



much more than just a school



1 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the second half of this half term, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on all things Year 7! It has been a very busy few weeks!

I have really enjoyed my first four weeks as being the year lead for Year 7. I have received great feedback from teachers regarding attitude towards learning and how well Year 7 have settled into life at Park. We have been able to celebrate the successful start in assemblies, with each tutor nominating a Star of the Week. Students awarded Star of the Week are rewarded with the opportunity to have hot chocolate and play games on a Thursday afternoon.



This term started with Year 7 sitting their CAT and reading tests, followed the next day by school photos, as well as guiding students through routines and expectations here at Park. As a year group, they have picked this up quickly, which means students are ready to learn every day. Students are being rewarded for being ready to learn, as well as positive behaviour, by being awarded merits - so far Year 7 have received over 50,000 merits! It is important that Year 7 continue this high standard throughout the year.



During the second week all Year 7 students spent two days out of school at Leigh Park Gardens and Butser Hill. The focus of the trip was 'Identity' and 'settlement' They participated in a range of activities such as chalk carving, creative writing, hiking, orienteering and visits to the school farm. We received lots of positive feedback from Butser Activity Centre and members of the public for how polite the students were during these days. It was a very warm couple of days that involved lots of walking (somewhere in the region of 40,000 steps over two days!) I cannot compliment the year group enough for their positive attitude and behaviour during these days.



In the first four weeks, students have been reminded daily of the importance of attending school every day. This is being monitored in student planners daily, with the aim to build up attendance streaks. We have over 150 Year 7 students who have managed a 15 day streak - they have been rewarded with a prize. This will continue with further rewards when they reach 25 days. Students will continue receiving prizes throughout the year for their attendance streaks, with the overall aim to maintain 100% attendance.



Our year group read is 'When the Sky Falls' and every week in assembly we have a 'pause point' where we ask students to answer questions about the book. It would be fantastic if you could engage with your child and ask them about what they have read.



Year 7 students have the opportunity to participate in our Much More Than Just a School Carousel. This year, every Year 7 student will experience the Farm, Kitchen, PDP and Apex. This is a great opportunity for students to make the most of our offsite facilities.



Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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'Finding What You Love' is the principle we apply to our curriculum and wider opportunities at Park. We have an incredible range of extra-curricular activities on offer, with many students already attending these regularly. There are over 45 clubs currently running, such as football, rugby, chess, robotics, fitness and geology.

Student Ambassadors work across a range of subjects including reading, STEM, MFL, PA and Sport. As ambassadors they work with primary schools, support school events and take part in a range of visits. Students can find out more by looking in their student planners or speaking to their teachers.

If your son/daughter would like to attend a club on offer they are free, and no pre-booking is required. Staff look forward to welcoming them. Please see the attached timetable. If you have additional questions regarding 'Finding What You Love', please email l.cavanagh@pcs.hants.sch.uk

Finally, we have Year 7 Parents evening on Thursday 17 October, 4.00pm-6.00pm. This is a great opportunity for you meet your child's teachers, as well as view your child's work. More details of appointment time will be sent soon.

If you have any questions or anything else I can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at k.pollard@pcs.hants.sch.uk or by Class Charts.

Thank you to Year 7 for their hard work and to you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr K Pollard
Head of Year 7