

much more than just a school...

Park Post

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newsletter

Issue 4

April 2016

RACE AT OUR PLACE...

Leigh Park students joined the fight against cancer - Park Community School staff, and students, were once again inspired to take part in the Race at our Place and run 2.5 miles in aid of Cancer Research. This is the fourth of these events, and this year we raised £1000.

Residents of Leigh Park, parents, and friends were out in force to support the staff and students, who ran, jogged, and walked the route from Park Community School to Staunton Country Park, and back again. Whoops and cheers of encouragement were heard as they passed by and local residents praised the school for organising such a brilliant day.



Georgie Harris, from Park Community School, who was responsible for organising the race said: "Most of us know someone who has been touched by cancer and we all have our special reasons for taking part and wanting to help more people survive. Days like this show how the staff and students of Park Community School can pull together to raise awareness and donations for such a worthy cause."

Head Teacher, Christopher Anders said:

"It has now become an important part of our school year and an opportunity for students to push themselves and find out what they can achieve. It's fantastic to see so many children realising they're capable of more than they thought they were, with many using it as the motivation to beat their friends!"

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Park Post

World Book Day



Staff (top) and children from our nursery,
Springwood Park Pre-School & Nursery (Bottom) celebrate World Book Day

World Book Day takes place every year and is an opportunity to celebrate the reading culture that we have at Park Community School, and which is encouraged by the UK education system.

On Monday March 22, 26 students took part in an attempt to set a world record for the largest ever nationwide book quiz. Each student family had their own team, and the Nelson Ninjas triumphed over the Brunel Beasts by a single point! The Guinness Book of World Records confirmed that the quiz set a new world record so well done to everyone.

On World Book Day, Thursday March 3, Park was invaded by a whole host of book characters including Lord Voldemort, Pippi Longstocking, Cruella de Vil and Willy Wonka as staff dressed up for the occasion. Students competed to identify as many of the characters as possible, with Ellie-May Hackett spotting the most. Well done Ellie-May!

Fairtrade Hunt



Students and staff who were lucky enough to find a hidden Fairtrade voucher could then exchange it for a Fairtrade product at a special store set up for the day at Park. The hunt was a big success and received very positive feedback from students; so much so they have asked us to organise an Easter egg hunt!



Visit to Glyndebourne

Twelve students enjoyed a fantastic experience watching world-class singers at Glyndebourne Opera. The stunning theatre, revolving set, and the beautiful grounds that surround the stately home amazed them. During the interval they enjoyed mixing with other schools in the foyer, and discussing the performance. It was a truly beautiful day.

PARK BITES

Old Trafford Visit

A group of students were lucky enough to watch Manchester United take on FC Midtjylland in the Europa League, a fantastic opportunity. There were goals and incidents galore with Manchester United winning 5-1, missing a penalty, and receiving a red card!

Happy Birthday

Park Community Year 10 GCSE music students performed at the reopening of the New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, in celebration of their 160th birthday.

They enjoyed an afternoon of rehearsals and then took part in the evening concert where they opened the second half of the concert.

Theatre Trip

Thirty students went on a school trip to London to take part in a practical workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios with a professional dancer from the award-winning show 'Wicked'.

During the workshop students had the chance to learn part of a routine from the show. They all then watched the show later that day which was fantastic.

Sports Ambassadors

Huge congratulations to:

Brandon Herridge
Lewis Haines
Abdel Higazi
Naomi Cairns
Yiannis Razzell
Callum Allen
Lily Moore

They all gave up their half term to pass the Sports Leaders level 1 Course!

Rock Challenge

On Monday 14 March we took 90 students to compete in this year's Rock Challenge at Portsmouth Guildhall.

The students were absolutely fantastic and won seven of the main awards: best choreography; concept; performance skills; drama skills; lighting; entertainment; and stage crew, coming third overall.

Portsmouth Music Festival

Students from Year 10 GCSE Music competed in the choral section of the Portsmouth Music Festival, and they are now proud owners of a trophy after being awarded a Distinction.

At the end of the day they discovered that they had also won the trophy for 'Overall Choir of the Day', and they have been invited to perform in the gala concert next Sunday at The King's Theatre. Well done to all involved.

Baking Buns

A group of Year 7 students spent more than an hour baking cakes in food technology. Some did so simply because they wanted to do some baking, others did so because they are very keen to raise money for charities close to their own hearts.

These buns then went on sale for 50p each to staff and they managed to raise £16 that will go to Macmillan Cancer support.

Students involved were Elichia Buxey, Terri Woodhouse, Tia Travis, Kerrie Cain, Grace Cromey, Jordan Hill, Jamie Pook and Leo Purse.

Mock Interview Day

All of Year 10 took part in mock interviews with 20 local employers. The pupils made a great effort, getting dressed for the part and giving the employer their CVs. All 20 employers said what a wonderful group of pupils we have.

Each employer nominated a star interviewee that they would give a job to. Congratulations to Brandon Herridge, Jack Barron, Jake Reeve, George Avey, Oliver Jackson, Chloe Collins, Samantha Poor, Shannon Dunning, Rys McNamara, Robbyn Miller, Jack Sillence, Rosie Montague, Emily Briggs, Hannah Phillips, Houssam Altahaineh, Bradley Carpenter, Chantelle Figgins, and Grace Paffey.

Interviews are a difficult process but practice makes perfect, so well done to all of Year 10. We will be inviting the employers back to interview Year 10 next year, after they have had time to work on the feedback given on their CVs and interview skills.



Working Farm Visit

A group of Geography students from Mrs Coles' class in Year 10 visited a working farm to investigate how it has diversified.

"We got to see and make friends with the cows before watching them being milked. We learnt about the poor prices farmers are getting for their milk. We learnt that it costs approx. 28p per litre to produce but supermarkets are only paying farmers 21p per litre, and this is forcing farmers out of milking and pushing them to diversify their farms.

We saw how Whitewool Farm has diversified by promoting tourism through fishing activities, hiring bikes, and shooting. They also have fantastic yurts and shepherd huts you can stay in. It was a bit smelly but great fun!"



Park Post

Tanzania

Five teachers from Park were lucky enough to spend an amazing and inspirational nine days in Tanzania, to continue to develop the relationship with The Grassroots Trust and the Lyela Secondary School.

This was the second time that staff from Park had visited Mbeya, in Tanzania. This time our own students didn't go and we worked with their students, teaching groups of between 60 and 100. We had the opportunity to share our teaching style with the Lyela students and they really enjoyed being visual, interactive learners. On the last day, the students of Lyela spent some time writing letters for the students at Park to continue to develop and build relationships between the two schools.

Perhaps one of the biggest highlights was being involved with the Grassroots feeding programme. Three thousand children from the local area, as well as the students at Lyela school, are fed regularly by the Grassroots team. The children were full of joy and never complained despite having very little, and often sharing what little they had with others.



Tanzania Fundraising - Bag Packing at Tesco Whitely

The Tanzania team continued their fundraising mission! Over the weekend of the 28-29 February, they took to Tesco in Whitely Village for a bag packing marathon. The team managed to raise over £500 which will go towards their Tanzania adventure; they are now preparing for more supermarket bag packing in the not too distant future.

Gifted and Talented Conference



Havant College hosted the first gifted and talented conference in Hampshire where more than 80 students got together to find out more about national and global topics. At this unique event students were able to take part in the following activities:

- Talk to guest speakers from Google and Doritos
- Networking sessions
- Academic workshop/ Debate sessions
- Employability skills sessions.

Work Experience

Work experience will soon be upon Year 10 - from the 27 June to the 8 July. Many of our students have already got their placements sorted, well done to them! However there are a few bits outstanding for many of our students.

Private placements that you have sourced yourself, need to be checked once you have handed in the paperwork, complete with the employers insurance details, to pupil reception. If you don't hear from Mrs Coles approximately one week after handing it in, this means the company's insurance has been validated and you are sorted – WELL DONE!



If you have chosen an Online placement:
(Sourced from the EBP Website)

- Your mentor will receive paperwork for you once the employer has agreed they can have you.
- You will then need to phone the employer to arrange an interview
- Take the form to be completed by the employer at the interview
- Ensure your parents have also signed the form
- Return the completed form to Pupil reception

Now you're finished - WELL DONE!



This Month's Recipe

Roasted Red Pepper and Tomato Soup

A dash of extra virgin olive oil and fresh basil makes this simple tomato and roasted red pepper soup recipe oh-so special. Best of all, it's quick to prepare. An easy and tasty way to welcome in the lighter evenings.

Ingredients

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 large red peppers, seeds removed and roughly chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 600g (21oz) ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 x 400g (14oz) tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock
- 1tbsp chopped fresh basil, to garnish
- Extra virgin olive oil, to garnish

Method

Roasting the vegetables gives the soup a delicious flavour. Simply halve the onions, tomatoes and peppers, place them on a lined baking tray. Drizzle with a little olive oil and roast in a 200°C (gas mark 6) oven for 60 minutes, turning the onions and peppers once. Next, peel the skin from the cooked peppers and tomatoes. Add the vegetables to the stock.

Add the tinned tomatoes and 1 (250ml) cup of water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool a little. Purée the soup in batches in a food processor or with a hand-held blender. Strain through a coarse sieve and add a little extra stock, if desired.

Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serve hot, and garnished with the basil and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil.

What's coming up...

- Tanzania Fundraising
- School Council
- Another! Not Quite Royal Variety Show
- HOW
- Exams

