



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Update
6 October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The past fortnight has been packed with students finding what they love and some of that is captured in this fortnight's newsletter. Highlights include Year 7 trips, live Macbeth for Year 10 and over 35 school clubs and activities.

We all know how much attendance matters, not only for progress in school but also children's happiness and routine. Our attendance streaks this year are helping to motivate students to come to school every day. Over 400 students were invited to an inflatable session last week to celebrate achieving a 15-day attendance streak. This will run again later this term for those with a 15-day streak and further prizes are on the way for those reaching 25 days and more.

Next week we are looking forward to welcoming Year 7 and 11 parents and carers to school for Parents' and Carers' Evening. Year 7 tutors will be meeting with you to review students' start at Park. You will also have a chance to review your child's books and read with them. For Year 11, the evening is focused on preparation for the imminent mock exams, which begin straight after half term. There are appointments with subject teachers, alongside a revision workshop and a chance to buy reduced price revision guides.

Finally, good luck to our Greenpower team who are competing in the final at Goodwood on Sunday. If you would like to go and support them, entry is free.

We hope you enjoy the sunshine this weekend.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi



Good luck

to our Greenpower team who race in the finals at Goodwood this weekend

Year 7 and 11 Parent Evening
Thursday 12 October
4.30pm - 7.30pm

Year 7- Tutors only
Year 11- Subject teachers and Revision
Workshop

Remember to book!

We love to read!

Each term at Park, tutor groups get to explore a new novel in tutor time whilst immersing themselves in a multitude of reading practices including independent, paired and group reading. Students from all year groups have been delving into their novels and thoroughly enjoying the new worlds and ideas they have been exploring.

Alongside their reading, students have been completing a range of journal activities to capture their reading - what a pleasure it has been to see their artistic interpretations of what they have read!

Mrs Spies





Park Community School

Year 7 at Staunton

Year 7 recently visited the stunning location of Staunton Country Park for their first school trip. Students explored their local area using their map reading skills and team work whilst orienteering and completing the folly trail.

Although this may be a familiar setting to many, students discovered the history of the house and how the grounds were used by Sir George Staunton. A folly is a garden ornament that Sir George used to decorate his land and represent different aspects of his life. One of the most obvious follies is the shell house next to the steps at the entrance to the house.

On your next family visit, why don't you have a go at completing the mini beast orienteering map or the folly trail? Year 7 should be the experts on these!

Mrs Pearce



Year 7 Humanities Trip

Across two days all students from Year 7 had the opportunity to go on a Humanities trip exploring the local area and how the Humanities subjects help us to understand our place and within this.

Across a range of subjects this term, students are exploring questions of identity and what it means to be part of our local area, and this trip helped them put this learning into context. Across the two days, students went on a trip to explore Portsmouth and Hayling Island, to find out about our local history and discover what is meaningful to people in our local area.

At Hayling Island, students walked along the beach, talking to members of the public to collect data on how tourism affects the area. Students also completed field sketches and identified how land across the sea front is used. On the Wednesday, students did all of that whilst braving the rain and driving wind! At Portsmouth, students visited Portsmouth Cathedral to explore questions of meaning, faith and tradition in the local area before walking up to Portsmouth Museum to find out about the history of the local area - the exhibition on the history of Portsmouth Football Club was particularly popular!

Overall, it was a fantastic trip which will complement students' learning in the classroom going forward.

Mr May





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Cuffley Adventure Trip

We were lucky enough to go on a residential to Cuffley Adventure Centre on Thursday and Friday last week. It was a fun filled two days where the students took part in a variety of activities.

The majority of activities focussed on problem solving, teamwork and resilience. This was therefore a very valuable experience for all involved. Many tasks were challenging and students were stretched throughout. Our students experienced failure many times which in turn built resilience for future tasks. It also led to a greater satisfaction when they were eventually successful.

It was a pleasure to take the students on this trip. Their behaviour, effort and enthusiasm was clear to see from getting on the coach until our return.

Heroes of Park

Kianh	Billy	Crystal	Vinnie
Rhys	Owen	Diego	Katie
Olivia	Alfie-Ray	Lyla	Cohen
Dylan	Alivia	Leo	Joey
Jayden	Jensen	Ruby	

Mr Herriot



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music

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MUSIC IN ACADEMY

MUSIC MARK
MUSIC IN ACADEMY

MAKE
MUSIC
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UK

BLACK
LIVES IN
MUSIC

LEARN TO PLAY

7-8 OCTOBER '23

Open to all ages!

Come and enjoy a FREE taster music lesson

Music
FOR ALL
MAKING MUSIC CHANGES LIVES

Have you ever wanted to play, guitar, bass, drums or piano?

Come along to Park Community School, Music Rooms



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Winchester College Ecology Trip

A group of Year 8 and 9 students spent the day visiting Winchester College for a whole day of ecology based activities. Students learnt about the impact plastic has on the environment and got hands on learning about Nurdles!

Students loved designing their own devices to help remove plastic waste from our countryside and waterways.

Students had the opportunity to meet numerous guest speakers who shared their own experiences within ecology backgrounds and had fun creating and designing their own accessories and clothing using recycled materials.

The day was brilliant and, as usual, students were fantastic ambassadors for Park Community School.

Miss Theed and Mrs Marsh



Macbeth

The Scottish play was performed for our Year 10 students in the darkened theatre with eerie lighting and scary supernatural witches lurking in the aisles. Students got to experience both moments of fun and fear with this modern direction of Shakespeare's Macbeth. The creepy and ghostly setting was created by the visiting Candlelit Macbeth performers and designed to support our students to be able to get a closer understanding of Shakespeare's famous play, for their GCSE Literature exams later in the year.

The performers deliberately use low lighting to create a memorable performance for young audiences, hence the name Candlelit Macbeth (although they are using LEDs). The play ended with a spectacular brandishing of sparking swords in the final battle scene. Students enjoyed the performance and many asked the actors questions about the play and their characters in the Questions and Answer session held at the end.

Mrs Dempsey





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Financial Education Corner

What we have been doing in school...

The past fortnight has seen Year 11 in their SMSC sessions discussing and learning more on topics such as:

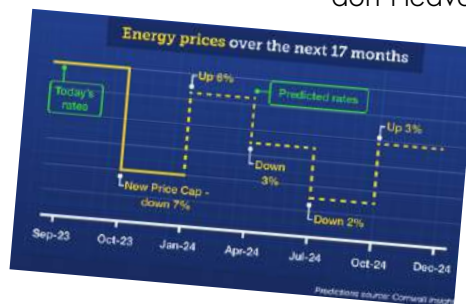
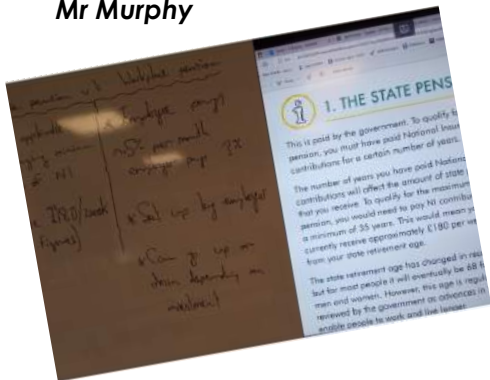
- What is included in a payslip
- The taxes we pay and where this money goes
- The importance of a pension
- Auto-enrolment into a pension

In the coming week students will be taking a closer look at money and mental health in conjunction with world mental health day on Tuesday 10 October.

Blake Year 11:

"It is a lot of money to pay for bills, which is ridiculous alongside the tax as well. It must be hard to survive if you don't have a job that pays a lot. I am definitely going to open a bank account if I can get £175 for just doing that! I am going to see if my dad will give me half of the money to lodge and then I'll pay him back later."

Mr Murphy



Informing you...

Energy bills fall by an average 7%:

From October to December the energy price cap kicks in, for every £100 you currently pay, you will now pay on average £93. Despite this, energy costs remain high and with no £400 energy support many especially lower users will end up paying more than last winter.

Some need to knows:

- 7% average varies depending on location, usage and company so shop around.
- Get a smart meter and record your usage so you are not paying for units at higher rate especially around time of price changes.
- Consider switching providers, good deals with Octopus and E.on currently but do your research. Stick, switch or fix your energy tariff – MoneySavingExpert
- Free insulation may be available to you especially if you are in council tax band A to D. The Great British Insulation Scheme - MSE (moneysavingexpert.com)
- Cut your energy usage by closing doors, clingfilm on your windows to draught proof your home, don't leave chargers or red lights on overnight.

Park at The Spring

This week marked the opening of Park's art exhibition at The Spring. Year 12 students' art and photography work forms the entirety of the exhibit and includes a range of fantastic pieces by our talented students. The Mayor of Havant, Rosy Raines, and her partner Graham, attended the launch alongside with Year 12 artists and photographers, their families and Park staff. Another proud to be part of Park moment.

Mrs Capaldi





Park Community School



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Park

Welcome to the first edition of Park's SEN newsletter!

This is an exciting opportunity for readers to find out what is happening in school to support our students with special educational needs; opportunities to be signposted and find out what is available in the local community and to be updated on any relevant information around SEND.

MEET THE TEAM

Mrs Leach

I would like to introduce myself as the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-Ordinator (SENDCo) at Park. I joined the school in September and have been made very welcome by the whole community. I was SENDCo at an all-through school in Portsmouth and have over 10 year's experience in the role. I am very excited to be joining the team at Park and helping to improve student outcomes.



I lead a large team of support staff who work with the students in all aspects of school life. In each newsletter I would like to introduce you to a member of the team. This week, meet Mrs Hiles!

Mrs Hiles

Hi, I'm Mrs Hiles, Teaching Assistant, and I have worked at Park Community School within the SEND team since January 2022. I have recently passed my Level 3 Teaching Assistant with SEND apprenticeship, I support our students with physical disabilities including carrying out physiotherapy sessions, support students with SEND (predominantly in the lower school) and carry out reading and literacy interventions with our students. I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Park - the apprenticeship taught me so much that I can apply to my role. I find it very rewarding supporting all of our wonderful students on a daily basis and making a big difference in a small way.



Working with parents/carers to support your children using the Assess – Plan – Do – Review cycle

Parents and carers often approach the school as they are concerned that their child may have an unidentified need in school. This could be due to lack of progress in learning or concerns regarding behaviour. To support with this process we will carry out the APDR cycle to help with identification.



This cycle is part of the "graduated approach". This is the approach recommended in the SEN code of practice. This process helps the school to put a plan in place. When we review the plan, parents/carers and the SEND team can decide what worked and what didn't in that cycle. We can then change the plan as needed to help the child or young person make progress.

The SEN Support Plan must include "SMART" outcomes. These are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound.

Putting a robust plan in place is not a quick fix and getting it right can take time. It is recommended that a plan can be in place for a half term before it is to be reviewed. This allows time for strategies to be put in place and embedded. It is also whilst completing this process that we can work collaboratively to decide if it is necessary to refer to outside agencies for additional advice, support and guidance so that your child can reach their potential.



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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Park

External support for parents and carers - SENDIASS

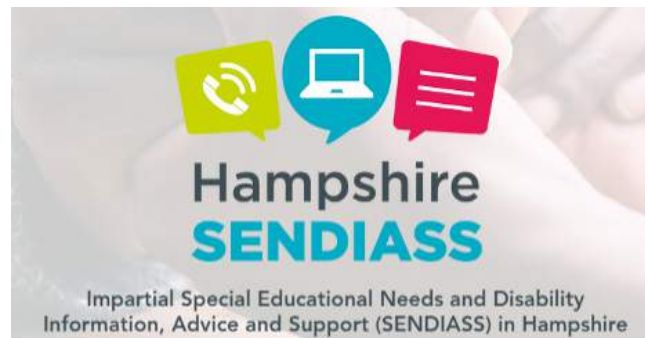
SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service.

At Hampshire SENDIASS we offer accurate, up to date and impartial resources and information about the law on special educational needs and disability. This covers:

- Education, health and social care
- National and local policy
- The Local Offer
- Your rights and choices
- Your opportunities to participate
- Where you can find help and advice
- How you can access support

We provide information in many ways, including on a website, through publications or at training events and conferences.

Sometimes information is not enough. You may want help to gather information, make sense of it and apply it to your own situation. We call this advice and we offer this service by email, on the telephone and through work with groups.



Get in Touch

If you can't find what you need, feel free to get in touch with us, our opening hours are **Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm, and on Fridays 9am-4pm**. Outside of these hours please use the Contact Us Form. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 2 working days.



0808 164 5504



info@hampshiresendiass.co.uk



Hampshire County Council's new look Family Information and Services Hub (FISH) is now live!

This launched before the summer, and we'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to take a look at all the information and support available families there.

A number of parents and young people have been worked with to make the pages more engaging and accessible. The pages have been made easier to navigate, and there are new accessibility features, mobile compatibility and even translation functionality.

Link can be found here: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

FISH has information and advice under the following categories:

- Hampshire Local Offer
- Childcare and Early Years Education
- Family Support
- Activities Leisure and Play
- Young People
- Employment Training and Learning
- Connect4Communities
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Contacting the school

If you wish to speak to the SEND team about your child please contact:



Mrs Leach
Assistant Headteacher-SENDCo
e.leach@pcs.hants.sch.uk



Mrs Shuttle
Assistant SENDCo
j.shuttle@pcs.hants.sch.uk

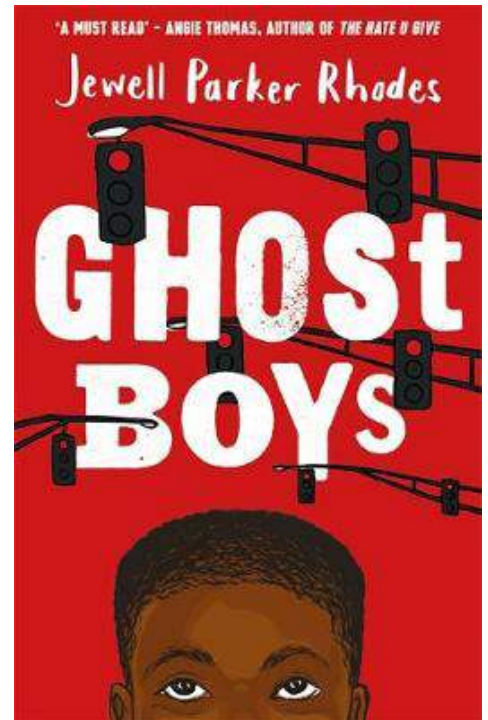


Park Community School

Reading at Park Community School

This term our Year 7 tutor read is **Ghost Boys** by Jewell Parker Rhodes. **Ghost Boys** is a moving story that sensitively incorporates historical real-life incidents from history. Poignant and gripping the novel explores how children and families face the complexities of race in today's world.

Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story, and they all have something in common. Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened - not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys.



"I like this book because it has a good storyline and it kept me hooked. My favourite character was Carlos because he had a very interesting back story, and he was really brave because he stuck up for Jerome. I enjoyed this book because it was different from all the other books, I've ever read, and I hope the author does more books like this. I liked the way one chapter was alive then the next dead." **Ruby Year 8**

"I liked the way the book was written because it used a true story to spread the word about a particular topic" **Josh Year 9**

"A really amazing, suspenseful and heartwarming book that allows you to access the story through multiple viewpoints. I enjoyed the fact that the book was written as if the characters themselves were talking. To begin with it was a little bit frustrating as the broken text was difficult to read at times, however it really added to the feel of the book. I really enjoyed learning about Emmett Till through the book. It sparked plenty of discussion about injustice with my tutor group." **Ms Read**

"I enjoyed the message, and I learnt about racism in America." **Abigail Year 9**





Park Community School

Do something amazing and help a family in Havant today!

Home-Start Hampshire is a local charity supporting parents who are going through challenging times. Trained volunteers work alongside families to give compassionate and confidential support, tailored to each family.

At the heart of Home-Start Hampshire is our fantastic network of volunteers and as demand for support continues to increase, we are looking for additional volunteers to join our team.

We are running a prep course for new volunteers living in the Havant area starting on Wednesday 1st November, 2023

- ◆ **Location—Havant**
- ◆ **One day a week for 6 weeks**
- ◆ **Timings-9:30 am— 2:30 pm**



To Register your interest and find out more about volunteer opportunities in your area please visit our website

www.home-starthampshire.org.uk/volunteering

or email info@hshants.org.uk



www.home-starthampshire.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1144661





Park Community School



Havant Open DofE Centre



Do your DofE award and stand out from the crowd!

**JOIN US IF
YOU ARE IN
YEAR 9, 10 OR 11**



Bronze

Silver



Gold

Where

Dickinson Centre, Park Community School (meet us in the foyer)

When

6pm - 8pm every other Monday
starting 30th October

Drop us an email to let us know you will be coming or to have a chat!

havantopendofe@outlook.com

or message us on Facebook at Havant Open DofE Centre

Fancy a Challenge?

Make your CV or UCAS stand out from the crowd!

Develop your team work and leadership skills!



Please speak to Mrs Cavanagh
or members of the PE department
for more information

l.cavanagh@pcs.hants.sch.uk



Park Community School



YOU FIRST PARENTING INSIGHTS PROGRAMME

**FREE OF CHARGE FOR PARENTS OR CARERS OF ANY YOUNG PERSON
AGED 11-25 IN THE HAVANT BOROUGH OR EAST HAMPSHIRE AREA**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

- Understand your young person better, including how to support them effectively?
- Understand the challenges young people face today?
- Understand teenage brain development?
- Understand yourself better?
- Have a safe, therapeutic space to share your experiences and gain support from a small group of others who understand?

...THEN JOIN THE WAITING LIST! YOU FIRST RUNS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**LEIGH PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
THURSDAYS FOR 8 WEEKS
(EXCLUDING HALF TERMS)**

**MORNING COURSE: 9:30-11:30
EVENING COURSE: 18:30-20:30**

**NEXT COURSE STARTS
5TH OCTOBER 2023**

**SCAN THE QR CODE
AND SELECT THE
'GROUPWORK' OPTION**



www.otr-south.org.uk 02392 474724 enquiries@otr-south.org.uk

www.otr-south.org.uk

**TO JOIN US, SUPPORT US OR
CONTACT US...**

enquiries@otr-south.org.uk

023 92474 724

Off The Record (OTR)
138 Purbrook Way
Leigh Park
PO9 3SU

UNDERSTAND YOUR YOUNG PERSON

You First teaches you how the teenage brain develops and also the unique challenges our young people face today. You gain insight into your young person's experience.



UNDERSTAND YOU

No You First course is the same because it is influenced by you! You First helps you gain insight and self awareness, which helps to both build confidence and identify areas you may wish to develop and change



otr-south.org.uk

WHAT WE DO

We run an 8-week parenting insights programme with a small group of parents/carers with our experienced professionals

HOW WE DO IT

Through two hour interactive and engaging face to face sessions over the course of 8 weeks with a small group of other parents/carers

WHY WE DO IT

To support and empower parents and carers to be the best support to the young people in their lives.

WHERE WE DO IT

We currently meet at Leigh Park Community Centre