asked brilliant questions and were enthusiastic throughout.

We now have some very excited lawyers in the making that know how to save lives using CPR!

**Miss Jervis**

## Boys' Dance Club

On Monday we started a new dance club for boys. The boys are currently creating a piece that explores PTSD within soldiers on the front line using Rambert's 'Peaky Blinders' as inspiration. We currently have six boys and are looking to expand our numbers.

**Mrs Marr**





# Park Community School

## Reading Museum Art Trip

Year 10 GCSE Art students visited Reading Museum to see 'In the Company of Monsters: New Visions, Ancient Myths'. The theme of the exhibition is mythological creatures and stories from Greek legends.

The Museum Coordinator, Emma Aston, kindly gave our students a guided tour and they took part in many art and photography tasks that will be a great benefit to their final GCSE coursework.

**Mr Waterfield**



## KS3 Inspired Trip

Year 9 students explored Southsea Castle this week, and looked into the history from Tudor times with a focus on Henry VIII.

We then looked at the beach management scheme along Southsea sea front and discussed a variety of sea defence methods. We are visiting Fort Nelson in two weeks time to continue the History theme for this half term after focusing on Geography last half term.

**Mr Redman**





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## Boys' Football Academy

We took Football Academy indoors due to really poor weather. It was fantastic to still have 32 students in attendance wanting to take part in football.

We split into two groups. The Year 7s played their own matches. We challenged the Year 8s by combining them with the Year 9s.

Mr Wood and I were really impressed with skill level and teamwork of all the boys. This can be seen in some of the action shots we managed to get whilst they played.

Year 9 finish their season with a game against The Petersfield School.

**Mr Heriot**



## CoPS Summit

The Cops Project continued with their second summit with students meeting up at Portsmouth Guildhall. Students across schools in Portsmouth have been set the target of making a difference to our local area.

Each group was assigned a learning mentor and expert to assist with their project. Groups continued their planning under their guidance and fed back to the remaining groups.

With the next summit planned for early March, students now have to start putting their plan into action... more to follow.

**Mr Crowley**





# Park Community School

## BTEC Drama Portsmouth Museum Trip

Year 11 Drama students went to the Portsmouth City Museum to get some ideas to inspire them with their BTEC Drama Assignment Brief for Component 3.

The students had a fantastic time roaming around the rather eccentric museum, which was filled with all sorts of interesting and peculiar artefacts from different eras. It was perfect for helping them to experience whole rooms that were decorated in iconic items.

The experience covered the past few centuries of local Portsmouth history with a few quirky stories like the Laughing Sailor from Southsea and Verrecchio's Ice Cream Booth (the mannequin is the daughter of the owner) coming to life. They came away from the trip with some excellent ideas and have started generating their final performance pieces after a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring day out.

**Mrs Dempsey**



## My Horror Story Project

Over the past few weeks, a group of Year 9 students took part in the My Horror Story Workshops, a programme funded by the Arts Council and was run by two film makers from Portsmouth. Students were given the opportunity to explore their fears and phobias in small groups with the end goal of creating a short film. Students took on the roles of performers, directors and producers and created some amazing pieces of work which were presented in a showcase on the 26th February in our school theatre. It was an incredibly rewarding experience for all and was lovely to see the students be really proud of the work they created. It was also brilliant to see so many parents, family members and friends in the audience for our showcase. They have been a credit to the school and have been great ambassadors for Park.

"It was really fun to be able to get creative and work with different people, Sam and Jackson are very good at what they do" **Jahziel**

"It was a really valuable experience and I really enjoyed the workshops" **Kamron**

A big thank you to Sam and Jackson from Trash Arts in Portsmouth for giving us the opportunity.

**Mrs Manning**





# Park Community School



## Winchester College Trip

Firstly, after we arrived at Winchester College, we attempted to build model cars from bottles, straws, and milk bottle caps to measure the velocity of the cars. Afterwards we headed to the wind tunnel room to test the effects of drag on different vehicle types and shapes. This was very exciting and helped us understand physics on a deeper and more engaging level.

Afterwards we were given a tour of the chantry chapel which is incredibly rare because of the library in the upstairs. The chapel had lots of stunning stained glass where people would pray for loved ones in purgatory. We were also taught the history of some historic clubs and people from the college's past such as Mallory who climbed mount Everest on three separate occasions.

After that we headed to the history library to see some Elizabethan artefacts such as money, songbooks from King Eric XIV, official royal documents bearing Queen Elizabeth's seal, and a silver plate and jug carried by servants for the wealthy to wash their hands mid-meal, all of which are from the 16th century. We were also taught the history and significance behind all these fascinating artefacts.

Our final challenge of the day was learning about causes and impacts of global warming. We worked in teams to analyse the effect of global warming on climate change. Overall, it was a highly informative and interesting day, and we look forward to returning next time.

**By Teigan and Charlie**