



much more than just a school



30 September 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 8!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first four weeks as being a head of year for Year 8. Our weekly assemblies have been full of good news and a wide range of students have been celebrated for their hard work and efforts. Year 8 have been studying the artist, 'My Dog Sighs', in their art lessons, and Mr Waterfield has shared some lovely examples of work.

Our year group read is 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' and every week in assembly we have a 'pause point' where we ask students to answer questions about the book. Please ask your child to tell you about their reading.

Last Thursday, students were lucky enough to participate in their first rotation for the Much More Than Just A School carousel. This year, students will experience the following rotations: Farm, Kitchen, and Apex. All students will have a chance to participate during the year.

Last Tuesday, the Year group had the amazing opportunity to listen to an assembly by ex-student, Sophie Cowdrey, who is now a graphic designer working for TV programmes like 'Dr Who'. Sophie told students how it had been her dream to work on 'Dr Who' and how she had emailed the production company years earlier to find out how she could get to work on the show. It just goes to show that, with hard work and dedication, dreams can come true!

'Finding What You Love' is the principle we apply to our curriculum and wider opportunities at Park. We have an incredible range of activities on offer, with many students already attending these regularly.

Much More Than Just A School – our carousel of activities runs across the year for students in Years 7-9. Students take part in activities at our school farm, construction skills at Apex Centre, enterprise activities at our print shop – Park, Design & Print, catering opportunities in our school kitchen, plus filming and recording in our media suite.

Student Ambassador roles – 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.

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Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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Trips – Students can attend a variety of trips, including subject specific trips, our annual trips to New York, Barcelona, Disneyland Paris and Poland, YES! trips on Saturdays, and university and college visits.

Extra-curricular clubs – Extra-curricular clubs run daily at Park. We encourage all students to attend at least one after school activity each week. Our weekly clubs include activities such as chess, robotics, fitness and geology. In addition, students can join or Greenpower team, participate in school performances and sports.

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

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting me at h.wilson@pcs.hants.sch.uk or via Class Charts.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Wilson'.

Mrs H Wilson
Head of Year 8