



In this issue

Bright SPARKS

Family fundraising success

Launch of Kenya project • Oscars • Sports Day fun ... and lots more

Looking to the future

Welcome to the latest edition of Park Post.

Park Community School is 25 years old this month, having taken over the old Broomfield School in September 1988. At the end of this school year we will begin to move into our new school buildings. Anvone passing the school recently will have noticed the steel skeleton growing by the current school buildings. We are also excited about the other building projects to develop the school site further. We hope to have a full size artificial football pitch as well as access to the Hermitage Stream and a cycle path.

However, school is much more than buildings. This term we welcomed a record 20 new staff to the school. The Park Community School family continues to grow and improve. Even with this change, I know that we will continue to deliver an excellent education in a happy environment. Most important are the strong relationships between staff and students. They are the foundations of our success in recent years.

We are all very excited about the opportunities this year will bring.

Christopher Anders, Headteacher



Follow the progress of our new school build at facebook.com/ParkCommunitySchool



Bright SPARKS!

Welcome to issue 17!

In a great introduction to life at secondary school, we saw 114 of the students joining us in September take part in the SPARKS learning scheme over the summer break. SPARKS offered African drumming, falconry, arts and crafts, theatrical make-up, circus skills and cookery, to name just some of the eighteen activities on offer, SPARKS catered for all - those with a creative side could make their own mug or a colourful planter to take home, whilst those with an energetic side could conquer a climbing wall or zorb!



SPARKS also included focused learning in literacy and numeracy, run by Park's teachers. This was a great way to build relationships between students and staff before the formal start of school in September. It reinforced that coming up to a secondary school is not as scary as it may seem, and that you can learn in

SPARKS activity sessions were also opened up to the community, giving other local youngsters the opportunity to join the fun too.

We received many positive comments from the SPARKS attendees and were pleased to see many friendships formed and happy faces around the school.



Investing in the future



In May, Park Community School and Horndean Infant School officially launched The Solent Teaching School Alliance (TSTSA). We are privileged to be working with

Past, present

and future - the

changing south

aspect of Park

other local schools to improve teaching and professional development across the area. The guest speaker at the launch was Professor Bill Lucas, who spoke about the need for creative approaches to education.

From September, Park Community School will be training the next generation of teachers through The Solent

SCITT. This marks a change from the traditional routes of teacher training, by instead using the knowledge and expertise of our best local teachers to train and accredit the teachers of the future in a school setting. Find out more at www.thesolentscitt.co.uk



(Photo courtesy 'The News')

There was something for everyone at SPARKS. Theatrical make-up (above and right) was a big hit. We can't show you all the photos - they are too

gruesome!

The front cover image shows Molly Hall and a wise owl at the Sparks falconry session.





We are Family!

Nelson, Brunel, Dickens and Austen students really got stuck into Family activities this year! We start with a report on a busy year for Nelson Family



Oakley's Walking Fund by Madeleine Courtney Throughout the vear Danielle Skinner, Ellie Lofting and I have been fundraising for the

Coates' Walking Fund. The charity was set up by Oakley's mum to raise money for an operation which would allow him to walk without his frame. Oakley was born with cerebral palsy and was unable to walk independently.

We have organised a sponsored silence, a raffle and several other events and we are currently persuading male members of staff to have their legs waxed for our charity! We have managed to raise over £800 so

Oakley has now had his operation in America. We aim to continue our work in order to support Oakley's expensive aftercare and help him achieve his dream of walking independently.

The mighty Nelson Family Charity Committee



Time Capsule

Nelson's Time Capsule Team have been busy planning and preparing their time capsule, named '2038', which is to be buried alongside the new school building at the grand opening ceremony. The capsule will be dug up in 2038. All Nelson pupils were given the opportunity in Family time to design and create their own contributions to the time capsule.



îme Capsule Team

Race at Your Place

Staff and students ran, jogged or walked the 2.8 mile distance on a round trip from Park Community School to Staunton Country Park in the 'Race at your Place' - part of The Cancer Research UK, Race for Life fundraising campaign.

Welfare, Support & Guidance Managers, Miss Wingham, Mrs Breedon and Miss Thomas were among marshalls on the rainy day. This did not deter nearly every student and member of staff turning out to play their part.



Our school, our news





Dickens family have worked hard this year for their chosen charity 'Rays of Sunshine'. They have organised a family disco, sold chocolates and sweets and a group of staff and student cyclists rode around the Isle of Wight in February, raising £185 in the process.

This brings Dickens Family fundraising total to £387 this



Book Sale

Nelson's head boy, Macauley Cairns, and the Nelson Charity Committee spent months collecting used books to sell on their stall. The sale, which was held during a parents' evening raised over £50, which was added to Nelson's ever growing fundraising total.

A group of ten Year 9 students set about raising money for three charities very close to their hearts - Dementia UK, Emsworth House and CRY. The girls all have loved ones who have been supported by the charities and really wanted to give something back.

The group delivered several assemblies to spread the word of the charities and recently undertook a sponsored 'sit in' to raise money. Plans are already underway for their next innovative fundraising event, so watch this space!

Race for Life

Staff and students united to raise money for Cancer Research UK. A 40 strong team battled against the blistering heat to run this year's Race for Life.

All participants managed to defy the weather and completed the 5km course.

The day was enjoyed by all and raised a lot of money for a very good cause.

Thanks to Ms Harris for organising the event.



Let's Get Cooking!

The Let's Get Cooking club ran two community events this term. The first involved twenty-five Year 6 students from local schools, who were set to work to make a pizza and a couscous salad. It was great to see the young chefs developing their skills and tasting new foods with the encouragement of the Let's Get Cooking club members.

The second was a meal for parents and friends. The lovely weather meant that guests enjoyed an 'al fresco' meal, consisting of vegetarian or bacon and onion flan, chicken and ham pasta bake served with salad or couscous, followed by apple and berry mess and pear upsidedown cake.



Our school, our news

Karibu Kenya!

In rural areas of Kenva less than one in ten children have the opportunity to attend secondary school. In most regions of Kenya class sizes are more than 50 students. In rural schools in Africa the majority of students work through the day without lunch.

In July Mrs Henry and Mrs Coles went to Kenya and saw these facts first hand. They soon knew that Park could do something to help. As a result they, together with Mr Barron, have helped Park to establish a link with a rural primary school in Theta, approximately 20km from Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Through this link Park students will be fundraising to provide textbooks and desks, and create shaded areas so students in over-crowded classrooms can be taught outside. Shade will also allow for some hens to be kept which can begin to provide eggs for students'

Park will also be linking up with a project that provides shelter and education for street children from a Nairobi suburb.



Art ambassadors

Three Year 9 students became ambassadors for art and Park Community School when they mentored younger students at Devonshire Infants School in Southsea.

Sharon Bonner, Shanice Cowlin and Chloe Larcom worked with the vounaster during the school's multicultural day, helping them to create African masks, Aboriginal boomerangs and Maori faces using a variety of artefacts and techniques.

Mr Waterfield, who organised the visit to the school and accompanied the students on the day, said that everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained a lot from the experience, and that Sharon, Shanice and Chloe are a credit to Park.









Additional fundraising will also take place to enable twelve students from Park to go to Kenya in October 2014 to carry out practical projects.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" Nelson Mandela



Visit to the city of Arts and Sciences

GCSE Spanish and Science students travelled to Valencia in Spain in March to enjoy the sights, language, culture and food that this beautiful city has to offer. The group set off early on Saturday morning, arriving in Valencia at midday when they checked into a 4 star hotel located just steps away from the heart of the City of Arts and Sciences. Here is their report on the visit ...



Challenge at Marwell

Year 8 students enjoyed a two night personal challenge experience at Marwell Activity Centre involving an exciting range of adventurous outdoor activities. The aims of the challenge were to develop groupwork skills and independence, improve communication skills and to grow in confidence. The photographs demonstrate that the aims of the challenge were met!







Our school, our news



Day one was spent taking in our surroundings, including a breathtaking bird's eye view of the city from a 10th floor viewing platform. After a great night's sleep in our lovely and spacious rooms, complete with amazing bathrooms and comfy beds, we were ready to go!

After breakfast in a street café we wandered through the stunning Gulliver's Park and into the old town with its beautiful traditional buildings. It was then off on the metro to the exquisite beach, followed by a dash back into town to enjoy the incredible IMAX 3D cinema. We ate out together every night, practising our Spanish and enjoying great company.

A highlight of the trip was the Oceanographic around our

planet's seas and oceans. With more than 45,000 examples of 500 different marine species, it was bigger and more impressive than anything we have in England. The dolphin show was so wonderful, we saw it twice!

The Science Museum was the focus of our last day in Valencia where we explored three floors of this great 21st century museum, famed for its interactive and entertaining way of presenting everything to do with life, science, and technology.

We arrived home very early on Wednesday morning, filled with a wealth of information on science, culture, language but, above all, fantastic memories.

Boulogne

Early on a Tuesday morning in Challenge Week, an excited group of 114 Year 7 students embarked on a day trip to France. For many it was their first trip abroad as well as being the longest time and the furthest distance they had ever been away from home.

The first stop in Boulogne was the aquarium, which was amazing – full of sharks, sea-lions, penguins, coral reefs, tropical fish and a fascinating touch pool. Students then completed an observation quiz around the old town designed to get them noticing signs, buildings and sites of historic importance. Their final stop was at the modern shopping complex outside Calais to buy souvenirs.

The day was long and tiring, but will be remembered for the willingness of the Year 7s to use their French language skills and their courtesy towards the people they met during their trip. All in all, it was a brilliant day.



Chi Rocks

Park students joined the 'Chi Rocks' three day challenge at University of Chichester. in June Along with students from other secondary schools, ten Year 9 BTEC Music students experienced sessions in songwriting and recording using the most up-to-date music technology available.

Chi Rocks was not just about acquiring new skills; they also experienced life on a university campus by working alongside the undergraduates. Our students thoroughly enjoyed Chi Rocks and have already asked to take part next year.



Rock Challenge

This year saw over 70 Park students from across all year groups taking part in the Be Your Best Foundation's Rock Challenge 2013.

Park's theme of 'The Child Within' saw them win their heat and also pick up awards for 'Best Concept Interpretation' and 'Best Hair Design'. This was a fantastic achievement and meant that Park's team automatically went through to the finals, where they faced tough competition from all the winning schools that had qualified over the two weeks of heats.

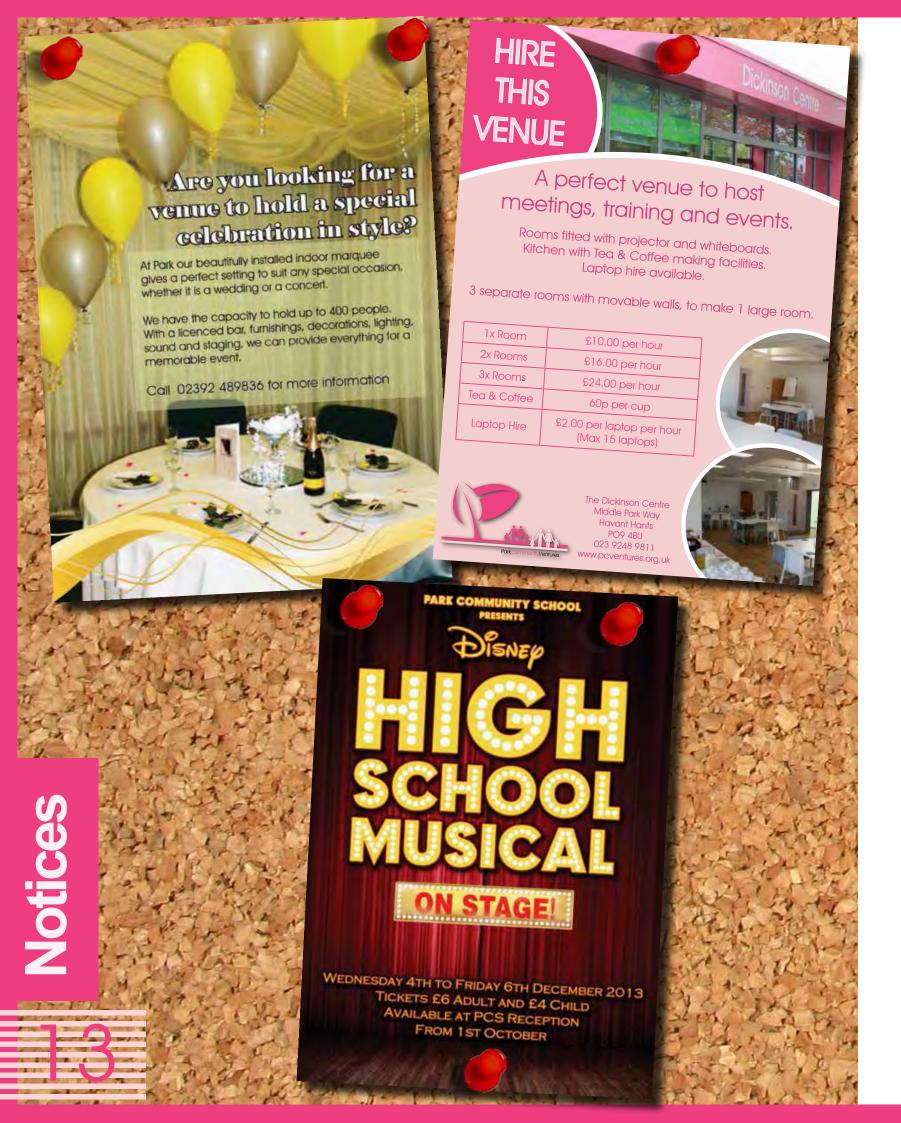
Despite not winning a prize in the finals, our students did themselves proud by delivering a fantastic performance. Well done all!

Park's Rock Challenge Team won their heat and two awards









Adult Learning at the Dickinson Centre

- Introduction to IT learn the basic skills needed to use a computer - 10 hour course £12.50, every Tuesday starting 5 November for 5 weeks - 11.15am-1.15pm
- Paedatric and Emergency First Aid £45.00 per person
- Job Club Support with putting together a CV, looking for work on-line and completing application forms -Wednesday (term time only) 1.45pm -2.45pm. Free of charge.

We welcome the chance to meet new people so drop by our centre and say "Hi".

Coffee Mornings - every Wednesday 10.00am -12.00 noon

NEW! Table Top sales every last Saturday of the month, starting 28 September. £4.00 per pitch for advance bookings, £5.00 on the day (tables can be hired for £2.50). Hirers arrive from 9.00 am. Sale opens at 10.00am - 50p entrance per person

Health and Fitness

Fitness Suite

Pay as you go – No joining fee – No monthly fee Our community focused fitness centre has a range of equipment available for all. With friendly fitness staff we can help you to achieve your goals. £5 induction, £3 per session. £15 for a monthly pass Ask your GP about our exercise referral scheme!

Legs, Bums & Tums Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm £2.50

Children's Activities

Fun Dance Classes 8 – 13 years

Thursday 5.00pm - 6.00pm £2 per session

A child registration form must be completed by an adult on the child's first session for all children's activities.

Birthday Parties

Bouncy Castle, Soft Play, Zorb Football, Cinema and Disco Parties from only £50!
Parties available weekends and school holidays from 9.30am – 12.30pm or 1.00pm – 4.00pm

NEW! Lasertag Parties

Available weekends £160.00 for up to 16 laser cadets

Toddler Parties £60,00

Enquire about our Toddler Parties available during the week and at weekends at the Dickinson Centre

Facilities to hire

We are now taking bookings from September until March

We have a range of facilities to hire midweek (5.00pm – 10.00pm) and weekends (8.00am – 4.00pm), including: Sports Hall, Multi Use Games Area, Football Pitches, Tennis Courts, Gymnasium, Dance Studio and Theatre. Contact us for a full price list and availability.

For more information visit us at: www.pcventures.org.uk

or call **023 92 489836**

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/pc.ventures.3



Pompey Double Club Over thirty Year 8 students once again benefited from the Double Club literacy project run by Potsmouth Football Club's community department. They were fortunate enough to meet the Pompey Captain and also enjoyed a full tour of Fratton Park. The students completed fantastic newspaper front pages and learned more about headlines, captions, report writing and many other football-related English skills.

Access to Nature

Our school, our news

Year 9 students on the Access to Nature course went out in all weathers with Mr Watson and Phil Summerscale from the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust. They cleared paths, fields and public areas of debris and brambles. The work was hard, but all responded magnificently to the task.

Kyle Brooks, gives his account of the course:

I liked Access to Nature because it got you out of school and we went to different places in our area. We learned how to use different tools.





We went to Farlington, Purbrook, Eastney and Langstone Harbour, where I tripped over a sea wall covered with seaweed. We also went on visits to Racton Ruins, Butser Hill (where I tripped over again!) and to an ancient church where we saw an old painting.

We went out in rain, snow, bright sunshine – in fact, in all weathers. We always tried to make a fire to make a hot drink to keep us warm. Mr Watson and Phil came with us each time and kept us busy.

Grand Designs

A Year 8 class worked on a four week project with Gary Henson, the BAM Education Co-ordinator, to develop a property from scratch. The class started by familiarising themselves with the type of buildings BAM create and how the new school will look once complete. In groups, they created their own property development company, complete with logo and slogan and purchased a plot of land on which to build.



Winners of the prize for best teamwork and most profitable construction

The newly-formed companies then used their Maths skills to calculate the amount of materials needed to build a house on their plot of land as well as budget for the costs involved. In the final week they used their calculations to purchase the materials and construct the house.

The results of their efforts were fantastic houses which illustrated the importance of Maths in real-life, as well as seeing their creative ideas 'come to life.'



Judgement Day

Since April, twelve Year 8 students have been reading and reviewing the Hampshire Book Awards 2013 shortlist. They were tasked with selecting the best book from six very different stories including modern day witchcraft, plague in 14th century England, gladiators in ancient Rome and mind control experiments in the future.

In late June, the group went to Crookhorn College to meet fellow judges from other schools. There were some very lively discussions as everyone argued the case for their own favourite before voting began. Overall, 52 schools took part and 500 votes were counted in the closest contest ever with only one vote separating the winner from the runner up.

The winner was 'My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece' by Annabel Pitcher (a story of a family dealing with the aftermath of a terrorist attack). The runner up was 'Department 19' by Will Hill (which tells of a secret government agency that kills vampires).

According to Chloe Molesworth, "The right book won. It was true to life, thought-provoking and entertaining."

Alfie Desmond disagreed, "I wanted 'Department 19' to win but I was ill on the day and couldn't vote. My vote would have caused a dead heat which has never happened before!"

However, everyone agreed that being a judge was a good experience. "It's inspired me to read more and to try a greater variety of books," said Brighton Alner.



Gory Stories!

What's the scariest thing you've encountered on a school trip? Mr Bedford singing? Mr Eacott's French accent? How about a Zombie Apocalypse?

In April, a group of Park students met top horror author Darren Shan at Mayfield School and were treated to extracts from his latest blood curdling book 'Zombie City'.

The students (all Darren Shan fans) were keen to ask him about his work and his life as a writer. The students were also able to get their favourite books signed.

Lauren Townsend, Year 8, was first to meet Darren. "He told me that he hoped I wouldn't be first in line when the Zombies attacked! It was a really enjoyable day and I would now like to meet lots of other authors."



Fishing Success

Our school, our news



Congratulations to our students who took part in the MBK fishing competition against other Federation Schools. Billy Stedman won best Mirror Carp and Joe Wood won Specimen of the Day! No-one came home empty-handed, as each participant received a telescopic fishing rod kindly donated by Kings Fishing.

Quizzing Quartet

Early July saw four of Park's brightest book brains face the challenge of the annual Schools Library Service Quiz.

Shona Alexander and Louise Ireson from Year 7 joined experienced quizzers Lucy Hill and Paige Simmons from Year 9 to test their reading knowledge against other local school teams.

Crookhorn College took the cup on this occasion but Park's team put up a good fight and gave the teachers' team a very close run! Well done Book Quiz team – we are proud of you.



Fantastic Fiction

Well done to Jennifer Morrison, Year 11, and Lucy Hill, Year 9, for achieving first and joint second in a recent Federation Schools writing competition. Entrants were limited to a maximum of 500 words but this did not limit the girls' creativity. A panel of judges from different schools were all impressed and commented on the inventiveness and descriptive power of the entries.

Catering Success



Jasmine Blofield, Amber Howlett and Crystal O'Donnell received special thanks from the Mayor and Mayoress of Havant for the buffet they cooked and served at the Mayor's Stroke Awareness Charity Day in June. The event was a great success, with the Enterprise team catering for 100 guests and donating some of their profits to The Stroke Association.



Key tips for landing a job

Scottish and Southern Electric (SSE) employees came to Park to help our Year 10 students get prepared for the world of work with a lesson in real-life interview skills.

The twelve employees had volunteered to spend the day helping around seventy students get more familiar with the interview experience and brush up on essential techniques.

The day kicked off with the students completing an application form for a mock job role of their choice; these ranged from cabin crew member and nursery nurse to solicitor and aircraft technician. They were then interviewed and rated on a range of qualities such as attitude, appearance, communication skills, knowledge and body language.

Matt Compton, a former student of Park and now an SSE employee, was delighted to

return after twelve years. He said "As an ex-student I was really pleased to visit the school and help provide support and some real-life training for the students. It's something that I would have appreciated at their age."

Matt continued by saying "Interview experiences can be nerve-wracking at the best of times and it's even more the case when it's your very first. Although many of the students were understandably nervous on entering the interview scenario, it was good to see them leave smiling and hopefully more prepared and confident about handling interview situations in

future with some key tips on landing a job."

Tomorrow's Engineers

A group of Year 7 students won a competition to design a product for the emergency services that used mobile phone technology and were invited to visit Motorola in Basingstoke. Here is Swade Price's report on the trip:

During our visit we experienced many of Motorola's products and how they are used, such as in emergency services vehicles. In a mock-up of a fashion store we saw a device that recognises how many items and what colour they are on a clothes rack so shop assistants know what to restock when they swipe a reader over the clothes in the rack. When you go into the changing rooms it recognises what clothes you have got and gives you recommendations on what you can wear with them.

Finally we went and saw some barcode scanners. We found out how they will use them in shops in the future and we got to try them out ourselves. It was a really fun day and we all enjoyed it.

Ourschool, ournews







Rewards

In July students were rewarded for literacy and attendance. Six students enjoyed a lunch with Mr Anders and Mrs Dorrington to mark them joining the evergrowing ranks of the Accelerated Reader Millionaires' Club.

On the last day of term, the names of all students with excellent attendance over the year were entered into a draw. The two lucky winners drawn out during the final assembly were Amber Tia Clark with attendance of 95%+ and Samuel Waters with 100%. Amber received $\pounds 50$ of vouchers, whilst Samuel received $\pounds 100$. Well done to all the students who qualified for the draw and congratulations to Amber and Samuel.



Defeated, but not downhearted

A damp Friday after school saw ex-Year 11 students return to their old stamping ground to face staff in the now traditional staff versus ex-students football match.

The students faced a team containing many new members of staff of unknown ability. Unfortunately for the students, some new staff members were pretty nifty on the pitch. Mr Mokgethi even changed sides to play for the students, but this did not affect the inevitable result – many goals to staff (including three by Mr Carter), only one to ex-students.





It was a fantastic match played in good spirits by all. Thank you to Mr Bedford for organising and refereeing. Well done to staff and commiserations to the students - come back next year and have your revenge!



The end of the academic year finished with a day of alternative activities ranging from tennis and laserquest to welly wanging and climbing!

Students from across Austen, Brunel, Dickens and Nelson families joined PE and rotated around many areas and activities. In doing so they developed the school's Family ethos, tested their resilience and grew in confidence in the face of new challenges.

Also in the last week of the summer term, students completed their Sports Day Field and Distance events within year groups, whilst also competing for their Family team. Javelin, Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump and 600m were offered during PE lesson time for students to compete for precious points.



The Friday of the first week back was due to be Sports Day, but it rained! Being Park, rather than cancel, we ran an Indoor Sports Day instead and students took part in activities such as relays and seated bench ball.

Students threw themselves into the alternative activities and made sure that their Family was well represented in every event. As well as being loud and energetic the day was fiercely competitive.





The PE department were very impressed with the standard of performance, the level of organisation and participation shown by all year groups when arranging their Family team into each category. Points achieved here were kept top secret over the summer break to be included in the follow-up Sports Day.

The first week back was a flurry of Family fun and games. On the Thursday students were invited to participate in two days of activities and sporting events. The Inflatables day was a big favourite, with students joining the PE department to take part in a variety of competitions arranged around the huge inflatables.

The day was a great success with students from each year group taking on each other and staff on equipment such as the assault course, bungee runs, inflatable table football, sumo, pole joist and much more.



After the three days of fun, games, competition and camaraderie the overall results were – 1st Nelson, 2nd Brunel, 3rd Dickens, 4th Austen.

Congratulations to all students who participated for their hard work and efforts. They made this year's Sports Days fantastically competitive and great fun!





Musicals in the Med

At the end of term, the Arts team took a group of students to Spain, not only to experience Spanish culture and art, but to have the opportunity of performing in a very different setting.

In an amazing few days the students discovered the street art of Las Ramblas and the extraordinary architecture of Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, whilst managing to fit into two public performances. The first took place in front of the town hall at Lloret de Mar. Afterwards the students were thrilled to be presented with a plaque by Lloret de Mar Council to thank them for their great performance. The second was in Pineda de Mar where they performed to cheering tourists and locals. Many of the locals spoke to the group afterwards to congratulate them on the performance, even saying Park's students were the best performance group they had seen in a very long time.







Spotted whilst recording the progress of our building works, this young man is obviously as excited as we all are about our new school!