



# Park Community School

## NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Update  
20 October 2023

### Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

At the end of a busy half-term, we have captured some of the things from the past few weeks that sum up life at Park. We hope you enjoy reading about the many opportunities and experiences our students have had over the past few weeks.

A highlight this week has been the celebrations for those students achieving a 25- day attendance streak. Those who missed out this time are determined to gain their streaks next half term and we look forward to rewarding them.

On our return after half term, Year 11 begin their first set of mock exams. They have been working hard in class and at home and now need to stick to their revision timetables to ensure they are fully prepared for the fortnight of exams.

We hope you have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 30th October.



**Mr Anders**



**Mrs Capaldi**



### Book Buzz: Free Books for Every Year 7 and 8 Park Student

The whole school was buzzing this week as the annual Book Buzz Event reached its conclusion. Our Year 7 and 8 students have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of their chosen book and finally had the opportunity to get their hands on them.



In partnership with the Book Trust Book Buzz programme, Park is gifting a FREE book to each of our Year 7 and 8 students from this year's selection of 16 amazing books.

We hope that Book Buzz encourages our students to read more frequently, which will help improve their wellbeing, spark interesting conversations and inspire creativity.

#### How can I help my child to get buzzing about books?

The easiest way to get involved is to talk to your child about books and reading. Their Book Buzz book is a great place to start. What do they enjoy about their book? Who is their favourite character? Talking about books together can help show the value of reading and encourage your child to form and share their opinions on what they like to read.

Copies of all 16 books are available to borrow from our library so, if they want to, students can read them all. If you or your child have any questions about Book Buzz or indeed anything to do with books and reading at Park please pop in or contact me [a.hucklebridge@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:a.hucklebridge@pcs.hants.sch.uk).

**Miss Hucklebridge**







# Park Community School

## Greenpower at the Goodwood International Finals

I was so proud to once again take our Greenpower team to compete in the International Finals at Goodwood on a sunny Sunday in October. Our three cars Chase, Team Spirit 2 (TS2) and Keep Up started as three of 160 cars at the beginning of the season, all vying to make the final. And we did it!

Qualifying went well and our cars got off to a good start. A spin from TS2 meant it dropped out of 5th place but was catching up although it faded at the end. Keep Up was posting good consistent lap times and Chase trundled on as always but did fade a little at the end. We qualified 15th, 7th and 14th respectively. We decided to risk TS2 and keep the high gear ratio knowing it could fade. But it was the final so why not?!

All three cars got off to a great start in the final. TS2 was racing ahead and pulled into first place but at a rate we knew we couldn't maintain. Chase and keep up were in similar positions and going well. The team was fantastic with their pit changes - changing drivers in around 15 seconds!

Sadly, TS2 did fade early but broke our own record of the fastest lap we have ever done around the 2.3 mile track at 4 minutes 56 seconds. Chase trundled on and although it faded at the end for an unknown reason made up four places in the last ten minutes. Keep up was our best performing car on the day and kept its lap times consistent throughout the race.



Not the top places we were hoping for but with three lifetime bests we did everything we could.

Congratulations to the team, another great season.

### Results

**Chase** 15th place with a equal lifetime best distance. 35.91 miles in 90min

**Team Spirit 2** 14th place with a new Lifetime best distance of 36.39 miles in 90min

**Keep Up** 10th with a new lifetime best 38.15miles in 90min.

**Mr Payne**

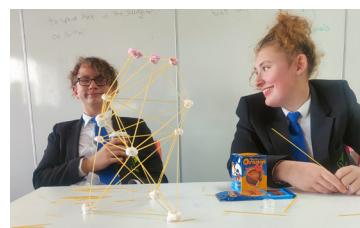
## MFL Ambassadors visit to Warren Park

A fantastic first visit to Warren Park with our MFL Ambassadors. Our students presented in Spanish to 60 Year 6 students, showcasing all their hard work from Year 7 and Year 8. Well done ambassadors!

**Miss Nuttall**



## Stars of the half term







# Park Community School

## Barcelona 2023

This October, a group of 13 Year 10 students spent a week in sunny Barcelona, Spain. We spent the week discovering the most famous landmarks such as the Sagrada Familia, the Arc de Triomf and Parque Güell, exploring the famous street of Las Ramblas, the Gothic neighbourhood and the beach La Barceloneta, learning about science in Spanish in the CosmoCaixa museum and trying Spanish food.

For the artists in the group, we visited the Picasso Museum, and we discovered Antonio Gaudi's architectural genius. For the football fans, we visited Camp Nou and its immersive tour, and we spent time learning about Barcelona FC, its history, most famous players and trophies.

Students were involved in several Spanish lessons; they challenged themselves in speaking Spanish to the locals, ordering food in Spanish and going into Spanish shops.

### Our trip in numbers:

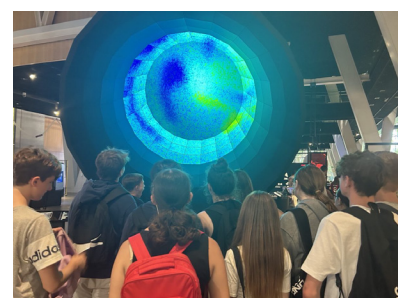
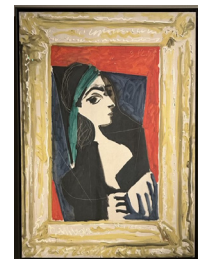
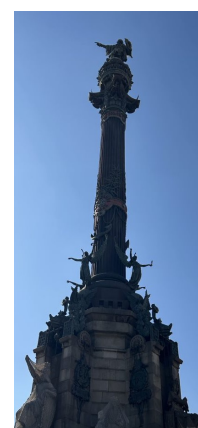
**28 degrees every day**

**13 resilient and autonomous students**

**10 metro trips**

**110 260 steps = 80km or 50miles in total!!**

### Miss Dermey







# Park Community School

## Girls' Football Academy 2023

It is with great pleasure and emotion that I am telling you that we now have a team of 16 girls attending our football training each week. Practice includes drills focussed on passing and receiving and this week ended with a match. The girls share my passion for the game and I cannot wait to coach them throughout the year and challenge other schools with this amazing team.

**Miss Moreira**

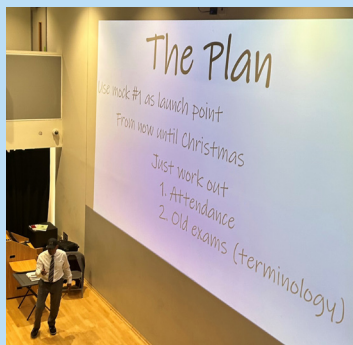


## Year 11 - Preparing for their first Mock Season

This half term, Year 11 have been working hard towards their first mocks of the year. All half term they have prepared in class, completed daily revision cards and attended period 6. This half term they will be using their revision timetables to ensure they are fully prepared for the mocks which begin on the first day back after half term.

On Challenge Day, Year 11 spent their time making final preparations. They have participated in Master classes for English and maths, created final revision timetable with their tutors and attended a motivational session from our very own Mr Roberson which focussed on training to be your best and taking care of yourself. Good luck to Year 11 for their revision over half term and the mocks when we return to school. A copy of the Year 11 mock timetable is linked here.

**Mr Cavanagh and Mr Bourton**



## Year 7 Parent Evening

Thank you to all who attended to review your child's first half term at Park. Tutors enjoyed meeting you to discuss how your child's progress, attendance and happiness at Park. As always, parents completed a review of subject books with their children and listened to them read from one of Park's canon books.

**Mrs Capaldi**







# Park Community School

## Financial Education Corner

### What we have been doing in school...

The previous fortnight has seen Year 11 finish their SMSC sessions on finance. Students learned about how to create a savings plan, specifically looking at saving for prom or the upcoming trip to New York for some. Looking at some plans, people need to start saving very soon!

We discussed when it is good to borrow and when it is a bad idea to borrow. For example, borrowing for holidays and events is not always wise, whereas borrowing for a car or buying property can have long term financial benefits.

Next half term is the turn of year 10 during their SMSC sessions every Thursday, where they will look at:

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

Mr Murphy

Key Facts: (Year 11 Autumn 1 Week 5)	
From: New York	
Dress - £300	Rights and play - £2
Notes etc - £100	Food and drink - £200
Suit Hire - £150	Presents for you - £2
Suit Hire - £100	Presents for others - £2
Shoe - £50	
"Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning." - Thomas Edison	
I am saving for: Prom	
Costs:	
Dress	£300
Escorts	£200
Invites up	£150
Hair	£100
Shoes	£50
Total costs:	£800
Savings: (20 weeks to NY, 30 weeks to Prom)	
Once off (e.g. Xmas)	£100
Birthday	£100
How much I need to save per week	£20

### Informing you...

IT'S CHRISTMASS!!! Well not quite yet, but it is about that time to start planning and saving for the big day and all that happens before and after. Here are some early money saving tips with more to come in future editions:



### Don't forget the local markets

A Channel 4 Dispatches investigation found that local markets and grocers were up to 35% cheaper than supermarkets. So, do check out our local Havant market on Tuesdays and Saturdays or why not see what offers our new Butchers shop in Park Parade have for you and your family.

### Supermarket savings schemes

Most supermarkets pay out a Christmas bonus based on how much you have saved by a specific day or month. For example, this year if you top up Tesco's savings card with £200 in October, you will have £212 in November.

[Supermarket savings cards: earn up to 6% in a day - MSE \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](http://moneysavingexpert.com)

## Mathematics homework

This half-term has seen the introduction of Sparx Maths across all year groups as our homework platform.

Sparx Maths adapts to the needs of students, recognising from the accuracy and timing of pupil responses how to adapt to pupils needs ensuring questions and tasks are bespoke to individual pupils.

Sparx Maths provides multiple opportunities for students to select the correct answer, along with video support and in-depth analysis of strengths and weaknesses for in class follow up. Students should record question number and answer to pass bookwork checks, this is Sparx Maths way of encouraging the use of pen, paper and workings when completing mathematics homework.

If a pupil forgets log in details, they should select "Forgotten password" and will then have opportunity to set a new password.

Thank you to all at home for supporting and encouraging your child with their homework.

Homework club:  
Every Wednesday  
K01

Mr Murphy

Students in your school have completed

1,542 hours

of personalised learning on Sparx Maths this year!

Well done to the following top three students from each year group in gaining XP points through completing homework and independent learning

Year 7	
Pupil	XP points
William	12,812
Marley	11,014
Senuli	7,660

Year 8	
Pupil	XP points
Paige	6,137
Quinn	5,918
Jessica	4,992

Year 9	
Pupil	XP points
Mariama	3,869
Sophia	3,081
Tyler	3,000

Year 10	
Pupil	XP points
Mohammed	4,555
Leah	3,764
Jacob	3,878

Year 11	
Pupil	XP points
Dillan	5,721
Emaan	3,780
Summer	3,400

157 students

have already improved at their times tables this year. Great job!

Download the report

173,455

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year





# Park Community School

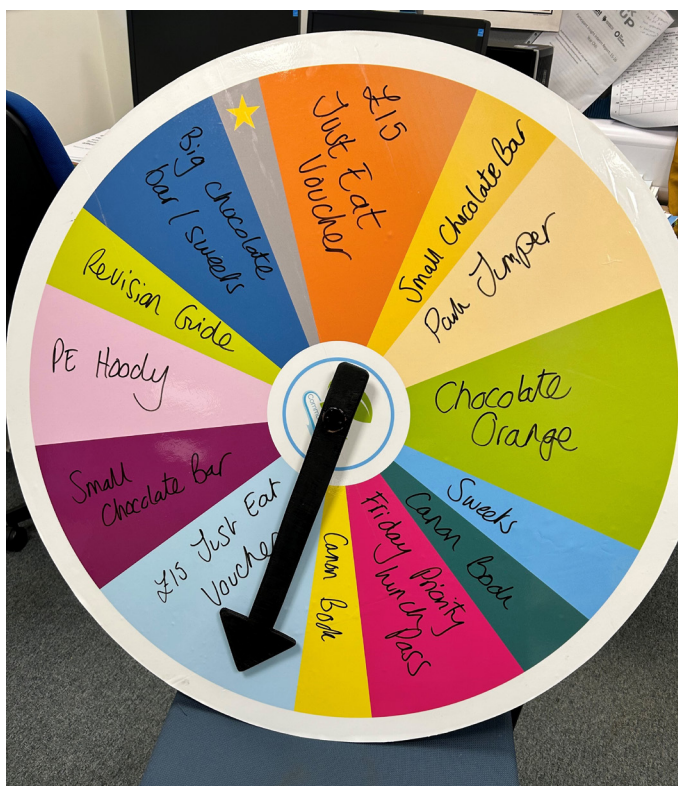
## Attendance Streak Celebrations

This week all students with a 25-day streak this half term have been able to spin the wheel to receive a prize. Strong attendance has a positive impact on good mental health and progress in school, and we have been impressed with students' determination to maintain their streak.

Our restaurant has been buzzing at lunch time as students stepped up to spin the wheel and select their prizes. Prizes included school jumpers, Friday lunch priority passes, Just Eat vouchers, Amazon vouchers, PE hoodies, revision guide, books for Park's canon and of course chocolate. Congratulations to everyone who achieved a 25-day streak. We go again next half term and look forward to rewarding even more students.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please contact their tutor or Mr Rose.

**Mrs Capaldi**





This term our Year 8 tutor read is *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. A master of storytelling Neil Gaiman has written many fabulous books including *Coraline*, *Good Omens* and *Stardust*.

The Graveyard Book is no exception, it's a dark and spooky tale with one of the most gripping opening chapters I have EVER read. Gaiman's imagination runs wild with a cast of wonderfully strange, amusing, and endearing characters. Death, ghosts and murder and mystery. This is one of those rare books where you truly do not know where it will end. It is also beautifully illustrated by Chris Riddell. Dark, mysterious, and hopeful. Highly recommended.

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as 'Bod', is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead. There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard : the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more. But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives, and he has already killed Bod's family. A story of love and friendship realised in the most unlikely of places, this novel is a modern classic.


**Winner of the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2009**  
**Winner of the Carnegie Medal 2010**

"I enjoyed how it was slow and first but then lots of things started happening. I liked the mystery in this book because I am a fan of ghostly things" **Macayla, Year 9**

“The best book Neil Gaiman has ever written” *Diana Wynne Jones*

NEIL GAIMAN

The  
Graveyard  
Book



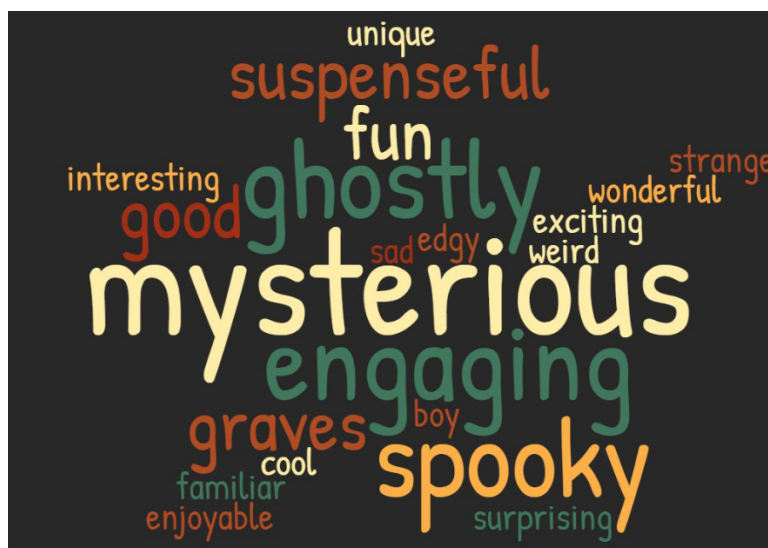
ILLUSTRATED BY Chris Riddell

"A 13-year old's entire family is murdered as a baby, so the graveyard people take him in as the murderer of his family still hunts for him. I really liked the suspense and the way the storyline added up."

**Abigail , Year 9**

"This is one of my favourite tutor-reads so far as it is the weirdest one we have read so far! The students are enjoying it too. The realm of Ghulhiem surprised me with all its ghouls and how Bod was whisked away there and had to escape by speaking in Ghoulish - a language he thought he would never need. This reminds me of learning languages at school, you just never know when they might come in handy! " **Ms Nuttall, MFL**

"I liked the book because it had a lot of mystery, and it was fun to read."  
Evelyn, Year 9







# Park Community School



## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Park

### Welcome to the second edition of Park's SEN newsletter!

This is an exciting opportunity for readers to find out what is happening in school to support our students with special educational needs; opportunities to be signposted and find out what is available in the local community and to be updated on any relevant information around SEND.

## MEET THE TEAM

### Miss Rowsell

I have been working at Park since September 2020. I'm an ex-Park student and have always lived locally. I absolutely love performing arts and some of the students might even say I'm a bit of a drama queen. Outside of work I perform in shows and have well and truly lived by the motto of "finding what you love". I love being at Park and I love seeing the difference I get to make daily it's truly the most rewarding job. Each day of being at Park I realise even more that it is "much more than just a school".



## SEND Homework Clubs

**When:** Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 2.45pm - 3.15pm

**What and Where:**

- **KS3 Homework Club** (Year 7, 8 & 9) at the KS3 Hub (the room off the library).
- **Handwriting Club** (any year groups welcome) at the KS3 Hub (the room off the library).
- **KS4 Homework Club** (Year 10 & 11) in the library, until further notice.

## Off The Record

We opened our doors to young people in 1977 to help support them through difficult periods in their lives; mostly anxiety and family & relationships issues, but also anger, low self-esteem and low mood. We offer one to one counselling, family counselling, groupwork, young carers, and support for parents free of charge.

**For more information and to self refer please visit the website**



## OTR Counselling

- All counselling is delivered via phone, Zoom, or face-to-face in our Centre at 'Point 7' Purbrook Way or in community outposts.
- Counselling for 11-25-year-olds (1 assessment plus a minimum of 6 ongoing sessions)
- Counselling for Parents/Carers to better support their child (1 assessment plus a maximum of 6 ongoing sessions)
- Family Counselling for up to 6 people, minimum age 8-years-old (1 assessment plus a minimum of 6 ongoing sessions)
- Volunteer support workers call everyone on the one to one counselling waiting list weekly, to confirm their interest, and offer support & signposting.



## OTR Groupwork and Young Carers

- All groupwork and Young Carers services are delivered in person in our Youth Work Room at Leigh Park Community Centre, local schools, and community locations.
- Group Work – 'Managing Emotions' 6 week or 1-day courses with a small group of similar aged peers for 11-25-year-olds.
- 'You First' Course – 6 week insights programme for parenting in the 21st Century for parents and carers of 11-25 year olds
- Parent Coffee Mornings – Groupwork team led, informal peer support coffee morning.
- Havant Young Carers Project – The support club runs fortnightly, which provides support, coping mechanisms, disability awareness, some fun and a chance to meet other young people in a similar situation. Young carers run respite trips out so young people can access the local community, which may not be possible to do as a family, we also offer one to one support in time of crises.

## 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