



LEARNING CHALLENGE WEEK

13-17 July 2015



**Much more on this in the autumn newsletter
- including reports from Festival Day!**



PARKLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

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PARKLANDS

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Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. By the time this edition reaches you Year 11 will have finished their GCSE exams and hopefully will be enjoying a well-deserved break, we look forward to sharing the good news with them on results day in August. A number of colleagues are either retiring or moving on to new positions in September and we wish them every success and happiness. As you will see there is much to celebrate at Parklands, we continue to be a very "busy" school that ensure there is a diverse range of activities in which everyone can participate to enhance their learning and acquisition of new skills. After a very busy term and year I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all an enjoyable Summer break. We look forward to welcoming all our students back safely in September.

In this edition.....

Learning Challenge Week photos - another amazing week!



Maths success - just one of many achievements celebrated this term by our pupils!



More incredible Big Art - full report and pictures inside!

Plus so much more

STEM Challenge

On Wednesday 24th June 2015 about 20 year 8 and 9 gifted and talented students travelled to Cardinal Newman College in Preston for the Lancashire STEM Challenge Day with Mrs Brooks (Science) and Ms Berry (not the Science one!)

The event is designed for young people who are interested in learning more about science and technology. This year more than 40 Challenge Days have taken place across the country, with the overall winning team from each event progressing to a Challenge Final at the beginning of next year. Throughout the day we got the opportunity to undertake four practical applied science and technology-related challenges. These included robotics, vehicle building, E-FIT [using police facial recognition software] and construction. Throughout the day there was a huge emphasis on team-work, we were asked to work in a mixed school team of four, with two students from another school. This was quite daunting but was a true representation of the working world, as you don't always work with people you know.

The Robotic Challenge required us to program a Lego Mindstorm EV3, so that it could move around on a mat, we had to program it so it would not bump into the wall, stay on the mat, stay away from black spots and to do a 'special trick' on red spaces.

The E-Fit challenge required us to use a computer program the police often use. We had to use it to recreate a face of the criminal. We needed a good memory for this task.

The vehicle building, was my personal favourite. We had to make a vehicle move the fastest using just one small motor, and other bits and bobs. For this challenge we had to think about how to move the wheels, aerodynamics, how weight will affect the performance and a lot more.

Finally the construction challenge, we had to design and build a bridge out of paper to hold the most weight.

Although none of us were the overall winner, many of us still managed to win individual challenges and we were all very happy to take part as it was something different than the usual things we do in school. We particularly enjoyed using the different equipment as we don't have that at school, also the day gave us a insight at the college itself.

Daanish Mahmood

As the academic year is coming to an end all eyes are on the big prize for Achievement Points. Throughout the year pupils in every year group have worked very well and have been earning a great deal of points along the way. There have been thousands of points awarded with a few individuals surpassing the 100 Achievement Points mark recently. The highest earners across school will all go into a draw with one pupil winning an iPad. Throughout the year there have been certificates, boxes of chocolate and high street vouchers awarded so well done to everyone who received something!



Theatre Visit for After School Club

Our Year 7 and 8 after school club read Roald Dahl's 'Danny the Champion of the World' over the winter and spring term. The pupils (and staff!) were very excited when they heard a theatre production of the same book was playing at St. Helens' Theatre Royal. On the 21st May 12 pupils, 1 mum and two staff attended the show. Apart from it being an absolutely brilliant play, the highlight was seeing one of the actors using a toy pheasant to peck at Miss Halliwell's head before the show began!



This year's Summer Concert was held on Thursday 9th July and was again a great success in raising money for two charities that support young people with ME. This year we invited Year 6 students from our feeder primary schools to perform alongside our current students as part of their transition to Parklands in September. Students joined us from Gillibrands Primary school, Balshaw Lane, Euxton C of E, Withnell Fold and Clayton-le- Woods Primary School. Alongside the band, students performed the theme from 'Wallace & Gromit' and 'I'm A Believer'. Students also joined the Year 7 Vocal Ensemble in a fantastic performance of 'Budapest'. We're looking forward to making more music with our new students in September.

This year's concert also featured, for the first time, a group of Year 7 students that have been learning to play a range of Brass and Woodwind instruments during music lessons. After only a few weeks of lessons students plucked up the courage to join the band in a performance to an audience of over 300 people. Their next step will be to continue their journey of learning a musical instrument and joining over 100 students in specialist musical tuition.

We also featured some student led groups which have rehearsed themselves with minimal input from Mr Willsher or Mr Penketh which include a Year 8 Vocal Ensemble and a Year 10 Ensemble. Both groups gave brilliant performances and we're looking forward to their next performances.

Unfortunately this year, as we always do, we say goodbye to our Year 11 musicians which included Miette Deady performing an emotional Violin Solo in 'May It Be' from Lord Of The Rings as one of her final performances at Parklands. It also includes the Senior Vocal Ensemble, Principal Trombonist, Principal Violinist and Jazz Pianist. The Senior Vocal Ensemble finished the night in style with a selection of their repertoire before finally being accompanied by Funk 'n' Soul'. We wish them all the very best of luck for their future careers as they go on to college.

As usual we were very fortunate to be able to offer a very unique collection of raffle prizes which were donated by various businesses and organisations around Lancashire which were keen to support our fundraising efforts for Tymes Trust and A.Y.M.E. again. Thank you to everyone who supported the summer concert and helped us raise over £1000.



Attendance

At Parklands our pupils attend school an amazing 95% of the time, which is above the national average, but we feel it can be even better, and the pupils in this article demonstrate what can be done with dedication...

You might remember we mentioned Nathan in the last newsletter and he did not miss one lesson at Parklands in 5 years, and never even had a day off at Primary School! When asked how he has done this, and what motivated him to come to school every single day since he was 4 years old, Nathan told teachers he owes a lot of it to his parents who always encourage him.

Nathan also stated that there is 'no point' in taking time off and because of his 100% attendance he has never had to catch up any work or stay behind to complete work. Nathan firmly believes that his attendance has made a big difference to grades he is capable of achieving, and so far already has one A and one A* in GCSE Computing and GCSE core Science.

I hope you are inspired by Nathan's achievements.

All pupils with 99-100% attendance were also rewarded with a Parklands film and popcorn afternoon recently. Those pupils with 100% attendance at the end of term will also receive a badge and certificate to recognise their achievements.

Mr Metcalf & Miss Burrill





Another very busy and exciting year for Europe House. Europe has maintained a high attendance record, and I would like to thank everyone in Europe House for this.

All our forms have been working hard competing with one another for the Inter-form trophy, which culminated last Friday, where they took part in a fun assembly earning points for their form. I would like to congratulate Deutschland for winning the cup. Well done!

We bid farewell to Mr Whalley as a form tutor to Hungary form, and would like to thank him for all his hard work and support to me over the years. I am very pleased to say we don't lose him altogether as he will still play an integral part in Europe House. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome another Mr Wood, to Europe House, who will be taking over Hungary form.

I would also like to congratulate Georgia Gronback & Steven Reynolds for being appointed Head of House and James Fairhurst and Maia Hill McKenzie for being appointed House Captains. Congratulations to you all. I am looking forward to another exciting and busy year.

Good luck to all the outgoing year 11 students, I wish you well in your exam results and all the best for the future.

I wish you all a restful summer, and come back refreshed and ready for another year!

Mrs Fox



ROCK, TUMBLE 'N' ROLL: SARAH'S STATESIDE SUCCESS!

Sarah Hoyle (Year 8) recently returned from California, where she represented the United Kingdom at the USA IGC World Championships (gymnastics).

Sarah was awarded 9th place overall, which is an amazing achievement, especially as she was one of the youngest in her category (13+), competing against 18 year olds. She was awarded medals for a number of categories, including:

Floor - 6th place

Vault - 6th place

Bars - 14th place

Beams - 15th place

Congratulations to Sarah on her success in America. We are all very proud of you!

TALL Programme

Congratulations to all 10 of our year 9 pupils who took part in the Chorley Schools Sports partnership TALL programme (Targeted Active Lifestyle Leadership). For 12 weeks they have worked with local primary schools in Inclusion and Sports Festivals, leading sporting activities and competitions. They have also taken part in fun team building exercises at the Anderton Centre where they got stuck in group activities such as crate stacking, raft building and kayaking. They also have been to Brinscall Baths on the inflatables and to Coppull to the BMX track.

On Friday 10th July, they and their family and special guests were invited to a grand presentation at the Town Hall to be awarded with their certificates and awards. Sophie Cox, British Judo Olympics Competitor, presented each pupil with a certificate and Rhys and Taylor won an overall award for most improved and strong leader.

This was another successful year and each one should be proud of all their achievements as they have grown in confidence, leadership skills and ability. Well done to Callum, Levi, Oliver, Rhys, Toby, Victoria, Taylor, Amy, Rosemary and Shanna.

Mrs Fairhurst

LEARNING MENTOR - Everton Williams - SKILLFORCE

Everton has continued to mentor several of our young people every week and is a valued added member to our Achievement team. Over the academic year he has met with some of our young people to help them overcome learning obstacles in the classroom, self-esteem and confidence issues, friendship fall outs and has supported them to use coping strategies and interventions to help them with their day to day learning in the classroom and day to day life in school.

We look forward to welcoming him back next academic year.

Mrs Fairhurst

SCHOOL NURSE - DROP-IN CLINIC

Our pupils have been very fortunate that our attached School Nurse has been able to supply, most weeks, a drop-in clinic for our students. This has been a valuable service for pupils who have wished to discuss, in confidence, any personal health and medical issues. If there are any safeguarding concerns, these have been passed on to Mrs Fairhurst (Safeguarding & Intervention) to inform the appropriate agencies. If parents/carers have any concerns regarding the health of their child/charge, they should still seek a medical appointment with their own Doctor.

Mrs Fairhurst

PARKLANDS IS TOP OF THE CLASS FOR LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Parklands has shown itself to have a strong commitment to providing frequent, continuous and progressive learning outside the classroom (LOtC) for all of its pupils by achieving a national Learning Outside the Classroom Mark (Silver). Parklands have been recognised as a leading school for LOtC provision and are proud to be the first mainstream secondary school in the North West of England to receive the prestigious award.



Awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, LOtC Mark (Silver) accredits those schools that have policies in place to ensure that high quality LOtC is available to all pupils across all areas of the curriculum to benefit their learning and personal development.

LOtC Mark is awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, the national voice for Learning Outside the Classroom. LOtC Mark is the first national accreditation for schools which recognises, and supports, the development of learning outside the classroom across all subject areas.

Learning outside the classroom is known to contribute significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social & emotional development. It also contributes to the quality and depth of learning (OFSTED, Learning Outside the Classroom - How far should you go? 2008).

For more information about LOtC Mark, please visit <http://www.lotc.org.uk/lotc-accreditations/lotc-mark/>



South America House has continued to go from strength to strength as the year has progressed. We've had 45 pupils appointed as prefects and a big congratulations to Richard Nelson, Emily Millar and Kristian Fairclough for their appointment to the Senior Student Leadership Team for South America. During the first half term of the summer South America parents and carers received a weekly email updating them on our punctuality and attendance - this was in response to our poor showing in the House competition when it came to the two areas. During the half term we climbed from 5th place for attendance into 2nd place! A fantastic improvement and it has helped us to maintain our 3rd place overall in the House competition. Thank you for all the support from parents and carers. As we reach the end of the year there's still everything to play for as we have a number of House competitions still to take part in.

Mr. L. Betney

Goodbye .. and thank you!

The following colleagues are leaving us at the end of this term, some to take a well earned retirement, others to take on new roles or even new careers. We wish them all the very best of luck and thank them for their contribution to Parklands High School over the years.

Mrs A Murphy, Curriculum Leader for English and Miss C Laughton, Maths teacher, are both retiring after many years' service.

Miss D Poole, Curriculum Leader for languages with 38 years service, is taking up a new position of primary languages link.

Mr A Conroy, Deputy Head, has been promoted to Headteacher in Stockport

Mr C Brierley (Cover supervisor) = Promotion to new post as NVQ assessor

Miss E Southworth (Languages teacher) = Moving to France

Mr C Swindells (Maths teacher) = Career change

Mr D Higham (PE teacher) = promotion to new post in Manchester

Miss S Coady (English teacher) = Moving to Australia

Mrs J Osborn (E tec teacher) = Setting up a new business venture

Miss S Rice (Maths teacher) = new post in Liverpool

Mr L Betney (HAL) = new post at Runshaw College

Mrs T Pedley (Catering manager) = new post/career change

Mr D Wilson (Lead IT Technician) = career change



Saint Gobain 350 Project

The GCSE Product Design Pupils were lucky enough to be welcome visitors in from Saint Gobain - this is the world's largest provider of materials and construction technologies. They also create and deliver innovative, high-performance solutions that enhance our habitats and our daily lives. As part of their 350 year celebrations the company intend to deliver presentations and carry out workshops with 350 pupils across the UK, Parklands being one of the first school to be visited.

Our Product Design students built up quite a healthy level of competition building their individual teams structures, with the winning team being able to visit the company for a site visit.



Useful Information about making payments to school

Dinner money payments can be made online. For further information about online accounts please email accounts@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Dinner money accounts can also be credited by pupils using the cash loaders located on the concourse please be aware that these machines do not give change and we are unable to provide change at the school office.

Payments for some trips, events and music tuition fees can also be made online. If you are not using the online facilities, payments must be in a sealed envelope marked with the following information on the outside:

Child's Name

Form

Trip/Event/Item

Amount Enclosed

Cheque or Cash

Please ensure that you enclose the relevant paper work and the exact money as we are unable to provide change at the school office. Cheques should be made payable to Parklands High School and your child's name and form should be written on the back of the cheque, together with what the payment is for.

The sealed envelopes are then posted by pupils in the box located by the school office. The envelopes are opened by the finance team under dual control and monies credited to pupils' accounts. Pre-printed envelopes are available from school.

There is a payphone located on the concourse by PE if your child wishes to telephone home, the minimum charge is 20p, please ensure your child has a 20p to use the telephone should they want to call home as the office telephones are only available to call parents should an emergency arise.

Further information is available on the school website or by emailing: accounts@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Asia House Summer Term Report

Once again we have had another successful half term in Asia House as our Year 11s have, sadly for me, completed their time with us and are going to move on to bigger and better things in the future. The leaving Year 11s represented Asia House superbly and actively got involved in all aspects of Asia House life and I have high hopes for their results in August. Furthermore, I have been very impressed by our new pupil leadership team of Prefects and Senior Student Leaders who have performed superbly in their new roles last half term. As we move on through the last part of the academic year I hope all my pupils' admirable commitment to their studies and wider school life continues and we have more successes to celebrate like winning the House Competition!!!!!!

Well done Asia House, keep it up.

DUATHLON

For the first time, pupils from Parklands took part in the Katie Hewison Duathlon event at Astley Park on 9th May 2015.

Our pupils were great participants and even managed some first places in group and individual races.

Ben Hughes won his Tristar Event and James Fairhurst and Stephen Brown won the Year 8/9 event.

We recently found out that we also won the overall schools competition!

Well done and roll on next year where I hope to enter more athletes in the individual and team events!

Miss N Greaves





Induction Day

Wednesday 1st July saw us welcome our new Year 7s for their first taste of high school life. We made sure it was full of variety with time in their new forms and even a House Competition! They had the chance to experience a lesson taught by established staff and the privilege of meeting our Senior Student Leaders and our Learning Ambassadors, when pupils delivered a lesson too.👍

They are obviously a competitive bunch, as the True or False quiz about our staff was well received and we even managed to get Mr Betney and Mr Metcalf hula-hooping!

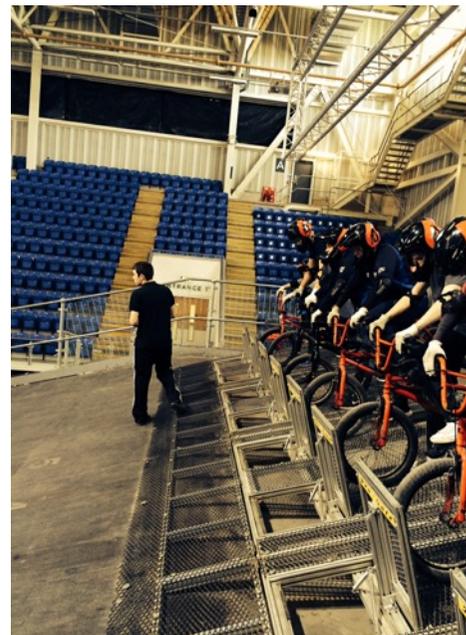
We look forward to seeing them all again on September 1st.

Mrs Haslam



PE GIFTED AND TALENTED TRIP

As a department we are keen to offer new experiences to our pupils. As a result I took a group of 16 gifted and talented PE pupils to the Manchester Velodrome BMX centre. It was a fantastic day with all of our pupils tackling the huge ramps and jumps! We cannot wait for the next trip!



On Sports Day we were blessed with good weather and some fantastic performances, as always, from some very talented sports stars!



Changes To The Educational Landscape at Parklands 2015 - 2016

There has been a lot in the press recently about the changes in education; the pace of change at the moment is rather immense, and it's difficult for schools to keep abreast of everything, let alone for parents and carers! You may also have heard about *reformed GCSEs* and *Raising The Bar*. In order to help you understand how all the changes will affect your child, please see a brief summary below.

Year 7 and Year 8

Your child will sit brand new reformed GCSEs in every subject; grades will change from A* - G to numbers 9 - 1. Please see the details below to understand the new grading structure:

Grade	Details
9	The highest grade possible; it is anticipated that 50% of pupils who would historically get an A* will achieve this grade.
8	Cross-over grade A* to A
7	A
6	B+
5	B- to C+ This will be the new official <i>pass</i> grade; pupils will therefore be expected to achieve better than the current pass grade (C) to achieve a pass.
4	D+ to C
3	E+ to D-
2	F+ to E
1	G to F

In addition to the new grading structure, the Department for Education has instructed examination boards to *raise the bar* regarding difficulty. What this means for your child is that GCSEs will be more difficult to pass, with content historically on the Higher Tier being put on the Foundation Tier in many subjects (such as maths). We may find therefore that, nationally, results in schools will go down as a result of this *raising the bar*, for example fewer pupils nationally will achieve the highest grade (9) in comparison to the percentage of pupils awarded an A* in previous years.

Year 9

Your child will also sit the new GCSEs in all subjects, except the Design & Technology GCSE, which is being *reformed* a year later. This may mean your child gets grades 9 - 1 in most GCSEs but A* - G if doing Product Design or Resistant Materials.

Year 10

Your child is in the cohort of pupils nationally who will sit the brand new reformed GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and maths, with grades as described in the table above. All other GCSEs will be graded A* - G. Please note the comments regarding the new grade 5; this *may* affect your child taking A-level courses if he/she gets a 4. Further details of what colleges will accept as a *pass* will be provided as and when we receive them.

Year 11

None of the changes will affect your child.

Vocational Qualifications

In order to cater for the needs and interests of all our pupils, we offer vocational courses such as BTEC Health & Social Care, BTEC Creative Media, and NCF Music Technology. These courses are graded as Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Pass.

Targets

For pupils starting Key Stage 4 (ie, those in years 9 & 10) targets will be given out during the first week or so in September. Targets will be based on pupils' prior attainment and teacher knowledge. At Parklands we set ambitious targets and very high expectations, as we want our pupils to be able to have as many opportunities as possible once they have left our school.

For pupils in Key Stage 3 (ie, those in years 7 and 8 only) targets will not be given to pupils or to you as parents and carers. Furthermore, pupils' work will not be assessed using grades or levels. Instead pupils will be informed if their work is exceeding our expectations, inline with our expectations, sometimes inline with our expectations or below our expectations. This is because we want our pupils to develop the *growth mindset*, which is all about believing that EFFORT is the true key to success. We do not want pupils to put a limit on their own potential; research shows that pupils in Key Stage 3 who are given targets will often stop pushing themselves to achieve more once they have reached their known target. We will support your child via detailed feedback to reach for the stars, with no limits as to what he/she can achieve.

After-school Support

In order to further support all pupils in all year groups, we will be providing identified pupils with additional support from 3pm - 4pm. As parents and carers, you will be notified in advance if this affects your child. If we identify pupils who perhaps need additional one-to-one support from a teacher in order to ensure their progress is not hindered, then we must address that need as soon as possible. We will be relentless in our attempts at making sure no child is left behind academically, and we expect parents and carers to work in partnership with school if this is deemed necessary.

GIRLS FOOTBALL SUCCESS

On Friday 15th May, Miss Greaves took two teams to the Euxton Girls' Football Tournament.

Parklands had a very successful and dramatic night with both teams reaching and winning their respective finals having gone through extra time and penalties! Our Year 9/10 team have won this tournament for the second year running and Miss Greaves is hoping for a hat trick next year with Year 7/8 hopefully following suit. We had some standout performances from



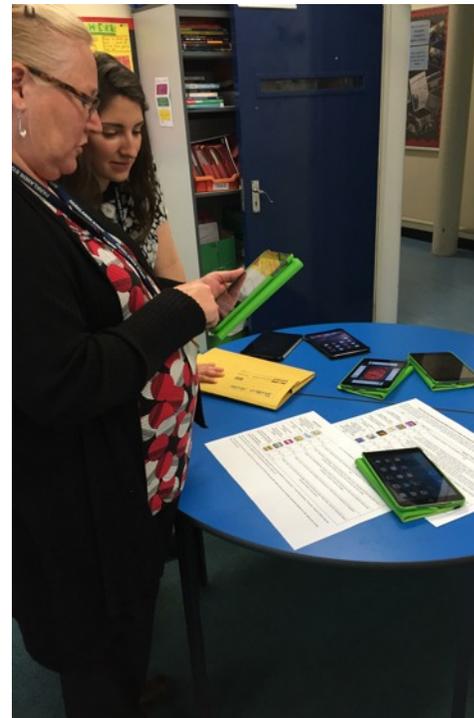
many girls including Caitlin Molloy in year 8 as goal keeper saving every penalty!

Our Year 8 and 9 girl footballers represented Preston in the Lancashire FFD Girls Football Festival. The event (organised by our football coach Melissa Smith from Preston North End football club) allowed schools from around Lancashire to represent a club and play in their full kit. Here are our girls representing Preston North End.



TECHNOLOGY NEWS

This term saw the culmination of an exciting year long technology project. The staff and Digital Ambassadors have been working in Technology In Learning Teams (TILT for short!) in order to complete Action Research projects. Each group chose one area to research and trial in their classrooms. The groups met at several points during the year to discuss their findings, share successes, plan and develop new ideas. Some of the projects included developing the use of the TV Studio; the 4D immersive space; Apple TV and iPads for learning.



In the final session, each group presented a showcase of their findings; all staff had the opportunity to see the exciting work of other groups and to take away ideas to try with their own classes. It was a very different approach to staff training, and allowed teachers to spend time really getting to grips with an aspect of technology to support learning in their lessons. The final session was a real success and all the teachers left with a whole range of new ideas to try out. Lots of new ways to use technology should be coming to a classroom near you very soon!

THE PAVILION

Work has now been completed to refurbish the old Cricket Pavilion; this EFA funded project was officially handed over at the end of June.

This fantastic new building enables the school to conduct dance and drama in the 140m sq space and also with the dividing wall can offer two 70m sq teaching areas.

With brand new toilets and disabled access the breakout area is also another great space for one to one or small group teaching.

Already very busy, the Pavilion is proving to be a big hit with the pupils and staff, the first big event being an Art Exhibition on the 8th July when the students' hard work was displayed to parents, family and friends.

Did you know you can hire this building for birthday parties, dance groups, meetings and many other activities through our letting partner School Lettings Solutions?



Email - parklands@schoollettings.org Tel - 01257 498866

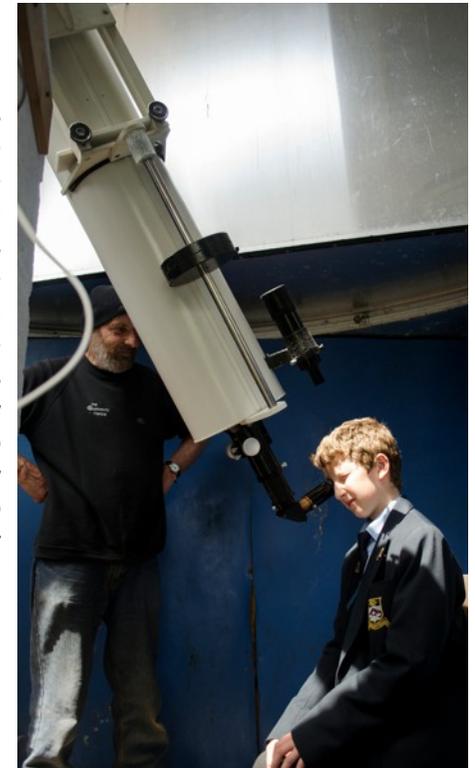
It's been a busy year for careers activities, starting off with assemblies from Liverpool Hope University, Training 2000, St Mary's College, Runshaw College and Cardinal Newman College to name a few! In an effort to give pupils the opportunity to hear about real life work experiences we have had a number of visitors come into school to speak to classes. A business consultant, a chartered accountant, a surveyor and a Royal Marine have all volunteered their time to speak to pupils. We welcome involvement from any parents or carers that would be interested in coming into school to speak to pupils about their careers, please email Mr Betney: lbetney@parklandsacademy.co.uk



Parklands Astronomy Club reaches for our star

This term, the newly founded Parklands Astronomy Club has taken advantage of the Summer days to learn about our Planet's star, the Sun. After modelling our Solar System and researching the life-cycle of Sun-like stars, pupils took a trip to the North West Astronomy Centre in Todmorden to get a close up view of the Sun itself. While witnessing Sunspots and seeing the star's corona, pupils learnt about why the Sun was important and how it affects conditions on every planet in our Solar System. The Centre is also home to some of the best amateur Astronomy equipment in the UK, so children were able to learn all about how Astronomers view our Universe.

As the Autumn nights draw in next term, the Astronomy Club will be taking the chance to organise Stargazing evenings at Parklands itself, so keep your eyes open for details in September and get ready to explore the Final Frontier!



UKMT Challenge

Gifted and Talented pupils in years 7 and 8 took part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenge in April. Pupils completed a series of problem and challenge questions. To achieve a bronze award pupils needed a score of 52 or more. A silver award was 62+ and a gold award was 78+. In year 7, 10 of our pupils received a bronze award and 5 achieved a silver award. The winner in year 7 with a score of 76 was Amely Fernandez Redwood. In year 8, 5 pupils received a bronze award and 7 achieved a silver award; however the winner with a score of 84 who achieved a gold award and best in the school to win our UKMT shield was Suzanna Strong. Congratulations to all who took part and I look forward to the challenge in 2016.

Miss R Ward



FUSION SUCCESS

This year Fusion has been a great success, the team keeps growing resulting in us taking more people to the competition than ever before! The enthusiasm and effort from all years is amazing and our hard work really pays off on the competition day. It's great to see so many people of all ages and both genders working as a team and being so resilient when things aren't going quite right! I believe everyone that's a part of Fusion has been dedicated this year and I'm so excited to start stunting again next year and hope to see both old and new faces! Lastly I would like to say how happy I am to have received Cheer Captain and a massive congratulation to Aaliyah Baker for receiving Vice Captain!

(Lydia Brooks Team Captain)

Being a part of Fusion is great fun, especially when it comes to participating in the cheer competitions which are at the end of the year. It feels good showing off all our hard work over the past year and bringing all of our enthusiasm! We go with such strong routines in cheer, pom and street cheer and come out with amazing results, mostly coming in the top 3! I really enjoy being a part of cheer each year and learning new and exciting stuff! Finally I'd like to say how much I'm looking forward to being involved next year, especially how I'm now Vice Cheer Captain, which I am very pleased about!

(Aaliyah Baker Vice Captain)

Competition results from the National finals in June - 2 first place, 2 second place, 1 third place and 3 fourth place

Eco-Prefect News

In the Summer Term the Eco-Ambassadors have once again been busy but in this instance it has been in the form of a Sustainability Conference held at St Christopher's Church Of England Academy in Accrington. The Ambassadors turned up to the day knowing that they would be competing in some form of events only led by the names of 'Sustainable World Café' and 'Green Ideas Challenge'. The Ambassadors thoroughly enjoyed the event and picked up some valuable tips to help renovate our school even further to a sustainable future. In terms of the results we placed 3rd out of 12 teams in the 'Green Ideas Challenge' showing that we have a very strong Eco-Ambassador team, but unfortunately St Bede's of Blackburn ran away with 1st place in the 'Sustainable World Café'. The pupils who took part in the event should be proud of what they achieved and I can only hope that we perform as well again next year.

Behaviour for Learning - Up-date

The first half of Summer term marked the launch of our new BfL reports. We hope you will find these a welcome addition in keeping you up-to-date with how learning is approached and general attitude to learning.

You will find that the final tracker of the year will have changed to use the same red, amber, green grading system to report on attitude and behaviour for learning, replacing the previous 4 to -1 grades. This will ensure consistency across all the reports you receive through the year and, hopefully, will make them easy to follow.

We are delighted that the first BfL reports reflected a highly positive approach to learning throughout the school, with no students requiring the most serious sanctions and the majority receiving a commendation and Achievement Points.

Next year we will be promoting BfL through the House system to ensure that all students are aware of their achievements and ranking.

We would like to remind you of the actions taken following the publication of each 'BfL' report.

- *Consistently positive = awarded Achievement Points and commended*
- *Inconsistent behaviour = monitoring will take place and targets set for improvement.*
- *Behaviour has rarely met our standards= serious action will be taken that may include removal from the classroom for a period of time and parents/carers will be expected to attend a meeting where behaviour contracts will be agreed.*

Thank you for supporting us in setting high standards so that all our students can work in a positive environment, free from disruption where learning comes first.

Mrs G Aspinall

Parklands Elects New Prime Minister!

One of the great challenges facing schools is how to ensure pupils are informed and engaged in the political system. The school is an important arena for equipping younger people with both knowledge and engagement that could benefit the democratic structures in the UK. Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 have therefore been working on the Parklands Parliament project during the summer term, following a mock election campaign, before voting in a school wide General Election.

Pupils were split between the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrat Party, the Green Party and the UK Independence Party. Each party was represented by a party leader and a deputy leader who were selected after a party leadership battle.

Our Youth Council representatives, Danny and Tiana, believe that "the project has really helped pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of politics. We have become much more informed about the policies of the main political parties and are now aware of how to vote in a General Election. Overall we believe the project has been great and has had a positive impact on our peers. We are now both really looking forward to the first time we are able to vote in a national election."

The results of the school wide election are listed below:

Conservative Party: 87

Green Party: 191

Labour Party: 123

Liberal Democrats Party: 57

UK Independence Party: 68

The leader of the Green Party, Aedan Duckworth was duly elected as Parklands Prime Minister.



Africa House News!

It's been a busy Summer Term, which has proved successful for the majority of Africa House pupils. We celebrated victory on Sports Day, achieving first place for the first time since the house system started three years ago. A very different story to 2013 when we came last!

Congratulations to all pupils who participated, I am especially proud of those pupils who wouldn't normally get involved but wanted to do their bit for 'Team Africa'.

We waved goodbye to Year 11 - they have been a lovely year group with many pupils who we will miss greatly, it doesn't seem five years since they began their Parklands experience. Looking at all of our new Year 7s on the 1st July, I feel extremely lucky and believe they will be excellent assets to our school. Indeed, they took part in their first House competition, and we WON!

Lexi Ilgner-McEvoy has been announced as the new House Captain for Africa, she will be supported by Ellen Dickenson and Oliver Smith, congratulations to all of them. Big shoes to fill as Millie Wright and Tom Rothwell have been appointed as the new Senior Student Leaders for our house. They have already made an impact, helping guide our house to victory on sports day.

Finally, I wish all pupils and their families a happy and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in September. Thank you for all of your support this year.

Mrs Haslam



Derian House Appeal

Office staff have recently delivered a box of bedding to Derian House, in response to an appeal. Duvet cover sets were collected over the past half term.

Pictured are Mrs Coulson, Mrs Crow and Jodine, with just some of the lovely sets donated.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this appeal.



During the Easter holidays, students studying Spanish were invited to take the trip to Barcelona to meet their Spanish pen pals. We spent four days in Barcelona, taking the first day to visit the school in a small town on the outskirts, called Argentona.

After listening to presentations in Spanish and English about Barcelona and Catalan traditions, the pupils sampled traditional cuisine from the region and sat around chatting about the differences and similarities between the cultures. Turns out that Zayn's departure from One Direction was felt just as painfully amongst the Spanish chicas as it was amongst our students! A heated football game and 200 Instagram followers later, we headed back into Barcelona to continue with the rest of our trip.

We made sure to visit the magnificent sights of Barcelona including Parc Guell (including a very questionable busker), La Sagrada Familia, La Rambla, Camp Nou and of course, the Hard Rock Café.



Here is what some of the pupils thought of the trip:

In my opinion the Barcelona trip was a life changing one. I was able to talk to a variety of people in a language that is different to what we are used to, it helped to progress my learning, to see new things and to be put in situations which I have never been faced with before. On the Barcelona trip I was able to make so many new friends not only from Parklands but also from Catalonia that I know I can always go to and confide in.

Jazmine Szczepanczyk, Year 9

It was really lovely to spend time in a beautiful city with my best friends. My favourite part was Park Güell as it was really bright and colourful which was really relaxing in the sun. It was also a great place for selfies!

Ailsa Forrester, Year 10

Going to Barcelona was such a great experience and trip. I learnt more about the country, cultures and languages of Spain and Catalonia and had loads of fun spending time with my friends and visiting the attractions. It was especially great to go to the school of our pen pals and get to speak to them face to face and practice our Spanish. Not only have I progressed in my Spanish because of the trip, I have made new friends; both from the Spanish school and people from my school who I had never got to know beforehand.

Molly Watkins, Year 10



Year 10 Pupils Survive the Hunger Games

Following on from a study of the hit Young Adult books, the Hunger Games, the Year 10 Pupil Premium club took part in a two day expedition to learn how to survive the Arena. Based at Harehope Quarry in Co. Durham, the expedition was a camping trip with a difference; activities included making a working bow out of ash wood, foraging for food and medicine, firelighting and tracking.

The expedition was the culmination of a term of work where the Pupil Premium Club has been analysing the themes and characters of the Hunger Games series - a set of skills that will help them achieve success in their GCSE English exams. Popular books such as the Hunger Games can be an excellent place to start in order to encourage a deeper engagement with literature.



The practical expertise that the expedition has developed have also helped to extend some of the key qualities that Parklands hopes to encourage in its pupils - resilience, motivation, teamwork and independence.

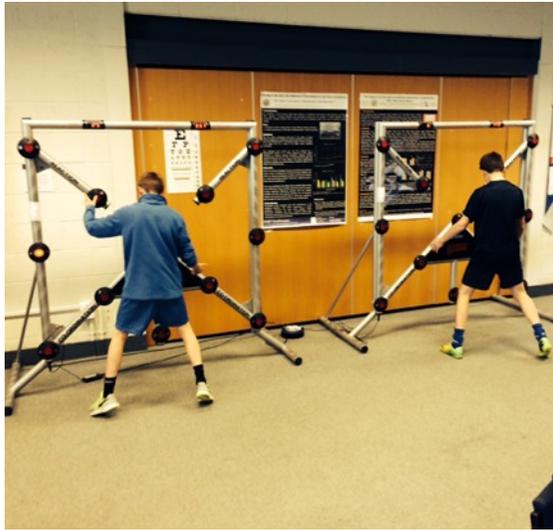
For some of the pupils, this was their first experience of 'wild camping' but a willingness to get involved meant that they learnt everything from which plants to use to treat a wound through to how to tie a reef knot - experiences that go beyond classroom learning but that may well be useful in later life.

May the odds be ever in your favour!

Mr A Cunningham

GCSE PE EDGE HILL EXPERIENCE

Mr Rimmer, Miss Greaves and Mr Metcalf took next year's GCSE PE pupils to Edge Hill University to have a taster of the university courses that are on offer while also touring the fantastic sporting facilities the university has to offer. The picture shows our pupils testing their reaction times, and heart rate monitoring.



GIRLS CRICKET

Our girls cricket team managed to get through to the semi-finals of the Lancashire youth games, a fantastic achievement considering some of the girls had never even played cricket 9 weeks earlier!

Let's Get Cooking!

Years 7, 8, and 9 members of our Let's Get Cooking Club enjoyed a new twist to cooking sessions after school this term with a 'Taste of India'. The pupils were excited about cooking something new and slightly different, welcoming the challenge of cooking complex meals they hadn't done before. Dishes included Spicy Chicken Biryani, Chicken Tikka Masala with a Garlic Naan and Rogan Josh with Rice to name but a few.

A special thanks must go to Sol Saddoo who donated a recipe book to school focusing on Indian food and cooking – this was much appreciated.

The next themed cooking club will be announced in September and could be based on international cuisine, a cooking skill or specific food, who knows?! If this is something you'd like to get involved in or have any suggestions please get in touch with Mrs Brookes or Miss Flight. We will be running more sessions in the Autumn term - watch this space!

Let's get Cooking Club

Every **Thursday** after school 3.15 - 4.30 in S16
See Mrs Brookes or Miss Flight to sign up

This months theme is:



Well done to all the pupils who completed their Work Experience week for their Health & Social Care diploma. We received a number of very nice comments from staff at various primary schools and nurseries, complimenting our pupils on their attitude and behaviour.

A big thank you to all the establishments who allowed our pupils to complete their work placements.

Dates for Your Diary 2015/2016

Autumn Term

Tuesday 1st September – Whole School

INSET – Friday 2nd October 2015

Monday 26th October → Friday 6th November inclusive – Half term

Re-open Monday 9th November 2015

Close after school – Tuesday 22nd December 2015 – Christmas

Spring Term

Re-open Monday 4th January 2016

INSET – Friday 12th February 2016

Monday 15th February → Friday 19th February inclusive – Half term

Re open Monday 22nd February 2016

Close after school Thursday 24th March 2016 - Monday 28th March 2016

Re open Tuesday 29th March 2016

Close after school Friday 8th April 2016 – 22nd April 2016 – Easter

Summer Term

Re – open Monday 25th April 2016

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2016

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June - Half Term

Re open Monday 6th June 2016

INSET – Monday 4th July 2016

Close after school on Friday 22nd July 2016 – Summer

With the summer coming up I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents, carers and pupils about school uniform.

Over the summer you will no doubt need to buy some uniform, so please ensure it's the correct items. A full list of uniform and equipment can be found on the school website. Please ensure any footwear is black leather and school trousers are not skinny fit.

PUPILS STOP TO REMEMBER LOCAL HEROES

On Saturday 13th June, young and old came together to honour the brave Chorley men who fought in a devastating battle in the First World War 100 years ago. Pupils from Parklands contributed towards an exhibition of work by pupils from nine schools across Chorley in order to commemorate the Battle of Festubert.

All Parklands pupils have previously had the opportunity to learn about the Battle of Festubert following a project that was delivered on Armistice Day 2014. Following this, pupils on the battlefields trip had the opportunity to visit the final resting place of many of the soldiers who fell at Festubert who are now commemorated in the cemetery and memorial of Le Touret, which is situated just outside the village of Festubert.

The Battle of Festubert took place in France on June 15, 1915 and involved the Chorley Territorial Army, otherwise known as 'the Terriers'.



The grand opening of the exhibition was attended by Mr Parker and Isabel, Beth and Abi Hitchen at Astley Park's Farmhouse. The event was also attended by pupils from the other contributing schools, along with 100-year-old Ann Hope, whose father Nicholas Gillett features in the exhibition.

Historian Stuart Clewlow said: "It has been rewarding to see how engaged the children have been with wanting to learn more and it's been a real credit to Chorley's teachers to see just how much of their own personal time and effort they have put into delivering an exhibition which not only showcases the abilities of their pupils, but also pays a great tribute to what was known as Chorley's darkest day."

Again this year Parklands enjoyed the German exchange trip with students from the Fichte Gymnasium in Krefeld, Germany. The German students visited England in late September last year, and had an enjoyable time with their host families over the weekend, followed by visits to local tourist hotspots such as Skipton, Old Trafford, Liverpool One and the Trafford Centre.

"Ich hatte eine tolle Zeit ... aber das Wetter war ein Bisschen kalt! (I had a great time ... but the weather was a bit cold!)"

Seven and a half months later, it's the middle of June and time for us to go to Germany!

After being picked up from Dusseldorf airport, we enjoyed the weekend with our German families, the highlight of which for most being a trip to one of Germany's best theme parks, Fantasiland! Throughout the week we visited a number of Germany's most popular tourist cities, such as Köln (Cologne), Dusseldorf, Duisburg and Oberhausen, enjoying their cultural experiences, ie. Köln's incredible cathedral and the art gallery found in 'das Gasometer'. As well as having a fun and relaxing week off school, we had a great opportunity to practise and improve our German, ready for the beginning of our language GCSE course next year.



"I had an amazing time in Germany, and made some amazing friends and memories that I won't be forgetting."

"It was so much fun, and anyone who gets the chance to come should definitely consider it!"

Overall, it was obvious how much everyone (including the teachers) enjoyed the trip, and there have been friends and memories made that will be remembered for a long time.



Australasia House News

Australasia House has sustained a fabulous camaraderie this year, as they continue to put their best feet forward. Cook Islands are on course to receive one of the reward breakfasts this term, so I am rooting for them! Well done to all those who were given either a prefect or Senior Student Leadership role this term, the calibre of applicants was once again of a very high quality.

Jordan Rushton and Lucy Bocker were chosen as House Leaders, with Jasmine Temple and Charley Burke given the roles of House Captains, I look forward to working with the team on future House projects and events.

Unfortunately, we have to say a fond farewell to Miss Rice, form tutor for Solomon Islands who is leaving Parklands this summer and also Miss Coady who again is leaving and emigrating to Australia in a few weeks. Mr Parker is also handing over the form baton of Fiji due to further commitments in school. I know I can speak for everyone when I say good health and the best of luck to you all for the future. I will fully introduce you to our new Australasia team members in September.

A big well done to Sarah Hoyle (NCL) who has once again been to America this year representing the UK in World Gymnastics. She was competing against girls who were much older than herself and was positioned a respectable 9th overall.

Thus all it leaves me to say is - have a wonderful summer and a relaxing time, whatever your plans.

Recharge your batteries and I will see you all on our return in September.

Mrs Dewhurst

Table Tennis

Parklands had great success in the district table tennis competition with Parklands Year 8 girls winning gold and the Year 7 girls achieving silver. The Year 7 boys also won gold. The girls will now go on to represent Chorley in the Lancashire School Games! Well done everyone!

Dress Up and Dance!

On Friday 19th June, Miss Greaves and the PE staff completed 5 hours of dancing to raise money for Macmillan cancer support. Every pupil in the school joined us for about half an hour throughout the day, joining in dances such as the Cha Cha Slide, Superman and the Zumba favourites! We raised around £120 and there is still time for pupils to donate. It was extremely tiring but the energy from the pupils got us through the day!



Gifted and Talented Update

Gifted and Talented pupils have enjoyed a variety of enrichment activities during the Summer Term. As part of the Department for Education, Future Scholars Award, we were able to fund five year nine pupils to visit Queen's University Belfast.

Pupils took part in a number of academic sessions, focusing on Geography, Business, Film & Media and Pharmaceutical Sciences. In addition to this they were given a tour of the historic campus and visited student halls for a taste of the student lifestyle.

Twelve pupils from year 8 and 9 took part in the regional STEM challenge and were successful in winning two of the four STEM projects. Pupils won the e-fit challenge and the robotics challenge, narrowly missing a position in the national finals.



The PE department took 30 gifted young pupils to Edge Hill University to inform them about the range and variety of courses available to young sportsmen and women.

Pupils have continued to access the International Gateway for Gifted Youth and a number of our pupils are using this regularly to work on some undergraduate level projects with gifted students from around the world.

Mr S Parker



Spelling Bee

Parklands' very own child genius Charli Smith took part in the national finals of the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee in Cambridge earlier this month. She had made it down to the final 103 out of 74,000 initial competitors. Unfortunately she just missed out on a place in the top 4 in the German category so did not make the overall final which was just 12 competitors.

Mrs Radcliffe, who organised the competition in school, said: "It takes a lot of hard work and determination to succeed in a competition like this. Charli performed brilliantly and was a complete credit to Parklands."

Charli said: "The spelling bee was an amazing experience and I wish it had never ended. I cannot believe that I got down to the last 36 German spellers out of around 10,000 that started. I just missed out on being in the top 4 German spellers in the country but I came around the top 10.

I will never forget the whole experience and I am a bit disappointed that it is over. The whole spelling bee and going to Cambridge has inspired me to go to university and carry on languages throughout school and my life. Practising the words for the spelling bee has improved my written and spoken German in class. I am really proud of myself."





German Castle Trip

It's not every day you get invited to stay in a castle but 28 lucky Parklands students got the chance to do just that in July. Burg Bischofstein, which dates back to the 13th Century, stands high above the Mosel river in one of the most beautiful regions of Germany. During our stay pupils swam in the open-air swimming pools - Moselbad, tasted the local wines during a tour of a vineyard, took a cable car up a mountain and visited Europe's oldest medieval castle, Burg Eltz. They also found a lot of time to shop and try out German foods.

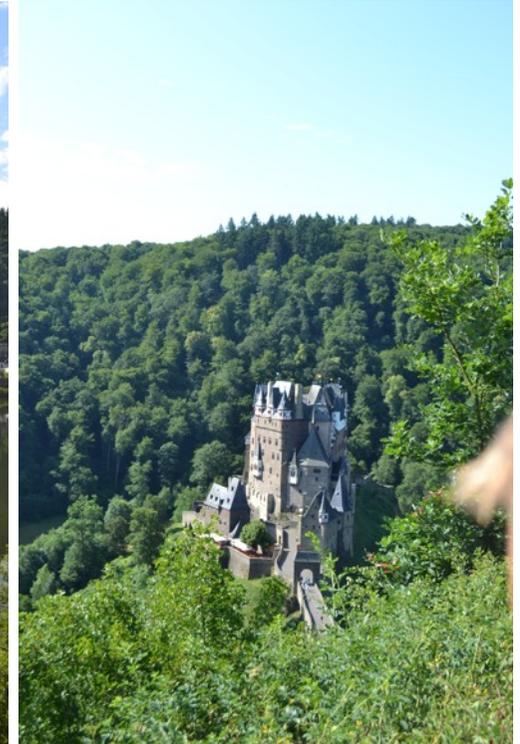
On the last evening, we all headed for a restaurant in the local town of Cochem for a meal - ordered in German naturally. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to try out their German skills and they rose to the challenge magnificently. Just don't ever ask them about the hill they had to walk up to get to the castle - it is just a little bit steep. The German castle trip was amazing. The nearby town of Cochem was great to see, filled with interesting sites including the wonderful restaurant and fantastic people that help with your German. We also had a lot of fun within the vineyards, both with the races up and down the vines and tasting the wine and grape juice. There are many chances to shop for souvenirs and a lot of nice food. Overall the German castle trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

Sam Moore

The German Castle trip was great - there was so much to do including wine tasting, cable cars, shopping and the last day meal all together in the restaurant when we had to order in German. I enjoyed it all. My favourite bit was the tour around the fairytale castle, Burg Eltz.

But they weren't joking about the hill to get to the castle!

Ebony Calderbank



Big Art 2015

This year the Big Art project focused on puppets. We brought in an installation artist called Teresa Wilson. Teresa creates macabre puppets that have a creepy yet intriguing appearance. Students had the opportunity to create their own puppets over a 3 day work shop. New textile techniques were learnt through challenging methods which were applied with confidence.

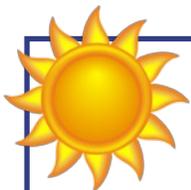
As you will probably agree the final results of the puppets are fantastic...if not a little creepy!

Along with the Teresa Wilson inspired puppets students also worked on developing large scale carnival style puppets. The puppets were constructed on a giant scale and were exhibited outside of the Art rooms.

Throughout the week students were a joy to work with. They all got stuck in and produced some great collaborative pieces. A great week was had and a great outcome was presented. Well done everyone!

Mr Wood and Mr Flynn





Survive The Tech Summer Holidays

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

It can be a real juggling act - finding things to do over the summer holidays, keeping children entertained both at home or while travelling at home or abroad. No doubt games consoles, tablets and the internet will also feature highly on the child's things to do list.

Technology and the internet can sometimes be seen as a nightmare during the break - visions of children with their heads buried in a phone or tablet. The sunshine blazing outside but the kids sitting in their rooms playing games on their consoles for endless hours.

There is of course the positive side as well, long car journeys now fly by for them while watching the latest movie, airports are no longer viewed as a living hell for parents with children happily playing on their tablets. So love it or loath it, the internet, social media, consoles, tablets and games are here to stay. So don't fight it, embrace it – here's a couple of tips.

ICE

No, this isn't another challenge where someone is going to throw a bucket of cold water over you! ICE stands for In Case (of) Emergency. You create a contact in your child's phone called ICE and have the number as someone who an emergency service worker - doctor, first aider, etc - can contact. Should your child become ill or injured, blue light services are trained to look for an ICE contact if they find a mobile phone.

In-App Purchases

Now is a great time to check your parental settings both on your phone and your child's devices. We have all heard the horror stories of parents facing huge bills after their children have quite happily bought 1000's of virtual gold coins not realising that it is actually costing real money. You can set a block on your child's phone to prevent them from downloading any apps which have in-app purchases.

Sharing Photos

We all love sharing photos of days out, picnics or holidays by the pool. However it is worth thinking how you share these photos and with whom. Consider who you want to share what with and manage your lists of contacts. For example you can create a close friends and family list of your Facebook contacts and share some pictures with a limited group of people, rather than everyone on your list of contacts – including colleagues, or mere acquaintances.

Hope you enjoy the holidays – C Slater, Network Manager

(Visit: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> for further details)



Our Year 9 after school club asked if they could undertake a charity project. They researched charities and then voted to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. The pupils decided they would do some baking at club and hold a cake and cookie sale the next day to raise some funds for this great cause. The pupils raised a fantastic £85. They are pictured here hosting the sale and holding a certificate of thanks sent to them from the Alzheimer's Society.

Mrs C de Bruyn





Art and Photography Exhibition

On Wednesday 8th July the Art and Photography department held its first annual exhibition in the newly refurbished pavilion building. After much planning and preparation we opened our doors to the public at 5pm and held the exhibition until 7pm. Canapés were served as well as a variety of drinks.



The exhibition was a huge success with over 200 visitors to view the high standard of work on offer.

There was a great energy to the night, people were discussing and engaging with the creative work as well as questioning their creators. Both students and staff also visited the exhibition and were clearly proud of the artistic talents on offer at Parklands.

