



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update 17 February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This newsletter celebrates a range of fantastic opportunities embraced by Park students over the past month. As you know, at Park we believe passionately that school is about finding what you love. We know, if we can find things we love, we are more likely to work hard, be resilient and feel confident to do our best. These qualities help us pursue our passions in life and make us more willing to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone.

Therefore, meaningful learning experiences both in the classroom and beyond are vital. I think you'll agree that this newsletter celebrates great examples of both. The theme of global citizenship has run through this half term. Mr Cavanagh's assembly a few weeks ago celebrated the diversity we have at Park. He highlighted the 28 different languages spoken by students and staff in our school and the wonderful diversity it brings to our whole community.

In 2025 so far, we have welcomed 31 students from China, 20 Year 9 students and 6 staff have travelled to India, 50 Year 10 students have explored Paris, and we have further international trips to New York and Poland planned for later in the year. Each of these experiences broaden the perspectives of those lucky enough to travel but also bring back fantastic stories and cultural moments to share with the whole school.

Travel, be it more locally or further afield, especially when we can do it together, creates lifelong bonds and memories. Years 7, 8 and 9 have all brought letters home about end of year trips to London and Stone Henge. We have heavily discounted the cost so that all students are able to attend.

Of course, none of the in-school or trip experiences are possible if students don't attend school. Our school attendance is improving and our themed attendance streaks have created an excitement at morning line ups. Attendance this year is up 3% on last year. This means more students are making good progress at school, feel happy and are more likely to pass their GCSEs. Thank you for your support with this.

We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Monday 24 February and hope you have a great half term.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi



Student Review Day 2025

What a great Student Review Day! Attendance was good and conversations about progress, challenges and next steps were at the heart of the day.

Year 7 and 8 students attended their appointments and then chose a free book from Park's canon. Year 9 students discussed option choices for GCSEs and took away an information pack, while Year 10 reviewed their progress in GCSEs and received a free revision guide to support with their Literature GCSE this summer. Thank you for ensuring your children attended these important meetings.

Mrs Pearce





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Park in Paris

We had a great time in France last week with 50 of our Year 10 students enjoying time in the Disneyland Paris parks, some being very brave and trying big rides and French food for the first time! Students also enjoyed meeting their favourite Disney characters around the parks and watching the parade.

On Thursday, we gave students the opportunity to go into Paris to take a long walk and see the most famous landmarks in Paris. Despite the cold and the long 5-mile walk, 39 students chose to come along, and they were great ambassadors of Park Community School in the train, the underground and in Paris. We were able to spend some time outside the Louvre's Museum to see the Pyramid before walking through Les Tuileries gardens and past Place de la Concorde before enjoying free time shopping on the Champs Élysées. After meeting at the Arc de Triomphe, we walked to the Eiffel Tower and on the Place du Trocadero before getting the metro and the train back.

On Friday, we stopped to visit the Thiepval WWI memorial and to try and find our ancestors on the walls of the memorial building amongst the thousand names of British soldiers killed on French soil during the First World War. Students showed great respect and were a credit to Park and great ambassadors for the UK.

Well done to all involved!

Mrs Derby





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London Geography Trip

Year 10 Geographers had an opportunity to visit London and explore our global city case study first hand. We travelled up by train, which we identified as the first feature of a global city – having great transport networks, we also noted and saw planes landing in London City Airport which is 1 of 6 of London's airports!

Once arriving in London, we walked across to the embankment, noting the number of services available especially for tourist like us.

All students were very excited to get on the London Eye to get a better view of London, although some had a few wobbly knees when we saw up close how high we were going to be.

The view across London on the Eye enabled us to see many other features of our global city, from Canary Wharf our financial centre to China town, an area showing diversity and culture. We even managed to locate two contrasting areas of London we have been discussing in class of Kensington and Newham.

After the excitement of the Eye, we were all feeling a bit hungry so ventured off to find food, via Trafalgar Square. We were lucky enough to see our British Farmers protesting with their very noisy tractors all around Parliament and Westminster, yet another feature of a global city!

Mrs Coles



MFL Ambassadors at Warren Park

Our MFL Ambassadors visited Warren Park primary school and delivered presentations, entirely in Spanish, to 60 Year 6 students in the assembly hall.

Not only did they present with such confidence, but they also took it upon themselves to teach key phrases, and encourage the Year 6s to take part in translation activities.

The Year 6s also had many questions for our Ambassadors and were thrilled to hear about all the amazing opportunities that were in store for them at Park.

We had great feedback from the teachers at Warren, who were so impressed by our students.

Mrs Nuttal





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National Apprenticeship Week

Staff members from Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council visited our Year 10 and 11 students to speak about apprenticeships. They discussed what an apprenticeship was, how to apply for one and what different apprenticeships are available now!

Students were engaged and have walked away with a greater knowledge of apprenticeships than they had before.

Engaging, confident and well-informed were just some of the words used to describe our Year 10 and 11s at our amazing event on Wednesday evening. We had a large range of employers who volunteered their time to come in and discuss their business and the apprenticeships they offer. Our students had the opportunity to speak with them about the different pathways they could take and what an apprenticeship really entails and hear it all straight from the source. It was a positive experience for everyone, and a pleasure to see all our young people excited about their futures. Some companies present included Airbus, NATS, Meso and More, and the Royal Navy. A full list of employers can be seen below.

All employers were given 'Golden Tickets'. These were to only be given to those students that stood out to them for asking brilliant questions and making a great first impression. The following students were recognised: TJ (He received 4 Golden Tickets!) Kadie, Charlie, Harry, Emily and Ollie- To name a few!

Also, all students who attended were entered into a raffle where they had the chance to win some amazing prizes ranging from scientific calculators, and Tesco vouchers to suitcases and huge Love to Shop vouchers. Well done to all the winners!

A very big thank you goes out to Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council - without them and their tireless effort recruiting employers and helping us organise this event could never have happened!

Mrs Jervis



Thank you to all who supported this event: Airbus, ALPS, Breeze Motor Group, Chichester College, Citizens Advice Bureau, COMSERV (UK) LIMITED, Fareport Training, Future Water, Grainger PLC, HSDC, HTAA, Lightning Fire Safety Systems, Meso & More Training Academy, NATS, PALL - Adult Community Learning, Paul Basham Associates, Portsmouth College, Rolls Royce, Royal Navy/Royal Marines, S&E - Construct Your Future, S&E - Skills Bootcamps, SHCG (South Hampshire College Group), STS Defence, Steve Willis Training and Thakeham



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Reservoir Ambassadors

Our Reservoir Ambassadors attended their first meeting as part of this group along with representatives from 9 local schools. The ambassadors will meet as a group once a term and shadow the work of the other stakeholder groups who work with Portsmouth Water as the reservoir works develop. The groups' focus is on learning about the processes for the development of the reservoir, considering the positives for community and educational and of course challenging potential negatives.

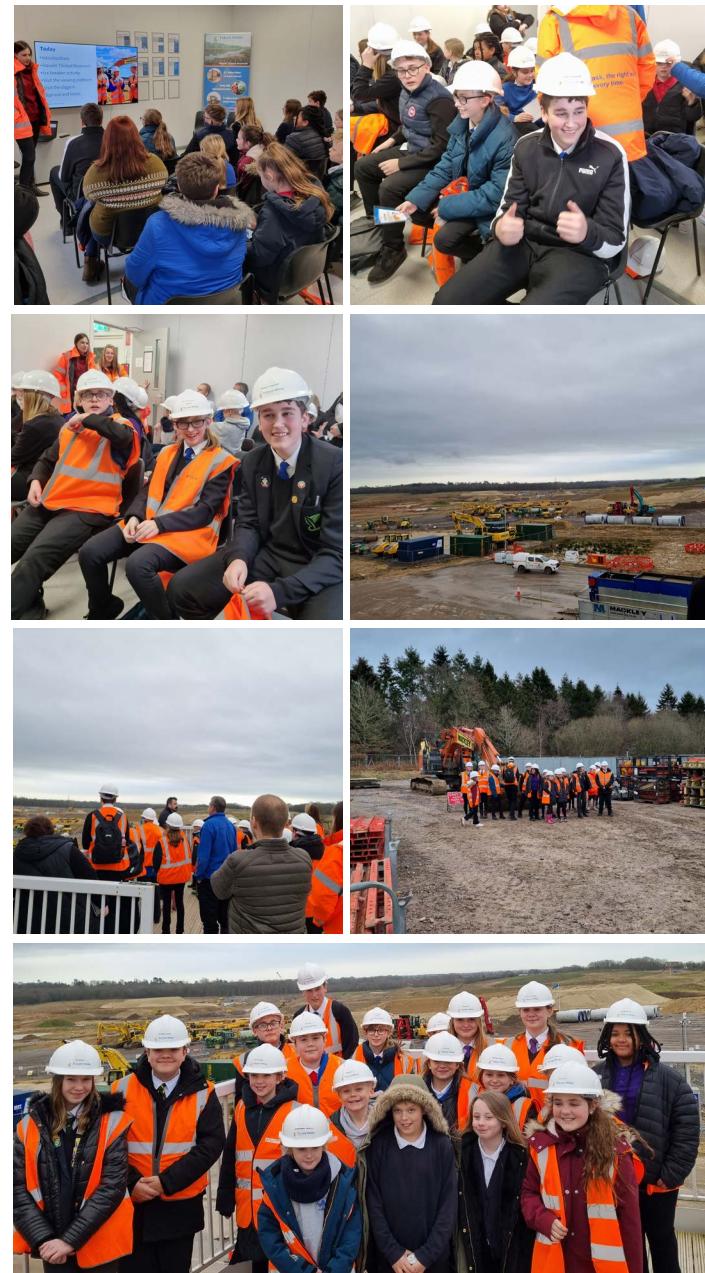
During the first meeting, students were introduced to one another and each shared the reason why they wanted to become a Reservoir Ambassador (which Park students articulated excellently). They were also given PPE to wear and mock job roles to discuss and learn about.

The students were then given time to share what they already knew about the reservoir before being informed of new information, interesting facts, and new developments. Our Park students - Dakota, Liam, and Ryan - shared some knowledge about the need for sustainable water supply and the future ecological benefits of the site.

Students were then invited up to the viewing platform, where they discussed the current site and asked many enthusiastic questions to one of the site engineers. Lastly, students went on site to view some of the machinery and talk about the different aspects of the project that are currently underway.

It was a great experience and all students seemed to really enjoy themselves.

Mr Macefield



Girls' Football Academy

Last week we had another fantastic session delivered by Ella Humphrey. Players have practised lots of individual skills, then some relays, a 3v3 game and then some penalties.

Our girls were very engaged, and they really enjoyed it. It was our last session before the matches start on 24th of February, when we will be away to Cowplain to play 4 matches. We are excited to start competing.

Miss Moreira





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Manmade Project- Boys' Dance

Wow! What an amazing day! The boys had a long tiring day working with choreographers from Zoielogic dance company. In the morning the boys were working on building trust by taking part in a contact workshop where they learnt all different types of lifts and counterbalances. In the afternoon session the boys worked together collaborating with different ideas based around 'a day at a waterpark'.

From this they have created lots of different sections that they will piece together in their second session on the 6th March.

The group of 23 boys were pushed out of their comfort zone, but their hard work and determination has shined through.

The choreographers were impressed with how trusting the boys were and how enthusiastic they have been. We can't wait for the next session to finish their piece and get it ready to perform at the MAST studios.

Mrs Marr



Match Report

Last week, the Year 8 Basketball team took part in a tournament at Oaklands. This featured a variety of local school in a round robin format. There was a great spirit throughout and the boys showed great sportsmanship.

Results:

Park vs Purbrook - 10 - 8 to Purbrook
Park vs Warblington - 8 - 6 to Park
Park vs Cowplain - 10 - 10 Draw
Park vs TPS - 6 - 0 - TPS

Heroes of park: Player of the tournament:

Josh
Riley
Tommy
Ralphie
Albert
Aiyden

Mr Wood



Sports Ambassadors at Barncroft

We took a team down to Barncroft to continue our curriculum support. The team were fantastic today leading the whole session. Each ambassador led a part of the session which can be put into their official 20 minute planned sessions. The focus was passing, receiving and using space.



The team were so confident and led with enthusiasm and efficiency. I am so proud of how far they have developed. Well done to Alivia, Harry, Fletcher and Liam.
Mr Herriott



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Dance Live

On the 27th January we took 55 students to compete in the Dance Live heats at Portsmouth Guildhall with our piece 'Return to Labyrinth'. Our students were an absolute credit to our school all day and performed fantastically on stage. We received amazing comments from the judges and we were overjoyed in receiving second place as well as winning best costume. All of their hard work and dedication definitely paid off, and we are so proud of them all.

We would like to thank Mrs Smith for all of her help and support with costumes, Mr Waterfield for assisting with make up as well as Miss Firbank, Mrs Gregory and Miss Read for their support with make up and backstage. We really appreciated all of your help.

Mrs Chuter





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Park in India



India Trip – UK Turing Scheme 2025

#BondsBeyondBoarders

It was a privilege to accompany 20 students on our recent residential to Manav Rachna University in New Delhi, India. The week was full of laughter, curiosity and connections. We travelled with HSDC staff and students and spent 10 days immersed in Indian education and culture.

Whilst in India, students studied alongside their Year 9 counterparts at the Manav Rachna International IB school. The curriculum was planned around real experiences and our students impressed with their warmth, integrity, respect and focus. This was shown not only through academic study but during traditional celebration events. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Taj Mahal and India Gate.

Mrs Cavanagh, Mr Crowley, Mr Grant and Miss Manning



Friday 31st January - Saturday 1st February - Internationally minded

Students were outstanding travellers taking each challenge in their stride and being wonderful ambassadors for Park and the UK. Check in and security went smoothly as did boarding.





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Sunday 2nd February - Uniting cultures and igniting minds

Today we travelled to our partnership school. As we observed beautiful landscapes followed by areas of extreme deprivation, the students truly engaged and immersed in the journey - they respectfully questioned what we were observing. From the wildlife, the insane traffic etiquette and diverse living conditions.

At the school we had the privilege to be part of a traditional celebration event Havan celebration. This was a ceremony to bring protect, empowerment and cleanse for our time in India and celebrate the start of spring. The pictures do not do justice to the music, vibrance, smells and tastes ... wow!

Once back to the university campus we were taken to their centre of excellence for shooting. Here staff and students experiences both pistol and rifle shooting with world champion athletes and coaches.

Student confidence for their environment and increasing independence on campus is fantastic. Enjoying their responsibility of a dorm room, their own sets of keys, recreational sport time and mature interactions with the range of staff and students here etc.



Monday 3rd February - Student centred trip

Today we spent our first full day in lessons and with our host students. Within all lessons Park students were applying their Great Learners qualities. Within their Design Technology session our students thought hard through inquiry and research tasks, used student talk and communication skills to select and refine designs and reflective feedback to complete their prototype plans.

We then moved into Performing Arts, students immersed themselves into a dance session before splitting between a Bhangra routine and a music session.

Park were welcomed into a school assembly and the school band performed for us. Following this myself and some students presented about Park.

In the evening, we had the most amazing evening celebration with HSDC, students from the university and staff. There was much singing and dancing as we experienced part of a traditional Indian wedding celebratory event.



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Tuesday 4th February - The feeling of being part of something bigger

WOW what an early start. 5am alarm clocks set for all and on a bus by 5.45am for the Taj Mahal. A 4-hour bus journey lay ahead. We enjoyed the opportunity to observe more of India's diversity. The vast farmland, the compact stone villages, the straw and mud huts surrounding numerous ponds and rivers on the journey, interspersed by outstanding forts, places of worship and large public buildings.

The Taj Mahal itself and student reactions excelled all our expectations. Students commenting on its impressive size, history, architecture and enjoying the experience of being present at one of the wonders of the world. It was extremely busy as we were guided around the grounds and inside the Taj past the tombs. Everyone clearly out of comfort but embracing the opportunity and experience.



Wednesday 5th February - Boarders may divide us but learning and friendship knows no boundaries

What a way to start a Wednesday. 4.45am alarm and a hike to watch the sun rise. We hiked across the Aravali Hills and enjoyed the wonderful vistas of mountain ranges, temples and many monkeys.

From here we returned to the university campus briefly to change and head onto the school campus. We were guided through some craft activities. Continued with the innovation activities in our groups. Some Hindi calligraphy. And finally, some maths.





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In the evening we had the privilege of immersing ourselves in the heart of Indian home life. From the bustling energy of joint families to the intimate connections of nuclear households, we witnessed first-hand the values of togetherness and shared values. All of which emulate those of the school and of Park. The families welcomed us so warmly for food and celebrations. We have a wealth of memories and stories to share.



Thursday 6th February - Much more than just a school trip

We travelled with students and staff from our host school to visit a famous spice market. The smells and colours were mesmerising. We then toured Parliament House and Museum. It was fascinating to observe the development of India's political history. The students were engaged in the interactive exhibitions and discussed various elements with their buddies. We then went onto India Gate. Very busy but so impressive and lovely to be out walking in the sunshine.



Once at the campus we joined a talent show in one of their exhibition centres. Park students (and Mr Grant) joining for the dancing and then even performed some songs themselves.





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Friday 7th February - The living bridge

We travelled to a local village that is sponsored by the university. We were privileged to walk the village, visit classrooms, meet students and have a traditional Indian meal. The best meal here by far. The people of the village were so welcoming. Our students each stood in front of the school and introduced themselves, their favourite subject at school and what they like to do in the free time on a microphone, from this they were paired with a buddy for a day. Our students were clearly nervous but stepped up and spoke very articulately to the audience.

In the buddy pairs they chatted through the village tour, attended the temple, danced, exchanged gifts and resources. A humbling experience for all. On returning to the school, we all sat in the hall for a tradition meal on lead plates. It was delicious. Moving outside to meet more of the school student's music was played and everyone danced. Gifts were exchanged and lots of pictures taken.





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Saturday 8th February - Threads of togetherness

We began at the school for a cooking lesson. We made a dish traditionally eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Smelt and tasted wonderful. From here we had a celebration assembly. Our students performed in the band and a dance. Followed by many speeches by staff and students on both sides. Very moving and lots of tears from the students. Friendships have been made that will continue to develop for years to come. Lessons learnt about the culture and ourselves that will shape how we all view situations, environments and others.



Sunday 9th February - Bonds Beyond Boarders

Today we travelled home. The students impressing us all. The seem to have all grown in confidence and self-belief. The bonds that have been formed on this trip between our own students and their buddies are forever strong.

It was a real honour to spend these students - each one represented the school and their year group faultlessly throughout. We are extremely proud of them as ambassadors for not only Park Community School but also the UK.

This was a truly inspiring experience with exceptional students. Showing again just how brilliant different Park Community School really is. Much More Than Just A School!





Park Community School



Youth 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 Centre, 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

Email: cypsafehaven@easthantsmind.org

Freephone: 0300 303 1580



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



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