



Park Community School

Newsletter

Monthly Update - 26 March 2025

LIMITED EDITION
Created by
Year 7 Students

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In recent weeks, as a school, we have focused on the concept of gratitude. In assembly, Mrs Capaldi talked about this topic, reminding us to be grateful for what we have and the positive impact that gratitude has on your mental health. Year 7 have developed this idea further through their Rich Challenge this half term where they were set the mission of giving back to the school community, carrying out random acts of kindness and trying to make others' lives easier. For this reason, Y7 have taken over many elements of school life - including this newsletter which has been entirely written by Y7 students!

This newsletter captures some wonderful moments over the past few weeks. In addition, it showcases various clubs that students can participate in.

At Park, we will always encourage students to indulge in the countless opportunities available and to feel confident when pursuing their passion. One of the things that we are most grateful for is the opportunity we have to Find What we Love at Park and this is reflected in our chosen articles this week.



Dottie



Bow

Park's Literary Festival 2025

A range of reading related events have taken place between 3rd and 7th March for Park's Literary Festival - our bumper edition of World Book Day. Students have been inspired by

authors, engaged with free books, taken part in competitions and challenges, and shared the power of a good story! Find out more inside this newsletter!





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Perfect Park

I have been attending Park Community School for about 6 months and I can honestly say that those 6 months have been the best 6 months of my life! PCS has changed me forever. With its amazing staff, this school can achieve anything with them by its side.

These photographs have been taken of hard-working students participating in a Rich Challenge:

As you can see, our students are dedicated to their education and wellbeing. Our school is packed with strong, independent students left, right and centre. To add to this fascinating information, our school also provides for annual trips to exciting places such as Spain and Disney. We also have extra useful clubs such as Sports Ambassadors, cookery and many more. We hope you enjoy this issue of this Park Community School Newsletter.

Demi



Canon Update

At Park, we always have access to a wide range of books to help us to Find What We Love to Read. Reading happens everywhere but our school library also allows us access to a quiet space during our breaks as well as before and after school. The Park Reading Canon encourages students to read a wide variety of books. Throughout the year, a selection of these novels are read within our tutor groups.

The reason we do this is for young people to dive into a fun world of reading and think deeply by unpicking parts of the studied book. Furthermore, it allows our students to discover their interests.

Teachers and students have been interviewed by our Year 7 team of editors and here are their reviews of some of our beloved Canon books:

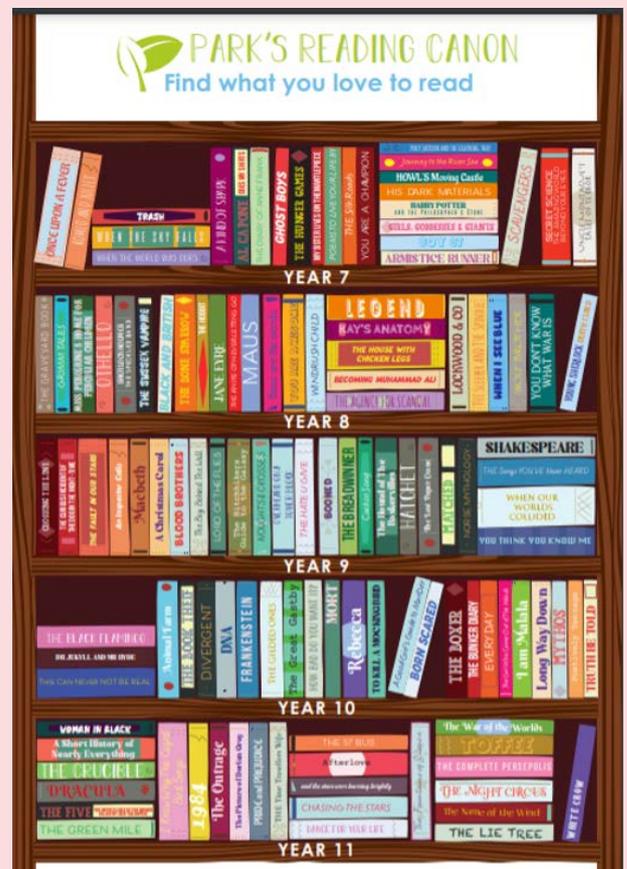
"I like the book 'Wolf Boy' because you can get emotionally attached to characters quickly and discover the secrets as you read- it is satisfying to me" -Jenson

"I love 'Trash because it is about doing what is right" - Mrs Freestone

"I enjoyed 'A Kind of Spark' because I think it has really powerful messages about bullying" -Hollie

"I like 'When the World was Ours' because I thought it was an interesting book that holds tragic events" - Eloise

Lexi





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Park's Literary Festival 2025

A Highly Recommended Read!

At Park Community School, reading is hugely important to all years. Year 7 have enjoyed the Canon books we have read in tutor time and Star lessons as they are very creative, very advanced and thrilling books such as 'When The World was Ours'. This is an exciting yet devastating novel about three children, (Elsa, Max and Leo) who are separated due to impact of Nazi rule during WWII.

This novel makes the reader feel sympathetic towards the innocent children as the story slowly takes an upsetting turn as the chapters pass. Students have loved studying this novel and it really highlights the themes of empathy, compassion and kindness. See quotes from our Year 7s below:

"I liked this book because it was full of emotion and love." Molly-Rose

"I didn't quite love it; however, it was very exciting" Josie

"I really liked when Mr Schmidt's personality changed when Hitler came into power" Ace

At Park Community, everyone has different opinions, and that is not an issue because here we believe in 'Finding What You Love'. It makes sure that everyone's opinions and perspectives are respected and valid.

Bonnie and Jake

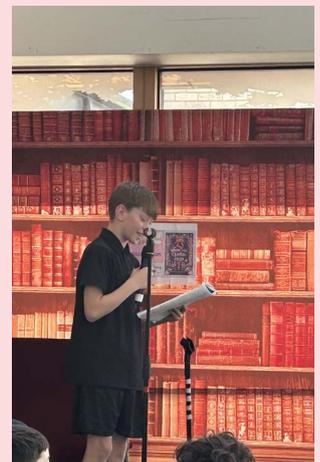
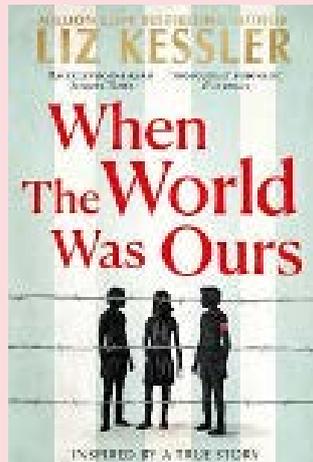
We asked Miss Hucklebridge for a summary of all of the wonderful things that have been happening as part of Park's Literary Festival 2025.

Read-aloud-a-thon

As we have done in recent years, we have had staff and students reading aloud all week in our school restaurant. It was great to see so many students involved and I was especially impressed by the beautiful reading. This year we have read two books - *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson & *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Dean Atta

An inspirational visit from one of our Canon authors - Dean Atta who wrote *The Black Flamingo*. Year 9 and 10 were attentive audiences and students were keen to share their poetry and writing, asking Dean some insightful questions.





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Park's Literary Festival 2025

Quiz Club

Canon themed quizzing took place after school on Wednesday in preparation for the Southern Regional Heat on 20th March!



Book Giveaway

With help from Portsmouth Waterstones we were able to offer free books to all of our students plus over 200 preloved titles on our free book stand. Students and staff have loved browsing the books this week!

Escape room

Year 7 took part in an escape room where they had to solve a series of reading related challenges in order to crack a code which led them to a key. This key opened a cupboard to reveal books and treats to be shared!



Rap Artists and Open Mic

One of the highlights of the week was having the Rap artists in to perform to our students and later in the week, they returned to compete while our students read their own writing aloud. Students absolutely loved their performance and some new fans have been gained!



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Research Challenge Win for Park

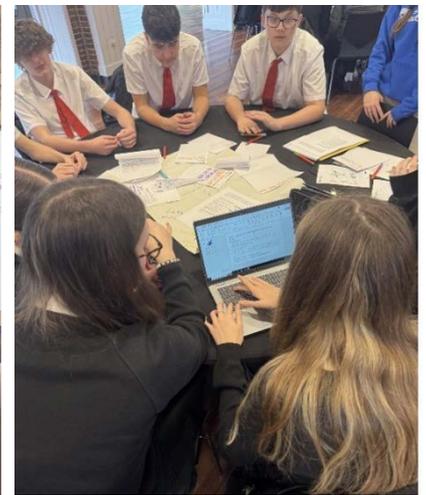
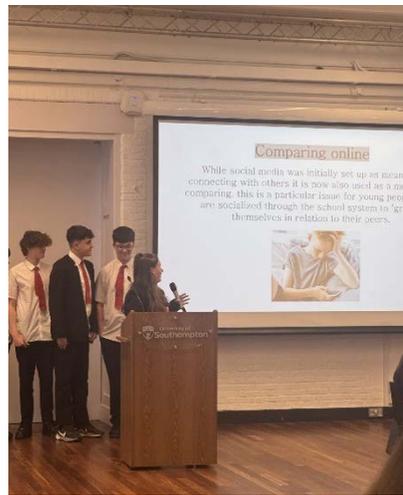
A select group of Year 10s, along with Miss Jervis, visited the University of Southampton for a Research Challenge event to compete against three other schools.

Students started by working in mixed groups (with the other schools) discussing what research is and how to research effectively. They then had to decide on a research topic – Park's group chose to investigate the impact of social media on mental health. Skills developed during the day included researching online, conducting questionnaires to get real time facts and statistics and including anecdotal evidence in their findings. The day ended with every group presenting in front of everyone!

Our selected speakers were Macayla and Mason, who did an amazing job. Other teachers commented on how well spoken and clear their presentation was. Overall, Park came... 1st! We won! All the schools voted that ours was the most relevant topic and the university lecturers were very impressed with the research conducted!

Well done team!

Freddie and Theo



Great Girls' Football!

It is clear the girls' football team is going from strength to strength as we played against Cowplain! All of us were amazed with the match, despite a nervous start. We played two games and Park had the final score of 7 and Cowplain scored 1. The girls' practice is paying off and it was great to see everyone trying their hardest. Please congratulate the team if you see them!

Sofia





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Time to Sing!

This month, Park has welcomed a new singing coach, Hannah Cross. Hannah used to be a student here at Park and she now works every Tuesday and Thursday with a wide variety of students across all year groups. Miss Cross runs a choir on a Thursday after school in the music rooms, all students are welcome to attend. Miss Cross not only runs her own business but also sings professionally across Hampshire at different venues.

She is very excited to be a member of staff at Park Community School and is looking forward to working with more students in the future. If anyone would be interested in attending the choir, please contact a member of the performing arts team.

Mollie-Rose and Skylar



Take a Dive!

This year a small group of Year 7 Students have had the amazing opportunity to go to Havant Leisure Centre every Tuesday and Wednesday for 8 weeks to take part in swimming and diving lessons. Mr Peplow and Ms Hucklebridge kindly stepped forward to coach and drive students in minibuses to give some lucky year 7s an incredible opportunity and to pass on a vital life-long skill!

Mollie-Rose



Park's Invested in Nature

Park Community School is part of National Education Nature Park which aims to empower young people to make a positive difference to their own and the nation's future. Part of the mission is to transform the school grounds to improve biodiversity. In our Horticulture lessons, we have been working on an area of the school grounds which we will transform over the coming year. This project has begun with us using tools such as secateurs and loppers to remove leaves, bramble and sharp wood from our selected area. Once cleared, we will then be replacing this with pollinator friendly plants. We are also planting 400 trees!

We are delighted to tell you that Park has been awarded £10,000 to buy tools and equipment to make this project possible and we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress.

Jayden and Bilal





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Spreading Kindness wherever we go!

Park Pays it Forward

Once every half term, Year 7 students participate in a Rich Challenge based on different themes. These Rich Challenges are included so we can develop the five points of the star.

For me, the Rich Challenges are a way to get creative and they help to build relationships with fellow peers and students. It also helps with confidence when you can show off your work and share what you have learnt on that subject with a wider community. Rich Challenges also help you to think deeply, making connections for new audiences and purposes.

This Rich Challenge included the idea of Paying it Forward. Students were expected to give back to the school community. To do this, they were sorted into 6 groups to take on: assemblies, Butterfly Broadcast, writing the newsletter, creating books for the nursery, writing SMSC lessons and volunteering with teams around the school.

The Star Curriculum



Honey

Kindness is Key

Never give up on life,
Imagine the world with only kindness
Continue doing what you love best
Even if you're down, never ever give up!

Sofia





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What do kindness and compassion mean to you?

"Kindness means respecting the people around you." Riley Y7

"Taking action as a result of seeing the suffering of others."
Mrs Last

"Kindness is respect."
Jakeem Y7

"Being happy and working well with each other." Ella Y7

'Compassion to me means showing kindness or empathy to others when they find things difficult."
Mrs Freestone

"Being open to other peoples' ideas, feelings and emotions."
Miss Zervas

"Doing good things without being noticed."
Mr Shearn

"Being kind to everyone around you, no matter what." Miss Warner

"Helping someone when they need help." Jaiden Y7



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Finding What You Love

Did you know here we have 48 different after school clubs you could take part in? These include hair and beauty, choir, shows (like We Will Rock You, Dance Live and Elf). There is so much choice that everyone will find something that they love. In this edition, we wanted to tell you about some of the fantastic clubs that students can take part in. Here are a few of our favourites:

Bell and Lola



MFL Ambassadors

MFL Ambassadors is a chance to engage in lots of fun trips and learn a variety of new languages. This will help later on in life, opening up many job opportunities to you. With a second language, you can gain many friendships including those from a different culture. What other benefits come with being bilingual? It could also improve your brain function, making your mind stronger and forming new connections. Finally, your attention span will expand, creating a state of focus all the time. If you are interested, head to C10 on Mondays after school.



Dottie and Jessica (Ace)

Geology rocks!

Geography, geology, and sustainability club takes place every Wednesday in JO1. We do lots of fun activities, mainly involving geology! We have:

- Smashed geodes
- Looked at rock samples through a microscope
- Examined many fossils
- Designed posters

This club is hosted by Mr Macefield. We also look at collections of old coins and often take some home. At the moment, we are designing posters to encourage people to put their waste in the right bins, to stop contamination. So why not come along? Do you like the sound of any of these fun activities?

Bow





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Finding What You Love Continued

Textiles club

We're excited to share the great activities and fun times happening in classroom S04, where students have been exploring, learning and making memories together. So what's happening in S04?

Our after school textiles club is buzzing with creativity and energy every day! Here's what we've been up to recently:

- Wig styling - we have cut, trimmed, and styled wigs for students to wear.
- Cosplay/Costume making - we feature planning and making costumes and cosplays for people to be clothed in for special events, like Comic-Cons or just for fun.

As we wrap up another exciting week at the Textiles Club, we want to thank those who participate for bringing your creativity, passion, and dedication to our community.

If this sounds interesting to you, come to S04 on Monday after school and you can immerse yourself in a world of projects and fun people. Happy crafting!

Lexi



Rock to the Beat

Rock to the Beat is an energetic concept that focuses on moving your music dreams to the next level. With professional and trained tutors, students experience a session a week. The introduction takes place by an assembly or individual session in a student's classroom or a music room. If you are in Rock to the Beat, you will start off in individual lessons then you will start getting band lessons. The tutors will decide the band based on a child's year group and they can play with other people their age.

Jessica (Ace)

We Will Rock You

We are now four weeks into rehearsals for our summer musical We Will Rock You. After some amazing auditions and hard considerations the team are working harder than ever to prepare this amazing performance and we can't wait to perform. We have worked extremely hard learning songs, lines and choreography to ensure an enjoyable and high-quality show which is suitable for every audience. This is an amazing rock and roll inspired performance which contains some incredible songs from the one and only rock legend Freddie Mercury and his sensational group Queen.

Mollie Rose





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The Power of Music

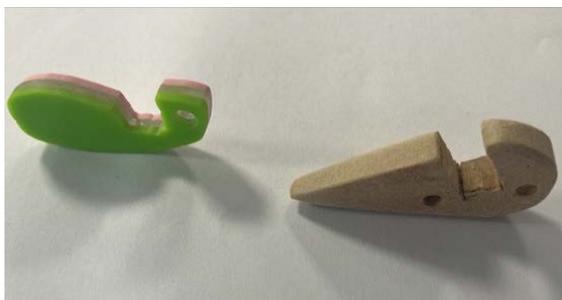
Year 7 have loved The Power of Music this year! They have enjoyed using ipads to make different beats and form their own music for a whole term! The keyboards were a great experience, and fun to use as we could experience different tones and sounds. It is held every Wednesday for 1 tutor group per term so some still have this fun to come!

Dolly, Chloe, Lillie and Ronni

Terrific Tech!

We are Damian and Mark and we want to tell you about one of our favourite lessons at Park and that lesson is Technology. In Tech, you get to do something different to all of the other lessons at Park, as you get to work with different tools, materials and even different designs. Last term, we focused on wood tech and we loved it! Firstly, we made designs out of wood to practise how to make a phone stand keychain. Then we actually made a phone stand keychain out of plastic. It is clear to see how tech will be useful in the future when we have homes of our own. Unfortunately, the hole where I put the phone is too small, but in the future, I will know to plan more carefully before I make my final product!

Damian and Mark



Learning Showcase

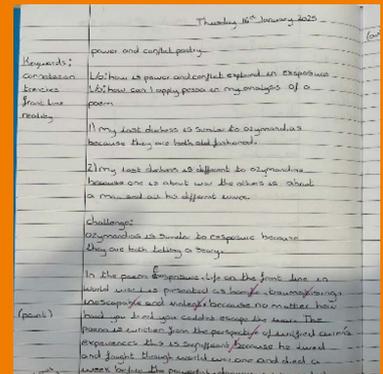
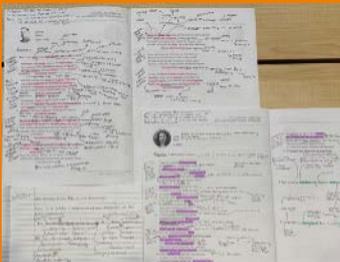
At Park, we study a variety of great subjects to help our understanding of different skills for the future. We complete a mixture of theory and practical learning to show off what we know. Miss Gregory, Mr Waterfield and Mr Banting have chosen some amazing work from all different years to showcase this month for Science, Art and English.

Some of the highlights include: Year 7 space project, Year 8 Science fair and Year 9 visiting the Life Lab to learn about operations and healthy living. Mr Banting said "My Year 9 students are currently studying Power and Conflict poetry as part of their English Literature GCSE. The images are of their annotated Anthologies and exercise books, where students have applied PESAA to answer an exam style question."

Josie



Otto the Octopus By Vaughn Capstick





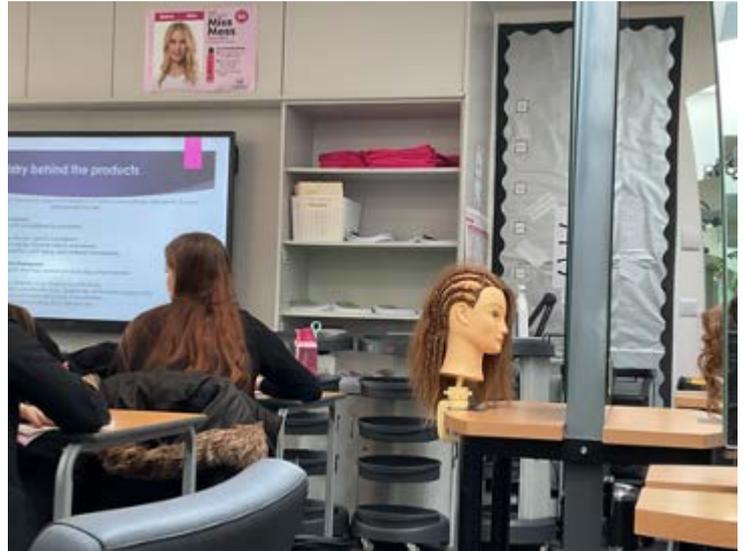
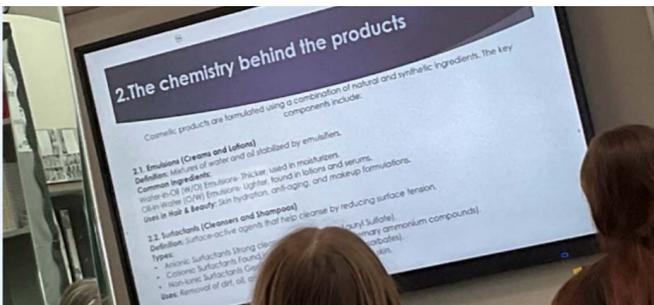
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Hair and Beauty

We interviewed Mrs Challinor about the Hair and Beauty course that has started this year at Park. The course runs for Year 10 students and has been extremely popular. Students have learnt about health and safety because this is vital for those clients and customers who they will work with in the future. Students have recently been learning about how to braid hair and working on the skills needed to complete a massage.

To complement their learning, students have been out on several educational visits including to Salon International where they were able to get guidance from industry experts as well as picking up some free samples. This event helped students to see the industry that they may wish to work in, in the future and developed their understanding of how businesses work. We were impressed by how different these lessons seem to many others and excited for our chance to pick options later in our school life.

Faith



We would like to thank Mrs Capaldi and Mr Anders for letting us take over the newsletter this week. We have really enjoyed it and have learnt lots about meeting deadlines and writing to a high standard. We hope you have enjoyed our takeover.

Y7 Editors - Mollie-Rose, Honey and Dottie

