



Park Community School

Newsletter

Monthly Update

16 May 2025

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR EXAMS YEAR 11

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please take time to read this newsletter which is packed full as some of the great things that have been happening at Park this month. The lovely weather has created opportunities to be outside for more of our learning; including fishing, outdoor cooking and science lessons.

In the past few weeks, Year 11 students have been completing the practical exams in many subjects and have now begun the formal exam season. They have made a strong start, arriving early for breakfast and exam coaching and staying behind after school and at weekends for the exam masterclasses. We look forward to seeing them continue to do their best in the coming weeks.

Our student voice team have been working hard on developments linked to homework and the use of smart phones in schools. We have spent a great deal of time as a whole school thinking about the impact of smart phones on learning and mental health and are developing a plan to be smart phone free from September 2025. This will come with challenges for us all, but the evidence is overwhelmingly positive in terms of the benefits it could bring to young people's well being. Your feedback on how we do this will be appreciated and a survey will be sent to you next week. Next half term, you will be invited to our 'Smart Phone Free' parent and carer workshops.

A reminder that although students may now wear summer uniform, they must always have their blazer. Mobile phones and ear buds are not permitted in school and will be stored in reception if they are seen in school.

Thank you, as always, for your support and positivity.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

VE DAY at Park!



Last week we made time in school to stop and remember the significance of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe.

Our school restaurant was decorated for the week and every day included themed meals in our restaurant including: 'Mother's Spam Hash', 'Welcome Home Sausage Stew' and 'Home Comforts Beef Cobbler'. Mr Bryce led our whole school assembly, where he combined the history of this historic event with reflections about the power of community and the legacy we leave for others.

In lessons, all subjects taught VE themed content. In art, students recreated images from the time.



Park Alumni Mollie Wins University Award

Congratulations to Mollie, our Business Degree Apprentice in the Community team. Mollie was awarded the University of Portsmouth's Student Impact Award last week.

Mollie is one of Park's alumni, coming to Park as a student, working for the community team in Years 10 and 11 and continuing during college. She was then employed as a degree apprentice and is about to finish her final year at university. Congratulations Mollie, we are proud of you!



Continued inside...





Park Community School

Scientists Explore Cells

Year 7 are starting a new biology topic looking at onion cells and their own cheek cells. We are looking at differences between plants and animals and how organisms can live in all sorts of environments. Learning how to use a microscope can be tricky and needs a lot of concentration.

Lots of fun and hard work happening in STEM!

Ms Gregory



Travel and Tourism Students Inspired by Aeroplane Pilot

Last month, a British Airways pilot visited our Travel and Tourism lesson. Sam spoke to the students about his experiences and shared stories of his time on board. The students were inspired by his visit and many of them now want to work in the air travel industry.

"That was so good, I want to be cabin crew now so I can travel the world!" Flo

If you have any friends or family who work in the travel industry who would be willing to come in and speak to the students, please let me know!

Mr Redman





Park Community School

Year 9 Fishing Trip in the New Forest

A group of Year 9's were offered the opportunity to try their hand at fishing in the beautiful New Forest. With the weather also on their side, everyone managed to catch something! This is an opportunity we are hoping to offer again very soon.

Mr Crowley



Park Students Work With Havant Borough Council – Building a Better Future Plan

30 Year 9 students were delighted to work with members of HBC's consultation and engagement team in May. They explored the long-time planning for our area and contributed ideas aimed at creating a brighter future for everyone in Havant.

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Capaldi





Park Community School

Taking a Stand

In Star Curriculum lessons, Year 7 have been studying the theme of Power and Authority making links across subject areas and applying their learning to a real life purpose and audience. This term, they have considered who we choose to follow in society and how language can be used to persuade others.

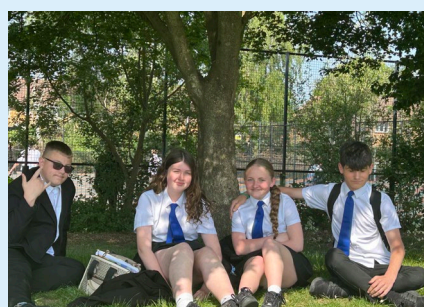
As part of their Rich Challenge, students explored political parties that exist within the UK and created their own political party and manifesto for change. Groups crafted a persuasive speech and pitched their ideas for something they would like to change at Park to the rest of the year group. Year 7 students all voted on the idea they would most like to see implemented and the winners took their idea to Mrs Capaldi to persuade her to make it happen!

Congratulations to Lillie-Mae, Oliver and Lyla-Rose from 7HRe who won the vote and met Mrs Capaldi to discuss the following:

1. Opening of the outside swing at breaktime- this was done immediately!
2. Introduction of trampolining within PE- it has been agreed that staff will be trained and a club will be set up in the near future.
3. Ensuring students take better care of the toilets- solutions have been discussed and ideas will be shared with the Leadership Team.

Students were brilliant and clearly demonstrated the importance of using their voice to influence positive change.

Mrs Harrison





Park Community School

National Reading Champions Quiz

Here at Park we run a weekly after-school quiz club in the library where students get the chance to test their knowledge by taking part in weekly book quizzes and games. They also get to research and create their own quiz questions, and also get to chat about books and quizzing over a cup of hot chocolate.

Every year, the National Literacy Trust run a national quiz competition for school students aged 10-14. In February, we selected our best and most committed quizzers to create two teams to represent Park Community in the Southern England regional heat.

On 20 March, our teams competed in an online heat attended by 26 teams from 15 schools in our region.



**National
Reading
Champions
Quiz**



Team A:

- Iris Y7
- Mollie-Rose Y7
- Charley Y8
- Shayth Y8

Team B:

- Coby Y7
- Olivia Y9
- Scarlett Y9
- Quinn Y9



The quiz was entertainingly hosted by Mr Dilly, and consisted of 8 challenging rounds which tested our students' knowledge of a wide range of books.

Last year we placed 16th and 17th and I could not be prouder to announce that this year, Park Community School Team B placed fifteenth, and Team A came eighth! Huge well done to everyone involved.

"It was a very enjoyable experience that has led me to want to read some of the books mentioned in questions. It's also fun to test my knowledge and work with other students. I would definitely recommend it. It's sooo much fun"

"I really enjoyed contributing my skills to a proper competition. It was a great experience. I certainly want to do it again next year"

If you would like to join quiz club why not come along to our after-school club every Wednesday 3-4pm.

Ms. Hucklebridge

Brush Candy Visit

Shan from Brush Candy visited Park to speak about her experiences in the make up industry. She spoke about how she created her brand, using Tiktok correctly and showcasing that. Her stand out moment was that Cardi B used one of her make up brushes she created.

It was lovely for the girls to learn about the industry, what goes into creating a business, making links with distributors and understanding what goes into creating products.

Mrs Challinor

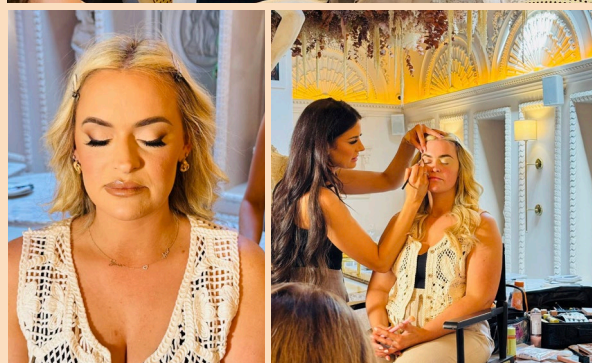


Glam by Shan Inspires in Farnham

Tillie, Daisy, Darcie and Amelia, all enjoying a lovely Sunday afternoon, at a Makeup Tutorial event at The Luxe in Farnham. Hosted by, Glam by Shan, also founder of Brush Candy

Girls were super impressed and can't wait to recreate the look they learnt and were very pleased with the goodies they took away.

Mrs Challinor





Park Community School

Outdoor Cooking Supported by The Pritchard Trust

Students were delighted to cook outside this week with pizza ovens that were funded by the Pritchard Trust. They prepared and cooked pitta breads that were served at lunch. Of course they had to test the recipe and try the first ones themselves! Students grew in confidence very quickly and soon had a little production line going with some rolling and putting in to the ovens, with others turning and taking them from the oven to cool.

Mr Moody



**YEAR 11 MUSIC
SHOWCASE**

LIVE. LOUD. UNMISSABLE

£3 Entry
All
Welcome!
(Friends, family
& fans
encouraged!)

**MONDAY
19TH MAY**

6:00 PM

Join us for an electrifying evening of live music performed
by our talented Year 11 musicians!
Expect classic covers and jaw-dropping performances as
they take the stage and show what they're made of.

Let's give our young artists the audience they
deserve!
#YEAR11MUSICSHOWCASE #SUPPORTYOUNGTALENT

Park Community Theatre

Year 11 Music showcase

On Monday 19 May, there will be a Year 11 music concert in the evening to showcase their amazing talent before leaving school.

Families and friends are all welcome and tickets will be £3, available from reception from tomorrow.

Mr Alcantara



Park Community School

Power of The Beat is Back

We're thrilled to welcome Power of the Beat back into school as they begin another exciting project with our Year 9 students. The launch event on the 6 May was a fantastic showcase of music, poetry, and dance, filling the theatre with energy and creativity. Over the next two weeks, professional rap artists will be working with every Year 9 English class, helping students explore rhythm, rhyme, and storytelling through the art of rap. A small group of students will also be selected to work more closely with the artists, developing original pieces to perform at a special showcase event at the end of the project.

The aim of the project is to foster a love of literature by connecting it with the power of rap and the written word—showing students that language can be both expressive and inspiring.

Mrs Manning





Park Community School

Apex Students Inspired by Thakeham at their Wellbourne site

Students studying Apex had the fantastic opportunity to visit a real building site. Students were able to witness all stages of the process of building a new build house, from ground work to the finished product.

Mr Cavanagh





Park Community School

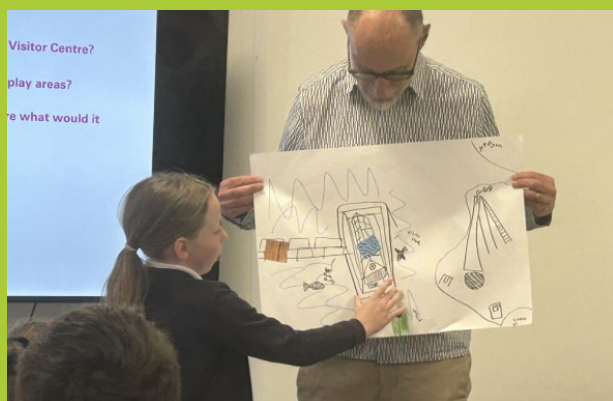
Havant Thicket Reservoir Ambassadors Give Feedback on Visitor Centre Designs

Park Community School students were delighted to visit the Havant Thicket Reservoir site again last week as part of their work with the ambassador programme. Dakota, Ryan and Caleb are part of a group of students from across local schools who have regular opportunities to attend the site, receive updates for the contractors and share their views. Back in school, they take on the role of feeding back to others.

Last week, they had the fantastic opportunity to meet with Jonathan Clark, the project manager for the visitors centre and Richard Woods and his

team from Urban Fabrics, the architects designing the visitor centre. Amy from Portsmouth Water did a great job of organising the morning and ensuring all students had time to comment on potential designs and gave their thoughts. Of course, Park also provided delicious home made cookies for everyone too!

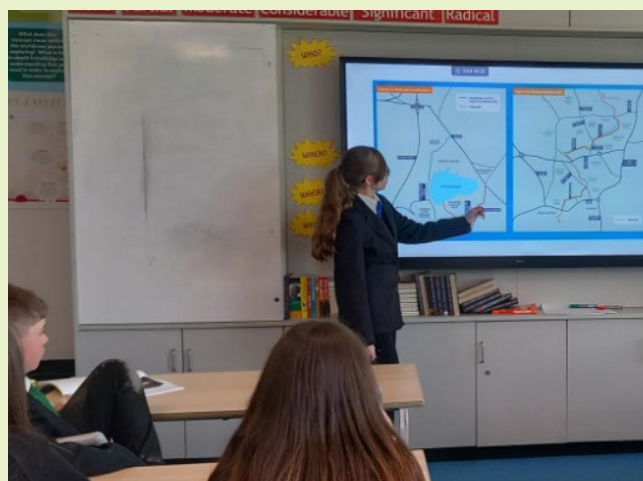
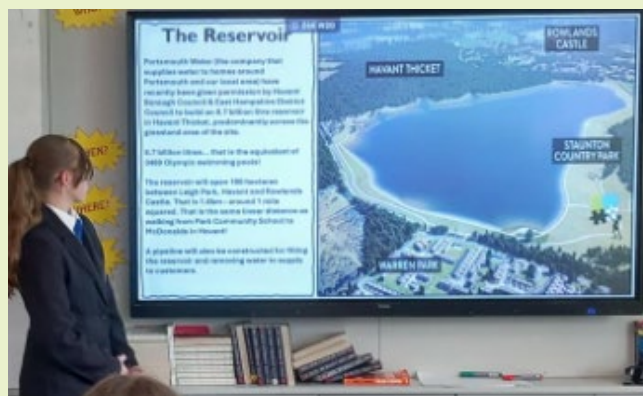
Mr Macefield



Havant Thicket Ambassadors Teach Year 7!

Our Havant Thicket Reservoir Ambassadors spent a morning last week updating Year 7 Star groups on the reservoir's progress. Sharing maps, photographs and key facts, they explained the benefits of the reservoir in terms of water supply and also how Portsmouth Water has mitigated against environmental impact.

Mr Macefield





Park Community School



PE celebrating VE Day

We started lessons with students sharing the following text and images with a short discussion of the importance of sport in war time Britain and how sport continues to bring us together now.

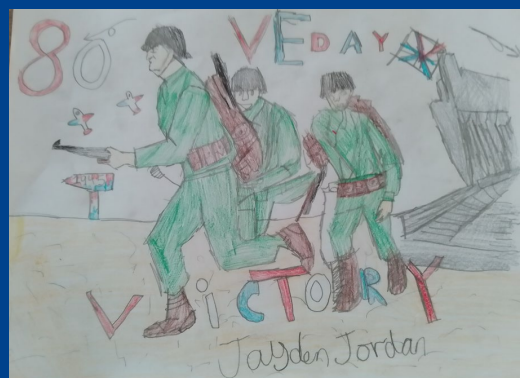
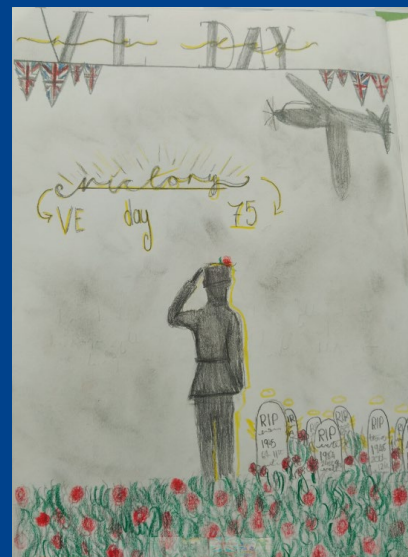
During World War II sports played a vital role in maintaining morale and providing recreation for both civilians and service personnel. While professional sports were initially suspended, they gradually returned, with some leagues reorganising to accommodate wartime conditions. Football, in particular, became a unifying force, both within the military and among civilians, and played a significant role in raising funds for service charities.

While VE Day celebrations included many forms of recreation, the restart of football events in 1945-46 was a significant milestone. Where major sporting events had been suspended during the war, the return of the FA Cup and the Football League in 1946 signaled a return to a sense of normalcy and a boost to morale. Other sports like gymnastics also resumed after the war, with the "Victory Championships" being held in 1946.

Mrs Cavanagh



Artwork created by students



Connecting the Past: Franco's Dictatorship and Year 10's Insights

In MFL, we held a cultural double lesson on General Franco and the dictatorship that was going on during WWII. Students connected their knowledge of Nazi Germany and made links with Inspector Calls.

Mrs Dermey



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS



2025 marks the
80th Anniversary
of the end of the war



Park Community School

VE Day & Computer Science — Codes, Communication & Cryptography

This engaging cross-curricular lesson explored the intersection of history and computer science, focusing on the critical role of codebreaking during World War II and its connection to VE Day. Students examined how pioneers like Alan Turing contributed to the Allied victory through computing innovations at Bletchley Park.

The lesson began with a VE Day Quiz to activate prior knowledge and spark curiosity. This interactive starter encouraged participation through historical questioning around VE Day, Alan Turing and the Enigma Machine. A mini lecture followed, offering students a concise yet informative look at computing's wartime evolution, including key figures, technologies (like the Colossus and Enigma), and the lasting impact of cryptographic breakthroughs.

The session concluded with a plenary reflection, prompting thoughtful discussion about the broader implications of computing during the war and its technological legacy today.

Student Engagement:

- Students were actively involved through various quizzes, discussions and research.
- The lesson encouraged cross-disciplinary thinking, connecting history and computer science in a meaningful context.
- Extension tasks (poster creation and research on cyphers) offered opportunities for deeper learning beyond the classroom.

Mr Crowther

VE Day in Maths

To celebrate VE day in maths lessons students completed a codebreaking exercising revealing two important codewords used during World War 2.

Codebreaking based in Bletchley Park played a pivotal role in bringing an end to the war.

Mr Murphy

Victory in Europe day 2025

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
31	3	24	30	5	60	23	4	21	80	32	40	14
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	42	41	1	35	50	53	10	34	13	8	6	22

1st codeword:

1. $3 \times 6 - 15$
2. $57 - 26$
3. 20% of 200
4. 1% of 300
5. 84×0.5

2nd codeword:

1. What is the 2nd prime number?
2. $-5 + 6^2$
3. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 48
4. Solve for x: $2x + 10 = 70$
5. -3×-7
6. $2(17 + 8) + (27 \div 9)$

Victory in Europe day 2025

Balbo was codeword by the Royal Air Force for "large formation of aircraft".

Bandit was codeword by the Royal Air Force for "identified enemy aircraft".

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
31	3	24	30	5	60	23	4	21	80	32	40	14
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VE Day in Tech lessons

The Technology catering department made a batch of 'Ration book' rock cakes with Year 8 and biscuits with Year 7. This included a stripped back recipe where only ration ingredients were available. The low sugar content was a shock to the taste of the students stating how bland they were but developed resilience as they had a sense of the struggle of rationing during the war.

Mr Payne



VE Day	
Thurs 8 th May	
Soup	Fennel and chilli soup served with bread and butter. £1.00
Main	Home comforts beef pie served with roasted potatoes and gravy £2.20
Vegetarian	Dig for Victory creamy vegetable pie served with roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and gravy £2.20
Dessert	Red, white and blue cake with a vanilla cream £1.00

VE Day themed menus all week!



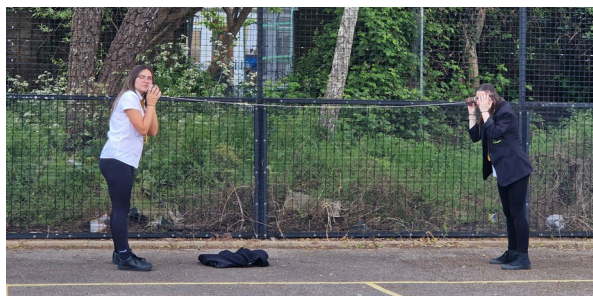
Park Community School



Soundwaves and Science

In science, Year 8 have been learning all about waves. Last week, we looked at soundwaves, how they travel in solids, liquids and gases and how many string telephones we could join together and still use. Everyone worked really hard and were able to explain rarefactions, compressions and oscillations - a great Friday!

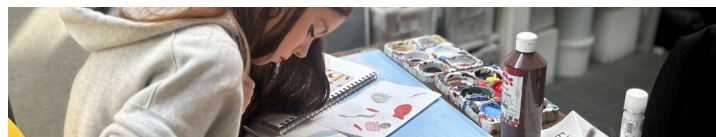
Ms Gregory



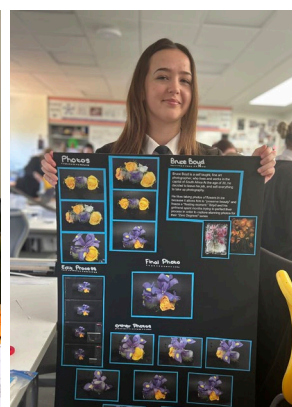
Dissection in Science

Year 7 are learning all about the skeleton, muscles, tendons, skin and joints. To really help understand these tricky topics, we dissected a chicken wing to have a look. Everyone was fully engaged and worked very hard, looking at similarities and differences between chicken wings and human arms.

Ms Gregory



Year 11 Practical Exams Start Brilliantly





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