



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Update

17 June 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Last week we paused to remember and celebrate D-Day as a school. Our whole school assembly encouraged us to remember the sacrifice of those who took part in D-Day and reflect on this theme in contemporary society. This newsletter features some key images from the week, including moments from our visit to the D-Day museum in Southsea to meet veterans.

Alongside end of year testing and exams, students continue to learn outside of the classroom through leadership activities with Sports and Performing Arts ambassadors, after school clubs, various trips and preparation for Freshers' Week and Sports Week in July. We have run four residentials this half term to working farms and Bude Activity Centre. The trips have been pilots for larger scale whole year group residential next year - watch this space! Year 7, 8 and 9 are looking forward to their year group trips to London (Year 7 and 8) and Stonehenge (Year 9). If you have not returned your permission slip and £10 contribution, please do so this week.

Next week our Year 10 students begin their two week work experience placements. This is an important time for Year 10 as they experience the world of work and develop their confidence and resilience as they step outside of their comfort zone to make the most of these new experiences. Good luck Year 10.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students. Most have now completed their GCSE exams, with only Statistics and Catering to go. We have been extremely proud of the focus hard work with which they have tackled their exams and look forward to celebrating their results with them. Year 11s final day at Park is Thursday 27 June, when they will attend for their Leavers' assembly at 10am, followed by the Leavers' Ball in the evening.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

Year 7 Parents and Carers
SAVE THE DATE

Power of Music Concert

Friday 12 July
at 2pm



Year 7 Explore Oceanography

Fourteen keen Year 7s were lucky enough to experience an afternoon touring the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton. Students got to talk to a range of scientist and engineers about careers relating to oceanic research. We also used virtual reality headsets and got to test out coastal sea defences using water guns.

A highlight for many was getting to the control centre for the ROV to talk with the engineers about how they collect samples from the bottom of the ocean – who knew sea cucumbers were so important to scientific research?

Mrs Coles



PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S YEAR 11

Leavers' Ball

CLASS OF 2024

date
27th June
2024

time
Arrive from
6.30pm

venue
Park Community
School

Park's Festival of Sport

A reminder that Thursday 4 July is our Festival of Sport. On this day students should arrive to school in black leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms, trainers and a coloured top for their House (Blue, Green, or Red). If they do not have a coloured top, then their Black PE top should be worn instead.

Mrs Cavanagh





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PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL REMEMBERS



UTAH



OMAHA



GOLD



JUNO



SWORD

D - DAY

6 JUNE 1944

The Life of a Soldier Then and Now

Thank you to Mr Seaney for creating a display of D-Day information and artefacts linked to the life of a soldier in the Second World War. Students were fascinated to see these alongside rations for a modern day soldier. Thanks to Mrs Bell for bringing in examples to share.

Mrs Capaldi



Students meet D-Day Veterans

Mr Pycroft and I took a group of Year 7s and 9s to meet the D-Day veterans at a special event at the D-Day museum a few days before they left for Normandy to join the commemorations. What a wonderful experience!

It was a fantastic day. Mr Pycroft and I are so proud of our group and their art which they showed to the veterans while having amazing conversations with them, some being over 100 years old.

Mr Waterfield

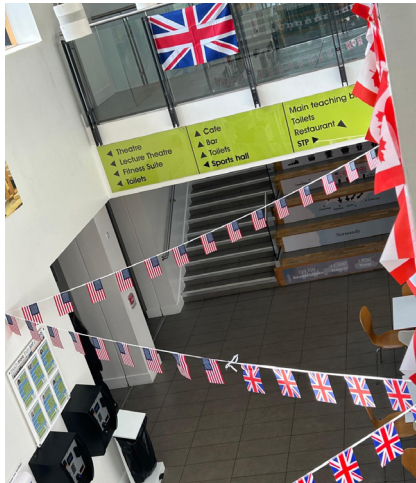




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THE D-DAY LANDINGS

				
3,950 FIGHTERS	670 GLIDERS	4,450 BOMBERS	129,710 SOLDIERS LANDED	12,500 VEHICLES





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Park Spend The Week At Another Farm

Hot off the heels of the residential to Nethercott Farm, Mr Shearn, Mr Redman and Miss Palmer took more students to stay on Abbey Farm for the week. I'm sure you'll agree that they have had an amazing time.



Mr Shearn's Diaries

Day 1

Got here safe and sound with a short stop at Bidbury, which was full of tourists enjoying one of the most picturesque villages of England. Had a tour of the farm and made our own pizzas. Everyone is enjoying running around in the fresh countryside air and delighted with their accommodation. I think this group will be the best we've ever taken, though they don't seem to be able to walk in wellies without falling over.

Day 2

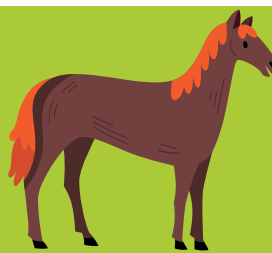
We divided into three groups and started our jobs at 7.30am cooking breakfast, gardening and feeding the pigs. After fuelling ourselves up, we collected and graded eggs, planted fennel and harvested lettuce, strawberries and carrots. We cooked pasta for lunch then divided into two teams and went on a scavenger hunt covering nearly all of the farm's 1600 acres. We cooked veggie chilli for dinner and then had a Kubb tournament (a throwing game the Vikings invented with skulls and femurs) and a quiz hosted by Mr Redman via ChatGPT.

We finished the day with a cup of hot chocolate and a sigh of relief that the hot water had started working. The only complaints so far are the number of daddy long legs that sneak into the bathroom and that Kubb is too difficult with wood rather than skeletons!





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Day 3

One of today's pre-breakfast tasks was feeding the calves where two students had to put their hands in the mouths of the quickest drinking calves to stop them stealing the other calves' milk. Having your hand sucked by a calf is apparently quite nice.

It was jacket potatoes with a delicious homemade hummus and coleslaw for lunch today. The afternoon was spent lighting fires and wrapping dough around a whittled stick, cooking it on the fire then dipping it in melted chocolate - the first sugar of the week.

Then two groups groomed horses while the third cooked a vegetable lasagne. We walked off our 2nds and 3rds with an 8 mile walk to the Roman amphitheatre in Cirencester where we re-enacted Gladiator. 'In this life or the next I will have my revenge' said all the students to the teachers as they limped back to their bedrooms gone 11pm. Superb resilience, barely a squinny despite the longest march around Cirencester since the Romans were here.

Day 4

We have had a great week on the farm. The students have really embraced the organic food and shown great resilience and shown a willingness to come out of their comfort zone. The students have been a credit to Park throughout the week showing great manners and behaviour throughout.

I have many comments from the students regarding there residential. However, one that stood out is below:

"A week ago I didn't know some of these other students existed, now they are my friends and I've made memories forever with these people" Kye, Year 7

Thank you again Miss Fearon for sorting the funding to allow this amazing experience to take place, it has really made a big difference to every student.

Mr Shearn





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Bude Residential

Fourteen enthusiastic and hardworking Year 8 boys enjoyed a sunny few days at Bude Activity Centre in Cornwall. Accompanied by Mr Grant and I, the group spent their time canoeing, climbing and taking part on the high ropes amongst other things!

The sun was shining and the group impressed everybody that they interacted with during their stay putting in impressive performances in both the basketball and football tournaments but less so in the karaoke!

"I am so glad I went, we all had a brilliant time!" Archie

"I wish we could have stayed a little longer and try some of the other activities!" Leon

Mr Crowley





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YES Go Golfing!

The YES trips team took 24 students to Chichester Golf Club in May where they enjoyed 18 holes of adventure golf followed by pizza. It was a gloriously sunny day, perfect for being outdoors. Four students managed to bag a hole in one! There were lots of giggles when trying to fish golf balls out of the water when things did not go quite so well. We were also lucky to see a duck with her tiny ducklings enjoying the sunshine.

Pizza was a real hit although to the surprise of staff it did not all get eaten. This was more to do with the quantity rather than the quality! Students were a real pleasure to take.

Quotes of the day:

Which way do I hold this club?

I've not been to a golf club before

I've played Crazy Golf but this is much better

Miss....Miss...Miss....I got a hole in one!

The food is great, I love Pizza

Thanks to the staff team for making the trip possible

Mrs Seaman



Greenpower Victory at Castle Combe

Despite some mechanical challenges with our school minibus which delayed us leaving and meant we missed practice, we had a brilliant day of racing last Sunday.

We finally arrived in Bristol at 9.30am and managed to get our cars through scrutineering but missed practice. None of our students have ever raced at Castle Combe before so they had to go straight out to race one without any prep. As always, they are resilient and just step up when required.

The race got off to a great start for Keep Up and Chase. TS2 had a battery issue and missed the first lap to start dead last in 52nd, but went flying through the field even at a lap down to finish a very respectable 12th! Chase finished a good 11th with a first race for a new driver but Keep Up just kept going to finish 2nd and very close to first.

Race two started well for all three cars and we were flying. However, a red flag stoppage did not go in our favour and we lost some places. In a very close race it could have gone to anyone. All three cars trundled on. Keep Up finished 5th but top five split by only 20 seconds. Chase finished 8th and TS2 10th.

Overall we are delighted with three top ten finishes. Most importantly, we improved our distances on previous races and I believe this will enable us to qualify for the final with all three cars. This was our aim for the day.

It turns out that our distance in race 1 was so good we finished 2nd overall, so another trophy for the cabinet and automatic qualification for Keep Up.

Mr Payne





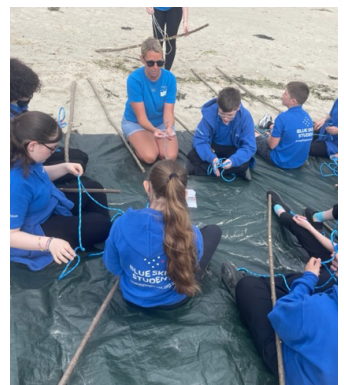
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Jet Project

The Jet project continued their great work with numerous sessions this half term working on communication and teamwork. The highlight of the half term was the group's work with the Final Straw Foundation at Hayling island.

Students have been preparing for their end of year graduation on Wednesday.

Mr Crowley



Donations of Laptops from Saacke



We are grateful for the laptops donated to us by Saacke. They are already being put to good use to support learning at Park. Adrian Rowsell, National Commercial Director at Saacke, came into school to present the laptops to Year 9 students before half term. Thank you Saacke.

Donation from UMUK Sound Foundation

Thank you to UMUK Sound Foundation for their generous donation of £750 to purchase 12 new keyboards for music.

We have been using the new keyboards for practical lessons with keyboard skills and performances. Students from Key Stage 3 to 4 have been enjoying using the slimmer and lighter set of keys than our previous ones and appreciate the variety of voices and new sounds. There are also budding musicians who really benefit from them in their after school music practice.

Afternoon at Trosnant

We spent a brilliant afternoon at Trosnant as we continued our curriculum support with Year 5 and 6. Our focus was on high activity levels. The team designed a circuit that worked on a variety of skill and physical components of fitness. These included power, coordination, agility and speed.

The team ran the whole double session without me stepping in at any point. I'm really proud of their progress this year!

Heroes of Park:
Ruby **Joey**
Darcie **Fletcher**
Oli **Freddie**



We have some busy weeks coming up which include the Hampshire PE Games in Winchester and two sports days next week at Front Lawn and Cottage Grove (Southsea).

Mr Herriott

"The new key boards are fantastic. They are much easier to use than the older ones and meant I had the confidence to perform in front of the class today." Beth

Mr Alcantara





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South East Hampshire Athletics Championships

Mr Pollard and I took 16 Year 7 and 8 students to the Mountbatten Centre for the South East Hants Athletics Championships. All students were a credit to the school and tried their best. We had some outstanding performances from Travis who came 1st in the Year 7 shot putt, and Ralphie who came 1st in the Year 7 discus.

Well done to the team:

Poppy	Billy
Oshyn	Travis
Darci-Jo	Ralphie
Leesha	Kayden
Ruby	Fletcher
Raighne	Leo
Tommy	Frazer

Miss Bearpark



Another fantastic afternoon spent competing at the Mountbatten Centre by Year 9 and 10 students. The team were a credit to Park and were clearly really proud to represent our school.

Highlights of the day:

Vinnie 3rd place medal in Discus Final (3/17)

Vinnie 5th/17 in Shot Final

Aiden 5th/10 in Long Jump Final

John 5th 1500m Final

Ethan 2nd 100m Heats

Well done to the following 21 students:

Caleb	Cohen	Scarlett
Charlie	Harley	Albie
Crystal	Vinnie	Aiden
Marshall	Holly	Seyithan
Ethan	Dolcie	Charlie
Jess	Josh	
John	Kyran	
Ollie	Jack	

Miss Bearpark





Park Community School



Mental Health Support



HEALTH & WELLBEING EVENT

TUESDAY 23RD JULY 1-4PM

Front Lawn Community Hub,
Somborne Drive, Havant,
PO9 5AN

Come along and find out more about local organisations and activities that promote positive health & wellbeing!







Drop-In Event open to 16-24 year olds & their families.

Need support?

Feeling low?



Mental Health Ambassadors