

The official magazine for Park Community School: Issue 14

Spring 2012

ParkPost

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Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values



In this issue

Park supporting the Olympics Plus

Great British Tea Party • Family Learning • Sports News and lots more

Challenging destiny

Schools are in a period of significant change. Education is a focus for this government as it was for the last. Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, summed up his reason for the recent changes: "While we have some of the best schools in the world, we also have too many which are still struggling."

Parents with children at Park can be confident that their sons and daughters are in one of the best schools. Our results last year proved once again that the progress made by students here measures up. The league tables due at the end of this month will show how we compare with schools serving much more advantaged communities and also what is happening in similar local schools.

This government has spoken many times about unfairness in society and, whether one thinks they have a real sense of what is fair or not, they are quite right when they say that "In our education system it is still far too often the case that deprivation is destiny."

Mr Gove has said repeatedly that the gap in attainment between rich and poor has widened in recent years; that may be true but it is not here at Park. Our results show how all students succeed and we work hard to make sure everyone gets the support and help they need.

Park is a school which is one of the government's engines of social mobility, where accidents of birth and the unfairness of life's lottery are overcome through academic progress and success. Each

year the results for Year 11 allow the students to make choices about their future based on success at school.

As well as the rhetoric the coalition has now enacted changes to the laws which govern schools. Some of these are worth noting. A theme has been to support discipline in the classroom. The new Education Act gives schools an increased power to search students for items such as pornography and video cameras, as well as knives, and we can now examine and delete data on electronic mobile devices. Detentions are another area of change and schools no longer need to give 24 hours notice to parents.



"Children will continue to achieve outstanding results at Park"

A further change is that Outstanding schools, like Park, will be freed from inspections and left to concentrate on what matters - teaching and learning. That remains as our passion at Park. This, coupled with the commitment of all staff to ensuring the best environment and techniques, means that we know your children will continue to achieve at the very highest levels.

Thank you for your help in our success story.

Christopher Anders, Headteacher

Our Great British Tea Party

By Phoebe Arnett and Sophie Miller, Year 7

In December, Year 7 hosted a tea party for the elderly people in Leigh Park's community. We wanted to find out information about our community and how older members of it lived their lives when they were younger. The results were very surprising! Another reason for the tea party was to reflect on our learning about identity and to bring our community together - young and old.

The afternoon's events were all planned and delivered by Year 7 students. These included:

- Carol performances and sing-alongs by every mentoring group
- Preparation of delicious cucumber sandwiches, hot tea and mouth-watering cakes
- Excellent service of refreshments
- Decoration of the hall
- Media team to record the whole event.

Every student also spent time preparing interview questions so they could find out about life in the past.



Interestingly, there were quite a few similarities between the Year 7s and the elderly. For example, we have good friends who we spend our free time with, they also had some similar lessons such as Maths, English and Science.

However, there were also some differences between our generations. For example, they would get really bad punishments whereas we only get detentions. They got the cane or a chalk board rubber chucked at their heads, and shut in a cupboard, while we get a warning. This made us feel grateful that we didn't live in those times. We also found out our school was once called Broomfield. People also got jobs when they were 14-15 years old! We have it so easy.

Overall, we came up with the following ideas about what it means to be British ...

Being British is about being proud of our country, getting a good education, a good lifestyle and you get treated well.

Above all, our Great British Tea Party showed that we all love having fun, singing and laughing together!

Park Peer Mentors

In December a group of Year 8 students were chosen, by the members of their year group, to be trained as peer mentors. All were selected because other students thought them to be good role models and capable of helping others. The focus of the training was on raising the students' awareness of how to support and set a good example to other students



within the school. Mr Rose commented "I very much look forward to working with them in the future as they are already making a significant difference around the school."

WOW launch

In October 28 students from Year 7 were invited to celebrate the launch of 'World of Water' at Staunton Country Park. The students were split into three groups and took part in different activities throughout the day to investigate ways in which they could save water in their own homes.

All students were invited to leave valuable feedback as to how each activity could be improved to serve the general public. Despite the dull weather the day was very successful with the students' contributions to the event being much appreciated by its organisers, Staunton Country Park and Portsmouth Water.



Park students helped to evaluate the WOW launch

Year 7 rise to the challenge!

Over three days in September the whole of Year 7 went on a trip to the Portsmouth Outdoor Centre with the aim of developing their teamwork skills.

Year 7 students built rafts by tying wooden logs and long canoes together with ropes to race against other groups. They soon realised that the best results were achieved by those who really worked together as a team on paddling and steering. The activity finished with most of the students leaping into the very cold, muddy and smelly Langstone Harbour!

The high ropes included two walls for the students to climb, while other members of their team were responsible for pulling in the slack of their safety ropes under the guidance of the centre staff. Some groups then opted to have a go at the daunting 'leap of faith'. This was a tall wooden pole with small rungs each side that the students had to climb up. The higher they got, the more the pole wobbled. Once at the top there was a small platform on which to stand and steady themselves before leaping off and trying to catch a



trapeze bar! Very scary, but our students rose to the challenge.

The whole Year 7 trip was a great success, with our students overcoming fears and reaching personal goals. Staff at the centre were impressed with the enthusiasm and excellent attitude of Park's newest year group.

Here's what the Year 7 students had to say:

"Immense - really fun activities" • "Brilliant, because you had to give your team instructions" • "Scary, I got stuck in the mud and got a crab in my wellies" • "Cold because we had to jump in water, but it was fun" • "Tiring, my arms and legs were aching because we had to paddle a canoe" • "Spinetingling" • "I wish we could do it again!"

Venice

by Tasmyn Dixon and Kelly Allison, Year 10

In September, second year Creative & Media Diploma students went on an exciting trip to Venice for their Record Project. There was a lot to see and do, as the Italian culture is so very different from ours back home and because Venice is a city on water!

On day one we got the bus into Venice and learnt our way round the city, getting to know the sights. We also took lots of pictures of our chosen subject. We found a place to eat in Mestre town that served the biggest pizzas we had ever seen!

Day two we travelled around the Rialto taking photographs. We also had the experience of riding on a traghetto (a gondola-type ferry) but some people



didn't like it because we felt like the boat would tip over! We ended the day in St Mark's Square which was really busy and full of pigeons.

Day three we went to the Jewish Ghetto, Murano and to Cemetery Island, which was both eerie and beautiful and gave all of us a chance to stop and think.

Day four we headed back into the centre of Venice and walked to the Rialto, where we bought gifts for Mrs Loake, Mrs Meyer, and Mr Lacey to say thank you for

organising and accompanying us on such a great trip.

There was only one bad thing about the trip, and that was that we had to leave!

Access 2 Nature

Our Access 2 Nature Group has completed the clearance of a site once home to a World War II Ammunition dump at Farlington Marshes - exposing the whole area so that walkers and enthusiasts can now visit this important historic site.



Heroes Day

"Heroes Day" in October saw both staff and students arrive at school dressed as their personal heroes. Robin Hollington, the father of Royal Marine Richard Hollington who the event is in memory of, visited the school and spoke to students in special assemblies about the difference between heroes and celebrities. He was very impressed with Park students, the way they listened and how many understood the

concept of a true hero. Park's "heroes" included members of the armed forces and the caring professions.



Park students with Rob Hollington

Governor Profile - Chris Braiden

I attended Broomfield School when it became Park Community School in the late 1980's and have always followed the progress of the school with interest.

I have lived and worked in Leigh Park for 30 years and have an educational background myself. It was being a teacher that made my mind up to become a Parent Governor at Park as my children grew and moved into secondary education. I wanted to have an input into my children's education and gain a greater understanding about how the school works. My focus as a teacher is always to encourage others to be the best they can and

Park inspires and motivates its whole community to do just that.

As a Parent Governor I have learnt a great deal about the aims of the school and the focus of its staff and students to succeed in everything they do.

I feel that being able to have an input into our children's secondary education is a great privilege and would encourage more people to take on the important and interesting role of governor.

Interested in becoming a governor? We would like to hear from you. Please contact Jane Alder, Clerk to the Governors, at school.



Prince's Trust

The Year 11 Prince's Trust Group have been busy in our community recently, with a guided tour of the Havant branch of Waitrose, which included a tasting session of exotic foods, and helping to create a new garden at Staunton Country Park.

They have developed their teamwork skills at Fort Purbrook, and visited the famous Racton Ruin.

The group are also completing a First Aid course with Mrs Timson which will lead to a qualification in Basic First Aid.

Prince's Trust activities:
Behind the scenes at Waitrose,
digging out at Staunton Country
Park and teamwork development
at Fort Purbrook



Children in Need Bike Ride

By Mark Nicholls, Year 11

We were determined to do our bit to support Children In Need day in November. Together we came up with the idea of a sponsored bike ride to raise money for vulnerable children. Our team, comprising Connor Saunderson (project development), Harley Wiggins (training coach), Jacob Barron (route planning and getting Mr Crowley to come along!) and Mark Nicholls (publicity and sponsorship), set about planning the journey and raising support. In the lead up to the ride, we endured rigorous training sessions to ensure our fitness levels were up to scratch and spoke to five different assemblies to raise awareness of our project.



The exhausted, but successful, team!

From the stadium we followed a coastal route which took us to Hayling Island. We then travelled along the south coast to the east point of Hayling Island and made our way back to the mainland via the Billy Trail to Langstone. The final leg of our journey took us back to Fratton, where we put our bikes in the minibus and we were taken to Havant railway station. We rode the last stretch of our journey arriving back at school at 2.25 pm. In all we cycled 40 agonising miles.

After the excruciating ride Jacob commented, "Although it was completely exhausting, it was an enjoyable experience and we would like to do a similar activity for Sport Relief".

On the day of the ride, we arrived at Fratton Park where, with butterflies in our stomachs, we were set off by ex-Portsmouth FC player, Micky Mellows.

We would all like to say thanks to Mr Anders, Mr Watson and Mr Crowley for making this possible and we would also like to say a big thank you to those who sponsored us.

Challenge Days

Since September Park has had three Challenge Days, giving students the opportunity to learn in different ways. During the first each year group had the chance to compete against each other in a series of group challenges, testing teamwork and problem solving.

In the second students took part in a range of exciting challenges - Year 7 had a 'Big Writing' day allowing them to experiment with writing and editing skills, Year 8 worked on a travel based challenge, Year 9 looked into energy efficiency through a range of exciting experiments, Year 10 went to Gunwharf and carried out

a historical investigation, whilst Year 11 planned their perfect prom.



Year 7 and 11
students faced different
challenges

In the third Challenge Day students took part in activities which were designed to improve their 'real life' skills. Year 7 travelled to Gunwharf to complete an investigation, Year 8 looked at healthy lifestyles including diet, Tai Chi and first aid. Year 9 used their enterprise skills to make and cost Christmas items to be sold at the Christmas Fayre. Year 10 looked at approaching their English novels in new and exciting ways and Year

11 completed a range of science experiments taking on the role of scientists for the day.

Performing Arts trips

The Performing Arts department took 33 gifted and talented students to Paris for four days in September to perform in parks by the Eiffel Tower and behind Notre Dame. The purpose of the trip was to integrate dance, drama and music within a performance event in a European location and nurture talent by building confidence and self-esteem.

There were many cultural experiences during the trip including a river cruise, a morning in Montmartre,



climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower, seeing the 'Mona Lisa' in the Louvre and standing at the top of the Arc de Triomphe at night! Everyone had a fantastic time and it was a great experience for all involved.



In December there was an exciting Year 11 Music trip to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see Rossini's opera 'The Barber of Seville' performed by Welsh National Opera. Mrs Tuckwell arranged for the students to walk on the set before the show and they were amazed by the size of the stage, the scenery and the props. They also had a tour of the back stage area with the stage manager. The students were surprised by the whole experience, Hollie Harris commented "it was nothing like what I was expecting". It was such a successful evening that a return visit to the opera has already been put in the calendar for next year!

Left: Wowing the crowds in Paris
Above: On stage at the Mayflower

Profile - Park Olympic Committee

In this edition we celebrate the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics by profiling our Olympic Committee. Leah Corson, one of our Platinum Young Ambassadors, tells Park Post what it means to be in the committee:



Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values



Park Olympic Committee
L-R: DJ Searle, Leah Corson, Rebecca Horne, Josh Downe,
Matt Philpott, Aaron Cain, Luke Holman.
(Missing from the photo: Charlotte Downe)

National Young Ambassadors Conference

by Leah Corson, Year 11

I attended the National Young Ambassadors Conference at the Oval Cricket Ground in November, along with all the other Young Ambassadors from the Havant and Waterlooville area.

There was a wonderful opening ceremony with many Olympic athletes to inspire us. Johnny Davis (fencing), Michelle Robinson (athletics), Tim Prendergast (paralympian runner), Clare Strange (wheelchair basketball), Daniel Caines (athletics), Craig Heap (gymnastics)... to name but a few!

We took part in workshops on how to be a positive role model and how to Inspire others, and came up with this mnemonic - T E A M - Together Everyone Achieves More!

Our school, our news

We had a fantastic day and I would like to thank Mrs Norman for taking us. This experience really does make us believe in ourselves and gives us the confidence to achieve what we want to do!



Leah Corson (left) and other Young Ambassadors met Olympic athletes Craig Heap and Johnny Davis

We were appointed in September 2011 after writing a lengthy application letter to Mrs Norman.

The Young Ambassadors for Park are myself, Luke Holman and Charlotte Downe

Our role is:

- To represent and work across the local area
- To use the inspiration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to increase participation in sport, and healthy and active lifestyles
- To raise the profile and understanding of the Olympic Values
- To promote London 2012 and the Get Set Network

We meet every Tuesday lunchtime in the library with Mrs Norman and the Olympic Committee. There are 3 levels of Young Ambassadors: Platinum for Year 11, Gold for Year 10 and Adistars for all the other years.

We will be working with the local primary schools supporting their sports days, and bringing schools

together to make bigger events. We will be holding Young People's workshops (the first is a Netball Organisers Course in January).

We have gained 20 tickets for the Paralympics on 8 September 2012 and we will select people who show **Courage**, **Determination** and **Respect** to go on the trip.

We will be involved in a workshop for Gifted and Talented students during the Transition Week in July.

We have visited our primary schools and have delivered training to staff about how to promote the Olympic Games to all.

We will also be hosting a cross-Federation day when we will deliver a workshop to Year 8 students from all the local schools on "How to lead in Sport".

Olympic Committee Aims

The aims of our Olympic Committee are to raise awareness about the Olympics in every way we can, to get the Olympic Values embedded into our curriculum and to increase the profile of sport for every individual.

So far we have delivered training to all our feeder schools, supported our primary schools in their sports days and some of us have coached at our primary schools, in football and netball. We also promote sport in assemblies in the primary schools

We have promoted an Olympic poster competition, which had over 30 entries. Brandon Bibby won, with Jennifer Morrison and Macauley Cairns runners up. They won tickets for the Paralympics and Brandon got an Adidas sports bag.

We help run our own sports days and get to participate in activities such as ice-skating and a trip to Marwell. We are supporting the Manchester United Soccer School trip which is happening in March, and we are all able sports people.

Our next task is for more of us to coach at our local primary schools and to hold Multiskills events.

Watch out for much more from the Olympic Committee over the next few months!



Macauley, Brandon and Jennifer's winning Olympic posters

Year 9 Judges meet winning author

Instead of enjoying a lie-in on their inset day in October, a group of Year 9 students chose to travel to a prestigious book awards ceremony in Winchester Guildhall to meet winning author Alex Scarrow.

Kayleigh Edmonds, Brandon Foulstone, Rebecca Horne, Jake Lindemere, Billy Mellish, Alannah Nel and Kendal Pitman helped judge the books when they took part in the Hampshire Book Awards (HBA). The highlight of the HBA is the prize giving, which is why Mrs Dorrington, Park's librarian, was upset when this

coincided with an inset day. "I didn't think anyone would want to give up a day off but I underestimated the energy and enthusiasm of our students!"

"I really enjoyed the winning book 'Time Riders'," said Kendal Pitman "so it was interesting to meet the person behind it and learn more about his work."

Alannah Nel added "I always like going on school trips to places I've never been before."



Our Year 9 judges

Work Experience at Acorn Centre

For Jake Allison and Shannon Fox (Year 11) a chance meeting turned potential disaster into triumph. Jake and Shannon had not been able to get their Work Experience preferences, then they bumped into Mr Waters who suggested they should work at the Acorn Community Centre in Wecock Farm.

As Shannon and Jake got stuck into work at the centre both of them found challenges but also rewards. Shannon had no idea what she wanted to study at college, but after three days at the centre she knew that she wanted to work with people with learning difficulties having met the Highbury College students who work in the centre's kitchen. During her work experience she went to her college interview and was accepted on a Health and Social Care course. Staff at the centre commented that Jake and Shannon brought humour, a sense of purpose and ability to all



Jake, second left back row and Shannon first right back row, at the Acorn Centre

their work. Shannon continued to help out of hours, coming in to assist with the children's Christmas party and even returned to the centre in the first few days of the holiday.

Book Quiz Teams Battle It Out

Park's top readers saw lots of action this autumn, taking part in their first ever evening and international book quizzes.

In October, Emily Keenan (Year 10), Billy Mellish, Kendal Pitman (both Year 9) and Harry Green (Year 8) competed against other schools and a team of authors at a special evening event. Cheered on by family and friends, the team took third place. Although their coach Mrs Dorrington was delighted with a place on the podium, Captain Emily Keenan was sad not to be bringing home some silverware and has vowed to lead the team to victory in the future.

The following month, not one but two Park teams took part in the regional finals of the under 14s International Kids Lit Quiz. Competition was fierce, with twenty teams battling for a place in the national finals. "This is considered to be the toughest book quiz in the world," said Mrs Dorrington "so it was a real challenge

especially for our new players. We didn't win this time – although our Year 8 team of Jamie Butters, Harry Green and Lucy Hill, captained by Kendal Pitman, won a round with Kendal also winning an individual quick-fire prize.

Our Year 7 team of Callum Anslow, Courtney Brooker and Tamara Mason, captained by Billy Mellish, coped amazingly well with the pressure so I'm sure we'll see great things from them in the future." Billy added "I was really proud of the team – they did their best and couldn't have tried any harder".



Billy, Harry, Emily and Kendal have their hearts set on victory

Murder at Purbrook Park House

By Victoria Legg, Year 9

There's been a murder at Purbrook Park house! It was our job to find out who could commit such a crime. Kendal Pitman, Rebecca Horne, Jake Lindemere and I went to Purbrook Park School to work on a piece of creative writing based on a murder story written by one of their students, Ellie. We were given a list of suspects and some evidence but the ending was up to us. There was a selection of schools and the idea was the school who came up with the most creative ending would win a prize. The victim was the Reverend and we had to work out an ending. Ours was about the ghost of the Reverend's daughter, who had come back for revenge. This was how our story went ...

'It was a nice day, there were large clouds in the sky but no rain. The Reverend strolled along the large house's corridors like any other day, happily munching on his apple, blissfully unaware his life was about to end. A pure white glow began to form at the end of the corridor as he was walking along. He soon noticed this and stopped dead in his tracks. The glow began to form a shape, the shape of a

person. When the shape had formed into a ghostly woman, the Reverend stood there and watched with anticipation. He knew this person, it was his own daughter. The woman did not say anything but advanced towards the Reverend. When she got to him she whispered in his ear "Traitor, you left me and mum for your new life" and before the Reverend could react, the woman advanced and struck the man down. She stood and watched him suffer and slip away, before disappearing into thin air herself. Her memory had been avenged, now she could rest in peace.'

Our team did not win, losing by only one point. We would gladly do it again as it was fun and the murder story was well written. I recommend it to anyone who is offered the chance.

An e-book will be produced soon, featuring all the endings so students can judge for themselves who should have won!

Hampshire Autistic Society & The Dickinson Centre

Does your child have Autism, Asperger Syndrome or AD(H)D and do you live in Leigh Park?

If so please come along to our new Coffee Mornings/Drop Ins



Come for a tea or coffee, a chat, a chance to meet others, to seek advice or obtain information

Jackie Harvey, Outreach Officer, Hampshire Autistic Society & Paula Moon, Adult & Family Learning Coordinator, Park Community School

Thursday 2 February 9.30 am – 11.30 am
Thursday 29 March 9.30 am – 11.30 am

The Dickinson Centre
Park Community School
Middle Park Way Havant PO9 4BU

For more information ring Jackie 023 8063 3951 or Paula 023 9248 9836

February Half Term

Bush Craft workshop

Monday 13th & Wednesday 15th

- Build shelters • wood carving
- make safe fires • toast your own marshmallows and enjoy with some hot chocolate!

provided by a qualified bush craft instructor
10-3pm – 11-16yrs - \$11 for the day (bring a packed lunch and wear warm clothing)

Valentine's Special

Tuesday 14th

Valentine's Candy treats workshop 10.30am-12.30pm
Valentines Craft Making workshop 1.30-3.30pm

Take home a special treat for your loved one!

We welcome all Families & Adults ONLY \$2.00 per person for each workshop

Contact to the Community Office on 023 92 489811 for more information and to book your place



ParkCommunityVentures

Come and join in the fun at the MADD Variety Show



It promises to be a show full of exciting, energetic and extremely entertaining acts by amazing performers featuring West End show stoppers to phenomenal popular music!

Sunday 11th March from 2:30pm is when it's all going on, so we'll see you there!

Tickets are available at The Spring Box Office on 02392 472700, or for more information please visit www.maddproductions.co.uk

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday
9.00am - 4.00pm
£9.00 for the day
8-13 years

- Baking
- Crafts
- Games
- Arts

- Stay and play for the day
- baking yummy treats
- making arts and crafts,
- playing games and much more!

Places must be booked in advance and a child registration form must be completed.
Contact Community Office on 023 92 489811

FREE Adult and Family Learning

Coffee Mornings - every Wednesday 10am – 12noon

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

Enrol now for FREE courses in ...

- Getting started with IT
- Safe Surfing
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Cooking on a Budget
- Preparing for Employment
- Spring Flowers
- Being Crafty
- Creative Art
- Interior Design
- Update your Wardrobe
- Half-term activities & trips too!

For more information visit us at:
www.pcventures.org.uk
or call the Dickinson Centre today on 023 92 489836

Health and Fitness

Fitness Suite - FREE Induction
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.
FREE Induction, £3 per session. £22 for a monthly pass
Ask your G.P about our exercise referral scheme!

Legs, Bums and Tums Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Zumba Thursday 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Yoga Thursday 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Bokwa Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm / 7.00pm-8.00pm

Ask about our Circuits and Boxercise classes coming soon!

Children's Activities (term time only)

Cookery Club 8 – 13 years
Saturday 9.30am – 11.30am
£2 per session includes all ingredients
Please bring a container

Fun Dance Classes 8 – 13years
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.

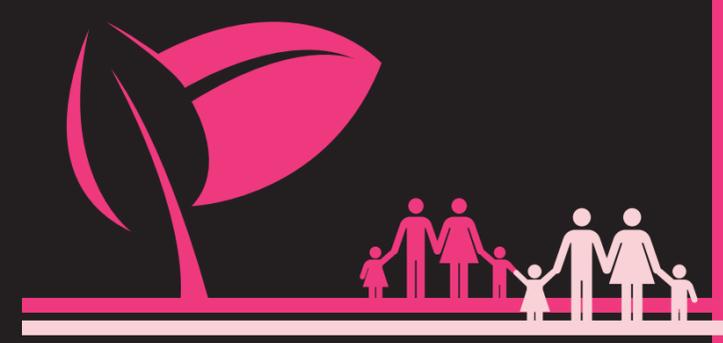
Drop In
Monday to Wednesday 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Pool, games, Wii, football table

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 1pm – 4pm

NEW!
Enquire about our Toddler Parties coming soon.
Available during the week and at weekends

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 the community office today on 023 92 489811



Tasty Family Learning

Since the official opening of the Dickinson Centre, parents and families of Park students have been invited to a number of adult and family learning events. One such was the Emsworth Organic Cookery School demonstration.

Mrs Henry's and Mr Crowley's Year 7 STAR group were first off the mark to get involved and get cooking. Along with their parents they got to make fresh salmon fishcakes as well as a fruit smoothie dessert. Much fun was had by all and the students enjoyed working with their parents to create some tasty (and healthy) food!

Mums and Dads got to sign on for future courses at the Dickinson Centre as well as taking home a bag of edible goodies!

Up to 50 parents and carers have been invited so far and more events are planned in the future. See our PC Ventures page for details of the Adult and Family Learning courses that are coming up soon.



Families and students got the chance to work together to create delicious dishes

Our school, our news

Rotary Young Chef

Paige Roberts and Sophie Stafford-Way once again represented Park in the Rotary Young Chef competition held at South Downs College. The girls had to cook a healthy two course meal for less than £12.

After practising as often as they could the girls perfected their dishes of Blackberry Capon on a bed of Spinach and Plum Eton Mess (Sophie) and Tapila en Pappillote and Poached Pears with Chocolate Ganache (Paige).

Sophie came second in a tough competition against more experienced students, and won a Kenwood liquidiser. Paige was commended for her presentation.

As usual, both girls did Park proud and look forward to competing next year.



Above: Sophie
Right: Paige

Motiv8

Park Community School students are involved in an exciting project with Motiv8 this year which allows up to 20 of them to work with the organisation to build personal skills in a number of ways including experiences at Calshot Activity Centre and at a specialist fishing centre in the New Forest.



What a catch!

Let's Get Cooking Club support Children in Need

This year the Let's Get Cooking Club decided they would like to make and sell cakes for Children in Need. The club members, Lucy Hill, Taylor Hall, Shanice Cowlin, Alannah Nel, Jessica Chambers, Tony Fenech and Hollie Gorman, worked extremely hard and made over 100 cakes and 40 biscuits.

In the end they raised over £35 for the cause. Mrs Carter said "I was very proud of their attitude and willingness to help others, especially Lucy who spent a lot of time selling the cakes to anyone and everyone on Children in Need day. Well done all of you."



Top: Hard at work preparing the cakes
Bottom: The hard work pays off!

Art across the years

Year 8 have been focusing on the Mexican cultural festival 'Day of the Dead', developing research and paint skills, creating sketchbook layouts and constructing clay skulls.

Year 9 GCSE students have been exploring the properties of different materials. The theme 'Colour and Texture' has been developed by looking at artists such as Kandinsky and Heather Knight.

Surrealism and 3D sculpting has been the Year 10 focus, improving the quality of sketchbooks and learning new modelling skills when working with clay.

Year 11 BTEC students have been working to a strict brief, producing a range of postcards for the V&A Museum that incorporate the use of photography from Kew Gardens and typographic techniques, building on computer and hand rendering skills.



MADDness

By Hollie Harris, Year 11

MADD Productions have been busy putting on many successful events, these included a "fright night" at Staunton Country Park where members of the public came and enjoyed a spooky trail and watched a frightening performance by Year 6 students from Warren Park Primary School and Year 8, 10 and 11 students from Park.

We also put on a junior school concert based on the musical 'Button Box' that included performances from students at Barncroft, Front Lawn, Warren Park and Riders schools. They all did a fantastic job!

In December we put on a prom fashion show where last year's Year 11 students were able to come along and showcase and sell their prom dresses. We also had Year 11 students modelling prom dress collections from Maddi Phillips and Mouse Trap. They also had their hair and make-up done professionally by Melissa George. Finally, we had a cat walk where they modelled New Look's fashion range. All of these events have been organised by the students who are involved in MADD Productions.

Our upcoming event is the MADD Variety Show which will be taking place at Horizon Leisure Centre in Havant on Sunday 11 March. The show is a youth arts event showcasing the best of the borough's youth performing and visual art. Make sure to stick the date in your diary and come along!

Fright Night was a scary success at Staunton Country Park



Get Involved in Business Enterprise



Alan Sugar • Richard Branson • Bill Gates • Steve Jobs
What do all of these highly successful people have in common, apart from achieving great success and amassing huge wealth?

They all started their first business whilst still at school!

We want to offer everyone the opportunity to discover their inner Sugar, Branson, Gates or Jobs.

We are looking for students to start their own projects with help from staff, or join in group enterprise projects, it's up to you. Time can be made available to you both during and after the school day. An enterprise hub can be used to access the internet or get help and advice to take your idea to the next step or to assist with one already running.

If you are interested in getting involved then come into the enterprise hub, which is next to Room 11, anytime between 2pm-4pm on a Tuesday or 3pm-4pm on a Wednesday or Thursday or you can collect and complete an enterprise form at Community reception. Come and have a chat; you never know you could appear in a list like the one above one day.

Gary Dickens
Enterprise Co-ordinator

Shannon brings Christmas Cheer



Ex-student Shannon Turner brought smiles to the faces of local children by ensuring they had gifts to open on Christmas morning ... and all because of a project she once did whilst at Park. Shannon, now a student at South Downs College, collected and distributed presents to Women's Aid shelters. She contacted her old teachers at Park who were

happy to donate toys and books.

"I worked with Havant Women's Aid with Park Media when I was in Year 11 and it made a big impression on me," Shannon told us when she came to collect the donations. "I really wanted to help a local charity

at Christmas. It makes me upset to see women and children who have suffered from domestic violence with no presents to open on Christmas day."

Ms Heather, Lead Pupil Support & Guidance Manager, was delighted to see Shannon again and said "It makes me proud to see an ex-student doing great things for the community. We wish her every success in the future."

League Triumph

The Year 7 boys' football team started the season with a comprehensive victory over Crookhorn with Billy Stedman and Luis Tyler both on the scoresheet in a 8-3 win. In the second game of the season Ben Bishop and William Milburn dominated the midfield which helped Park to a battling 6-0 victory over Purbrook.

Two wins soon became three with a hard fought victory over an impressive Hordean side. Defenders Curtis Tindall, Joe Wood, Bailey Daniels and Kai Razzell kept things tight at the back with some superb defensive play. With the game all square at 1-1 and only five minutes to play a Billy Stedman double helped Park grind out a 3-1 victory.

The boys went into their final league fixture knowing a win would be enough to secure the league title. Park started strongly but couldn't make the breakthrough. Park finally broke the deadlock thanks to excellent build-up play from Kyle Bateman and Alfie Pearce which put Billy Stedman through to add to his goal tally. Two late strikes sealed a 3-0 victory and wrapped up the league title! There were other important contributions from Callum Burns, Wayde Harris and Joel Jackson in this season's success.

Alongside the league campaign the boys were also

competing in the Hampshire Cup. In a very tight game Park scraped through the first round with a 4-3 win against Bohunt with wingers Archie Rothwell and Mitchell Hobbs both having excellent games. In the second round Park had to travel to the Isle of Wight to take on previous Hampshire Cup winners Sandown Academy. A clean sheet from the always reliable Marley Nightingale in goal and superb attacking play from Jake Bishop ensured it wasn't a wasted journey with Park coming away with a 6-0 win. The boys go into the quarter final draw full of confidence looking to make history!



Year 7 League Winners, who now have their eyes firmly on the Cup!

Skipping Festival

The first Sports Leaders' event of the year was a success. Year 9 planned and delivered a skipping festival for our local Year 2 students. The atmosphere within the sports hall was full of excitement from all involved. The Sports Leaders showed extremely good leadership and coaching skills, such as motivation and communication, throughout this event. The Sports Leaders continue to be excellent representatives for Park Community School.



Sports Leaders displayed excellent leadership and communication skills

Basketball

The pre-Christmas period saw the older year groups involved in a series of area basketball tournaments. The Senior Boys' Team (Year 10/11) did incredibly well, considering they were all Year 10, winning two of their five games and finishing in joint third place. The Year 9 team equalled this achievement, finishing joint third, winning three games and only missing out on the runners up position by one point.



Senior Boys' Basketball Team

We are now entering a hectic period for basketball as both teams will be in league action, with the Year 9 lads defending their overall title won last season. The Year 7 and 8 teams will also take part in separate friendly leagues, whilst upper and lower school girls' teams are also entered into competitions.

Netball

Netball has been extremely successful this year with full teams competing in each year group for the Havant and Waterlooville Schools' Netball League. The girls have shown outstanding commitment to matches and training, under the strong leadership of their captains. Year 7 Captain, Bethany Sherrell, has shown particular enthusiasm and dedication to her role. Jade Hepworth and Paris Woodhouse have delivered outstanding performances when playing for older years. Well done to all the girls and thank you to all the parents who came along to support.



Netball has proved popular in all year groups

Girls' Football

Prior to the start of the girls' football league, nine girls from Years 7 and 8 competed at the Portsmouth Football Club's tournament at ROKO against a selection of Hampshire schools. All of the girls demonstrated excellent ability during their matches, with their strong defence and pace up front resulting in them becoming very difficult to beat. The girls finished the day in third place, missing the final by only two points. We hope to continue this excellent performance in the forthcoming league.



Girls' Football team is focussed on league success

PE Problem Solving Day

The first Challenge Day of the year was planned and delivered by the PE department. Within families, groups joined the PE department throughout the day to compete in a number of challenges in the Sports Hall and the Gym.

Within their groups students showed excellent teamwork, persistence and problem solving skills. Points were awarded throughout the Challenge Day for successes and displays of teamwork, with Austen family winning.

Teamwork skills on display on PE Problem Solving Day



Years 11 and 12 Celebration evening

In December our current Year 11 students and Year 11 students from last year ('Year 12') joined us to collect their certificates and celebrate their excellent achievements during their time at Park. Students enjoyed the Hawaiian beach themed evening, taking part in various games and activities as well as collecting certificates and coursework and catching up with friends and staff. The highlight of the evening was the opportunity to "surf" on the simulated surf machine. Some students and even staff showed an unexpected skill on the "waves". Others preferred the more leisurely entertainment of cocktails and the chocolate fountain!

During the evening two individual awards were given out - the "Alan Baker" award was received this year by George Stead, and Ollie Greenham was awarded the Rotary Club Lamont Young Person of the Year award. Despite the heavy rain we had a good turnout of students and staff, who thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were reluctant to leave at the end of the night.



Healthy and Active Lifestyles

This term saw the first of our Healthy and Active Lifestyles interventions for Years 8, 9 and 10. All three year groups had the option of a basketball team competition, a fitness or table tennis individual challenge, and recreational dance or problem solving. Each year group has the opportunity to take part in one event every term and we look forward to finding out who the overall competition winners will be at the end of the year.

Brunel Team in Year 8 was the Inter-Family Basketball Competition winners. Chad Ebbage won the individual fitness challenge, being the first to complete a combined running, rowing and cycling distance on the fitness room equipment. Well done Chad!

