

much more than just a school

Park Post

much
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just a school

newsletter

Issue 6

July 2016

Time to celebrate by Mr Cavanagh

This year we hosted our end of year prom for Year 11 event at Boathouse No. 7 in The Historic Royal Dockyard, Portsmouth. Students arrived in an array of spectacular transport, classic cars, limousines, horse and carriage, and Batman made an appearance in his Batmobile.

As ever the students looked stunning, wearing amazing dresses and smart suits. The night was a huge success with all involved, staff commending the year group on what an amazing group of young adults they were.

We wish them the best of luck with their results and future!



Park Community School - much more than just a school

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Christopher Anders, Head Teacher - In reflection

The end of the school year is always a busy time. It is also very rewarding as we see and reflect on the progress made by students over the last year. A parent recently remarked to me how lucky she thought students at Park are. The opportunities provided are both wide-ranging and inspirational.

Students in Year 10 have just completed two weeks' work experience with day visits to a number of local colleges. They and other students have been involved in university visits and overnight residentials. Some children have taken part in rowing lessons and our first regatta entry. Other recent trips and visits have included, the Farnborough Airshow, the Hampshire RE conference, Kew Gardens, a day trip to France, Hampshire Book Awards and Mary Poppins at the theatre, as well as end of term trips run by the Families.

We will be making a number of changes to school systems in the new school year and details of these will follow in September. The changes will help us ensure we get even better use out of our new buildings and resources and are ready for the changes to the exam system as they come into place over the next few years.

We look forward to another successful year after a good summer break.



Year 11 Leavers Assembly by Mrs Mitchell

There was a tangible buzz of anticipation and excitement as Year 11 students came into school for the final time, equipped with marker pens to write farewells on shirts. They took their seats in the Lecture Theatre in readiness for the Leavers Assembly to hear from Mr Anders, Headteacher, and Mr Cavanagh, Head of Year 11.

"This has been a fantastic group of students. They have broken records by taking the most exams ever by a Year 11 at Park. I hope that their time at Park has given them the start they need to go on and achieve their goals, and live their dreams, but Park will always be here for our leavers, and we hope they stay in touch." Mr Anders, Headteacher.



"This group have taught me a huge amount over the last two years. Despite my nagging I've always been impressed by their ability to pick themselves up and prove their resilience in the face of knockbacks. If they continue to be so determined they'll go far in life." Mr Cavanagh, Head of Year 11.

The Class of 2016 Leavers Assembly ended with our traditional balloon release, with each balloon representing a student. Some will go far and do great things, some will be happy to choose to stay closer to home, but ultimately, everyone will go far in life!

Family Trips



The timely arrival of summer in the final week of school saw all year groups heading out on their last trip of the school calendar in their respective Families. Dickens went to Monkey World, Brunel went to Marwell, Nelson went to Spectrum, and Austen went to Splashdown.

All the students had a fantastic time, with Splashdown being a particular highlight thanks to the very welcome cool water in the hot July weather.

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Sports Day at Park

On Thursday 30th June Park hosted its annual Sports Day. Students contested field events throughout the week accruing points for their family group.

The afternoon saw an array of hotly contested events between both staff and students including the sprint, relay and the brand new event of team noughts and crosses.

The PE department were delighted that all students were given the opportunity to gain points for their family and the outstanding level of effort displayed throughout the week.

Results saw Dickens pip Nelson to the title of overall winners.



Road to Rio Sports Day for Local Schools by Mrs Norman

Massive CONGRATULATIONS to Park Sports Ambassadors who planned, organised and delivered their first Road to Rio Sports Day in June.

The students created the activities, designed the medals, T-shirts and certificates, and then delivered it all. Curriculum based sessions were held in the morning with a competitive Inter Country Sports day in the afternoon. It was a really hectic long day, but our pupils made us proud!

The Sports Ambassadors then went on to help running the Sports Days at Riders Infant School and Warren Park School.

Everyone was very grateful ...

"A massive thank you for your help and enthusiasm with our Road to Rio sports day. You were all amazing and helped our afternoon run smoothly. Thank you to those that joined classes in the morning as well, all the children and staff from Barncroft are extremely grateful. Hopefully some of you will be up for helping next year as well."

"Thank you again Miss Johnson."

"I just wanted to say thank you for today. We couldn't have had such a great sports day without your help. The Park Sports Ambassadors were amazing, a real credit to the school. All of the Sports Ambassadors were polite and respectful and fantastic role models to all of the younger children. We have had some lovely comments from parents and staff."

Julia Roberts, Head Teacher.

Athletics Competitions by Mr Taylor

At the end of Spring Term, Miss French, Miss Smith and Mrs Bearpark took a group of Year 9s to the South East Hants athletics championships at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth. The students were full of pride in the school, competing in their events and showing real resilience and team work.

Some excellent results are shown below:

Charlie Evans - 4th in 100m heat Bobby Jervis - 4th / 16 in Javelin Wes Melacrinis - 5th / 16 in Javelin Bradley Anderson - 9th / 14 in Triple Jump Athletics Competition.

At the start of the summer term, students Ethan Walsh, Callum Allen, Adam Smith and Bradley Williams competed in this year's Sports Games.

Held at the Aldershot Army base there were over a 1000 pupils competing in every sport under the sun. Brilliant effort by the boys, and considering they were playing iron man all day they stayed positive and a real credit to Park Community. A MASSIVE well done!



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BRExit - Park Students take their vote by Miss Smith and Mrs Harris



One of the UK's most important decisions ever was made in June - the vote on whether to stay in the EU. Park Community School took this opportunity to get all our students involved in politics and discussing the two sides of the referendum campaign.

The week beginning the 6th of June was an EU themed week. Students were taught about the EU and why politicians such as David Cameron wanted us to stay in the EU. The main highlights for the students were the European delights served up by the restaurant and the EU flag hunt, where students learnt about the trade benefits of the EU.

The week beginning the 13th, in contrast, was British week, where the leave campaign attempted to persuade students that leaving the EU would be beneficial. During assemblies we had hustings helping our students choose which side to vote for. British delights were served in the school restaurant. The highlight for most students during this week was the opportunity to come to school wearing red, white and blue on the Friday.

The final part was held on the 22nd June, where all students in the school had an opportunity to experience what it is like to vote. Using the official voting booths that were in the Dickinson centre for the national vote the next day. Each student had the experience of voting. The result was a resounding voice from Park Community School that we should leave the EU - and on the 23rd of June the rest of the UK agreed with the students.



Celebration for the Denouement of the Year by Lauren Hollis Yr 10

As part of a celebration for the denouement of the year, Ms Morris hosted a relaxing unique meal which was eye opening to her Year 10 English students.

The formal event began at 6 o'clock, starting with an energetic buzz. Welcome drinks were fresh fruit cocktails that many students enjoyed. The layout, designed in the lecture theatre was spectacular. Tables dressed with a white linen cloth, a crystal jug of lemon water, navy napkins, and a bottle of elderflower fizzy water with a glass at the side. The lighting was low, setting a calm mood, and the food was served almost immediately after we found our seats, just like a regular [posh] restaurant. We all knew that the food served would be different to what we usually ate, however everyone loved it and dug into the starter with good manners; elbows off the table, napkins on the lap, and using cutlery in the correct order.

"The evening was surprisingly good, I really enjoyed it." - Robbyn Miller.

In my opinion, the salmon was cooked perfectly, it was juicy and had contrasting tastes that were lovely. It was arranged with peas and crème fraiche, the plate had the appearance of a painter's palette. Our host shared her time at a different table for each course, filling the room with interesting conversation. The main course was pork belly and pork bon-bons. No words can describe the detail of intricate tastes. It was certainly something I would look forward to having again.

The dessert consisted of chocolate mousse, and fruit coulee. Impressed is one word I would use to describe the meal, I felt it to be an experience that was definitely worth it.

We are grateful to the staff and the chefs who took their time to create such an exquisite evening. I am eagerly anticipating next year.



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A day in the life of a Uni Student by Jake Reeve



On arrival we were settled in to our rooms with welcome packs and coloured wrist bands that correlated with our designated group. After registration we were taken to another Uni building and quickly became engrossed in support sessions, my first of which was Critical Thinking and Argument Winning. We were given an engaging talk about the vast capabilities of the brain, which we then had to debunk and had a silly argument about a ghost!

We had a marshmallow and spaghetti challenge, which although we didn't win, we were selected for the most aesthetically pleasing design!

After some down time in our rooms we were re-registered and shipped on to coaches to the Langstone Campus, where we enjoyed a barbeque and outdoor games.

We ended our day in Playzone, which left us all very sweaty, smelly and in constant need of hydration! And for a very strange reason performed a spontaneous and very big Macarena!

Day 2 included Economics, Law, Philosophy and some debating around the intelligence of a Greek thinker, to name a few. The day ended with a disco at the student union, which was a great chance to socialise!

Day 3 I was fortunate enough to get put into the 'gaming' sports workshop, which wasn't as structured, more a paradise for nerds!

College Taster Days by Mrs Coles

Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit some of our local colleges, Southdowns, Fareham and High-bury. This involved the students experiencing life as a college student for the day. They had to plan their journey, catching a train, or walking to their chosen college. Many realised how easy it is to get to the colleges, which had seemed far away.

Once at college the students were taught by the college lecturers, and had a taste of their chosen course. Students also had time to view the facilities and experience the quality of the food at each of the colleges. Many told me the food is an important consideration when choosing which college to go to!

The students had a great day and many are keen to begin the process of applying to colleges which needs to be done before CHRISTMAS!

Work Experience by Mrs Coles

At the end of the summer term Year 10 had the opportunity to experience the world of work. A few students travelled a long way to get an experience of the future career they hope to work in.

Jack Sillence, is doing his work experience at the English National Opera... "I'm absolutely loving it! They are so good at what they do and working in one of the biggest theatres in London, it is amazing. The commute is slowly killing me and all I am doing is sleeping for the whole of Saturday and Sunday."

We had amazing feedback from employers, "She is fantastic, an asset and the best student they've ever had".

This proves that not only are our Year 10s amazing in school, they are able to transfer their skills into the world of work.

Day trip to Boulogne by Jorja Greenslade, Year 7

We all arrived at school really early and boarded the buses that would take us to France. We went through the Eurotunnel, which was a first for me!

When we arrived in France it was overcast and we made our way to the aquarium. It was really big, much bigger than the one in Southsea. For me it was the best part of the day. I enjoyed seeing all the different kinds of fish, some of which I had never seen before. I watched the sea lions being fed, I saw sharks, turtles and even penguins! We were able to touch the stingrays, cod and plaice. They felt really weird because you could feel their bones and the stingray's fins were really tough. There were also vivariums, housing toads, lizards, tortoises, snakes and gecko's.

After we left the aquarium we were taken to a little village. There was a small castle (chateau), a sweet shop, jewellery shop and a souvenir shop. We were given time to look around and buy gifts for family. From there we went to a town and there was an Asda, a McDonalds, more sweetshops, clothes shops and jewellery shop! We were given more time here to shop and eat lunch before heading back to the coach and the long journey home.

I really enjoyed the day.

Krypton Challenge by Mrs Munoz

The day involved working with students from 10 schools on construction tasks, forensics investigations, film critique, sports challenges, archaeological exploration and much more.

The final challenge was to present the day's achievements to a room full of over eighty people. Park Community School got 2 awards for best tower built and overall team work.



Thorpe Park by Miss Norman

All Sports Ambassadors were absolutely amazing on the Thorpe Park trip: fantastic company; polite; on time; and lovely to be around. Everyone said thank you to the coach driver, and to me, said Miss Norman, when getting off the bus. They were just great!



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Greenpower goes to Goodwood by Mr Payne

Park students were amazing and a credit to the school at a recent visit to Goodwood Racecourse, in the school's Greenpower race car.

Race 1 Keep Up, in their first ever race, had a great start and kept going after a few teething problems, finishing a respectable 40 of 62 competitors.

Team Spirit had a connector malfunction on the start line and it took 20 minutes to problem solve the issue and get it fixed. However good driver changes meant a final position of 48th.

In Race 2, both cars had a great start with no issues throughout the race. Pit stops were clean and tidy and driver changes well organised. Keep Up finished 43rd but Team Spirit made an impressive 33rd and beat Mayville School by one place!

Big congratulations to Oliver Edwards, Josiah Barron, Owen Churcher, Jacob Nunn, Amy Higgins, Mya Armstrong and Ethan Morris.



Challenge Day by Mrs Loake

On the 13th and 14th of July students had a wide range of experiences during our annual challenge days. As always students completed a range of challenges with a 'real life' context, giving them the chance to learn in a different and exciting way.

Year 7 completed an enterprise challenge over the two days which involved them working with business people to create detailed business plans before pitching Dragon's Den style.

Year 8 looked at various types of risky behaviour before making creative presentations promoting a positive message about making sensible choices.

Year 9 looked at the world of finance and budgeting and completed a series of challenges including circus skills and bridge building.

Finally, Year 10 took over the hard court area of the school where they learned to drive with local instructors before completing a series of activities based around driving, including practice theory tests.

The students fully embraced the challenges they were given and the results were incredible. Well done everyone.



Dodgeball Tournament by Miss Smith

Throughout June, Year 7 family challenges were in full force, with dodgeball to kick us off. We had some excellent games and they loved their t-shirts with their names on!

Well done Dickens for the best turnout, and Brunel for two students remembering!

Excellent dodging!!



Cooking by Miss Wingham

Students entered into a cooking competition with gusto, whipping up some delicious cupcake creations!

It was a perfect opportunity for students to learn new skills, develop their confidence in the kitchen and express their individuality, in a competitive environment, whilst having fun and working together.



Football Competition by Mr Crowley



After competing in cooking, spelling and dodgeball the Year 7s took part in football as their final family competition of the year!

Despite the weather there was a good turnout with Nelson and Dickens the best represented. Having the largest squad definitely paid off with Nelson and Dickens dominating.

Over the Wall Presentation by Miss Norman

Park Students Jorja Greenslade and Ethan Heads were fortunate enough to attend an amazing talk given by James Ketchall.

James Ketchall is an amazing global adventurer, climbed Everest, rowed the Atlantic and is now going to row around Great Britain alone. He will be raising money for a charity called Over the Wall.

The charity Over the Wall provides wonderful camps for children who are sick, along with their siblings as a form of respite.



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Book Judges Face Difficult Decisions by Mrs Dorrington

For the past three months, a group of year 8 students have been reading round the clock to decide which novel should win the coveted Hampshire Book Award. The students had six very different titles to consider; from stories about family relationships to murder mysteries, from those set in tough housing estates to ones set in the Canadian wilderness.

The judges met frequently to share their opinions then attended a final debate at Crookhorn College before voting. This year's winner was "Looking at the Stars" by Jo Cotterill, a powerful and moving account of life in a refugee camp.

Whilst our judges each had their own favourite, everyone enjoyed the experience. Chloe Lewis said that it helped widened her tastes by making her read books she normally wouldn't have chosen whilst Courtney Payne found it fun to debate.

All agreed that they had missed out on a lot of sleep as they often ended up reading late into the night. Our 2016 judges were Bethany Barron-Compton, Mollie Beardsworth, Jasmine Bone, Millie Casey, Tyler Flint, Tom Gilmour, George Hallitt, Alfie Heslop, Logan Herridge, Chloe Lewis, Courtney Payne, Liam Watts.



Book Bonanza by Mrs Dorrington

Years 7 and 8 recently received their latest free book as part of Park Community School's Independent Reading Scheme. The scheme, which has been running for a number of years. We ensure every lower school student receives a book to keep every term. Students choose their book from a list designed to reflect a wide range of interests and abilities. "From comedy to horror, sci-fi and romance, we try to make sure there is something for everyone," said Annie Dorrington, Park's Librarian. "This year we included new writers like Zoe Suggs alongside old favourites like Michael Morpurgo. When leading author Chris Bradford visited, he was bowled over by the initiative."



Mya Anderson, Year 8, was very enthusiastic about her choice of book, The Butterfly Club by Jacqueline Wilson, a story about coping with bullying. "It really made me think about why some people become bullies and helped me understand more. I'd recommend it to everyone."

My Kind of Book by Joey Batey Yr 8

Joey Batey, Year 8, recommends "Jinx: The Wizard's Apprentice" by Sage Blackwood, a gripping tale of magic and fantasy.

"I have read the book Jinx and it was an absolute thrill-ride! It is one of the most enjoyable and adventurous books I have ever read."

Joey picked this as his free choice book in the Spring term but you can borrow a copy from the library any time.



School Physicist of the year

Jake Reeve was nominated by Park Science Teachers for the School Physicist of the Year 2015/16 and he WON!

We are very proud of him.



Interfaith Conference by Miss Maxted

Recently, the RE Ambassadors were invited to attend an interfaith conference at St Alban's Primary School. There were two guest speakers, Rev'd Canon Peter Leonard from Portsmouth Cathedral representing a Christian perspective, and Anna Potten, who is from the South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community.

A range of questions were asked, which both Peter and Anna answered, then the students were asked to reflect on the questions and give their own ideas. Students had a brilliant day and found it interesting to engage with different faiths, as well as with students from all over the area. Here is a question, and some answers from the conference:



Is it important for people of different faiths to talk to one another?

Peter – "Absolutely, when you talk to others you find out the ways in which you are different but also how you are the same. If you don't talk to people you can't form a relationship."

Anna – "Yes, especially when you are part of a minority faith like mine. There aren't that many Jewish people, so it is important to make sure people understand. It is also important for Jewish people to ensure that they help people learn lessons from the past. Learning about the Holocaust can help people understand discrimination and how easy it is for people who are part of a majority to be prejudiced against those of minority groups."

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Oarsome Regatta at Cobnor Activity Centre by Mr Pritchard

Park Community School have been working in partnership with the Oarsome Chance Foundation and we took part in their inaugural regatta held at Cobnor Activity Centre. Park have been training at Langstone Cutters club for the last few months with a selection of students and willing colleagues.

A bacon roll provided welcome fuel to an early start on Friday. We had students Ben Kerridge, Hayden Huntley, Ben Steere, Lily Moore, Josiah Barron and Jorja Greenslade representing Park, and staff assisting with the event Simon Waters, Amber Binns, Corin Bearpark, Bruce Neil and Nigel Pritchard. Simon was asked to be the first mate because of his past naval training, and he was soon poached as a cox and steered the Oarsome Chance boat for the two days with some success.



We arrived at Cobnor and were given our rowing schedule for the day. The way the programme was set out allowed us time to have a go at archery and rock climbing during the day.

PCS1 raced first and, despite rowing together for the first time, the team came in second against a very well drilled King Richard's school. The second race with a change in personnel meant that PCS2 came in first. The two Park crews then got their timing together and won all of the next rounds. At the end of the regatta all points were tallied up between the five schools taking part – Park and King Richard were on the same points. So to decide the winner they had a dry row 300m relay.

King Richard selected their top six rowers against our six, it was very close until the last 50 meters when Lily pulled out an amazing 50m and took the lead beating King Richard by 10m, resulting in Park being the first winners of the Oarsome Chance Regatta!

Time for some relaxing and an evening meal which was provided by Park with the catering unit operating outside school for the first time. The chefs had cooked pulled pork using our reared pork. This went down very well with all the competitors and race organiser, as did the strawberries and cream (very Wimbledon).

Saturday was a 'fun day'. We combined four student rowers and three staff rowers which allowed at least three races each. We dominated the races and took first place in each event. It had become clear to us that it was all about the timing and less about power.



For the last two races it was decided to get as many rowers on the water as possible. We rowed in Dragon Boat style, with paddles not oars. At this point we were lucky enough to be joined by a new rower to bring life to the tired muscles of the rest of the team, our Headteacher. Lily had opted to be the drummer as her shoulder had started to play up.

As expected, the brilliant coxing of Simon, drumming of Lily and the extra power of our Headteacher meant we paddled our way into first. In the finals we faced our main opponents King Richard's School. Simon's coxing ensured we took a tight turn around the buoy and we paddled to our final victory.

Apple Pi by Mr Eacott

As Tuesday the 28th June at 9 o'clock came into view the school minibus, carrying the Apple Pi crew went out of view.

This year it was a trip to York to film 20 Apple Pi's for the school year 2016-17. The crew consisted of Aiden Fuller (Year 7 Presenter), James Gray (Year 8 Presenter), Harvey Anslow (Year 9 Presenter) and Tyler Simmons (Year 10 Camera Person).

Our first point of call was a bottle-printing room, just outside York, before moving on to our campsite. Just as we arrived it started to pour down, and went on and on for most of our time at York.

On Wednesday Aiden found out how long railway carriages fit round the curved platforms of York Railway Station. We recorded a few 'bloops' when up by the locomotive as it sounded its warning horn before leaving!

We also had an interesting visit to the Crematorium, to find out what happens after the curtain closes. The pupils took on a more subdued tone for this, and were very mature as the coffin was placed in the cremator and the gas turned on at the start of the process.

Thursday saw a visit to a unique Cold War Bunker to find out what would have happened if the balloon had gone up. The site has been left exactly as it was back in the early 1970s.

While visiting the Registry Office we found out about the Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, and the differences between really old ones, and more modern digital certificates.

On Friday we visited the Jorvik Centre, to find out about the technologies used in prehistory, the Viking Age and the Tudor Age. Then on to a lady who produces stained glass windows, another most interesting visit.

In Spring 2017 the 250th Apple Pi will be shown in school, and we recorded some special Apple Pi's for the occasion, but more of this later.

As the sun rose on Saturday the rain came down again as we dropped the tents, loaded the minibus, and started to head back to Park, another very successful recording trip completed. Now all that is left to do is to convert the 460 video files into 20 Apple Pi's.



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Big Bang Fair by Mr Payne

Big Bang Fair South East is the biggest STEM fair in the country. Over 7500 students were in attendance. It is a really good opportunity for students to meet STEM businesses and see what potential futures our students could go into. Tree surgery and animal care were some of the favourites.

The weather got worse as the day went on but students barely noticed as they were really engaged with the variety of learning activities. "I want to be a mechanical engineer when I leave Park", being a top quote of the day!



FED Forces Day by Mr Watson

A group of lucky students from Year 9 accompanied Miss Wingham and Mr Watson to experience a full day of activities at the Peter Ashley Centre, Fort Purbrook.

Members of the Armed Forces were on hand to deliver a range of tasks, including cookery skills, martial arts, rock climbing, archery, initiative tests and an assault course.

Students from across our region took part in the event, and all were encouraged to mix in teams with those whom they had not met before.

The key skills of teamwork, leadership, perseverance and adaptability were emphasised throughout the day.

In the early evening, those that shone in particular areas received an award, with a special award going to Yiannis Razzell for his leadership throughout the day. Everyone then enjoyed a well deserved barbeque with their parents for their hard work.



Girls Network Graduate! by Miss Norman

In July the Girls Network Group graduated and it was reassuring to see that on arrival Park had the highest number of students that had completed the course. The girls listened to some amazing speakers who talked us through their inspirational journeys of success.

All of them emphasised the need to be resilient, be flexible, have the confidence to give everything a go, but most importantly to be kind to all on the way up!

Freshers Week - by Mrs Bannard

Our new students got to know Park staff, and boys and girls from other schools. A time to discover how Park works, they felt more confident about the move from junior to secondary school. They took part in some exciting activities, enjoyed a tour of the school, and got to know each other in team building activities in their mentoring groups.

They took part in a dry rowing challenge organised by Oarsome Challenge and Mr Pritchard, our Facilities Manager. The fastest rowers were selected to take part in a rowing experience on Langstone harbour. They were also able to make their own wooden boat models.

Parents were invited in to meet staff, watch a film of the activities their children had been enjoying, and to share a barbecue whilst meeting other parents, the meat served was all from our Park farm. In the final assembly, on Friday, each student was given a cucumber or a tomato plant and challenged to grow it and use it in a recipe over the summer holiday. The winning recipe will be prepared in the school kitchen next term.

It was a busy and enjoyable week. The students left on Friday worn out and smiling.



Awards Evening by Mrs Bannard

On Monday 11th July Park hosted its annual awards evening for students in Years 7, 8 & 9. The top 30 students in each year group were given prizes for the best overall attitude to learning.

There were also several special awards given. Mr Anders and the Mayor of Havant, Faith Ponsonby awarded the top boy and top girl in each year group with the Headteachers award. Lauren Hollis in Year 10 presented the sports ambassador of the year award. Councillor Yvonne Weeks presented her trophy in recognition of consistent overall effort and achievement, and the Derek Lamont Young person of the Year award was presented by Mike Coomb, president of the rotary club and Shelagh Moore, Youth committee Chairman.

We were also very pleased to welcome Katy Sexton, Olympic swimmer to speak to the parents and students about her own personal journey to the Olympic team.

The Park singers entertained everyone with their performances of 'The man who can't be moved' by the Script, and numbers from the Queen musical, 'We will rock you'.

It was a truly wonderful evening and lovely to see all the students getting recognition for their hard work and effort over the last year.



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Warren Park Show

It has long since been a tradition for Warren Park Primary School to put on a musical production in July. It is a fantastic way for the Year 6 children to showcase their talents and to finish their time at primary school with memories that will last them a lifetime. This year saw the musical production of Aladdin in the state of the art theatre at Park Community School. Using the theatre gives the children an incredible opportunity to perform in a professional environment, with all the trimmings of a professional musical production – no sign of a 'school play'.

The cast of 56 children completed four incredible performances to a packed house every night and were joined on stage by their headteacher, Colin Harris. Mr Harris made a very special appearance as the Sultan in this, his retirement year, and made the experience extra special for the children. The audiences whooped and cheered as he made his first entrance, kept secret until opening night. The bright, sparkle of the costumes stood out against a brilliantly hand-painted set, hung with wheels of gold and swathes of turquoise voile. But it was the children who shone the brightest with passion in every moment they performed. Tears were a plenty as Aladdin (Archie Crockford) and Jasmine (Asha Kuil) floated into A Whole New World, sung beautifully by both of them and making the audiences believe they truly were falling in love! The stern authority with which Jafar (Aidan Law) delivered his character generated a wave of boos, and coupled with the sassiness of Iago (Ian Smith), the pair made a winning duo. But it was the absolute delight of the Genie (Matteo Galasso) that sent the audience wild – his interactions, adlibs and dance moves made his performance unforgettable.

As the final strains of the finale rang out through the 270 seater theatre, gold cannons fired to signal the end of a wonderful performance by a wonderful cast...and the end to a truly wonderful year.

Wedding Bells are ringing at Park

Park Community School hosted its first wedding on a weekend in July.

The Sports Hall was transformed into a beautiful wedding venue. It was decorated in gold and cream, with a marquee and ornate gold thrones for the Bride and Groom.

The wedding party enjoyed Park's superb catering facilities and the 250 guests indulged in a delicious and very exotic meal full of Caribbean and African influences.

Park's Community Team set up a full PA and lighting system, which entertained the guests throughout the day.

Flo Fearon, Deputy Community Manager, said:

"The Bride and Groom were over the moon with how the day went. We couldn't have wished for it to have gone any better particularly as it was our first wedding."

If anyone is interested in finding out more about booking this wedding venue, please call Flo Fearon on 02392 489811.



The Big Lunch - Picnic in the Park



Picnic in the Park was inspired by The Big Lunch initiative from the Eden Project in Cornwall. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the local community to have lunch with their neighbours annually in June in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

The Church of England 'PO9 Pioneers' Barney and Sara Barron invited members of the community to come together for the first of what aims to be an annual event. The event was organised by and for local members of the community who offered their various talents providing a range of activities from crafts, face painting, treasure hunt, photo booth, rescue rabbits, a community art project and much more.

Park Community School generously hosted the event with lots of support both in the run up and delivery on the day. The community were able to enjoy the provision of laser quest, an inflatable assault course and bouncy castles. The event also benefitted from the talents of Park Community Schools young sports ambassadors. The local police also came along and brought their van along for children to explore.

Everyone brought along their own picnic supplemented by free homemade cakes, tea, coffee and squash. The whole event was a great success with glorious weather and numbers exceeding expectations.

We would like to thank Postcode Publications for their generous donation in support of this community event.



Summer Love by Steve Cross, Head Chef

Earl Grey Panna cotta with Park Strawberries

British summer is now in full swing which means it's time to celebrate and embrace those occasional downpours!

I have been very busy in the school kitchen gardens this year growing a bumper crop of beautiful ripe red strawberries.

This recipe is a perfect light summer dessert bursting with flavour. The strong orange notes coming from the bergamot in the Earl Grey really complements the sweet strawberries.

Ingredients

Panna Cotta

- 250ml Whole Milk
- 250ml Double Cream
- 3 Leafs Gelatine
- 1 Vanilla Pod
- 25g Caster Sugar
- 2 Earl Grey teabags

Park Strawberry Sauce

- 1 Lemon Zest and Juice
- 1 Vanilla pod
- 350g Strawberry
- 50g Caster Sugar

Method

1. Add the milk, cream, sugar, vanilla and teabags together and place on stove bringing to a boil.
2. While the milk mixture heats, soak the leaf gelatine in cold water, the leaves will go very soft and jelly like.
3. When the milk is almost at a boil whisk in the gelatine and remove from the heat.
4. Allow to steep for 20 mins and then strain through a sieve, this will allow for the vanilla and earl grey flavors to infuse into the milk and cream mix.
5. Pour infused mixture into moulds and refrigerate until set, this will take around 2-3 hours.
6. Now add lemon juice and zest to a new pan along with vanilla and caster sugar, heat until the sugar is dissolved and a caramel starts to form (do not allow to colour)
7. Cut strawberries into quarters and add to caramel, cook until the strawberries start to break up, remove and cool.
8. Serve the panna cotta once set, remove from the mould by dipping in hot water. Serve with a large spoonful of the strawberry compote and sprinkle with icing sugar.



What's Coming Up 2016/17

Trip to Disneyland Paris - In February 2017, by invitation only

Trip to New York for all ages - 17th - 21st February 2017, by invitation only

Trip to Tanzania - July 2017, by invitation only

Trip to Winchester for Year 7's - September 2017

Park Community School - much more than just a school

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