



Park Community School

Newsletter

24 October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Our latest newsletter celebrates the great things students at Park have been getting up to over the last few weeks.

Thank you to so many parents for joining us for the Year 7 and Year 11 parent evenings. 60% of you came to Park to discuss your child's progress and targets for the year ahead.

This week we've been delighted to welcome the BBC bite-size Careers Roadshow to Park. Each year group attended a session focusing on inspiring them for future careers, exploring how to develop confidence and finding what you love to do. Park students were a fantastic and interactive audience; our visitors commented on the quality of their questions and their respect for each other.

In addition to all of the great learning in school, many of our students have been exploring things further afield, with over 90 students spending the week in Bude and 20 in Barcelona. Students who applied to go to India and China later this school year also found out if they have been successful. We'll share more about this in the coming weeks.

If you didn't manage to catch Park on Meridian news this week, the link is here. <https://vimeo.com/1129965075>

Thank you as always for your support. We wish you and your families a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 3 November.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

Park Chefs Join Jamie Oliver and Ministers in London

On Tuesday 14 October 2025, Park Community School senior chef team were invited to Jamie Oliver Head Quarters in London.

Both Steven Cross (Executive Chef) and Alex Moody (Head Chef), Jamie Oliver Good School Food Kindness award winner, spent the day with other school

leaders and caterers discussing how the current school food standards really need updating. Back in 2014 the school food standards were set out and gave school caterers a good starting point when looking to move away from the dreaded Turkey Twizzler, but now in 2025 they really require an update and enforcement to ensure all are following the rules.

We all know how times have changed and cooking to a tight budget really requires work, daily lunch in schools requires chefs to cook lunch to a tough budget, which consists of a main lunch meal, dessert and drink all this is no mean feat and requires skilled staff.

Both were joined by key UK Government Ministers and Jamie Oliver himself they all spent time talking about how change really is needed over a delicious school lunch cooked by a crack team of school chefs.

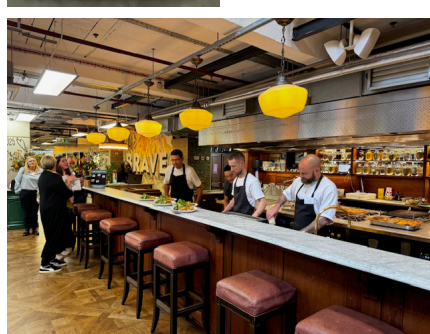
The lunch really showcased all the positives that happen in the school kitchens across the country and demonstrated that change is needed to help students better understand what a healthy and nutritious lunch really involves.

Mr Cross

So lovely to have so many of our Good School Food Award winners at our offices today, talking all about how to make school food amazing for every kid. These guys are the total pros - providing brilliant school food and food education for kids everyday. A shout out to Chef Russ @pokey_kitchen for joining our chefs in the kitchen today cooking up a lovely school dinner and pudding for all of our guests.



Jamie Oliver





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Barcelona 2025

Students had a great time in Barcelona as they spent the week discovering this great Spanish city and its breathtaking architecture.

Students were able to learn more about Antonio Gaudi and his work: they were given a guided tour of the famous Sagrada Familia Church and an entire morning in Park Guell – one of Gaudi's most famous architectural work.

We enjoyed an afternoon discovering Camp Nou and learning more about Barcelona FC's, and we made the most of the opportunity to do some shopping in Las Arenas – a former bullfighting arena transformed into a modern shopping centre.

The Science museum with its planetarium was a hit amongst the students who enjoyed practical experiences, walking through a rain forest and learning more about our planet and others whilst practising their Spanish.

We were impressed by the students' desire to learn about the culture and language, the feedback from the teachers at the language school was very positive.

Muchas gracias to all the students who came on the trip – it was a pleasure!

Miss Dermey





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Celebrating Día de los Muertos

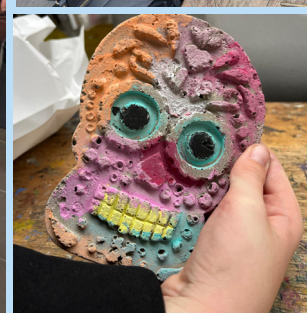
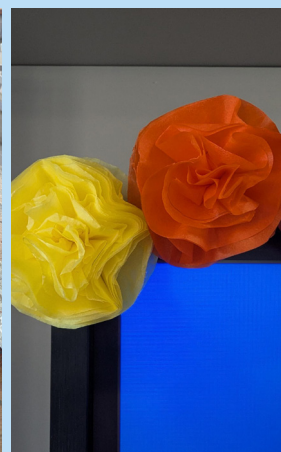
This week, our students were learning about the Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) festival.

As part of this, Louis (Year 7) delivered a presentation on how the Día de los Muertos is traditionally celebrated, and our Language Ambassadors hosted a Marigold making session!

Mrs Hamza and Mr Waterfield teamed up to host 'Skull Painting'. Thank you both for making this happen!

Both events were a huge success, and students have requested more crafty clubs in the future.

Miss Nuttall



Celebrating Confidence and Commitment: Non-Contact Rugby Success!

This half term we have run additional non contact rugby sessions for students in collaboration with CM sports. The aim... to increase confidence and involvement in team sports, both in school and with the opportunity to continue this experience with local clubs and teams.

The PE department are so proud of all the students who requested to be involved, their attitude, commitment and enthusiasm has been outstanding! This will continue after half term. If you'd like to be involved, please let us know.

Mrs Cavanagh





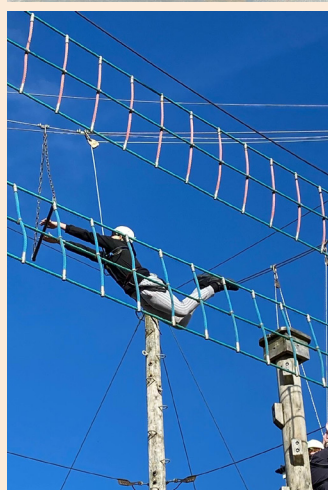
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Bude Trip

88 students from Year 8 and 9 embarked on an adventure to Bude activity centre in Cornwall. Over five days they took on challenges that required them to learn new skills and push themselves out of their comfort zone. Be it going that little bit higher on the climbing wall, squeezing through narrow gaps in the caving or just managing being away from their normal home routine - each student overcame something that they should be really proud of.

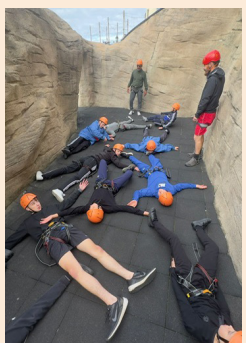
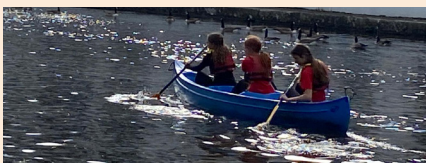
For most the highlight was body boarding and surfing in the sea, a short walk from the centre. There is nothing like that feeling when you catch that first wave! Well done to everyone on the residential for embracing what was a very adventurous week.

Mr Harrison





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Park's Reading Canon

Park's Reading Canon is a collection of high-quality literature we encourage all students to read during their time at Park. The canon incorporates a range of authors and genres designed to cover a breadth of topics, with a focus on themes of identity, relationships and our place in society. Above all, the books are chosen because they are great literature that foster a love of reading. While most are for independent reading, some of the texts will be read together in tutor time and others studied in English lessons. Reading and reviewing these books earn student merit points, badges, and prizes for their progress.

Darcie has been busy reading and reviewing this half term earning herself the prestigious honour of being the first Year 7 student to be awarded with a canon badge this year. "I love reading and so far they are all really good, I'm going to try to read them all!"

Find out more about the canon books Darcie and others have enjoyed reading:

Ms Hucklebridge



Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

"I really like this book a lot, the world of half bloods is really interesting to me. I most love the satyrs. The character descriptions and Percy's more sassy side is funny."

4/5 stars
Darcie, Year 7

Trash by Andy Mulligan

"The emotion and drama is amazing to the point I cried!"
4/5 stars
Billie-Rae, Year 7

Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher

"The structure of how the book was written drew me in. It made me imagine everything that was happening even deeper. I certainly felt bad for Eric and the life he lived. It tells a very important message"

4/5 stars
Quinn, Year 10

Trash by Andy Mulligan

"The message I got from this book is that teamwork and strong friendships can encourage people to keep going"

5/5 stars
Emily, Year 7

BOOK

FRENCH





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Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

"I love this book so much, The Magic, the friendships, everything. My favorite characters are Nevill and the Weasley twins. The Sorting Hat makes me laugh and also Draco being bossy is really funny too."

5/5 stars
Darcie, Year 7

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

"I really loved the Harry Potter book because it's full of mystery and adventure. I liked Hermione because she is really dramatic and funny."

5/5 stars
Laharnah, Year 7

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

"I loved this book, I also loved all the twists and turns. It really kept me on my toes the whole time."

4 stars
Alexia, Year 10

Girls, Goddesses & Giants by Lari Don

"I Love all the brilliant stories and how anyone can be resilient"

4.5/5 stars
Aaron, Year 7

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNichols

I like how towards the end Nina expresses her true feelings rather than keep being cold and Audrey is such a good friend. I loved the background story of Bonnie and Keedie too.

5/5 stars
Darcie, Year 7

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

"This was such a great book ad it's amazing to do for GCSE. The message of greed and ambition becoming Macbeth's downfall was incredible. I loved it."

4.5/5 stars
Quinn, Year 10

Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer

"I love this book, one of my favorite scenes is when the nan gives Lily the box of Ernest's old things. I also loved the end when Lily uses Fred's works to comfort her rival."

5/5 stars
Darcie, Year 7

1984 by George Orwell

"The concept of the story is still relevant today. The idea is fear inducing and keeps the reader engaged throughout the whole story."

4.5/5 stars
Zackery Jacobs, Year 11



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Careers in MFL event

On Monday 6 October, Miss Dermey took Year 9 boys down to Admiral Lord Nelson school to take part in an event for students to meet local professionals who use their language skills in their careers everyday. Students were able to talk to a variety of people from policemen to lawyers to professionals in the tourist and sports industry and many more people. They were given a talk about careers in the sports industry and how languages can improve our students' career prospects.

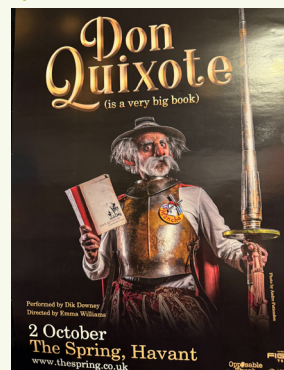
Miss Dermey



The Spring Take Over Trip

We had the pleasure of taking 18 of our core group students, who will be leading the Take Over project with The Spring, to watch their first performance "Don Quixote". It was absolutely amazing and the students loved every second. We literally laughed from start to finish. They were a real credit to the school.

Mrs Chuter



Ready for a Challenge!

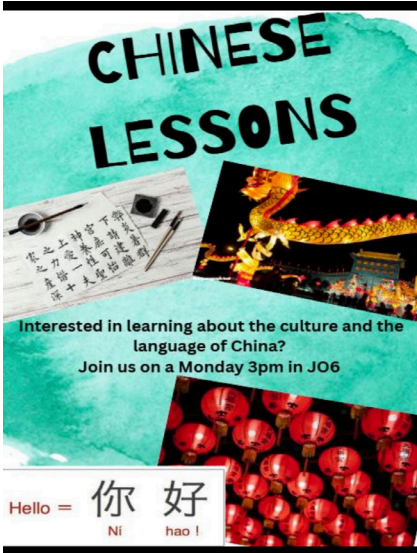
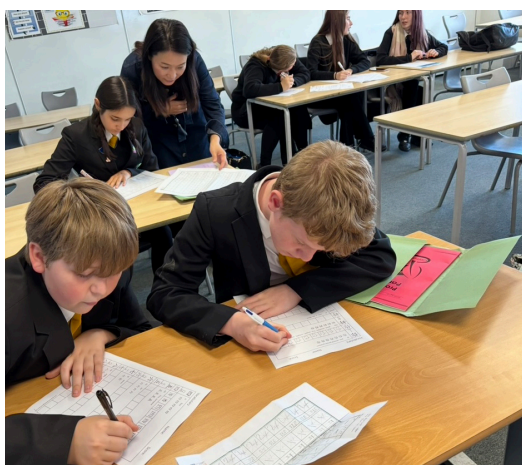
Year 7 Students have started to complete their first Rich Challenge—an opportunity for them to apply their learning to a real audience and purpose. This challenge is an Oral Histories project where they will interview a range of people with connections to the local area and transform their stories into an exhibition for parents. This week, the interviews took place, and students spoke to a range of inspiring individuals, each with a captivating story to be told! Year 7 were excellent interviewers and their manners with our guests were exceptional. We can't wait to see how they work together to create an exhibition. We hope Year 7 parents can join us on 10 November to celebrate and share their learning.

Mrs Harrison





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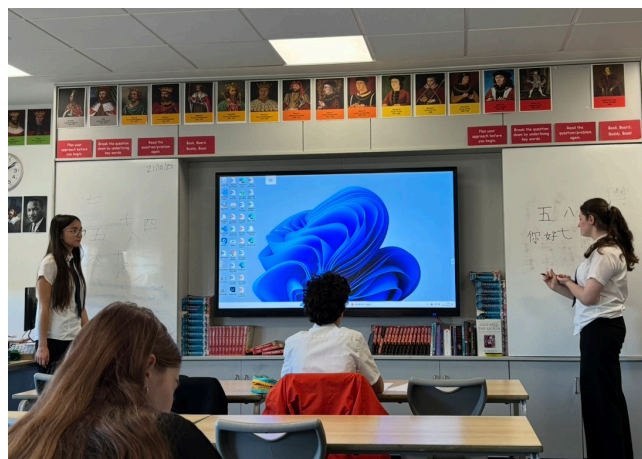


Growing our international connections

As our 'Finding What You Love' opportunities expand, Park students across Year 7 to 11 have embraced the introduction of Mandarin and cultural development lessons. Whether it be in preparation for their own upcoming trip to China, preparation for being a buddy to our visiting Chinese guests, or simply for personal growth, students have been securing how to speak and write greetings, numbers and phrases as well as exploring some key traditions, such as a moon cake in the mid-autumn festival.

There are still places available for students wanting to get involved. Monday, 3-4.30, JO6.

Mrs Cavanagh





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Tuppenny Barn Visit

7JSh/HCh were excited to spend a rainy day at Tuppenny Barn. They learned about growing organic herbs, fruit and vegetables and were very adventurous when it came to tasting new flavours. The group worked together to press apples for juice and bake delicious apple and cinnamon muffins. A favourite activity was creating tiles using all of the herbs they identified through smell and taste.

Mrs Haskill



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PARK PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Year 7

The Year 7 Personal Development day gave students the opportunity to focus on themselves and understand themselves better. They had a session on health and their changing bodies, which was also their first experience in the lecture theatre. They also looked at their emotional intelligence and self esteem.



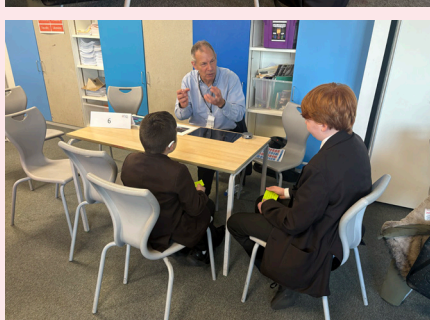
Year 8

As part of the Year 8s Personal Development day, all students had a session in which they were taught how to do CPR and use a defibrillator. A very important life skill in which it could be used to save someone's life.



Year 9

Students completed a range of sessions looking at employability skills that different careers need. They completed a teamwork challenge and were then able to talk to a range of employers about their career and asked lots of questions about what their job is like and what employability skills are needed.





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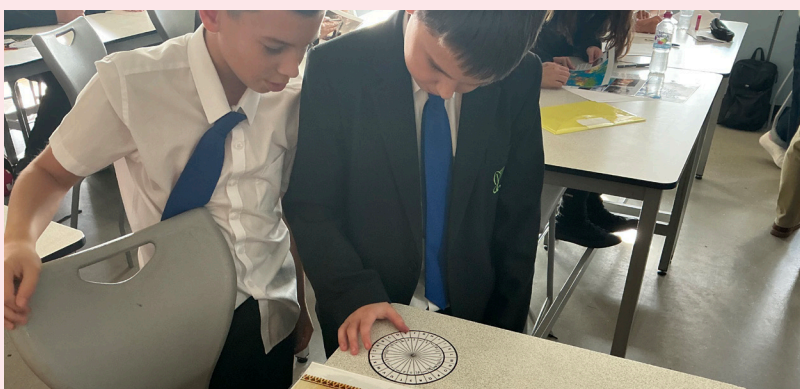
Year 10

Year 10 Personal Development day was an opportunity to look at what a CV is and the key parts needed to impress future employers. Students also looked at their own personal branding and how this can impact future careers. They finished their day writing their own CVs using our online careers platform Unifrog, in preparation for the mock interview day later in the year.



Year 11

Year 11 Personal Development day gave students the opportunity to focus closely on exams and help them prepare for them carefully. They began with a mock exam which is an important opportunity to practice, and looked at how to write revision plans along with masterclasses in Maths and English.





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BBC Careers Roadshow Comes to Park!

As part of our Personal Development day, we were lucky to have BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow in school to talk all things careers. They brought with them some amazing panellists who were able to talk about their current jobs and the skills needed for them. We welcomed; Josh Oliverio (Senior Producer, Climax Studios), Riddoch (BBC Radio Solent, Journalist) and Aga Sawicka (Cardiology Technician). It was a truly inspiring session. The presenter and producer Ross Fiddes commented on the engagement of Park students, the quality of their questions and the impressive nature of mutual respect shown between students as they interrogated the panel.

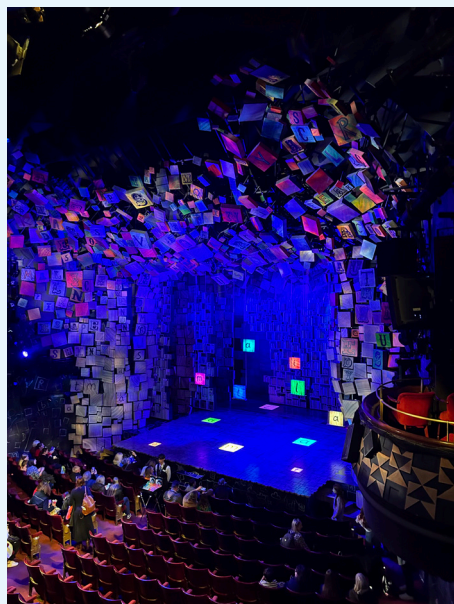
Mrs Conner



Matilda the Musical Trip

We took 30 students to London to see Matilda the Musical for the Year 9 BTEC Tech award in performing arts. It was a successful trip we explored Covent Garden and then watched the musical which was amazing. The students had a great day and were a credit to the school.

Miss Cramman





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