

Parents/carers:

You said, we did ...

Show My Homework

In response to parental feedback through Ofsted's Parent View and Parents' Evening exit questionnaires, we trialled this product and were overwhelmed by the amount of very positive feedback.

Show My Homework is an on-line homework planner, which provides important information about what homework has been set and when it is due, along with a facility to share resources. I know that many of you will already be aware of the product, and have possibly accessed the Parklands homework calendar via the link on the school website. If this isn't the case, then I would urge you to check the link and have a look for yourself.

Username and passwords aren't necessary to view the Show My Homework website and the homework (so no, "I've forgotten my password", excuses), but since the successful completion of the trial and our adoption of the product, these have been issued to students and parents/carers, for a more personalised view. We believe that this is an exciting use of technology that will help to improve communication between home and school, improve homework organisation for pupils and provide more opportunity for parents/carers to become involved in their own child's learning.

Please bear in mind that Show My Homework is not being used by all our staff at the moment and pupils are still able to use their planners. From September, however, all homework will be set in this way.

If for any reason you do not have access to the Internet, please could you contact school and let Mr McDermott know so that I can look at making alternative arrangements for you. If you have access to email, Mr McDermott's address is rmcdermott@parklandsacademy.co.uk.



Website: www.parklandsacademy.co.uk

School smartphone app: search for **Parklands High School** in App Store or Google Play



twitter 
[@parklandshigh](https://twitter.com/parklandshigh)

PARKLANDS

Learn | Respect | Aspire | Achieve



Spring 2014 Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our Spring 2014 edition. As always there has been an extensive range of activities and events happening this term. A highlight has been our production, "Dancing through the Decades", in which over 250 students took part. It has been lovely to see them enjoying themselves, being creative and finding talents they never knew they had. This has certainly boosted their self confidence, a life skill which will stand them in good stead to meet the challenges of the future. I am indebted to all my colleagues for their dedication, enthusiasm and 'going the extra mile' to enrich our students' educational experience and help them grow into grounded, well-rounded young adults.

I hope you enjoy reading about life at Parklands since Christmas. Have a lovely Easter and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Hollister

Dancing through the Decades - much more inside!!



World Hunger Awareness Week

As you may remember from the previous newsletter, Parklands once again hosted World Hunger Awareness week, from 14th - 18th October 2013. Staff from Unilever Food Solutions delivered an assembly to Years 7 and 8 on the plight of world hunger. The pupils were encouraged to buy a meal from the canteen and for every meal purchased, 20p was donated to the cause. Following the success of the previous world hunger week in May 2013, pupils raised enough money to buy 4410 meals for less fortunate children - the highest total in the country. The pupils of Parklands should be very proud!

Mrs T Pedley, Catering Manager



Spelling Bee

Four young Francophiles put their French skills to the test when they took part in a national languages spelling bee.

Year 7 pupils from Mrs Ogden's and Mrs Radcliffe's French classes all took part in the competition throughout the autumn term. The highest scorers, Phoebe Harty, Kira Lee, Jacy Robinson and Georgia Sharrock, represented the school at the regional final at Manchester Metropolitan University in March. They were accompanied by MFL pupil ambassador Ellis Hawkins.

The team had to learn how to spell 150 common French words. During the competition each pupil had one minute to spell as many randomly-chosen words as possible using the French alphabet.

This year 96 schools from across the North West took part in the regional final of the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee.

This is the first year that Parklands has taken part in the competition. Sadly our talented four did not make it to the national finals this time. Year 6 – next year it is up to you.



Chorley Youth Council

On March 5th, after elections involving over 2500 young people, our newly elected school reps were chosen. Parklands' two reps (Tiana and Danny) are shown above receiving their certificates. Tiana Fear was also elected Media Representative - congratulations!

Youth Council members have been active in helping to design 'What's Out There?' a booklet listing all the regular youth activities in Chorley.



Parents Come Along to Cooking Club

Once again this term pupils invited their parents, grandparents and family members to come along and cook with them at their Let's Get Cooking sessions. The pupils were excited about cooking with their guests and demonstrating their skills in the kitchen and teaching them a few new cooking skills too!



Battlefields 2014

At Easter we are taking 47 Year 10 pupils on the annual Battlefields Tour. Each year pupils visit First World War battlefields in France and Belgium. We asked four pupils what they were most looking forward to about the visit - here's what they told us:

On Battlefields, I am looking forward to visiting the graves of past soldiers as I think it's an important once in a lifetime opportunity. Also I think the Platoon experience in which we will go into the trenches and see what the soldiers' lives were like, will give me a new perspective of how they lived and will be a real eye-opener to what it was like, as opposed to learning about it in a classroom.

Emily Halstead

I am looking forward to Battlefields because it seems full of interesting opportunities and educational benefits. In particular, my individual VC project has given me an insight into the stories I will be hearing about the soldiers. It will benefit my GCSE History, because my understanding will be heightened. I also like all of the people going, and everyone I have spoken to from previous years, said it is an unmissable opportunity.

Charlotte Bradbury



On Battlefields, I am looking forward to visiting the graves and memorials just to gain a greater understanding of the impact of the First World War. I am hoping that this experience will give me a better perspective of things, benefiting me academically, as well as making memories with friends and teachers that will only make my time at Parklands more remarkable.

Toni Hajdukiewicz

I am looking forward to our school's Battlefields trip because I want to experience, first-hand, the consequences and what day to day life would have been like in World War 1. For example, we will visit the trenches and try on some military uniforms as well as visiting war memorials. I think it will definitely be eye-opening. As much as we learn about every aspect of WW1 in the classroom, I don't think we can fully understand the extent of the bravery that the military went through until we are right there in front of the memorials and become immersed in the reality of our VC projects' lives.

Ellis Hawkins

In February, Parklands entered 4 Year 9 pupils into a G&T Maths Competition at Balshaws High School in Leyland. This was the first time that Parklands had entered this competition as it had previously only been open to participants from Leyland high schools.

The competition consisted of many different stations in which we had to complete challenging maths problems - they each had to be completed in a certain time which made it all the more difficult. We were up against 11 other teams and came out on top! It was a very pleasant surprise to us, considering that this was our first year in the competition. We received a certificate, as well as a trophy. It was a fantastic afternoon for all of us!

Manal Hamad



Congratulations to our maths geniuses!

Richard Nelson, Joe Barker, Molly Watkins and Manal Hamad

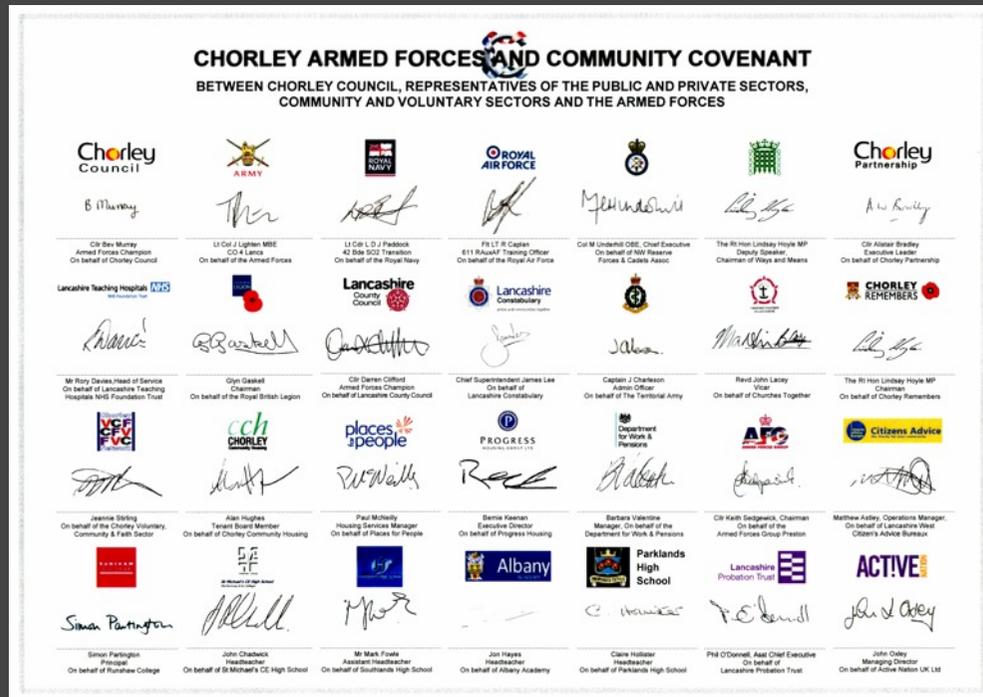
Y10 Health and Social Care Busy Bodies Visits

We had a fantastic opportunity this term for our Year 10 BTEC Health and Social Care pupils to visit **Busy Bodies Nursery** in Euxton. This visit supports the pupils' studies in BTEC Health and Social Care, as part of the course requires an understanding of Infancy & Child Development and the importance of their care and play in their development.

Mrs S Brookes

Armed Forces Community Covenant

We are pleased to be able to support this initiative



Hi, I'm Mrs Kirk, the new Exams Officer here at Parklands. My role is to ensure the exams process runs smoothly in school and that staff and pupils have all the information they need regarding exams. I have previously worked in Finance, Human Resources and Administration Management for the Local Education Authority, Capita and various charities.

When I'm not at work I enjoy cycling and playing tennis. I love family holidays, especially to the Greek Islands.



I'm Mrs Brooks - I joined Parklands in September 2013 as a Business Support Officer. My main focus is on the school finance systems, assisting the finance manager as and when required. I am married with three children. We have a Springer Spaniel called Milly, who we rescued via the NWSSR. I enjoy walking, reading and am on the PTFa at my daughter's high school. I am also a nominated First Aider.

Hi, I'm Lizzie Halliwell, current Intervention Room leader and part of the HAL team. I have previously trained as a social worker and after graduation worked for a charity called Young Addaction, which supports young people affected by substance misuse. I am a Brownie Guide leader in Preston and have been for five years. I read lots of books and enjoy cooking.



Hello, I am Mrs Dewhurst and I started as the House Achievement Leader for Australasia in January. I have now settled into the role with all its daily challenges and am finding the position massively rewarding, especially as no two days are the same. I have also enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of the helpful and welcoming young people within the house. Previous experience includes working within the Prison Service, along with various roles within Lancashire schools and the Young People's Service. When not in school I am busy with a young family as well as jointly coaching and managing a successful U8's rugby team at my local club.

Mrs K Dewhurst, House Achievement Leader - Australasia



Operation Montserrat



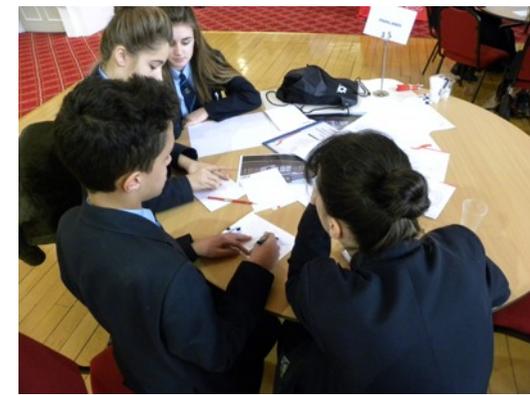
Year 10 Gifted & Talented Geographers

Dylan Bearman, Josh Bergin, Jack Cunningham and Annie Berry participated in an "Operation Montserrat" afternoon at Balshaws High School on 30th January. They worked with pupils from other schools to "try to save the islanders and evacuate them to safety". Their mission wasn't totally impossible and they ended up saving 60,000 people.

It was great to see the pupils involved with others, working in teams to control the satellites and monitor the approaching hurricane. Well done!

Thanks also to Mrs Brierley at Balshaws for inviting us to the event.

Mrs Eastham



Enterprise Challenge

Parklands entered a strong team of six Year 9 Young Entrepreneurs to the Chorley Schools Enterprise Challenge Day on Thursday 20th March at Chorley Town Hall. The objective of the day was to provide an insight into the world of enterprise by having a hands-on activity, centring around the creation of a new business.

The team of Zuzu Haigh, Molly Watkins, Olivia Chandler, Richard Nelson, Joshua Yates and Joe Barker, took on an activity in which they prepared a business plan and produced a cashflow for the proposed business. They had to interact with business experts during the day. This culminated in a 2 minute presentation to the 'Dragon's Den' panel who then decided which project they would, in theory, back with their money.

Parklands got a special mention for their superb idea of opening up a sweet shop called 'Oh Sugar'. Furthermore the professional from the Royal Bank of Scotland was very impressed with the team's business plan and with Richard Nelson's ideas and knowledge! Overall a great day. Well done team.

Mr G Metcalf



Parklands at the technological edge in our classrooms

We believe at Parklands that technology can be an invaluable tool to aid learning, but it should be used for the right reasons. If we become over-reliant on technology at the expense of true learning, it can actually have a detrimental impact on students' performance. Conversely, where used correctly and strategically by teachers, technology will engage students and provide deeper understanding.

We have already introduced our 4D immersive space and our TV studio this year, and we now have sets of IPADs that teachers can book for a lesson or a series of lessons to enhance learning. Our IPAD sets are deliberately small sets of 10 IPADs per class, so that students work in teams to collaborate with the technology. We have appointed an IPAD technician for September 2014, and she will work with teachers to further develop IPAD teaching devices, helping students to maximise their use.

We are currently also installing Apple TV in approximately one third of our teaching rooms across the curriculum. This allows our teachers to immediately display IPAD screens directly onto the classroom's interactive whiteboard. In PE lessons, students' technique can be filmed, and immediately reviewed on the screen for the benefit of the whole class. In addition, this allows students to seamlessly display their work on the whiteboard, quickly and efficiently.

Finally, you may be aware of the amazing work of our Digital Ambassador team. These students are allowing us to stay at the cutting technological edge in teaching, suggesting improvements and working with leaders in school to ensure everyone uses technology productively. The Digital Ambassadors are currently working on a technology charter, that will develop the rules and expectations of students who have access to technology within school. They are working with school leaders and students to open up a number of useful websites that enhance learning on our school servers.



ASPIRE- Make it Happen Community Cinema evening

On Tuesday 11th March Emily Bucher, Dani Haddon, Kayle-Leigh Ingham, Jodie-Lee Moss and Isabel Hitchen organised the Community Cinema Company to come in and show 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' on the big screen in the school hall.

At the beginning of year 8, in our Aspire lesson we started a topic of Make it Happen. Our group decided to Make it Happen by organising a cinema evening in school. Some problems occurred during the process; the original dates clashed with some other school events; we needed to ensure that we got enough demand to make it work and we had to give up time to try and promote and sell the tickets. We changed the date by moving it back a week and worked hard to get publicity for the event. In this process we successfully created a cinema night as planned.

We had to learn real life skills, like planning, budgeting and making business calls. We charged only £3.00 per ticket and that even included free popcorn and a drink - much better value than the cinema! The night was eventful as many showed up and supported us. Even though we were nervous about the event on the day, it all went well and we got a real sense of achievement. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us. We hope if we do it again we will be even more successful.



BBC Children in Need Appeal

Well done to Ellie Scott who raised a brilliant £30.20 from a sponsored silence, in aid of BBC Children in Need.

Overall the school raised a fantastic £770 for the charity - congratulations and thanks to you all!

WaterWorld Day

On Tuesday 18th March, the Eco Prefect Team led WaterWorld Day for Year 8. The purpose of the day was to spread awareness of issues surrounding water excesses (flooding), water borne illnesses and water deficiency throughout the world. Lots of different curriculum areas worked together to pass this on as a really strong message: Maths worked on pie charts showing water distribution and flooding fatality figures, ICT created presentations about WaterAid, Science investigated water filtration and purification and the use of hydroelectric power, Geography studied the causes and effects of flooding, Food Technology looked at the importance of hydration for health, English and Art discussed the use of water in poetry and imagery. In PE pupils carried out a sponsored walk around the field in the rain! This was to symbolise the average 6km that African ladies have to walk to fetch water for their families' daily needs - water that is often contaminated with biological or chemical matter. Money raised will be donated to WaterAid ... SO GET THOSE DONATIONS FLOWING IN!

Ms R Vause



Investigations underway in Science during WaterWorld Day! All the sessions were led by the Eco Prefect Team.

The Eco Prefect Team

As well as planning and teaching WaterWorld Day, we have been continuing our work clearing out the winter leaves from the planters and pond and preparing the school grounds for planting. School looks great at the moment as the bulbs we planted last year are now out! The next Eco Action Day is 27th March, from 3pm until 4.15pm. Everyone is welcome: parents, primary school pupils as well as all year groups in school.



Erster Eindruck!

On the morning of February 5th our year 8 and year 9 pupils studying German were treated to a German play in the school hall performed by the Onatti Travelling Theatre group. Our pupils had been provided in advance with some vocabulary and context for the play and were, therefore, well-equipped for the German dialogue which was acted out with lots of visual prompts. Our pupils responded well to the experience, with some pupils even being invited onto the stage to take part! The play, a visual comedy called 'ERSTER EINDRUCK' (first impressions), proved very popular and our pupils were invited to ask questions of the actors at the end of the play, which they readily did!

We will be providing a similar experience in July for our pupils studying French in years 7 and 9.

D. Poole / K. Ogden





Theatre and media make-up from Preston's College

Advice on courses from UCLAN



Careers Fair 2014

Our annual Careers Fair was held on Friday 7th February and was our biggest and best ever! We welcomed some very special guests, including the Mayor of Chorley, The Rt Hon Lindsay Hoyle MP and Councillor Mark Perks.

With over 50 exhibitors, including colleges, universities, apprenticeship and training providers and employers, it was a fantastic day. Every pupil from Year 9, 10 and 11 attended the fair and spent time at each stand.

Thanks to all the people who took part and helped our pupils to look at different pathways once they leave high school.

If you would like to be involved in the next careers fair, please email pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk



HOUSE NEWS

Africa House News!

It's been a busy term for Africa House. We ended the Christmas term on a massive high by winning the Learning Challenge Event! Over the last 13 competitions we've gained a first or second place in 9 of them. Let's hope we perform well in the Sport Relief Mile on 28th March!

I have been pleased to see that so many pupils from Africa House have been involved in extra curricular events this year. We have had boys and girls involved in Dancing Through The Decades, Languages Spelling Bee and the Year 9 Enterprise Event.

As Year 7 continue to settle in, we are seeing Year 11 coming to the end of their time at Parklands. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and hard work over the last 5 years, and to thank the majority of them for the excellent example they have set the younger pupils in their forms.

If you wish to speak to me about your child's progress at Parklands, please do not hesitate to contact me on shaslam@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Mrs Haslam

South America House has worked hard this term and are going from strength to strength in the House Competitions. Our participation in events is growing in the true spirit of competition ... after all, it's not the winning that matters!

There have also been a number of pupils representing the House with their involvement in extra curricular activities with a huge number of South America pupils in the school production. We have a reward trip fast approaching and look forward to seeing lots of pupils join the trip to Blackpool Sandcastle. Our focus for next term is to earn as many House Points in the attendance and punctuality competition as we can. With our average House attendance at 95% (which is good!) I hope that we can make this even better.

Mr Betney

It's been a busy few months for Achievement Points with nearly 200 pupils earning a hot drinks voucher and over 100 pupils earning a canteen voucher. The race is on to see who can reach the 100 Achievement Points mark first and Easter should be a highlight as a number of pupils are working towards more rewards. Asia House are leading the way as the House with the most points, but they are closely followed by all four of the other Houses.

Achievement Points are awarded to all pupils for their hard work, positive behaviour, excellent class work as well as attendance and punctuality. Any member of staff can award a point to any pupil - so keep up the good work!

Europe House has had another busy half term.

The Interform competition was won by Portugal for the 1st half term and Italy for the 2nd. The challenge is now on again to knock Italy off the top spot.

Hungary had the best attendance for the term, and was rewarded with a special breakfast treat trolley of bacon butties, bagels, toast and crumpets, as well as hot chocolate or juice. Congratulations Hungary. Who will be the next form to win?

To support our chosen charity, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, we sold Valentines cards, roses and chocolates, anonymously. These little treats were then delivered to the Lucky Ones during form time on Valentine's Day. Even a few teachers received a little surprise treat. We raised a massive amount of money! Thank you to all those who supported us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all year 11 the very best of luck for their upcoming exams. Remember it's never too early to start revising!

Mrs Fox

Asia House Spring Term

It has been a splendid year so far in Asia House with many achievements being celebrated. As I write this we are currently top of the House Competition and progressing well in lots of areas. Our attendance is very good which shows the pupils in Asia House enjoy coming to school and the fact that we have won 12 House competitions to date shows they are a competitive bunch as well which is great.

In addition if your child is in Asia House and you have any questions at all about their education please email me at gmetcalf@parklandsacademy.co.uk or telephone the school on the school number.

Mr Metcalf

Australasia House Spring Term

Since adapting from a number of strategic changes to staff Australasia House seems to have flourished during the Spring term. We have steadily been building on our house point tally. Attendance continues to improve, with Solomon Islands winning a breakfast treat trolley for best overall attendance. There have been an endless number of keen and enthusiastic students across the years who have helped me with house competitions and assemblies. I look forward to working more closely with these students and others developing their leadership and community skills.

It also has to be noted about the massive contribution from members of the house towards the successful school production.

Mrs Dewhurst



Y10 Health and Social Care Visit to 'The Care Factor'

The Care Factor event offered an opportunity for our Year 10 Health and Social Care students to meet with Health and Social Care professionals to discuss career routes and future development opportunities. The 'Care Factor' (a take on the X Factor) looked at a variety of job roles and activities which occur within the health and social care sector. This event offered a unique experience for our young people who were interested in exploring the career opportunities within health and social care, they took part in an interactive event highlighting the potential career pathways and progression routes. It was also valuable in supporting their understanding and learning as part of their BTEC Health and Social Care which is a vocational course.

Care Factor judges, Simon Scowl and Amanda Golden!



Chatting to healthcare professionals at the event

The opportunity of a lifetime...Camps International Kenya Scuba Expedition

Following the success of our first venture back in 2011, we have linked with Camps International again to offer a fantastic adventure coupled with a valuable conservation and cultural experience.

This has been offered to current Year 10 students who will be off to Kenya in the summer of 2015, soon after the completion of their Year 11 exams. While it won't be a time to sit back and relax after months of revision and deadlines, it will certainly be a challenging and unique opportunity to make a difference to the lives of others in an authentic African village.

Pupils who sign up to the challenge have committed to meet the cost of the one month expedition by fund-raising. They will:

- Work on a range of projects
- Be part of a team in a fun and supportive environment
- Help to improve the standard of living for rural communities
- Take part in ongoing conservation activities to protect wildlife and the environment
- Safari in one of Kenya's Premier National Parks
- Learn about marine conservation
- Complete the PADI Open Water Diving Course
- Have the opportunity to gain 70 UCAS points on completion of the expedition

As we go to press, the number of pupils signing up for the expedition has not been finalised, but we have certainly had lots of interest.

Look out for the fund-raising events and ideas the pupils will be engaged in over the next 18 months. We hope that you will support them to achieve this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Mrs Aspinal



Facts about Camps International

Camps International believe that the unique way they own and manage their camps and projects is the key to a truly sustainable enterprise based on sound ecological and business principles. Camps International work exclusively in rural villages and wildlife conservation areas where poverty levels are high and there is virtually no form of income beyond small-scale farming, to build capacity in areas that would otherwise never benefit from tourism. Conservation projects are targeted to include four of the world's top biodiversity hotspots and aim to increase the value of wildlife and habitats by working with communities to develop economic benefits to over-exploitation of natural resources. This results in a reduction in conflict between people and wildlife, as well as encouraging environmental stewardship from the local communities. Camps International projects have benefited over 30,000 people, providing communities with employment and better access to education and healthcare.

Quotes from our Year 11s as their final term approaches ...

Asia House

Esmay - I'm so glad I started Cheerleading when I did because it brought so many memories and I wish they started the dance show in Year 7 because these are the things you will remember.

Jess - Make the most of your time at Parklands because before you know it it will be over. Take part in as much as you can and make it as memorable as possible.

Lauren - Try to get as involved as possible because Parklands is such a rollercoaster.

Jack - My time at Parklands has been inspiring, eventful and a journey I will never forget.

Harry - Vertical tutoring has been brilliant! I'm going to miss all the great teachers here.

South America House

Leah - My time at Parklands High School has been fun. I have enjoyed getting involved in the dance shows, cross country and extra curricular activities. I will miss school but I am looking forward to going to college.

Megann - I have really enjoyed my time at Parklands! The best thing about Parklands is the people. The teachers make the school great and it's their leadership and kindness, that has made my five years at high school amazing!

Jack - While at Parklands I have made lots of lifelong friends. I have really enjoyed taking part in the football team and really like PE and Resistant Materials. I will miss all my teachers and will especially miss Mr Betney's great sense of humour. I will also miss the cookies from the school canteen!

Natasha - I have enjoyed my time at Parklands as it has such a friendly environment and the teachers are friendly and are there if you need them, also the pupils are so polite and friendly. The productions that have been done have been great and I enjoyed taking part as it's a once in a lifetime experience and if I could I would do the productions again.

Jess - Since I have started Parklands High School I have enjoyed my time. The teachers and the lessons are great and I have learnt a good deal of new things that I didn't know before. Parklands has taught me about what to do in the future. The school has helped me to learn new things about myself and I have made lots of friends. I will miss Parklands High School when I leave in May and I wish I could stay here a bit longer.

Europe House

Sylvonn - Enjoy it while it lasts, because I have enjoyed every second of my time at Parklands.

Ashley - Parklands has given me amazing experiences, opportunities and memories that I will hold dearly for the rest of my life. High school really is the best time of your life.

Nicole - Year 11 has been very inspiring to me as it's allowed me to see what future life will be like. I will miss many teachers from this school as well as my year group that I've worked with for so long. I'm looking forward to leaving school but I will never forget the experience that Parklands gave me.

Faezah - Parklands has been a great educational experience - I have made friends for life here. I will never forget my time at Parklands.

Australasia House

Olivia - Parklands feels like one big family who all look out for each other. Parklands helps you nurture and develop the skills and talents you are good at.

Georgia - Parklands has given me many options and choices in regard to decisions I may take in later life.

Jamie - Parklands has allowed me to explore my creative field and blossom with confidence and passion.

Georgia - Truly remarkable and certainly unforgettable.

Rachael - The teachers have supported me through a tough five years. The help Mr Parker gave me, I will cherish forever.

Mason - I feel leaving Parklands will be like leaving my own family behind. Mr Rimmer is like my dad.

Eleanor - My time at Parklands has been excellent. The teachers have always been willing to help with any issues I might have and I feel that I have learned much more than just lesson content. I have also made several new friends!

Africa House

"The last 5 years have given us the confidence to reach our potential and prepare us for the real world as adults"

"It's been an emotional roller-coaster, but we've made friends for life and discovered ourselves"

"We've been supported every step of the way"

Noah - I have loved my time at Parklands and made many friends. I can't wait to move on to college but will always remember the memories I've made.

Molly and Carly - My five years at Parklands have been great. I couldn't have chosen a better school to go to. I have met so many great friends and the teachers are very supportive. I am proud to have been a pupil in Africa House and I will be sad to leave Parklands as my five years here have been special and I won't forget the people who have helped me!

Becky - During my time at Parklands I have been able to make new friends, travel to France and Belgium and be part of a newspaper team which has helped me to gain some confidence and learn many new skills.

Erin - I first joined Parklands at the beginning of Year 9, straightaway I felt welcome and included not only by pupils but with staff too and I had someone watching out for me whilst I settled in. I have gained so many friends that have been here for me all this time and they will definitely be friends I will keep much longer than my school life.

I have enjoyed every minute at this school and the teachers here have supported me and helped me achieve. I am really going to miss this school and my teachers when I leave but I hope to do them proud on results day!

It's good to hear how much pupils enjoy their time at Parklands!

We wish you all every success in the future.



Various medal winners at the recent Gymnastics Competition held at Holy Cross Catholic High School.

Well done to all who performed!



Our new careers area is available to all pupils in school and can be accessed during any free time to gain information about further or higher education, apprenticeships and jobs. Don't forget our Careers Advisor drop in sessions every Thursday, as well!

DIGITAL LEADERS RESPECT DAY SESSIONS

During our recent Year 9 Respect Day, six members of our Digital Leader team planned and delivered sessions to groups of students. The team consisted of Maria Kiddell, Nikki Birk, Arron Deacon, Katy Hempson, Hannah Palmer and Lucas Burns. The aims were to encourage the creative use of technology amongst the pupils, and they certainly didn't disappoint!

During the session, students worked together to promote a department within school. They created apps using Blippit, software which Parklands invested in last year. Scan the two QR codes below for some samples of apps that they created. Students also created promotional videos, using a range of apps on the iPads which they edited together in iMovie. Look out for a selection of the best on the website soon!

The Digital Leaders taught for four hours in total, and were thoroughly exhausted by the end of the day! It was definitely worth it though - the Digital Leaders did an amazing job, and are now planning their next sessions to be delivered to Year 7.

Miss L Pilkington

digital leader





Year 7 Aspire

My year 7 Aspire group have been working hard to improve their presentation skills and have recently completed their 'What Makes Britain Great project'. This was a huge success and allowed pupils to choose areas of Britain and deliver their new knowledge to staff in the form of a Great British Tea party. There was lots of food and drink on offer and staff were greeted with presentations about places in Britain, sport in Britain and many more topics. Well done to 7BLC.



District Swimming Gala

The district swimming gala was a huge success for the pupils of Parklands. On a very windy evening a team of year 7 and 8, elite and fun swimmers took part against pupils from other schools. We had some victories from Stephen Brown and Elodie Smallwood in their events but it was fantastic to see that our fun swimmers came home with the gold medal for Parklands. A really fun event, enjoyed by everyone who took part.



Girls Football

The Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football team have played a couple of friendlies over the last term, both against Holy Cross, and both times securing a victory, the first game with a 3-2 win and the second a 2-0 win. We are hoping to play some more regular fixtures next term and have entered a team into the Uxton Girls Annual High Schools tournament to be held on Friday 16th May. Training is held every Monday after school on the field and I would like to encourage any girls who would like to play football in any year to come to practice.

Miss Barker

Ski 2014

For one week in the Easter holidays, 28 of Parklands pupils and 5 members of staff will be heading off to Pila in Italy for a fantastic week of skiing. Pupils will spend 6 days on the slopes and will have the opportunity to test and hone their skills over a number of challenging runs. Not only will pupils be skiing they will be able to take part in a number of après ski activities ranging from bum boarding, ice skating, ice cream party, disco and swimming. It is hoped that every member of the traveling party will have a fantastic time over in Italy and all return safe and well. Who knows - we might see one of our pupils in the next Winter Olympics!



Flip Flop Challenge!

A recent Respect Day for Year 10 pupils involved them designing and marketing a new flip flop. Each team had to present their ideas on the stage in front of a panel of very tough judges.



Well done to all the teams for some very innovative and creative ideas and for some very entertaining presentations!

BTEC Sport Pupil Taekwondo's his way to the top!

Jack Durcan, in year 10 has just won the British Nationals. Jack trains in Manchester two days per week. He competes in the Poomsae Patters style of taekwondo. Jack has achieved so much at such a relatively young age and his ambition is to one day compete and hopefully win gold in the World Championships. Well done to Jack who has had his Taekwondo garment framed and placed on the PE wall of fame.



GB Hockey player visits Parklands

Recently we had the privilege of welcoming former GB Hockey player Charlotte Hartley into school to share her experiences of being an elite performer and the dedication it needs to become outstanding in your field of work. Charlotte's defining moment in her career was being one of the youngest players selected to represent England in the 2006 Commonwealth Games where the team won Bronze on penalty flicks.

During her day in school Charlotte gave an inspirational talk in a whole school assembly on the attributes needed to succeed in whatever pathway you decide upon and led a diet and drugs session within sport for one of our GCSE PE classes. Charlotte also took members of Parklands very successful Tall project and led them in classroom activities based upon self esteem.

We thank Charlotte for her time and look forward to her returning next month to teach some hockey to our KS3 PE students.

"I had a fantastic day in the school today; it's one of the best local schools that I have been in. It was great to talk to the entire school and share my story with them. The staff and students were very polite and welcoming. I cannot wait to return in a few weeks"

Charlotte Hartley, Athlete Mentor, Sky Sports Living for Sport.



Charlotte today, and during her playing career



Year 7 Netball

We have had a great group of girls regularly attend training this year and it has shown in their skill development and success. They started the year winning the District Skills tournament and with the next tournament only a week away we are in lots of training.

I am pleased to mention that we have also had a group of girls who currently play weekly for Parklands in the Leyland Sports Association Netball league. This is so impressive because the girls give up their Thursday evenings to play games against teams from all around the county.

In a few months' time the girls will be entering the Lancashire schools tournament which will be a massive challenge but I have every faith that the girls will perform on the day.

A huge well done for the successes the girls have had so far!



Indoor Athletics Competition

In January I took an excited group of year 7 and 8 to compete in the district athletics competition. Both teams performed very well on the day and came home with bronze medals.

An extra well done to the Year 7 boys who gained Silver medals. Our year 7 Ben Hughes has also been picked to compete in the County Sports Hall athletics. Well done Ben!

Primary Sports Camps



During February half term Parklands held a primary football and multi-sport camp for primary pupils from 4 to 11 years of age. Feedback has been really positive from parents/carers and we have planned for two more camps to take place in the first and second week of the Easter break. The sport camps are open to any boys and girls who are aged 4-11.

Please see our website for further details and an application form or you can book online at www.littleleaguesports.org.uk

Primary Matinee Performance of Dancing through the Decades

On Friday 21st March, 340 Year 4 and 5 pupils attended our matinee performance. It was a fantastic experience to see pupils and staff clapping, dancing and singing along. It was also really nice to see so many happy pupils as they left to get on their buses to return to school at the end of the show. Come back and see us soon!

The scene in the school hall at the finale, with everyone joining in with the singing!



Primary Cheerleading Workshops

Over the last half term 52 pupils from various local primary schools have been attending Parklands for Cheerleading workshops. Gabby Blundell, Lois Jackson and Toni Goldie from year 10 have been teaching them a number of basic cheerleading skills including stunts, dance and jumps which they have linked together to form a short routine. The pupils have had great fun attending the workshops and as a result we are looking to offer a dance one next half term.





DANCING through the DECADES



Over 250 pupils and staff wowed an audience of over 1000 people across 3 nights and a matinee performance for local primary schools. The performances, which took place between 19th - 21st March, included pupils from Years 7-11.

The production transported the audience back over 2000 years, opening with a Jesus Christ Superstar medley, then travelled through the 20s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s up to the present date, culminating in a Queen tribute finale involving the entire cast! Also performing was the staff choir and dance club! It was a professional production showcasing the talented pupils and staff from Parklands High School.



What the critics said ...

"We are so proud of everyone involved in this year's production. Their hard work really paid off!"

Miss Sullivan and Miss Marr, Production Team

"Utterly fantastic! I certainly didn't think that last year could be beaten, but WOW, it was!"

Mr Parker, Teacher of Humanities

"All the pupils excelled. It was lovely to see such a diverse group of pupils having the time of their lives!"

Mrs Haslam, Head of Africa House