

The official magazine for Park Community School: Issue 18

Spring 2014

# ParkPost

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[www.pcs.hants.sch.uk](http://www.pcs.hants.sch.uk)



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**Plus**

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## New Year Resolutions

Have you made a New Year resolution and have you been able to stick to it? I have only ever made one resolution and stuck to it and that was a number of years ago – to get fit. I started running and still enjoy a jog most days – even in the dark and rain.

Resolutions are all about trying to make something better and one of the challenges as a headteacher is to continually improve children's education. The challenge is to balance all the pressures and concerns which require a quick response. Sometimes these pressures come from outside of the school, such as changes to examinations made by the current government, and at other times from within, such as concerns relating to the smooth running of the school on a day to day basis.

One way in which I think we can become a better school is through something which Nelson Mandela called 'Ubuntu'. Ubuntu is an African philosophy based around human kindness and is often summed up as 'I am because we are'. In a school community like ours I think this is a really important idea. Schools are places full of people, young and older, and their interaction is how learning happens. Sometimes the learning is very structured and other times it is less formal.

For instance, when talking to students I often use holding a door open for other people as an example of politeness and good manners. There are times where we might be in a rush or have our hands full and someone opening a door for us is very helpful. At other times it is good to be the person holding the door open. Small acts like this are important in a school where human kindness is evident and about which we all feel proud to belong. Other examples of this I used in my first assembly this term relate to supporting others, litter and the language we use. Each is an area where we can be considerate and show how we value other people, recognising our need of them; or, we can choose to do our own thing, be an individual, but at a cost to someone else's well-being. I know which I want to try and do more of this year.

Christopher Anders, Headteacher



In December, our students arranged a Great British Tea Party for local senior citizens. They provided entertainment, quizzes and refreshments for a very festive afternoon in the Dickinson Centre



## Time Travellers

Over the years Park students have done some pretty amazing things but now time travel has been added to the list. A group of Nelson students will be leaving their mark on the future by burying a time capsule to be opened in 25 years' time.

Lucy Hill, Year 10, explains "It's been exciting watching the new school being built. We wondered what life would be like for future students and wanted to send them a message from the old school."

Nelson students formed a time capsule committee to discuss what should be included. Like the others, Cameron Ware, Year 10, has put a lot of thought into this. "We want to show the range of things we do, so the time capsule will contain details of school productions, sports teams and charity activities."

Paige Simmons, Year 10, is making a film about the local area. "The school is part of the community so it's important to reflect that." Chloe Bolton, Year 10, is keen to include details of Park's award winning STEM project and plans showing how the design for the new school developed.

Chloe Collins and Ashlea Rose Gillard, both Year 8, will be getting other students involved in the New Year. "We will be asking everyone for their predictions for the future. It will be fun to see how many come true." Mr Crowley, Head of Nelson, is proud of the students' hard work. "The project has led to a lot of interesting

discussions about what will be different 25 years from now. I'm sure our idea of cutting edge technology will be laughable in 2039."

The students have also had to think about the way they record information. As Mrs Dorrington, Park's Librarian points out "There's no use putting everything on a memory stick as these might be obsolete when the capsule is dug up!"

Builders BAM have been very supportive of the project and have agreed to bury the capsule outside the new school's reception under a specially engraved plaque.



The time capsule will be opened in 2039

## Celebration

In November, students from this year's and last year's Year 11 returned for their celebration evening, primarily to collect exam certificates but really to have some fun and catch up with friends and staff! Once again the Community Team made this a special event by giving it a Mexican theme. Students and staff sported moustaches, wore sombreros, rode the bucking bronco and attacked the piñata. It was great to see so many former students come back to school to share news of how they were getting on after Park.



In October 2013, staff and students joined forces to support the Breakthrough Breast Cancer's Pink Bake Off. Staff concentrated on

baking and decorating individual cakes, whilst students focussed their creativity on cupcakes. Those taking part raised a magnificent £115.

Students were given the final say on who should be crowned the top bakers. The 200 students who voted declared Mrs Meades' cake the best decorated, whilst Mrs Alder's cake was awarded the most original design. The winner of Best Cup Cake decoration was Ashlea Rose Gillard in Year 8.



## Youth Work at Park

A recent report from the National Youth Agency found that good youth work practice in schools impacts positively on students' attainment, behaviour and employment prospects.

At Park Community School we are ahead of the game, having worked collaboratively for some time with local youth work agencies including Motiv8 and Off the Record to provide the best possible support and life chances for our students. More recently we have formed a strong partnership with Communitas, a local youth and community charity, to deliver youth services in and through the school.

Communitas was originally set up by local people to deliver the statutory youth provision delivered from The Original Place in Leigh Park. We now have Communitas youth workers in school during lunchtime to offer support to students. They also promote students' social and personal development in a relaxed and informal way.

Solace have been running in Park Community School for almost three years. In that time Solace team members have seen over 300 students at Park Community School. Solace is a part of the Communitas service and so work closely with the youth workers in offering support to our students. Solace offers one to one support to any student in the school who may be experiencing difficulties.

Solace workers aim to help students deal with negative experiences and difficulties more easily. They hope to do this by helping to restore their emotional well-being and giving them the skills and confidence to make good life-enhancing choices for themselves. Solace believes that students who have good mental health will achieve a healthy balance of attainment, resilience and autonomy.

Solace pastoral workers offer empathy, honesty and a listening ear. This therapeutic relationship gives students space to explore their feelings, thoughts, beliefs and attitudes with someone who will not judge them or tell them what to do.



A weekly youth club for Years 7 and 8 is also being run by Communitas on Tuesday after school from 2 – 4 pm. This is a chance for students to have fun whilst building positive relationships with the youth workers in a safe and friendly environment.

Students are welcome to come and talk to Solace about any issues that are affecting them. Some of the issues we regularly deal with range from relationships, bullying, self-harm, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

As many other services are being cut both nationally and locally, we at Park Community are looking to increase this sort of provision and the opportunities offered to our students as their well-being is crucial and aids them in making the best of their education and increasing their future prospects.

For more information on these services you can contact Barney Barron at [b.barron@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:b.barron@pcs.hants.sch.uk)

# Our school, our news

## Rich Challenge - Shrinking the World

Year 7 students were proud to conclude their most recent learning journey in the Star Curriculum with their families, who joined them in December to share and celebrate their work on the theme of 'Shrinking the World'.

Students presented ways in which they had completed research projects to compare life as a child in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to life in 2013. Students made moral decisions based on difficult scenarios, justified their opinions and created a blog to express their thoughts and ideas.

It was fantastic to see so many families attend the two evenings - over 250 people in total. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate the work of Year 7, attend an ICT workshop and then spend time together having a meal in the canteen, followed by some ice skating fun.



## Love pizza, love films?

... then the Year 11 English exam practice club is for you! Year 11 have had an exciting opportunity to help prepare for their English exam. Every Tuesday evening a special club has been running in the theatre. Any student in Year 11 can attend and those attending and completing the 45 minute exam paper are treated to pizza and a film of their choice.

Regular attenders have made real progress in their exam writing skills and three students have received £10 vouchers, as they have attended every session.

The club will start up again after February half term, so if you are a Year 11 student, come along for practice, food and movie fun - what have you got to lose?



## Festive fun on ice

What better way to celebrate the approach of the festive season than to put up our ice rink and transform our sports hall into a Winter Wonderland for a week?

The ice rink was used by students, parents, public and local feeder schools. Families enjoyed it as part of their Rich Challenge reward and Nelson students hosted a very popular disco for the Year 7 and 8 students to raise funds for one of their chosen charities. All in all a very successful week leading up to the Christmas break.

(photo by Stephen Pearson)

# Movember



A select group of staff put aside their razors throughout the month of November to grow extreme facial hair and raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Students and female members of staff provided support by buying this year's family 'Movember' badges and purchasing their own fake moustaches! The popular badges were designed by Mr Carter-Brazier and produced by the Park Design and Print team. The event was expertly co-ordinated by Nelson's charity committee and raised over £300.



The rogues' gallery of moustachioed staff - in no particular order of merit!

# Family Fundraising Bonanza

At the end of November Dickens' sports committee organised and ran an after school laser tag event for fellow students in the Sports Hall. It was a great success with over 50 students turning up to do battle.



Students' hard work on behalf of their family did not go unnoticed. In December, 30 students from Dickens family enjoyed a reward trip to the

AMF Bowlplex. Each student had been nominated by their mentor for their hard work within mentoring and around school during the term. The students really enjoyed themselves.



More trips will be on offer throughout the year to reward students for their effort and achievement.



In November, Nelson hosted a student versus staff netball match to raise money for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), Dementia UK and Emsworth House

(care home for the elderly). Beth Sherrell and Shannon Atkins from Year 9 organised the event for the two student teams and two staff teams. Overall the girls raised £150, which was divided equally between the three chosen charities. Thank you to staff and students who took part to raise funds for these worthy causes.

On the final day of term, Jordan Talman, Izzy Darmanin and Bethany Lee-Wilson accompanied



Mr Waters and Ms Wingham to the Beacon Foodbank at the Meridien Centre, where they handed over 213 items of food kindly donated by students and staff.

Nelson's fundraising activities were unstoppable in the Autumn term. A group of twenty students organised and undertook a 'bikeathon', and achieved their aim of keeping an exercise bike running for a whole school week, even cycling during final assembly! In pairs, one cycling and one keeping a tally of time and mileage, the determined students covered a distance equivalent to a journey from Havant to Denmark! The event was a huge success and raised further for funds for Cancer Research UK.

Cancer Research UK was not the only charity to benefit from Nelson's fundraising efforts. In the final weeks before the Christmas break a resourceful group of Year 8 girls from the Nelson family organised a charity ice skating disco for Year 7 and 8 students. Over 50 students attended and had a fantastic evening. In the process, they raised £150 for the Salisbury Hospital's Cleft Palate unit.

At the end of the term Nelson family were proud to say that they had raised £900 for various charities.



## Helping those further afield

A campaign by a group of Year 9 students at Park Community School resulted in 41 boxes containing much needed items for families in the Philippines being created and donated to the Rotary Shoebox scheme.

The students motivated fellow students and staff to give generously when they delivered a persuasive assembly linking the scheme to the school's Rights, Respects and Responsibility Charter.

As they handed the shoeboxes over, the Year 9 group said they were incredibly proud of their achievements and the generosity of their peers and teachers.

On Wednesday 4 December, students found another way to raise money for the Philippines by completing a record-breaking number of Accelerated Reader quizzes. Our students passed 82 quizzes that day, more than double our average of 37 on a typical Wednesday.



Their efforts helped UK schools exceed the target of 50,000 quizzes passed resulting in a £1,500 donation to the Philippines Relief Fund from Renaissance Learning, the company behind the Accelerated Reader program which is having such a positive impact on reading at Park.

Mrs Dorrington, Librarian, said "Good reading skills help students achieve more in life and it is wonderful that we have had the opportunity to help the people of the Philippines rebuild their lives. Who would have thought that losing yourself in a book could help those who've lost everything?"

## Student Profile - where are they now?



In the Spring 2011 issue of Park Post we profiled students Stephen Pearson and Joe Carter, who were in Year 11 at the time, and shared their feelings about Park and their ambitions. We caught up with Joe and Stephen to find out how things are turning out ...

**Stephen** - "After Park, I went to South Downs where I got two Distinctions and a Merit in my BTEC Extended Diploma in Film and TV. I'm now in my first year of a degree in Digital TV Production at



Stephen at Ravensbourne

Ravensbourne, pursuing my ambition of working in TV production.

It was great to come back and work in the Media Suite at Park in December, making music videos for the bands recording there and filming and editing a promotional video for the ice rink."

**Joe** - "My plans for making a living from music are coming together nicely. Rather than going to university, I decided I wanted to make my living from audio production (recording, mixing, mastering), and set up my own audio production project, Spectrum of Sound Audio. As far as the actual music-making goes I'm the lead guitarist and main songwriter in a progressive metal/rock band and we're recording our debut album at the moment."



Joe (left) performing with Caged Spectrum

## Poetry Project

A group of Year 8 students worked with a professional poet for a term in conjunction with The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant and Hampshire County Council. The aim of the project was for the students to create poetry around their heritage and the culture of the local area.

The students watched professional poets and rap artists perform, then visited Staunton Country Park and the museum at The Spring for inspiration. After this, they attended a variety of weekly workshops to help create their own poems

The project culminated in a reading of their poetry to friends, family, staff, Reading Buddies attached to their Year 8 mentor groups and a local councillor and MP. Selected phrases from the students' poems were also mounted on the walls at The Spring in a striking display which delivered some powerful messages. A printed anthology of all poems was given to each student and attendee at the event as a lasting memento.

Our students all agreed that they have gained a lot from this experience - acquiring and refining skills, growing in confidence and discovering a new understanding of their cultural heritage.



## Park in the Dark

For one night only Park was in complete darkness for a spooky Halloween horror trail. The school, so welcoming and familiar during the day, was transformed into a place of suspense and terror, where visitors could not be sure what horrific scene they would encounter next. Their only consolation might have been that the faces of some of their horror trail guides were vaguely familiar!

Brave visitors were led around the classrooms and halls with only a lantern to light their way. Blood curdling screams were heard and unseen creatures brushed against faces as they headed down the long walkway to doom passing shadowy graveyards. Film footage about ghostly sightings and paranormal activities at Park no doubt contributed to the decision by some trembling visitors not to see the trail quite through to the end!

The event was popular with hundreds of students, their friends and families attending. Such was the word about our spooky event, we even had to turn people away. For the little ones, who did not quite fancy the spooky goings-on and possible nightmares, there was a Monster Ball earlier in the evening when they dressed up for games, dancing and competitions. A 'terrific' evening was had by one and all!



## Chocolate toothpaste?



Mr Eacott, our Leads Maths Teacher, worked with our linked junior schools to help younger students create science and mathematics videos that we call Apple P1's.

Students sought answers to important questions such as: why did the Titanic sink, why do onions make you cry, why are fizzy drinks bad for you and what is the chance of alien life? But the star video was seeking the answer to a very strange question - how do you make chocolate toothpaste?

Each group researched their topic, wrote a script, and then edited and presented their video. Many groups also worked on an experiment element of their topic.

Such was the standard of the work that each student gained the Bronze Crest Award at an awards evening held at Park Community School where Mr Anders and Jon Ashley, Marketing Director of Cisco UK, were on hand to present the awards.

## Prince's Trust

Our Year 9 Prince's Trust group has undertaken a number of projects and workshops this term including clearing an area of wasteland at Fort Purbrook and designing and producing a football programme that will go on sale at a future Portsmouth FC football match.

This year our Year 11 Prince's Trust group has already completed a practical workshop with BAM (the company building our new school), as well as developing a portfolio of skills so vital in the workplace. Other activities have included rock climbing and initiative tests, as well as initiating and developing fundraising ideas.

One great fundraising idea put into practice just before Christmas was a chocolate fountain stall in the concourse at breaktimes, where students and staff could indulge in 'shots' of liquid chocolate or chocolate covered marshmallows for a small price! In all the Year 11 group raised £200 from their activities and they were proud to present a cheque to Rowans Hospice on the last day of term.



## Rising to the Challenge

Over two days in early September, all Year 7 attended a trip to Portsmouth Outdoor Centre. This challenged our newest students to work as a team and co-operate with others in a number of activities such as rock climbing, rafting and kart building. With the support of their new year group colleagues, students overcame fears and found new confidence by proving themselves in personal challenges.



## Fuzzyfied



A group of boys have been working with the Fuzzylogic Dance Company for over a year now and this term they finally chose their official name - Fuzzyfied - chosen because they feel they have been 'fuzzyfied' by Fuzzylogic!



The boys have been working on a six minute piece for their primary school tour which started in December at Riders Junior School to inspire their Junior Rock Challenge. They have also been developing their leadership skills by preparing workshops to deliver at primary schools in 2014.



Their next venture will then be to perform again at The Point in Eastleigh in March, to celebrate ten years of the boys' dance platform.

## London Proms

In October a group of students from the Year 9 to 11 music groups went to London to watch the Primary Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. This was not only an opportunity to see other students performing high quality musical pieces in a range of styles, but also a chance to look inside one of the world's most famous performance venues.

It was great to see students from different year groups mix so well, and clearly enjoying all that London has to offer, from street performers in Covent Garden to the M&M factory in Leicester Square! Having hot footed it across London and ridden on both overground and underground trains, students came back suitably exhausted but with many experiences and tales to tell.



## 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 14 January for 5 weeks - 11.15am - 1.15pm
- **Paediatric and Emergency First Aid**  
£45.00 per person (put your name down to be on the next course)
- **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.
- **Access our free of charge internet cafe**  
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

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

**Table Top sales last Saturday of the month** 25 January, 22 February, 29 March  
£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 - free induction in January**  
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.  
£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
- **Badminton Club**  
Monday 5.00 - 6.00pm, Friday 5.00 - 8.00pm, Saturday 9.00 - 12.00noon  
£6.00 per court in the Sports Hall

**If there is an activity you would like to see at the Dickinson Centre, please let us know.**

## Children's Activities

- **Saturday Cookery Club 8 - 13 years**  
9.30 - 11.30 am, £25.20 for 6 weeks - includes ingredients, but please bring your own container
- **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
- **Lasertag Parties**  
Available weekends  
£160 for up to 16 laser cadets
- **Toddler Parties**  
Enquire about our Toddler Parties available during the week and at weekends at the Dickinson Centre - £60
- **Bumps and Bundles**  
Friday mornings, 9.30 - 11.30am. £1 - tea and coffee included.
- **NEW! Messy Mondays Preschool Craft Club**  
9.45 - 11.30am, including snack break and sing-along/story time at the end. £1 entry with FREE Refreshments - term time only

Look out for our half-term children's activities.

## Facilities to hire

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](http://www.pcventures.org.uk)

or call **023 92 489836**

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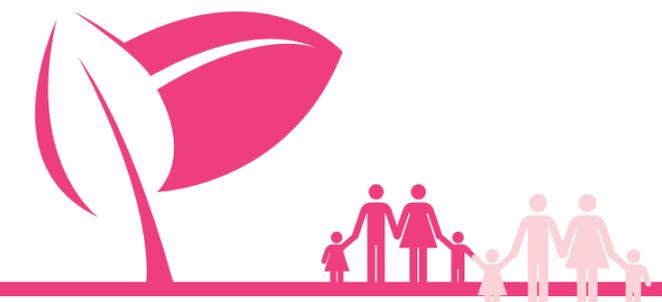
## Art



Faye Strange, Chloe Molesworth, Brandon Herridge and Jade Stray, students in Mr Waterfield's Art Club, created magical elf treehouse Christmas decorations and sold them to staff raising £36 towards the Kenya project.



If you were visiting Albert Road in Portsmouth in November, you would have seen a prominent display of our students' artwork in the King's Theatre new art exhibition space. Mr Waterfield said "this is just the beginning of many more local community art displays of our students' fantastic art".



## High School Musical



It was that time of year again when the costume cupboard was raided and the main hall was alive with dance and music long after the school day had ended ... that's right it was SHOW TIME!

The show was Disney's 'High School Musical' with two casts of younger and older students and both were fantastic! Each night performances got better and better as students went from strength to strength. By the end everyone involved was shattered but seeing the reaction of both the cast and audience made it worth every minute of the months of rehearsal.

Danielle Bird, Whitney Gray, Maddison Milsom and Abbie Stone, Year 11 cast members, reflected on the experience ...

"Being a part of High School Musical has given students of all ages the chance to take part in a performing arts experience. It has improved our confidence and has been brilliant for character building as we have worked as a team. We have also worked with the choreography, staging and technical running of the production to give us more of a challenge. It's been an amazing experience for all of us. We really enjoyed it and hope the audience did too."

Now all that remains is the question of what to do next year ...

## Good Luck Chelsea!



We wish Chelsea Lane, Year 10, success in the Grand Final of the Open Mic UK competition at the NEC in Birmingham on 18 January.

Chelsea is no stranger to competitions having taken part in the final of 'TeenStar' (with Luke Friend, who went on to be an 'X Factor' finalist), and in 'Britain's Got Talent'. Chelsea's love of singing, especially country and pop, has led to her performing in London, Paris and Spain, as well as many weddings and charity gigs. She is also passionate about writing her own songs.

# Our school, our news

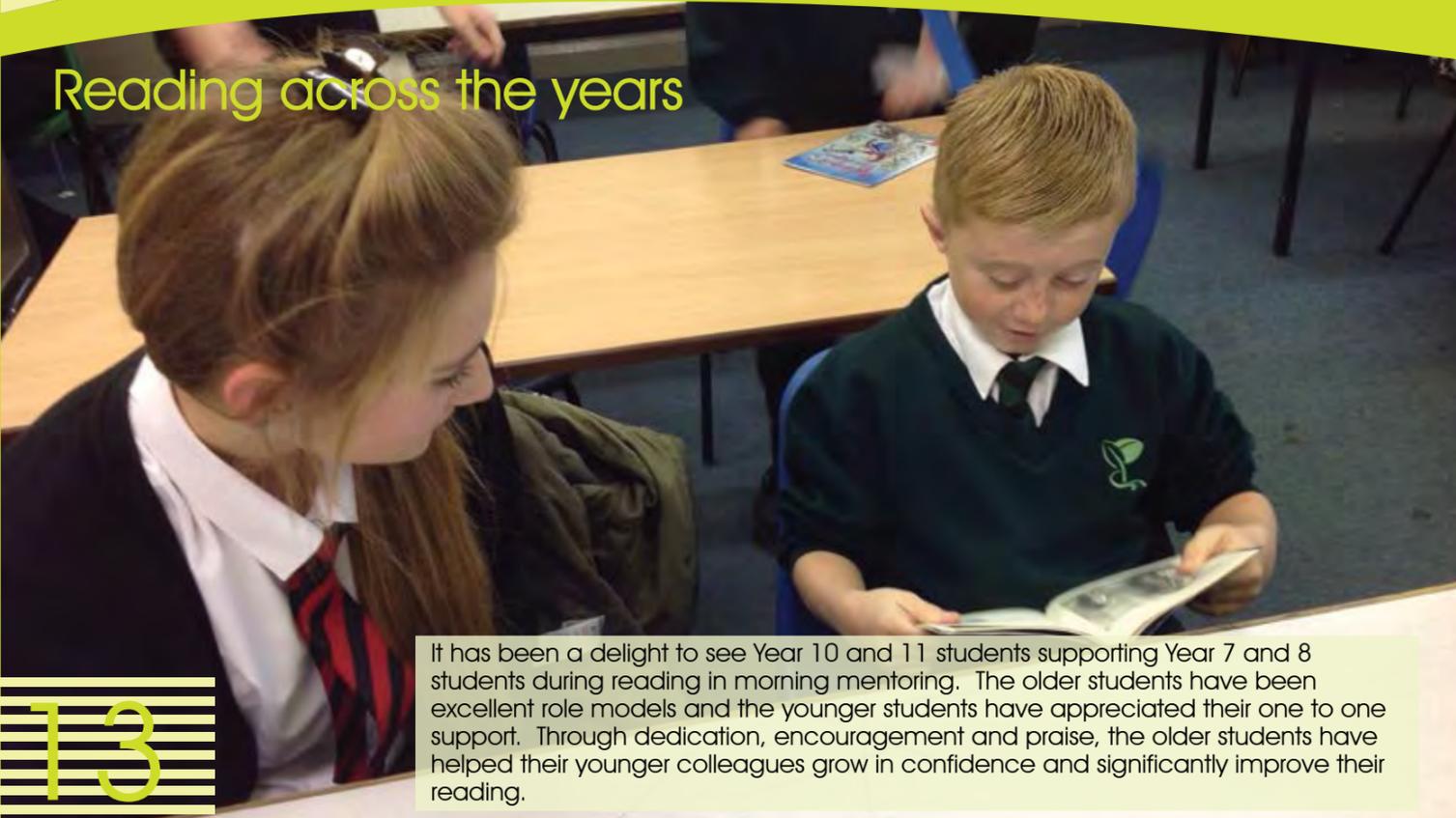
## Performing Arts trip to London

What a terrific final week of term some of our students had this year. On 16 December the Performing Arts department took 46 students on a two day trip to London to watch the new hit musical version of 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory'. This trip included a sightseeing tour of London, which gave students the opportunity to see Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Downing Street. They also took part in two professional workshops of singing and drama at the internationally renowned Pineapple Dance Studios.

Amazingly there was still a bit of time to go shopping in Leicester Square and Covent Garden, and visit Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. Students enjoyed each aspect of the trip, declaring it a good experience for all.



## Reading across the years



It has been a delight to see Year 10 and 11 students supporting Year 7 and 8 students during reading in morning mentoring. The older students have been excellent role models and the younger students have appreciated their one to one support. Through dedication, encouragement and praise, the older students have helped their younger colleagues grow in confidence and significantly improve their reading.

## Richard III

Park's theatre group 'Panache' performed their 30 minute interpretation of 'Richard III' as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The performance in October was seen by a public audience and the Festival's regional director, who commended Park students for their outstanding focus, group rapport and creativity. Lead actor Che Carter was also mentioned for his conviction in the role of Richard III.

Cast member Brighton Alner summed up her experience by saying "I've been able to recognise my dramatic ability, which has raised my self-esteem." Niamh Ashcroft-Coe also gained from the experience as she is hoping to achieve her Arts Award Bronze after keeping a logbook of the process and helping to co-direct the piece.

Panache are looking for new members for their performances at the Portsmouth Music Festival in February 2014. To take part, please look out for audition posters around school in the Spring Term.



## Wembley

By Jade Lewis and Georgina Bowles,  
Year 11

In October, a group of dancers had the opportunity to perform at Wembley Stadium with the newly formed boy band 'The Vamps'. The performance was part of the half time entertainment at the Heineken Cup game between Saracens and Toulouse.

It was one of the most amazing experiences for us all. We loved it and would definitely love to do it again! It was a chance of a lifetime and we are all so grateful to have been offered the fantastic opportunity. There were thousands of people supporting and cheering in the crowd which is an experience we will never forget!



## Attendance is vital to success at school and in the future

Two lucky students with excellent attendance throughout the Autumn Term were rewarded when their names were drawn out during the whole school assembly on the final day of term. Abs Touray in Year 7 won the 100% attendance award and Miss Walker was very pleased to present him with £50 vouchers. Thomas Triggs in Year 9 was the lucky winner in the category of attendance of 95% and above for the term and won £30 vouchers. Ms Gifford's Year 7 mentor group achieved top attendance amongst all the mentor groups. Olivia Scott accepted a tin of sweets on behalf of her mentoring group.

