



Park Community School

Newsletter

Monthly Update 4 April 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we reach the end of another term, this newsletter captures, as always, some of the great moments from the past few weeks.

It has been great to have so many parents and carers in school with their children in recent weeks. Over 127 families joined us for the Year 11 mock results event. This engagement, as we enter the homerun for the GCSEs, makes a huge difference to your children's final outcomes. In addition, we have welcomed you into school for Year 9 Options evening, the Year 8 Science Fair and Year 10 Literature GCSE evening. Thank you for your support with these important events.

In school this week we have been thinking about connection. The power of human connection and the challenges that smart phones present when real conversation is replaced by on line messaging and group chats. We also explored the distraction, and at times anxiety, of feeling the need to check messages. In school this week volunteers have been conducting an experiment; locking their phones away for the day and seeing how they manage knowing they cannot check them at all. We will share more as the experiment progresses.

We end this term with our annual Race at Our Place. As always the whole school community will walk, jog or run along Middle Park Way in a sea of pink T-shirts to raise money for charity. This is always a wonderful way to finish the term and thank you to so many who come out to support us.

This week we also say goodbye to Mr Bedford after 31 years at Park. Many parents (perhaps even grandparents) have been taught by Mr Bedford over the years and one of the things he treasures is the fact that he has been able to work with so many of you as young people and then as parents of students at Park. You will no doubt remember Mr Bedford for his dry wit, sporting talents and mathematical genius. However, he will be mostly remembered for the care and time he has given to so many individuals over so many years. We wish him a wonderful retirement and I know we speak on behalf of the school community when we thank him for his many years of commitment to Park.



Read about our 2025 Race at Our Place in our next newsletter!

Easter Eggstravaganza Attendance Streak

Over the past two weeks, 10 students have received an Easter egg each day linked to maintaining a 100 percent attendance streak.

Later today the draw for our second mountain bike and iPad will be awarded. All students with a 100 percent streak this term are in the draw. Good luck everyone.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

Return to School: Tuesday 22nd April 8.25 am
(Breakfast from 8am)

Safe travels to Year 10 and 11 students who are off to New York over the Easter break

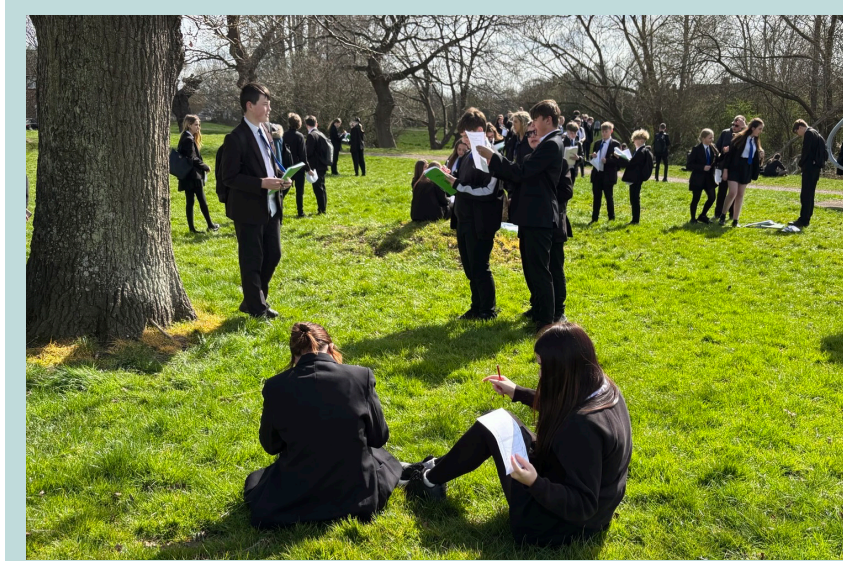


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Vocal Ambassadors at The Anvil

Our Vocal Ambassadors: Esmé, Jess, Amita, Maddie and Bella, had the fantastic opportunity to perform at The Anvil, as part of a concert run by Hampshire Music Service. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved, with a fantastic atmosphere and a showcase of brilliant performances from junior schools and choirs across Hampshire.

Mr Alcantara



Year 9 Fieldwork

Four Year 9 classes completed some fieldwork in the local area. Students completed fieldwork sketch's and land use mapping to gain an understanding of the local environment.

Mr Redman



Manmade Show

What an incredible evening watching our boys dance company perform this evening at Manmade. The boys have been working with Zoiologic dance theatre for two sessions to create a four minute dance to perform in the boys dance platform. For most of our students this was their first time performing and they were amazing!

Miss Mar





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STEM Update by Mrs Gregory

Year 9 Lifelab

This half term, Year 9 had the fantastic opportunity to visit Southampton General Hospital and take part in health investigations ranging from using an ultrasound to check arteries to a flexibility test! Working alongside the Southampton University scientists, students spent the day extracting and testing DNA culminating in an amazing opportunity to speak to a range of scientists about their own research and how they reached their position. Lifelab delivers sessions investigating a range of physical and mental health topics, educating pupils about the latest research and giving them a chance to get hands on with the latest technology.

Feedback from Lifelab was overwhelmingly positive and student feedback was fantastic, with everyone enjoying the day. A few students have asked about pursuing careers in science and medicine, so watch this space for the next scientific breakthrough!



STEM Ambassador trip to Wisley

Our latest STEM Ambassador project is all about trees and structural engineering. Where better to explore than Wisley Gardens? We had a brilliant day out, the weather was beautiful and we all got some inspirational photos and sketches for our treehouse project at the end of this term. Our STEM girls were fantastic during the day, finding inspiration in the gardens and sculptures.

Our STEM Ambassador project is going from strength to strength, with over 30 students actively participating in our projects. Future endeavours include visiting primary schools to teach science lessons and a top secret visit to a local space programme.



Year 8 Airbus

Year 8 had the opportunity to attend a workshop delivered by Airbus this half term, learning about satellite building and installation, military communications and living in space. Students had the chance to see parts of a satellite which had returned from space and wrap up in a space blanket.

The workshop resulted in students designing and drawing a lunar living module, thinking about what would be needed to build a colony on the moon. Future workshops with Airbus will include a visit to their site to see where satellites are built and meet some recent apprentices.





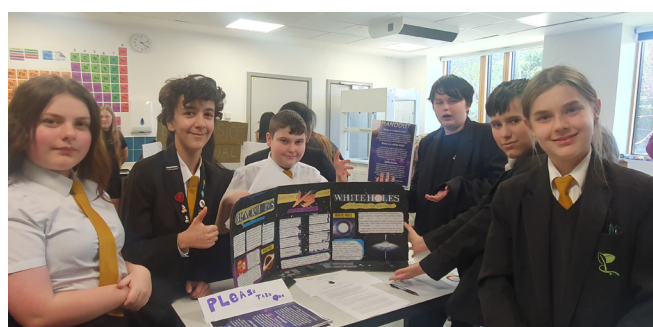
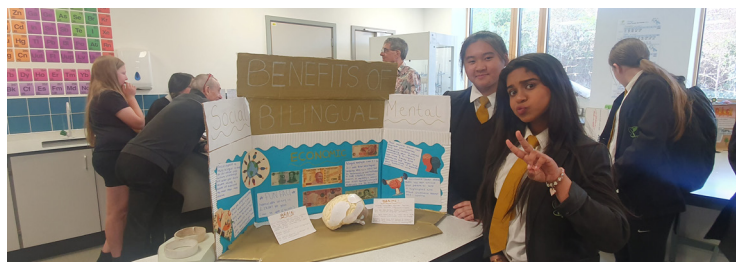
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STEM Updates Continued...

Year 8 Science Fair

Year 8 produced some fantastic work for their Science Fair, with some weird and wonderful displays. Parents were delighted to see such confidence and innovative displays and ideas. Students spoke fluently and with confidence about their research and showed enthusiasm whilst explaining their area of expertise. There was a real buzz around the STEM block during the fair and feedback from parents, staff and pupils was overwhelmingly positive. Votes were taken for winning teams on three different categories; Best Presented, Most Original and Best Overall.

The student who won the Best Presented was Emelia with her display of the life cycle of the silk moth. The team who won Most Original was the investigation into which plant grows best in alkaline or acidic soil. And the Most Original was the team investigating the link between music and reaction time – does your music choice affect how quickly you react? The answer is yes! Well done to everyone on the day and well done to Year 8 overall for working so hard on their projects during their lessons.



Year 7 Space Project

Year 7 have spent the last couple of weeks working hard on their space projects. After researching different aspects of space, they have been designing and building models to show in class. Students have been researching our solar system, where our next nearest star is (4 light years away) and what it's like to live on the International Space Station. Students have been really enjoying linking their creativity and scientific knowledge to create their masterpieces.



Science Club

Science Club is being relaunched! Do you want to know how elephants brush their teeth or how to make a bottle catch fire? Come along to G06 every Monday to discover this and many more weird and wonderful facts. Everyone's welcome but spaces are limited so sign up with Miss Theed.



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Food Ambassadors Raise Money for Comic Relief

Last month, our Food Ambassadors prepared some delicious red nose themed cookies which they sold at break to raise money for Comic Relief. Well done to the team and all who supported.

Mr Cross

COMIC RELIEF



Student Voice Secure the Return of Cheese Bagels at Break!

School food, along with adults at Park and opportunities offered, were the top things students love about Park in our recent student survey.

However, they missed the bagels! You asked and the catering team delivered. They are back!

Mrs Capaldi



Rock To The Beat Concert

This week Year 7 were thoroughly entertained by our Rock To The Beat students. Beautiful singing, skilful guitar and entrancing drums were highlights. Well done everyone. Year 7, look out for opportunities to join the team.

Mr Alcantara



Smart Phone Experiment Phase 1

Willing volunteers have pushed themselves out of their comfort zone this week by agreeing to be part of our smart phones experiment. Students who admitted they regularly check their phones discretely in school (despite this being against school rules) pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and trialed phone lockers. The lockers mean students keep their phones in bags but inside the locker, which can only be opened at the end of the day by a staff member.

Students completed a pre-assessment predicting how difficult they would find it and then repeated it again at the end. Many were shocked with how challenging they found it. At this stage the number one thing students struggled with was worrying that someone at home might message or need them and they couldn't respond. Telling the time was another unexpected outcome.



The experiment continues after half term and will be followed by parent, carer and student sessions linked to the impact of smart phones on our daily lives, both positive and negative and how we might all manage this better together.

Mrs Capaldi



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Student Recruitment Interviews at Park

Last week we interviewed over 27 students for both paid and voluntary roles at Park. Our Student Recruitment programme is an important part of school life. It allows students to contribute to our school community, experience to world of work, gain important experience for their CVs and also earn some money as they get older in the school. All candidates were impressive and will be inducted into their roles after half term. Thank you for the great references provided by parents, carers and teachers.

Roles included: site team, animal carers, community assistants, IT support and Tech crew.

Congratulations to all successful applicants.



Mrs Capaldi



Portsmouth University Global Week Trip

We had a great time at Portsmouth University for their Festival of Cultures as part of Global Week.

Our own personal guide led us around 20+ stalls which represented different countries from around the world. These stalls were run by current university students that were either from those countries or had connections there.

We learned about different cultures and traditions from around the world, including traditional dress and the most exciting part... the food! All students tried a bit of everything and the Bulgarian food seemed to be everyone's favourite!

All students left with souvenirs and/or prizes they had won, and are now able to dance basic flamenco, so be sure to ask them for a demo!

Mrs Nuttall





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A Message from Mr Bedford

One of our dinosaurs is missing

Dear friends of Park Community School,

I am writing to the good people of Leigh Park to let you know after 31 years "teaching" at Park Community School I am retiring as of Easter 2025.

I started at Park in 1994 with knees that worked properly and a middle parting. Now like my wife of 17 years they are gone. And I really miss my knees.

To say that Park Community School has been a huge part of my life is an understatement.

The kindness, support, wisdom, care and of course humour from students, staff, parents and carers will always stay with me. Perhaps the most joyful part of being at Park so long is getting to see those of you whom I once knew as a child become such great parents when your children have attended the school.

This has been a real privilege. Thank you to the many pupils who have tried so hard in lessons. Running til it hurts in PE or working so hard in Maths.

I was always very proud of the students who played in our school sports teams. Many of you were very brave polite and skilful ambassadors for our school.

To those of you who have performed as singers dancers or actors in assemblies and shows....."wow". You often put a tear in my eye with the power and emotion of your performances.

The staff at Park Community School are an incredible group of people who want what is best for the students and work extremely hard. My life will certainly be poorer for not being part of Park in many ways, but it is my time to leave.

Thankyou,
Mr Bedford



Save the dates for Easter 2025

Monday 7th to Thursday 10th April

Free Family Fun Days
Crafts- Cooking- Entertainment

Free Youth Activities
for 11-16 year olds

Park Community School, PO9 4BU
These events are free to attend

Before booking please ensure you have registered with HCC for your unique HAF code. If you registered for your HAF code in 2024 you will not need to register again for Easter 2025. We have limited SEN spaces please email admin@connect4.org.uk. These events are free for those who receive benefit related Free School Meals.

To book visit www.connect4.org.uk Info: 02392489811 or email admin@connect4.org.uk

