



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update
27 January 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025. This month we have considered our place in the world through assemblies and SMSC lessons. We watched a performance of Benjamin Zephaniah's poem, 'People Need People', and used this to reflect on the shared values of family, community, love and freedom which we all hold dear.

Last week we welcomed a group of 30 Chinese students and their teachers to Park. The group travelled from New Oriental School, China, and were successfully immersed into life at Park, thanks to their Year 8 and 9 buddies and Park staff who adapted lessons to ensure everyone made the most of this cultural immersion. Our international experiences continue later this week when 20 Year 9s travel to New Delhi, India, for their ten day experience of life at Manav Rachna University. They will join Year 9 classes back at Park via video link and share their experiences with everyone when they return. These fantastic opportunities always serve as great reminders of the power of relationships and allow us to celebrate and learn from our differences.

This newsletter also shares an update about our welding at the Apex and Hair and Beauty at Park. The development of these courses has been supported by contributions from The Pritchard Trust, Emsworth. We are very grateful for their generosity, and students are enjoying the development of real word learning in these areas.

Finally, good luck to our Dance Live team who compete this evening at The Guildhall.



Mr Anders



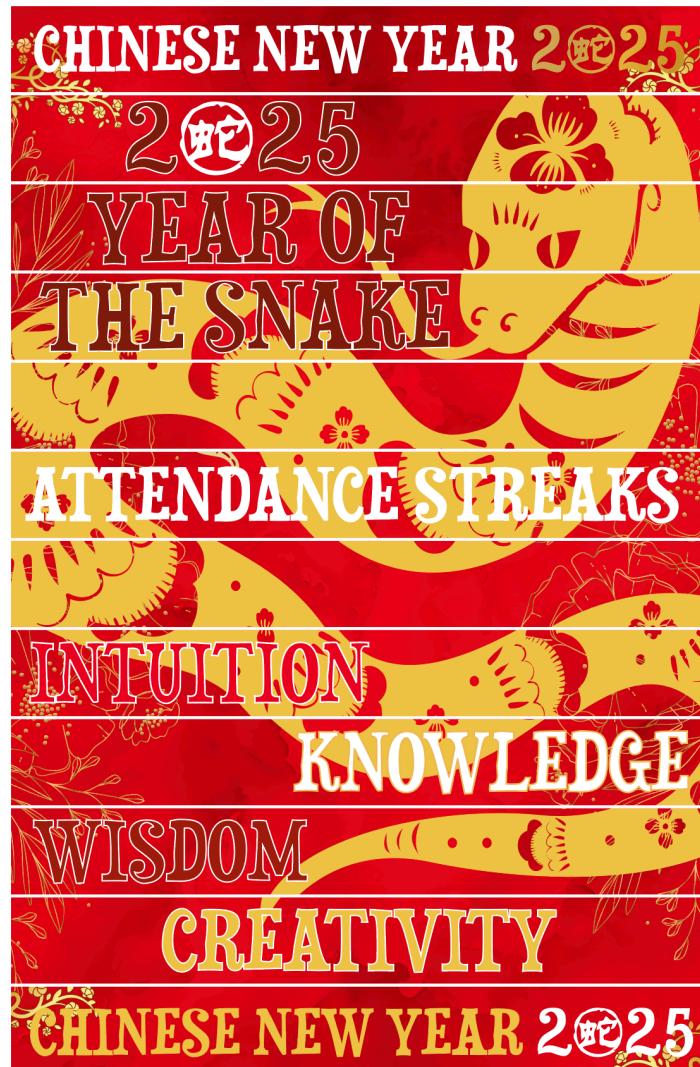
Mrs Capaldi

Wishing you safe travels
Year 9 students and
staff as you travel to
New Delhi this week

Attend school every day:

- Every day 1 person per year group (who attended the day before) will pick a red envelope and a prize
- Attend every day of the three weeks and you will go into the draw for a Just Eat family meal voucher. 1 per year group will be awarded.

**Chinese New Year
Attendance Streak
starts today**





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UK China Immersion Programme

Park Community School's international connections have continued to strengthen this half term. We have had the pleasure to again host a group of 31 students from New Oriental School, China for the week.

Park students within Years 8 and 9 were invited to apply to be buddies to our guests, with over 40 of our students writing compelling applications requesting to be a part of the experience.

The Park students guided their Chinese partners through tutor time, lessons, Finding What You Love activities/clubs, Much More Than Just A School carousel opportunities, school production rehearsals, sports events, assemblies, cultural craft sessions, and much more. They all developed friendships and resilience along the way.

The week ended with a celebration assembly. During the assembly Park students presented reflections of their experience, as did our visiting students. Each student explained how struck they were with the warm welcome they received from staff and students at Park, the wide range of alternative activities they experienced, and how they enjoyed the learning environment at Park. The visiting staff also explained how lessons here allowed all students to be active in their learning and praised how fantastic the Park buddies had been throughout the week.

Lifelong memories and friendships have been made and we look forward to hosting more overseas guests in the coming months.

Mrs Cavanagh





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Excellent work in Year 9 Art

Mr Waterfield



Sports Ambassadors at Barncroft

Our Sports Ambassadors went to Barncroft to continue our curriculum support. The students were able to lead some of their planned sessions today for their Level 2 Leadership Award.

The focus was on dribbling as a concept. The students planned some really challenging activities for the Year ones that got progressively more challenging. They even incorporated some numeracy tasks within the, to stretch them further.

I'm very proud of their efforts once again.

Mr Herriot



Rotary Youth Speaks Debate Competition

Last Friday we hosted the Rotary Youth Speaks Debate competition here at Park in our lecture theatre. Nine teams from other schools in the surrounding area took part, including two teams from Park. Barbara, Caitlin and Ruby debated on whether it was the consumer's responsibility for the contributions to global warming caused by fast fashion. Jayden, Harry and John then went on to debate whether it was our social and moral duty to care for those less fortunate. Both very current and important topics in today's society.

Sadly we did not win this time, however during the results, all three judges commended Jayden for his resilience during his presentation due to various disruptions beyond his control and both teams were praised by the Rotary staff for their support of both each other as well as the other teams that took part. They were fantastic ambassadors for Park and should be really proud of themselves for what they achieved.

They're already planning for next year - the boys are determined to beat Hayling College!

Miss Manning





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Match Report

The Year 10/11 Football team had their first fixture last week, away to Warblington. The game started out tough, as we conceded four early goals. However the boys showed brilliant resilience and team spirit, finishing the game strongly. Despite being 5-1 at half time, they continued to try their hardest resulting in three second half goals. Hopefully we can build on this strong finish for the rest of the season!

Result:

7 vs 4 to Warblington.

Scorers:

Vinnie x 2

Sid x 2

Player of the match:

Vinnie

Mr Wood

Epiphany Attendance Streaks

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and the celebration of Epiphany started our term with a focus on improving attendance. Everyday 2 students from each year group who had attended the previous day were selected to win a fragrance set and a gold pen, with the tutor group with the best attendance each day also being rewarded with golden chocolate coins. The buzz and excitement each morning was really pleasing to see. At the end of the 10 days , 10 students were awarded our golden fragrance sets in assembly for having 100% attendance for the 10 days of Epiphany streaks. During these weeks we had 28 less absences than in 2024!

Monday 27th January sees the start of our Chinese New Year attendance streaks. With exciting prizes up for grabs each day, and where 10 lucky students who have 100% attendance for the 15-day period set to receive a £30 Just Eat voucher.

Mr Bryce

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE & MYRRH

These three substances are brought as gifts by the Three Wise Men in the Christmas story - in this graphic, we examine the uses and chemistry behind them.



Gold

Electron Configuration: [Xe]4f¹5d¹6s¹

Gold's structure consists of a lattice of cations with a 'sea' of delocalised electrons. Its golden colour is due to the 5d and 6s atomic subshells to absorb photons of blue light.



Frankincense

FRANKINCENSE RESIN is used as incense, with the result of various compounds produced when it is burned. These include those shown above, as well as several terpenoid compounds, such as BETA-SIYLICENE, LIMONENE and OLEIC ACETATE. OLEIC ACETATE could help alleviate anxiety & depression.



Myrrh

Myrrh resin, like frankincense, can be used in incense & perfumes, though it also has medicinal applications. Its aroma comes from a family of compounds called furanosequiterpenes. Animal studies have shown that the compound found in myrrh can have an analgesic effect.

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Year 7 Havant Reservoir trip

I took 12 Year 7 students to the Havant Reservoir construction site.

Students learnt about how the reservoir will be built and built their own reservoir out of clay testing them with water. Seth 7AGR and Bonnie 7MLA created the best reservoir to store water!

Students then explored the site and took in a view from viewing platform!

Over the next four years the students will continue to learn and visit the reservoir and look at the development that continues at Havant Reservoir.

Students were a credit to Park for their behaviour and took a lot away from their visit.

Mr Redman





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Triple Scientists Explore Homeostasis

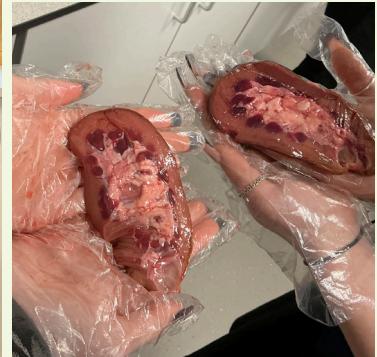
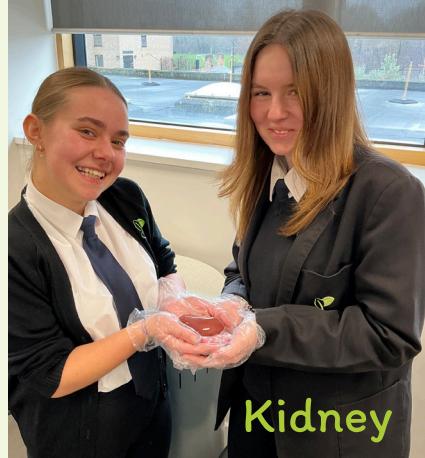
Year 11 triple scientists have had an exciting few weeks. We have conducted brain, eye and kidney dissections. This all comes from the topic: Homeostasis and response.

As well as dissections, students have been learning about how the body controls levels of water and glucose in the blood and how our body controls temperature. We have looked at the importance of drinking water and even tested some urine (fake!) to see if we could predict what issues the patient had whether it was kidneys, diabetes or a healthy person.

Students have really enjoyed the dissections and have been very surprised as to what our organs look like on the inside.

Miss Conner

Students learnt what kidneys do and why they are so important. It was surprising to see how they looked on the inside!



Students looked at eyeballs and were able to dissect them. We removed the lens, looked at the optic nerve and some removed the muscles of iris.



Students made brain hats and then performed a brain dissection! We looked at the main parts of the brain and why each part is important.



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Year 7 at Titchfield Festival Theatre

The Year 7's were back at Titchfield this afternoon and started devising the first scenes of their Panto. They worked so hard and are growing so much in confidence already! They are set to put on a very funny show complete with singing and dancing.

A great afternoon with students who make the most of every opportunity offered to them by Park

Miss Brown



Welding at The Apex

We are excited to announce that we now have the facilities to learn all about welding at The Apex Centre. Students have enjoyed their trial sessions and are now poised to develop their skills.

Mr Payne



Peer Reading Programme

Our peer reading programme launched this afternoon during tutor time. Students were matched across year groups to read aloud to each other and develop their fluency and confidence. A strong start - well done to all those involved.

Mrs Pearce





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Charity Football Match

Last Friday, our Year 11 Student V Staff match raised over £100 for charity. The match went ahead despite the bad weather and both teams battled bravely until the end.

The Year 11 boys dominated from the start of the game, taking a 4-0 lead at one point. However, staff used their skill and determination to close the gap, eventually losing to the boys by only 1 goal. Vinnie, captain of the boys' team and organiser of the match said, "I am proud of everyone, well done all!". Mr Shearn, captain of the staff team, remained positive about the defeat, vowing to beat the boys next time. He was unable to communicate this verbally at the end of the match, but his facial expression conveyed his determination to win in the future.

Final Score: 5:4 to the boys.
Well done to everyone
who played and thank you
to those who supported.

Mr Herriot



Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

This morning, I took ten Year 9 students to The Havant Plaza to commemorate Holocaust memorial day. The ceremony was extremely moving, with a poignant speech from the daughter of Holocaust survivors, reflecting on their childhood. It was an honour to attend the service and listen to the stories of those directly affected by The Holocaust. Students read the following poem, as part of their service.

Mr Crowley

Fate of the Jews by Kurt Mezei

Today I saw a thousand people, with distraught countenances Today I saw a thousand Jews, wandering to nothingness, In the grey of the cold morning shuffled the banished crowd, And behind it faded out what was their life's reward, They passed the gates and knew: never back! They left behind everything: fortune, prestige, luck.

Where will they bring you? Where will your journey end? They know only this: barbed wire is where they will be sent! And what will await them is agony, pain and distress, Loss, hunger, epidemics, and for many of them death.

I looked into their eyes with fraternal unity, Expecting deepest laments for their adversity, But instead of despair I just saw tremendous struggle, Attitude of resistance from their eyes full of trouble. Saw the hot will of life, saw hope and hot hardihood. I saw in some faces a smile, intense and good. But then I've noticed, deeply moved, the people's spirit, Who selected to suffer, coped to overcome pain bit by bit, Who suffered distress, misery, exile, slavery and detention, Still stand with unbroken strength and hope for redemption.

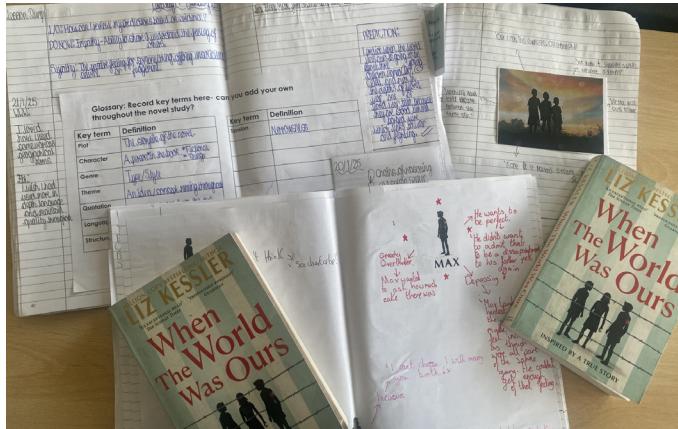
Today I saw a thousand people, confused in some way Foresaw the "rays of eternal light", while all is still grey.

Translated from the German by Cathérine Hug and Harold Otto





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When The World Was Ours

This half term in Year 7 Star Curriculum lessons, students are delving deeper into their tutor read and completing a novel study during lesson time too. Students are studying 'When The World Was Ours' by Liz Kessler, the story of three children who live in Vienna as World War Two begins.

The story is told from each child's perspective and offers an insight into their different experiences of war and prejudice at that time. This text driver is being used to explore important Humanities concepts including migration in Geography, Jewish faith traditions in RE and the significance of Licoria in History. So far, students are really enjoying the text and are developing their ability to link ideas across subjects.

We are hopeful that students will also be able to talk to Liz Kessler herself in our upcoming Literary Festival and students have lots of questions that they would like to ask her about why she wrote the text.

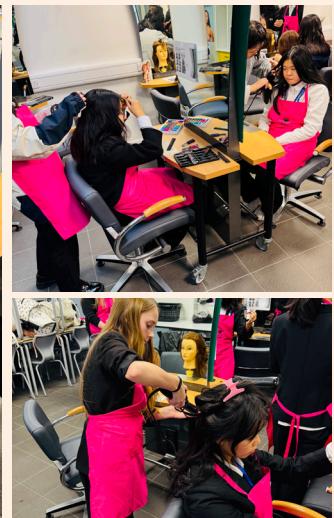
This will be another Canon book read for Year 7, so please ask them about their views of the novel so far!

Mrs Harrison

Hair and Beauty

Students enjoyed putting their practical skills to work in our Hair and Beauty room.

Mrs Challinor



Bee Buddies

Our Bee Buddies group has been working hard. This week we have started to look at bees in more depth, discussing the important work of a bee keeper.

Our two new national hives will hopefully arrive next week, but this week we looked at our new 6 frame viewing nucleus. This is great and will really help students to get a closer look at our bee colonies once we have warmer weather.

Mr Cross





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Low Mood/Depression

Understanding and Supporting your child.

2024-2025 Online Workshops

The workshop aims to upskill parents and carers to understand low mood and depression, the signs and symptoms of this in young people, and provide some simple skills and strategies for you to take away and use to support your young person who may be struggling with their mood.

Date	Time	Zoom link
Friday 24/01/2025	11:30am- 1pm	https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68735612073?pwd=EsRtTOlsmeqwYhbptblxb3vxTtCheG.1
Wednesday 05/03/2025	1pm- 2:30pm	https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/65483889716?pwd=PshZWoFlmblfb81akVT5Su1hTe4goY.1

The workshop will be mostly informative, with some optional opportunities for discussion, input, and questions via the digital chat function. You will not need to have your video-camera or microphone on for the workshop.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Service delivered in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System.

hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk



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APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

**JOIN US TO TALK
ALL THINGS
APPRENTICESHIPS!**



PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
11TH FEBRUARY, 2025
5:00-7:00PM

About Our Event!

We warmly invite you to join us for our apprenticeship event taking place at Park Community School. Whether you know you want to do an apprenticeship on leaving school or just want your whole family to better understand your options, this event will be a great one to attend!

Event Highlights

Employers ◀

Come talk to a variety of employers and find out about the apprenticeships they offer.

Training Providers ◀

Speak to a number of training providers to understand their courses.

Information Providers ◀

Find out about local organisations and the support they offer to the local community.

Refreshments & Raffles ◀

Enjoy some light bites and join our raffle for a chance to win some great prizes!



Park Community School



Open 10am - 5pm Everyday

**Breakfast | Lunch | Cakes
Drinks | High Tea**

07734 227058 [Tearoomsatcoachhouse](#) [@TEAROOMS2020](#)





Staunton Country Park, Petersfield Road, Havant, PO9 5HD





**Opening times: 7:30am - 6pm
51 weeks a year**

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Park Design and Print (PDP) was established by Park Community School to give young people real life work experience.

**much
more
than
just
a
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