



# Park Community School

## NEWSLETTER

## Fortnightly Update

14 October 2024

### Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Our term has continued with many great opportunities for our students. Congratulations to our Greenpower team who competed in the international final at Goodwood last weekend.

We look forward to seeing Year 7 and Year 11 parents in school this Thursday for parents' evening. A reminder that this runs from 4.30-7.30pm. For Year 7 parents, this is an opportunity to meet your child's tutor and review progress. The 30 minute slots allow time to read with your child and review their books. Year 11 parents and carers will meet with subject teachers ahead of mock exams to look closely at current progress and actions for the remainder of the year. Monday 21 October marks the start of the first mock exam season for Year 11 students and Year 10 students for Literature GCSE only. They have been working hard in lessons and Study Hall and we would like to wish them lots of luck for the exams.

Attendance to school every day matters. We are pleased to report an increase in the number of students attending school every day when compared to last year. It is important this continues as it ultimately affects achievement at GCSE and happiness in school. This week, students who have achieved a 25 day attendance streak will get to spin the wheel during lunch times and receive a prize. Students continue to work towards their own personal best attendance streaks as well as competing in tutor groups against other in their year team.

This half term ends on Thursday 24 October. All students will participate in this year's first Park Personal Development Day. Year 7 will be developing their understanding of relationships, Year 8, 9 and 10 will work on careers and Year 11 will have sessions on revision skills and well-being. We look forward to ending the first half term of this school year working together in tutor groups and developing those vital skills that allow us to push ourselves out of our comfort zone to be the best that we can be.



**Mr Anders**



**Mrs Capaldi**

**REMEMBER**  
Last day of this term 24 October  
Return to school 4 November

### Dale Carnegie Leadership Programme at Park

Navigating the complexity of balancing school, work, relationships, and outside influences, while at the same time planning for your future, can be both exciting and overwhelming.



Last week, 50 Year 9 and 10 students took part in a launch event for the Generation Next leadership programme; focussed on personal growth, leadership, confidence and communication. We recognise that everyone is unique, and this youth leadership programme will help students find a voice.

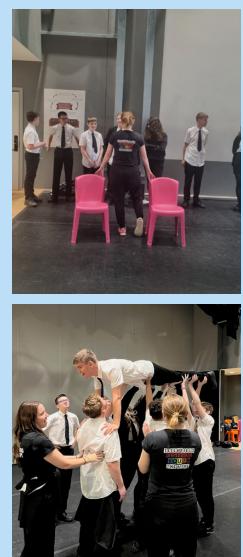
Students will complete a three day programme before graduating.

#### **Mrs Cavanagh**



### Drama Students Develop Physical Theatre Skills

On 1 October our Year 11 drama group were extremely lucky to have a physical theatre workshop in the style of Frantic Assembly. This was lead by Nicola Clements who works for Titchfield theatre. Nicola has worked with Frantic Assembly in devising takes for their plays and most recently 'Metamorphosis'.



The aim of the workshop was to help students learn a new style which they could explore for their component three BTEC course. They really enjoyed learning new lifts and techniques and it definitely took them out of their comfort zone!

#### **Mrs Chuter**



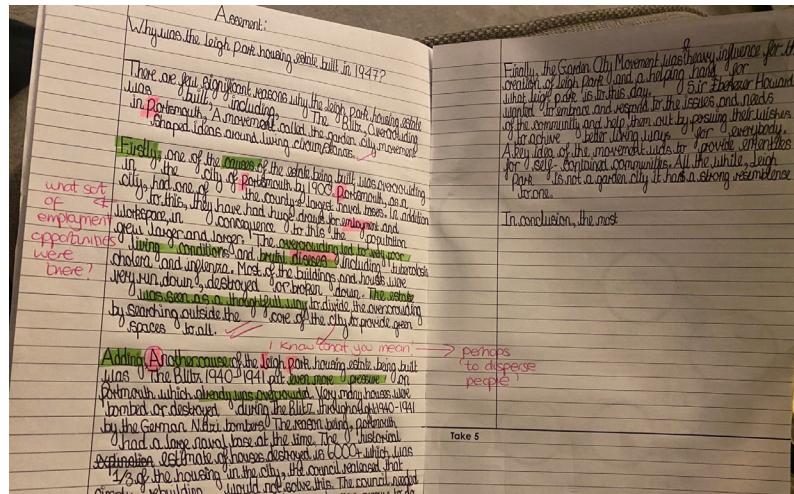
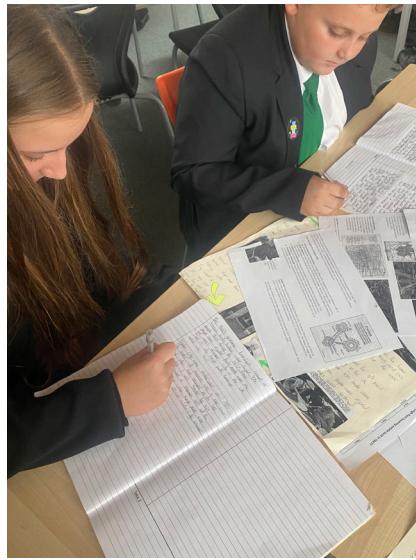
# Park Community School

## Year 7 Star Curriculum

This week in Year 7 Star lessons, students have become historians, exploring the history of the local area and applying their learning to their first essay. Students have worked in groups to explore historical sources and to justify why the modern Leigh Park housing estate was built in 1947. Students have developed their stamina in writing and have been proud to share their learning with those who have visited classrooms.

Well done Year 7!

**Mrs Harrison**



## Performing Arts

Over 50 students had an amazing day learning the West End choreography for both 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' and 'SIX'. The students have worked incredibly hard, learning new dance styles (house and hip hop which are becoming far more mainstream in the musical theatre industry), working on characterisation and performance with a professional choreographer. They were so impressed by the students' resilience, work ethic and general professionalism throughout both two hour workshops. The students will be working on this further in their own time to perform in amphitheatre soon!

**Mrs Chuter**



## Performing Arts Ambassadors

Our amazing Performing Arts ambassadors have ended the week on a high with two successful sessions. Our new Year 8 ambassadors took the pre-school for a dance session today focusing on their Christmas production. Then Harriet, Ashley, Summer and Amita went to Sharps Copse Primary School and delivered a literacy through Dance session focusing on the book 'Vi Spy'.

**Mrs Marr**





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## Year 7 Swimming Trip

I took some amazing Year 7s off site this past Tuesday and Wednesday to practice their swimming skills. Every child worked amazingly and tried their best.

**Mr Peplow**

## Extra curricular PE clubs

We had a brilliant 24 students at badminton club last week with Mr Wood! The students played doubles matches competing and having fun. The year groups mixed up which was great. The interaction across the key stages was lovely.

Eleven Year 7 boys came along to the fitness suite. They all worked on their aerobic endurance using the treadmill, rowers, bike and cross trainer.

At morning club we welcomed 16 students to play some dodgeball. A fun and energetic start to the day!

**Mr Herriot**



## Amphitheatre

This week's amphitheatre was simply fantastic. Alfie, Kai, Callum and Albie from Year 11, who are studying BTEC Music, performed one of their band pieces by Rancour- Enter Sandman. They have been working really hard in this and the students and staff were all blown away by the performance. They will be showcasing this piece in February at the Portsmouth Music Festival.

**Mrs Chuter**



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## Community Bowls

We had a fantastic afternoon at the bowls club. This week we were joined by Joey and Ryan. The boys practised before playing in a competitive match. They were paired up with Alan and Lynn, club members. In the end, Ryan and Alan took a very close match 3-1!

On the other rink John and I played out a classic with a 7-7 draw! If anyone would like to join us next week please let me know.

**Mr Herriot**



## Ecology Workshop

On 27 September, a group of Year 10s visited Winchester College for an Ecology Workshop. The group had an amazing time and hands on experience linking directly to their GCSE content. The students had a chance to evaluate the water quality in the local river Itchen, collecting river plants and testing pollutants in the water.

Students also had a chance to evaluate climate change factors and had talks from global experts. The students were fantastic, really engaged in the day and an absolute pleasure to work with.

**Miss Firbank**



Ecology Workshop photos



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## Greenpower International Final at Goodwood

A brilliant international final on Sunday! All cars started strong with amazing teamwork throughout the day.

Race 1: We got all away at good pace and maintained this pace. We were a little lower than we hoped in the rankings but this was the final. All cars carried on in the chasing group to the leaders but were catching them quickly. Keep Up caught up with the top group from 26th to 15th. TS2 finished 17th. Chase 20th from 60 kits cars on track. Dash in the higher ranked race qualified 31st but out in a great stint and finished 22nd. A real achievement in its second ever race.

Race 2: We started brilliantly, gearing up for more speed for no other reason than 'why not, it's the final!' This made a real difference and we were in the mix with the leaders with TS2 and Keep Up. Chase was trundling along nicely and improving on Race 1. Unfortunately there was a very lengthy red flag race stoppage. Sadly this did not help Dash at all and we got caught at the pits for this causing a big delay finishing 28th. Keep up finished 16th. Chase finished 22nd. But TS2 was well up there in 8th only 4 seconds behind 6th! A top 10 finish!

The students were amazing! Their relentless push for continued development was outstanding.

**Mr Payne**





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## Year 7 Horticulture

Park has signed up to be part of the National Education Nature Park, an initiative that aims to get all educational establishments in the country transforming their school grounds to increase biodiversity and absorb more carbon dioxide.

Year 7 have embraced this challenge enthusiastically and are currently surveying different areas of the school to find out what nature we already have. The next steps will be to research how we can improve those areas, create a plan and implement it.

In the summer term we will resurvey the areas to see what difference we've made and have an event where parents

will be invited in to see the fruits (literally) of our labours. There are probably no other schools in the UK, indeed the world, who have a whole year group learning horticulture outdoors every week and its another example of our commitment to providing children with the broadest possible curriculum to help them find what they love to do.

**Mr Shearn**



## A Summons in the Night Performance

Fifteen performing arts students attended 'A summons in the night' here at Park on Friday night. The students enjoyed listening to the story of American adventure Irene Hunter and how she arrived at Portsmouth Harbour with an aim to tame the beast that she discovered in Cyro. Students immersed themselves into the action by singing and clapping along to live music and were entertained by thrilling/comical scenes. Students left the building singing all the way home and enjoyed the experience.

**Mrs Marr**

## AI and Human Intelligence Conference

On the 10 October, I had the pleasure of taking four of our amazing Year 8 girls to an AI and Human Intelligence Conference at the Abbey School in Reading. We were lucky enough to be invited by one of our partner schools, St Swithun's in Winchester. The students had a brilliant time, learning brain yoga, new advances in AI and how best to utilise your memory. We also learnt how long your brain song would play for - if that's confusing, just ask Year 8! The students were brave enough to complete a memory competition in front of the entire audience and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

**Ms Gregory**





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## Fun at the Farm

The Much More Than A School carousel has got off to a great start with groups of KS3 children working in the kitchen, media suite, Apex, PDP and farm three times a week.

The farm is a particularly exciting place to be at the moment due to the construction of five new pens with top of the range sties that are now housing 25 pedigree pigs and our wild boar brothers, Barry and Larry. The whole of Year 7 have visited as part of their recent trip to Staunton Country Park and were very excited to see where their Park Porkie sausages will be coming from in six months time.

Some of Mr Enright's tutor group and I were just about to get on the minibus to go back to school after the end of a session when I went to go and check the taps were all off by the polytunnels and noticed a large male pig wandering through the raised beds. 'Quick, shut the main gate so he can't get into the road!', I shouted. Everyone stared. Then they stared and laughed at the old man trying to sprint in his wellies. It only took five minutes to get him into one of the corrals outside the old pens and lock him up until site team could come and move him back to his home later that day. Realising if he was out the other large male would be too everyone got off the minibus, we got buckets of food and went to put him back.

The rest of us spotted the other escapee four pens down from where he was supposed to be. All of us tried to coax and push him back home but he was having none of it. When we got back the pig had also noticed the sows and gone down to try his luck but miraculously the other students had managed to get the other pig back outside his pen. One student expertly coaxed him in, shaking her bucket of food. 'Superb! Now come back out quickly!' She came back out but forgot to drop the bucket so the pig came with her. Oh how we laughed! 'Sir, why are you on your knees with your head in your hands?' We sealed off the new part of the farm with the gates and headed home!

### Mr Shearn





# Park Community School



## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Park

### Welcome to Park's SEN newsletter!

#### Dear Parent/Carer

The South East All-age Neuro-diversity Programme vision is to support people across the South East in accessing the right advice, support and services for their needs to be addressed prior to receiving an Autism and/or ADHD diagnosis, once a diagnosis has been received and/or if they choose not to be assessed for a formal diagnosis. One of our workstreams is to develop a South East regional case for change and associated framework to support the development of a Strength and Needs Led approach for Children and Young People (CYP) across the South East to support individuals and their families with or without a formal diagnosis of autism and/or ADHD.

We would like your help in completing this anonymous survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/dLWvQrheEu>

#### The survey aims to gather insights about:-

- the main reasons parents and carers seek an autism or ADHD assessment for their child or young person
- the challenges faced by families during the assessment process
- inequities that may be experienced in accessing services
- understand the barriers to accessing 'strengths and needs' led support for young people with or without a confirmed diagnosis.

Your contribution is vital for us in delivering the workstream. The deadline of this survey will be by 5th November 2024.

**Thank you for taking time to complete this anonymous survey.**

**Mental Health, Learning Disability, Autism and SEND Team  
NHS England – South East Region**

## Contacting the school

If you wish to speak to the SEND team about your child please contact:



**Mrs Leach**  
Assistant Headteacher-SENDCo  
e.leach@pcs.hants.sch.uk

**Mrs Shuttle**  
Assistant SENDCo  
j.shuttle@pcs.hants.sch.uk





# Park Community School

Please book via the school reception

***Only 25 places available!***

## Parent Coffee Morning



*hosted by the Mental Health Support Team*

*Anxiety and young people*

This coffee morning will focus on the presentation of anxiety in adolescence and how to talk with young people about it. It will explore the difference between appropriate levels of anxiety and when additional help might be needed.

It will look at what might keep anxiety going and an overview of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (an evidence-based treatment for anxiety) and useful techniques.

**Date:** Tuesday 22nd October 2024

**Venue:** The Dickinson Centre

**Time:** 9-10.30am





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