

much more than just a school

Park Post

much
more than
just a **school**

newsletter

Issue 1

October 2015

And so a new term begins...

Autumn Term 2015 has been long awaited at Park Community School. We have spent over seven years getting ready to build and then constructing our new school. The new facilities are now used by students each day to support their learning and enrich their time at school.

We have a wonderful new theatre, lecture theatre, restaurant and activities on our playing field. Our new restaurant serves the best school meals prepared by our qualified chefs and their catering team, all at affordable prices. The classrooms include the latest large touch screen technology. We have invested heavily in computers, laptops, iPads and software to allow students to use a wide range of electronic devices. Our science labs and technology rooms have all been refurbished and house new equipment.

As well as learning on the school site we now have an industrial unit, a school small holding and are developing a construction skills centre in another part of Leigh Park. Our small holding is a new venture based on a local farm. Some students now follow Royal Horticultural Society courses in horticulture and can also care for our animals. We have chickens, goats and guinea pigs on our school site, as well as goats, sheep and pigs on our small holding.



Park Community School - much more than just a school

Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU | 023 92 489800 | www.pcs.hants.sch.uk





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Springwood Park Pre-School and Nursery

Springwood Park Pre-School and Nursery has opened in new dedicated facilities at the front of Park Community School. The pre-school and nursery, jointly established by Services for Young Children and the school, provide a safe, exciting, fun and challenging environment for nursery children aged 0-2 years and pre-school children aged 2-5 years. The environment is full of colour, new interesting toys and qualified staff who have years of experience working in childcare. The nursery building holds a sensory room for babies to explore, a sleep room, and a free flow garden, where children are able to take toys outside if they wish, enabling them to have choice in the way and where they play; it really is a great space for children to let off steam!

Springwood Park works closely with Park Community School using the school's excellent amenities, including PE sessions in the sports hall and cooked school meals in the fantastic school restaurant during a separate break time dedicated to the pre-school children.

Park Community School has recently added goats, chickens and guinea pigs to their site, which the young children can visit regularly.

Since opening its doors on 1 September, Springwood Park Pre-school and Nursery has settled into a routine. Through friendly caring staff and picture times lines which show 'what comes next', the children have established a daily routine, which works well with children who are anxious when away from home or who are simply missing their families. The local community interest in Springwood Park prior to opening in September was incredible with 28 different families joining the open day. Since opening, thanks to its great location, Springwood Park has had many 'walk in' families who live close by or who have heard through word of mouth about what the pre-school and nursery have to offer them and their children. So far 33 children are enrolled and it is expected that this number will grow as the term progresses. For more information about Spring Park Pre-school and Nursery, please contact Rachael Carr on: tel: 023 92 489830 mobile: 07889 980712 email: carr1987@hotmail.com.

Open Evening

On Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 September Park Community School welcomed Year 6 students from a variety of local primary schools. The children had a fantastic time exploring all the new facilities and meeting the teaching staff at Park. The children were very excited and engaged during their visits and it was rounded off by their parents coming in on Thursday evening to have their own visit.

Headteacher Christopher Anders talked to parents about the changes in education, how it will affect their child's schooling and the important decisions they will face in October, when deciding which school to choose for their child. Staff and students were on hand to show them around and talk about what life is like at Park. The Catering team delighted everyone with a wide variety of hot food to try and made sure no-one went home hungry. It also gave future students an idea of the choice of foods they could eat in a normal school day.

GET YOUR SKATES ON
Park's outside skating rink is back!*

from **£2.50** per child

Monday 30 November to Thursday 17 December 2015

Monday to Thursday 3pm to 8pm
Child £2.50 Adult £3 Family £10
Each session lasts 1hr

Friday Night Charity Disco
5pm to 9pm
Child £3 Adult £3.50 Family £12

Available for School & Private Bookings
9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm

min **1 hour** session

Food and Drink Available

Park Community School
Middle Park Way
Havant, PO9 4BU
023 9248 9811
rink@pcs.hants.sch.uk

* As the rink is outside please dress appropriately for the season

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Park Community School

events

Sat 14 Nov 2.30pm FAMILy

THE SNOW DRAGON TALL STORIES

Our next performance, again a partnership between The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre and Park Community School is for younger audiences. This show will be hosted in Park Community School's new theatre space and supported by The Spring. Tickets are available from The Spring's Box Office or website.

Billy has everything a young goat could need - and more besides. As the New Year draws to a close, Billy's parents tell him about the legendary Snow Dragon, who will bring him even more goodies if he leaves out some tasty berries for it to eat. But when Billy gets lost in the deep, dark woods and he hears the sound of wolves coming closer, New Year's Day seems a long way off.

Story-telling, comedy and songs create a magical, mysterious world for everyone aged 3 and up, from the company that brought you The Gruffalo and The Snail and the Whale.

Tickets: **£5** Box Office: **023 9247 2700**

Wed 9 Dec, Thurs 10 Dec, Fri 11 Dec FAMILy

OLIVER

In December 'Oliver' performed by the students of Park Community School, hits town. Rehearsals for the show have begun in earnest, with students from Years 7 to 11 involved. It is great to see so many of our younger students keen to take on roles. Students have shown real commitment and enthusiasm drama scenes, but are thoroughly enjoying it, and we are confident that this will be Park's best show yet.

Come along and see the iconic characters Nancy, Dodger and Fagin as well as Oliver himself.

Look out for ticket sales for this performance advertised on our website www.pcs.hants.sch.uk and our Facebook page. Performances on 9th, 10th and 11th December.

This Performance is by arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Ltd of New York. Book, music and lyrics by Lionel Bart. Based on Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens.

Box Office: **023 9248 9800**
There is free parking on-site at Park Community School.

THE SPRING BOX OFFICE: 023 9247 2700
WWW.THE SPRING.CO.UK 56 EAST STREET, HAVANT PO9 1BS
PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, 023 9248 9800
WWW.PCS.HANTS.SCH.UK MIDDLE PARK WAY, HAVANT, PO9 4BU

Youth Award Celebration

The Worshipful Mayor of Havant Councillor Leah Turner, invited Hannah Fletcher and Jake Reeve, to afternoon tea to celebrate their success in the 'News' Youth Awards. Tea was served in the Mayor's Parlour at the Public Service Plaza, Havant whilst inspirational stories were shared. Hannah was nominated in the arts for her exceptional ability to communicate emotions and mature themes in performance, whether they be historical or contemporary. Her dedication to drama is such that she often coaches younger students and helps to direct school productions. Jake was nominated for his responsible and mature approach to school life. Not only is Jake an exceptionally gifted student and a very studious young man, but he is always polite to his teachers and fellow students and has a kind and caring nature.





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Phoenix Fire Course



Course which can contribute towards other nationally recognised qualifications. The first segment of the course is an intensive five day programme based at local fire stations. This initial course is designed to provide the fire service with a profile of the student enabling them to identify areas of development and agree the way forward with them. This five day course involved our students working as a team to take part in fire drills, hose running, search and rescue. A practical session allowed the students to experience first-hand the tools required and processes involved in releasing casualties from a vehicle and ended with our students giving a demonstration of their skills to staff.



Park Community School was proud to be chosen to pilot the first group in Hampshire to be involved in the Phoenix Scheme. This scheme provides a unique opportunity for young people to work with the Fire and Rescue Service and take part in a variety of physical and mental challenges. Phoenix helps to build self-esteem, develop leadership and team working skills. The programme helps improve communication skills and increase motivation as a stepping stone to future success. The programme recognises and rewards achievement, broadens experience, develops employability and communication skills. It also provides the opportunity to gain credits towards an ASDAN approved Fire and Rescue Short

Park Community Ambassadors

What is an Ambassador? An ambassador is a representative from a year group who champions specific subjects and trains others. To become an ambassador students have to formally apply and receive training, thus providing them with an early experience of a valuable life skill.

Park Community School now has over 120 Sports Ambassadors at school, ranging from Year 7 to Year 11. The criteria for being a Sports Ambassador are:

1. Excellent manners and behaviour in and out of school
2. Totally reliable and superb uniform standards
3. Interested in sport and knowledgeable about their subject
4. Enthusiastic and positive at all times!

The Sports Ambassadors go out to every local primary school delivering high quality PE. They also support at sports days and help run training for the Young Leader Award.

Last year's ambassadors ran a huge athletics competition at the Mountbatten Centre, as well as the Havant, Portsmouth and Waterlooville Swimming Gala. They have also officiated at the Emsworth Cricket Tournament and always receive positive comments.

Tanzania Celebration

Park Community School Students have celebrated their trip of a lifetime to Tanzania with an evening filled with reminiscing and appreciation. Park's Head Chef, Steve Cross, and his team cooked a delicious Tanzanian menu of marinated chicken kebab in Shito sauce and served with Jollof rice, followed by a dessert of BBQ banana stuffed with chocolate and served with cream. The students delivered a presentation to an audience which included the Mayor, local councillors, primary headteachers and, of course, let's not forget the very generous sponsors who were integral to making the trip possible.



The presentation delivered by the students told a tale of heart-warming discovery, how they experienced a very different kind of lifestyle and how grateful it made them for their life back in England. The trip taught the students some invaluable life lessons, but most importantly how to become independent and resilient at a very young age. It is safe to say that this will be something the students and Park Community School will never forget and in the fullness of time hope to repeat with another group of staff and students.

With thanks to our generous sponsors;

- Wilson Wakefield Solicitors
- Vale Builders Southern
- Portsmouth Water
- 626 Cars
- Larcomes LLP

- J. Edwards & Son Funeral Directors
- St. Clare Pre-School
- Detect Fire & Security

Students listed their most memorable moments – "My favourite memory of Tanzania was giving a sweet to a boy called Victor. He bit the sweet then passed the other half to his younger sister" "My favourite part was being able to give things to others who are less fortunate, and also being able to see how other people live in different cultures and how happy they are"

"The best part was meeting all of the kids and seeing how happy they were whenever we turned up in the trucks. I'll never forget how happy and grateful they were for even the smallest things"

Headteacher Chris Anders said "The trip is a result of the commitment by staff at Park Community School to provide opportunities to learn in all sorts of ways. The leaders' willingness to fundraise for two years to enable a group of students to go to Africa resulted from a desire to make a difference to the lives of children in Tanzania, as well as here in Havant. I was delighted to hear about the experiences and life changing learning that took place while on this exciting adventure."





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Lord of the Flies

Year 11 GCSE Drama students enjoyed a trip to the Mayflower Theatre to see 'Lord of the Flies', as a part of their developmental work in Drama. The play was an exciting foray into complex relationships and what can happen when the norms of society break down. The powerful production prompted interesting discussions in lessons once back at school and inspired students to develop their own dramatic techniques based on the imagery they had seen.

Intech

Students went on a trip to Intech Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium to raise awareness of National Space Week and to enhance science knowledge on the subject of space.

The students attended a lecture from an astrophysicist, explored the various space exhibits, before wrapping up with a tour of the solar system in the planetarium, which is the largest stand-alone planetarium cinema in the UK!



Year 7 Two Day Experience

In September, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to visit a number of sites to aid in their transition into Park Community School and kick start their learning experiences.

The Humanities department took students to Winchester to visit the cathedral and the city museum where they learned about the local history and enjoyed the different cultural sights.

Students also had the opportunity to attend the Portsmouth Outdoor Centre and Leigh Park Gardens to develop their resilience and teamwork skills, through activities such as kart building, high ropes, canoeing and paddle boarding at the centre and orienteering, art and team activities at the gardens.



Kew Gardens

As Year 10 Photography students will soon be embarking on a brand new project focusing on natural and man-made structures, a trip to Kew Gardens was a fantastic opportunity to begin exploring the amazing structures that occur in our natural environment.

From the very British wild garden roses to the more exotic palms of the tropics, Kew offered students a wealth of visual opportunities. Blessed with amazing weather they were able to take full advantage of what Kew had to offer both inside the stunning glass houses and when simply walking the floral filled pathways.

After a few hours of intense photography followed by a sun-drenched lunchtime picnic on the grass students headed home armed with some fantastic shots to enrich their future projects.



Tour of WW1 Sites

Park Community School was once again lucky enough to receive an invitation to take two students to France and Belgium as part of the government's commemorative events to mark 100 years since World War I.

Year 10 Students, Harry Williams and Tyler Simmons, were selected through their interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

The students took part in the traditional 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate and visited the 'Somme' battlefields where more trench systems have recently been discovered.

Two more days of visits and commemorations followed and one of Park's students was chosen from the 100 students on the trip to lay a wreath at a memorial of the dead, which was a great honour. Both students were a credit to the school, asking relevant questions and taking part in all activities, particularly with the serving soldiers who accompanied the party on the trip.





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Sports

Charity Football Tournament



On Friday 9 October our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team were invited to attend a football festival at Priory School. This was a charity event to raise money and awareness of Breast Cancer Care and was run by Pompey in the Community, and supported by University of Portsmouth Youth FC and Hampshire FA. The girls wore pink to complete a series of fun, competitive football sessions whilst developing their knowledge and skills and preparing them to represent Park Community School in the School Football League later in the year.

Girls League Cup at ROKO

On Tuesday 13 October Park Community School participated in the Girls' League Cup – a six-a-side competition for U13 girls which culminates in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium on 3 April 2016. This was a fantastic day with all players showing excellent team work and effort in the face of tough competition from other schools in the local area, especially as this was the first time the girls have played together competitively. It was a pleasure to see all the girls supporting and encouraging each other as well as showing excellent sportsmanship to other teams. Well done girls.

Havant Rugby Club

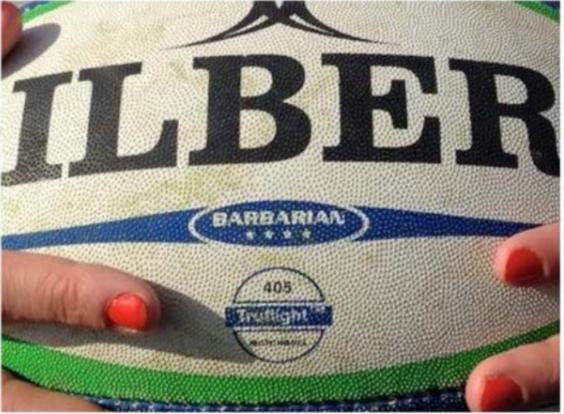
Park Community School are now the hub school for Havant Rugby Club's girls' rugby. Havant Rugby Club are offering rugby for the three rugby age grades which are:

- U13 – School years 6-8 inclusive
- U15 – School years 9 & 10
- U18 – School years 11-13 inclusive

The first five weeks' training is free for the girls and all levels of experience and skill level are welcome.



Havant Girls recruiting now!
All welcome, all abilities



Call Sophie on 07766 911483
Email on girlsrugby@havantrfc-mj.co.uk

Training on Sunday mornings 10.00-11.30am
Age Groups include U13 (Y6,7,8), U15 (Y9,10) & U18 (Y11, 12, 13)
First 5 sessions free, then £40 membership payable
Contact: rugby
Havant RFC, Hooks Lane, Fraser Rd, Bedhampton, Havant, PO9 3EJ
Fully accredited coaching



Ex Students v Teacher Football Match



On Friday 18 September the annual tradition of a football match between the ex-Year 11 students and staff team took place.

The bad news was that Mr Cavanagh couldn't play, however new staff member Mr Auckland was influential in the staff team's early lead. Sadly another new staff member, Mr Hahn-Griffiths, failed to reach the standards he had achieved when he was a student at Park a few years ago!

Ex-student Ashley Carr said "it's a great honour to come back and take on such legends as Mr Bedford". Mr Crowley marshalled the staff backline effectively alongside Mr Shearn, and despite some tricky runs by Harrison Figgins and Josh Beardsworth, the staff team won 5-4. Overall this was a great way to say a memorable goodbye and good luck to the ex-students. Good luck everyone!



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Staff and students alike were very happy to support a MacMillan coffee morning at Park. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and those who purchased them, £102 was raised for this good cause.

Jeans for Genes Day

Park students and staff showed their support to the Jeans for Genes Day on 18 September by all wearing jeans as part of their uniform.





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At the theatre

Lee Nelson



A great evening was enjoyed by a capacity audience at the Lee Nelson 'Suited and Booted' show at Park Community's new theatre. The event was made possible through a partnership between The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant and Park. The school is proud of its state of the art theatre, designed for use both by students and the public.

The atmosphere was fantastic and a great start to the theatre's use for public events. With 280 seats it makes a perfect venue for all kinds of performers. Susan Parish, Business and Community Manager commented "the highlight for me was how Lee built up a rapport with the audience, and being at a secondary school, he kept his act family orientated, creating an age auction between an elderly gentleman and a teenager, which had everyone roaring with laughter. Everyone left with a smile on their faces. We cannot wait for the next event to take place".

The Snow Dragon

Our next performance, again in partnership with The Spring, is for younger audiences. It is 'The Snow Dragon' on Saturday 14 November at 2.30pm, tickets are just £5. For more details visit The Spring website www.thespring.co.uk. This is ideal for 5-12 year olds to get an experience of a live theatre production.

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tell him about the legendary Snow Dragon, who will bring him even more goodies if he leaves out some tasty berries for it to eat. But when Billy gets lost in the deep, dark woods and he hears the sound of wolves coming closer, New Year's Day seems a long way off.



Oliver rehearsals

In December performances of 'Oliver!' by the students of Park Community School, hits town!

Rehearsals for the show have begun in earnest, with a range of students involved. It is great to see so many of our younger students keen to take on roles. Students have shown real commitment and enthusiasm, but are thoroughly enjoying it, and we are confident that this will be Park's best show yet.

Come along and see the iconic characters Nancy, Dodger and Fagin as well as Oliver himself.

Look out for ticket sales for this performance advertised on our website www.pcs.hants.sch.uk and our Facebook page. Performances; 9, 10 and 11 December.



Greenpower

Fifteen years ago, Park Community School became involved in the earliest days of the Greenpower Project. This was part of a national project to get secondary school students building and racing electric go-karts. Our first car was promoted and sponsored by the local Rotary club and others.

Simon Waters, Park Community School's eLearning Coordinator, took over the project three years ago and found that the rules regarding the car had changed. For safety reasons the bottom of both the batteries and the driver had to be much closer to the ground. This was to lower the centre of gravity and reduce the risk of rolling. After one season's efforts at attempting to comply with the existing car now 12 years old, Park decided to opt for a new car, using the Greenpower official kitcar to make sure we were within the rules.

The parts arrived two weeks before the end of the summer term and Park had until 20th September to form a team, build the car, test it and go to the first race at Dunsfold, the Top Gear race track. Due to some technical problems (a crash!) we didn't make it to that race. Instead we went to the final Greenpower meeting of the season at Castle Combe at the end of September. After a 5.00 am start we arrived at Castle Combe and set up base camp ready for scrutineering and the car's

first ever 'MOT'. Failure at this point would result in no race. The chief scrutineer passed us with flying colours saying ours was one of the best kit cars he has seen! The students were so proud.

Practice was successful with a fast starting out pace. Would we manage the 90 minutes endurance of race one? Three laps each then see how long we would last. To our joy the car kept on going another six laps and lasted 90 minutes. Amazing! We placed 29th out of 42 racers. This was well above our estimations.

After a few tweaks to the car and a cheeky look at the opposition, we repeated our constant and reliable form with a faster average speed in the second race. We were placed 30th and covering 27 miles.

Our students were a credit to the school. A successful day all round. Bring on next season!



Collecting for Refugees

Martin Davenport, a youth worker for Park Community School, had wanted to do something for the refugee crisis for a while and found out that his church had been helping with the Calais refugees for a while. Martin e-mailed school staff who were quick to respond with donations. He said "the generosity of Park staff was heart-warming."

Girls' Business Network

Fifteen of our Year 11 girls have each been matched with a mentor, who themselves have been successful in business. The partnerships have been set up to provide extra support in their quest for their future careers. Our girls meet every month to discuss CV writing and interview techniques and how to succeed in the world.

Cage Cricket

Park Community School is now part of the Cage Club! Cage Cricket Equipment has been presented to Park from the Portsmouth and South East Supporters Association of Hampshire Cricket.

We are extremely grateful to Simon Young Managing Director of Cage Cricket, Terry Trump Chair of Hampshire Members and Vice Chair of Cage Cricket, Brian Scrimshaw Chair of Portsmouth and SE Hants Cricket and all members of Portsmouth and South East Supporters Association of Hampshire Cricket for this extremely kind gesture.

Park Community teachers trialled the cricket during an open afternoon to show parents the sport. Cage Cricket will be delivered in curriculum and extra curricular clubs. We are also hoping to attend a cage cricket tournament in Summer 2016.



Flavours of Autumn



It's getting colder, the rain becomes a constant presence, the wind begins to howl and it's time for Mother Nature to prepare for hibernation. For the catering team at Park Community School it's that time again, where the kitchen is the warmth and heart of the school. Hearty food is the order of the day, warming cold hands and keeping children positive and fuelled for the day.

During the summer we were very busy preparing our gardens with fresh herbs and vegetables ready to harvest in autumn to make some lovely warming meals. Broccoli, chard, parsnips, carrots, cauliflower, thyme, rosemary, curry plant are just a few of the ingredients available at this time of year.

Here is a winter warmer recipe for you to try from our Head Chef - Steven Cross.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 50g butter

- 2 white onions, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic chopped
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- 800g carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1.2litre vegetable stock
- 1 small bunch of fresh coriander
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 red chilli
- 1 large sprig curry Leaves

Step 1

Warm a large heavy based pan on the stove, add the vegetable oil and butter and allow the butter to foam and slightly colour.

Step 2

Add the chopped white onion and garlic, allow to cook gently, until soft.

Step 3

Now increase the heat adding curry leaves, carrots and chilli, allow to cook and try to colour the carrots, they need to colour but not burn (This will take about 10 minutes)

Step 4

Now add the ground coriander and cumin seeds. Spices need to cook out so their full flavour is released, allow to cook for 5 minutes.

Step 5

Add the stock and allow to simmer gently until the carrots are very soft.

Step 6

Once the carrots are cooked add the small bunch of fresh coriander and blend until smooth, the longer you blend, the better the soup.

Step 7

Ready to serve with some nice fresh bread and butter.

What's coming up...

- Ice Skating Rink
- Park Community Oliver Production
- The Snow Dragon
- Rotary Club of Havant Young Chef Competition
- Tate Modern Art Trip
- London Street Art Photography Trip
- Family Challenge Day
- Year 9 trip to 'Blood Brothers' at The Mayflower
- Enterprising Women Conference, Chichester University
- Hampshire Book Award Event, Winchester Guildhall
- Bright Stars Concert

