

Camps International

In aid of the Camps International trip to Kenya, this year seven Parklands pupils have been raising money to fund the trip which is to take place in summer 2015. The pupils involved are Ellis Hawkins, Emily McKenzie, Toni Hajdukiewicz, Olivia Price, Alastair McKay, Katie Dixon and Ethan Reynolds. They each have been raising the money in different ways including selling sweets, chocolate and different cans of drink every Friday in the hall at lunch time. On Friday the 12th of December, they plan to hold a Christmas jumper day when pupils come to school in a Christmas or festive jumper instead of their blazer. Over the past few weeks many fundraising events have taken place; tickets for the Year 7 and 8 Christmas party are being sold and a non-uniform day has been planned for next term. At all parents' evenings, Olivia Price and Katie Dixon have had their own stall, Emily McKenzie and Ellis Hawkins organised a musical concert which held a raffle during the interval and sold cakes at a stall run by Ethan Reynolds. The team have also made products from recycled paper during Learning Challenge Week which they sold and they have had a highly successful car washing service.

The Kenya trip is supported by one of the Parklands staff, Mr Banks, who said: "The pupils will be involved in conservation projects to help the environment, including tree planting in Muhaka. One of the highlights will be the camp at Diani beach where they will be doing some marine based projects. They will have the opportunity to learn how to scuba dive in the Indian Ocean and will be one of the first groups to stay at the newly built camp at Tsavo national park. At Tsavo we will be helping local village communities with projects. One of our biggest projects will be at Sasenyi Primary School where we will be involved in helping them to build new facilities for the pupils there. The experience will be absolutely life changing for our students and will really help them to help others who are in need".

If you wish to find out any more information, please feel free to contact us on the school website at <http://www.parklandsacademy.co.uk>.



WWW.CAMPSINTERNATIONAL.COM

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AUTUMN 2014 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter. As you will be aware the school underwent an OFSTED inspection on the 4th and 5th November. The new inspection framework being applied from September 2014 is a "considerable hike" (Lead Inspector's words) in terms of expectations. In the light of this we are delighted with the overall outcomes and judgements. These are a validation of the diverse and rich daily experiences available to Parklands' pupils. Please take time to read the report which is a very positive endorsement of our ethos and values.

I wish you all a very happy, enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Hollister
Headteacher

To mark Armistice Day, pupils spent an afternoon focusing on those who fought at Festubert for Chorley and attended a Remembrance assembly, which included cadets marching and the Last Post being played.



As with every year, we also held a small ceremony in our Memorial Garden. A wreath was laid for former pupils who lost their lives in World War One and Two, as well as more recent conflicts and the loss of Jonathan Holland, David Markland and John Stroud.

Parklands High School

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Newsletter Parental Consultation

In October we conducted a 'SurveyMonkey' online parental consultation with a view to taking on board the ideas of parents and carers about how they feel about our newsletter. We were delighted to get 168 responses (thank you to all who contributed). Here is a summary of the findings:

55% of respondents said they were happy with the termly issue, 47% of respondents said they would like a more frequent issue. In response to this we have considered how we can more frequently give news updates in addition to the termly newsletter and news feed on the website. Coming soon - a team of pupils will put more regular news articles into the pupil area of the website that is currently in development.

54% of respondents said that they were happy to receive an A5 paper version of the newsletter, 26% would prefer a digital version and 18% said that they would like both: paper and access to a digital copy. In response to this we will ask form tutors to record how many paper copies are required in their form and we will ensure that a digital version is available via a link on the front page of our website.

83% of respondents told us that they are happy with the content; it has a good range of articles and information. 12% of respondents said that they would like to see a better balance of news and information.

In response to the question 'How informative is our newsletter?' only 3% of respondents suggested it could be more informative whilst 71% find the newsletter to be very informative. 81% of respondents feel that the newsletter meets the needs of parents very well.

In addition to the questions presented respondents had the opportunity to suggest changes or improvements. These comments included:

- Dates for your diary section - including upcoming performances
- Clubs/ activities that children could be encouraged to join
- Holiday dates list at the beginning of the year
- Job vacancies
- Details of upcoming sporting/music/other events
- Details of any future holidays/school trips that are being made available

- Holiday dates and inset days
- Road safety outside school, local issues and events that may be of interest
- Outside agencies contact numbers for further support and advice

These and many other points raised are found on our website. In addition, Mrs Hollister presents a weekly update section on the front page of the website.

Several respondents asked for either more regular updates or digital versions of our newsletter, this is one of the reasons for the range of improvements and additions that we have made to our website including a pupil newsfeed and a front page link to our past and present newsletters.

The biggest change that your contributions have triggered is an increase in pupil input; we now have a team of pupils working on a wide range of aspects of the newsletter. We have amalgamated 'Parklands Press' ; an internal newspaper made by pupils with our traditional newsletter to improve the whole school community aspect of this publication.

We were pleased to get many positive comments of support and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who responded to this consultation.

If you have any further comments or questions in connection with the newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me: cbatson@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Charity News

We have made the following donations this month, thanks to the generosity of our pupils and parents.

Children in Need	£200.00
Comic Relief	£260.00
Derian House	£100.00
Living Waters Church	£200.00
Sports Relief	£160.00
St Catherine's Hospice	£360.00

Africa House Update!

Another eventful term for all in Africa House, we've said hello to many new faces - Form Tutors and Year 7 pupils! All have settled in well to life at Parklands.

As Africa's House Leader I am really proud of the start that pupils have made to this term. We have had plenty of volunteers for the house competitions with Millie and Seb adapting well to their new House Captains role. The Year 11s in Africa House have already got a decent tracker under their belt, with another one due in the new year. Wishing them good luck in their mocks!

I'd like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

Mrs S Haslam

Autumn 2014 in Europe House

Well it's been another very busy start to the year, for Europe House. I am very proud and delighted to see how well the year 7 have settled into Parklands life. They are full of enthusiasm for both their lessons and extra curricular activities, tackling House Competitions head on.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Critchlow, who is our new Form Tutor for Norway. They are a very enthusiastic form and I'm sure they have made her very welcome.

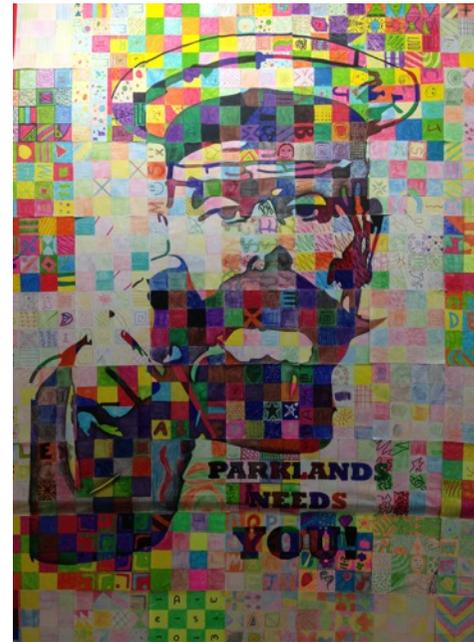
We haven't had a great start in the in the House Cup competition, but I am looking forward to starting the new term with vigour and enthusiasm, ensuring we give the other Houses a run for their money. We do however hold 1st place in the attendance league, so a massive thankyou to all those in Europe House for all your efforts. I would also like to congratulate Mr Whalley and his form Hungary for being the only form this term to have achieved 100% attendance, for a full week.

May I take this opportunity to wish all my House a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mrs G Fox

On November 12th the Onatti players came into school again, this time entertaining our year 8 and 9 pupils studying Spanish with a very funny play entirely in Spanish. Some pupils also took part in various scenes and all seemed to enjoy the experience.

D. Poole



The Big Collaborative Art Project

On the 29th September 413 students from year 8 and 9 took part in a large scale collaborative art project. The project was centered around the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War. With close links to artist Chuck Close, students were each given a small square section that when put together would form a much larger image. Each section was gridded, colour coded and uniquely designed which when joined together created both a striking yet personal piece of art.



The Art work is positioned in the School hall and as you will probably agree, it looks fantastic.

Alone we would have achieved so little, but together we achieved so much!

When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. Well done.

Mr Wood



I am Daanish Mahmood, I am the head/lead Learning Ambassador of Parklands Academy. This is a very rewarding and high status role in school and one I am very proud of holding, although it takes a lot of dedication and commitment. However the focus of this article is to give you an insight into what Learning Ambassadors do and some of the projects we have done.

We, Learning Ambassadors, are the student ambassadors of all the teaching and learning (inside and outside of the classroom) that takes place at Parklands. We work with teachers to make lessons that appeal to us pupils in ways that help us learn best. We introduce and refine teaching and learning strategies that we find beneficial to us in everyday learning.

As you can tell, Learning Ambassadors are part of the Teaching + Learning pathway which is led by one of the most established pathways in the Leadership Academy, but the other pathways are growing in size and influence. Ellis Hawkins and Maria Kiddell are the first Teaching and Learning Pathway Leaders who are members of the Senior Student Leadership Team (SSLT). The Learning Ambassador projects often require the help of other groups. For instance if we wanted to create a technological teaching resource we will work with the digital ambassadors. This is one of the key benefits of the pathways and the organisation of the Leadership Academy. All of the groups meet and discuss their key responsibilities and contribute ideas and support.

All of the Learning Ambassadors wanted to be involved because our projects directly impact our learning and our school life. We want to develop our own leadership skills to equip us for later life. We want to be involved because we feel a sense of pride because we know that we shape our own and hundreds more students' learning, and lastly we all want to leave a legacy behind for generations to come. As an experienced member, I can confirm that being a member of this amazing team is worthwhile and essential for developing basic skills you will need when you leave school. If anyone is interested in joining our team you can get a taste of what you need to do, as an ambassador, by joining our apprentice scheme. If you want more information please feel free to contact me or Miss Fowler at:

afowler@parklandsacademy.co.uk or 17dmahmood@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Some of the projects we have worked on this year are:

- An interview with Ofsted to demonstrate how proud we are to be part of a school that values our input into our own education
- Designs for thinking
- Outstanding learners posters
- QTS Conference
- TLC

The interview with Ofsted was very successful, with extremely positive feedback. The focus of the interview was the student leadership at Parklands. This involved us telling Ofsted about the many leadership opportunities that are on offer and the SSLT. The inspector then asked us a series of questions - at times difficult to answer! However, despite this we did very well and the feedback was that 'Student leadership is exemplary'.

Another one of our projects is the designs for thinking. Designs for thinking are a set of maps that map thinking in a very beneficial way. The idea was picked up at a conference that Mr Conroy attended. He asked Learning Ambassadors to research the concept and feed back to him. A sub-team then went off to research this and prepared a meeting with Mr Conroy. In this meeting we told Mr Conroy all about designs for thinking and let him know we found it beneficial. We then agreed to put it on trial with 10 members of staff across the curriculum. This involves us being linked with staff to try and use the thinking maps wherever possible - it also required a session to teach these 10 members of staff. We will be introducing this to educate all staff on a staff INSET day through a keynote presentation where we share our evidence and experiences with the trial teachers. This was very good for us to develop our own skills because it allowed us to practice researching. Researching is an essential skill and is one that you will use a lot after you leave school.

Outstanding Learners posters are new posters we have created to show some of the factors of an outstanding learner. They are made to allow all pupils to compare themselves to what we see as outstanding learners. They allow pupils to reflect on themselves and become outstanding learners as the posters contain quotes of what outstanding learners are, pupils can then act the way the posters say. It is another example of the input Student Leaders are given in school. We know we are valued in our lessons and in our environment. The new Media Team will be creating the images of examples of own outstanding learners around school. Look out for the new posters next term.

On Monday 1st December I attended this term's Teacher Learning Community meeting with the TLC leaders and Miss Smyth was very fast to claim me as her TLC co-leader of her TLC group! The TLC groups are forums for the whole staff to meet in each term to share their good practice and introduce effective new strategies. Each group is led by a TLC Leader who chairs the meeting. This meant that I was fulfilling the role of (1 of 10) teachers in school. Mr Conroy walked in just as I was speaking and said 'that's it, all the TLC leaders are sacked.' He meant that I could do just as good a job as the teachers in sharing ideas about teaching and learning because I'm recognised as having a commitment to helping others and to continuing to contribute to the best teaching and learning. This made me feel very proud of myself and motivated to do more and ensure all the teachers saw my potential and my input.

On Friday 5th December the Learning Ambassadors presented another INSET experience, this time for Parklands' annual Teaching and Learning Conference. We were asked to deliver a session on how we can help teachers to help their students learn best. This was the third time that we have delivered sessions like this and although we are getting more confident in teaching teachers it is still a very scary experience. In this session we shared our ideas with the visiting teachers on what we think makes a good teacher and what makes a good lesson. Just like when we delivered a session like this to our own teachers, they were very surprised to see how aware we are of our own learning and how that can best be guided. It was just another example of how we are developing our own skills in preparing as a team for this nerve wracking experience and also in speaking in front of others. The best part of the session is always at the end though when we see just how much everyone values our contributions.

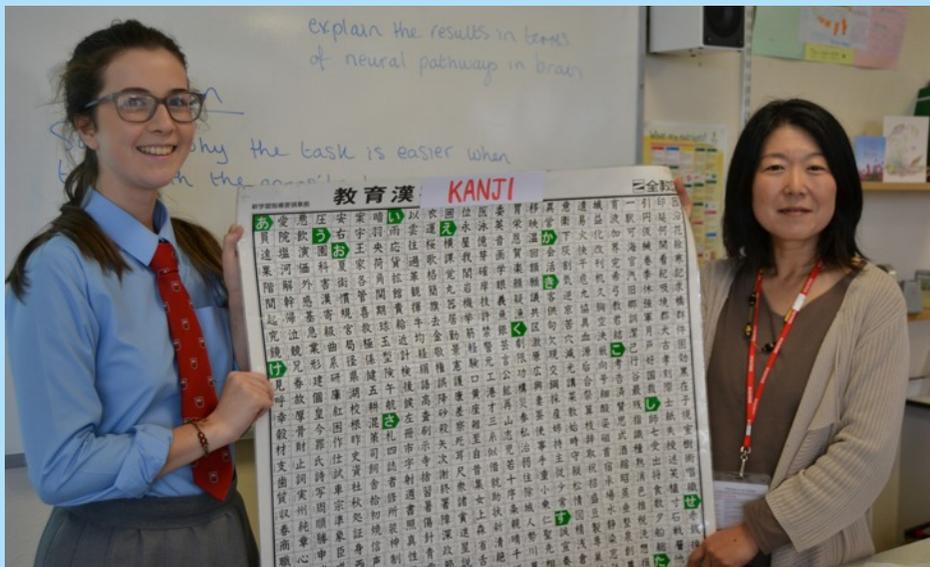
The languages department has taken on an oriental air this term with the introduction of Japanese.

The Japanese Club was launched in September with a taster day for 73 gifted and talented and more able linguists at Parklands. The day was led by Yumiko Peers, a volunteer from the Japan Foundation. She taught students how to greet each other and introduce themselves before teaching them about the different Japanese scripts. Each student had the chance to write their own name in Katakana as well as practising some Kanji.

Mrs Radcliffe, who successfully bid for funding from the Japan Foundation to start the club, led the early sessions. Now, however, the students are taking charge, with Katy Hempson, (year 9) having led a session on ordering food and Daanish Mahmood (also year 9) introducing colours.

Katy writes "I've been learning Japanese independently for about 7 months now, so I was really happy when I heard about the Japanese taster day and by extension the Japanese club. It has focused on principles that I don't know about (such as kanji) and I have been able to apply my knowledge of Japanese to help others learn more effectively. Mrs Radcliffe has done an awesome job leading the sessions so far, and I'm looking forward to whatever we learn next!"

Next term we will be welcoming a Japanese teacher to help us create authentic origami and show us how to dress correctly in a Kimono. We are also looking for a Manga artist to come and help us create some Japanese art to display.



On Monday 13th October, the Music Department hosted a special concert featuring The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir on their UK tour. We also joined forces with All Saints C of E Primary School Choir and St. Georges C of E Primary School Choir to raise funds for Pearl of Africa UK. The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir were able to join us during the afternoon to perform two special assemblies to the school which included a variety of songs and dances. Later on during the afternoon we recorded the choir in an exclusive recording session in our brand new Recording Studio. They were recorded and mixed by a group of our Year 11 Music Technology students and will be available to purchase on CD to support Pearl of Africa UK very soon.

The evening concert featured an exciting repertoire of songs and dances by the choir which also included their unique performance outfits. The audience were treated to incredibly powerful voices, beautiful harmonies and endless energy throughout their repertoire.

They were followed by All Saints C of E Primary School Choir, directed by Mr Stretch, who treated the audience to an energetic performance of 'When It's a Sunny Day', 'Mr Blue Sky' and their version of 'Don't Stop Believing'.

This was followed by our very own Junior Vocal Ensemble performing 'Rolling In The Deep' and the Senior Vocal Ensemble performing 'Put Your Records On' and 'Somewhere Only We Know'.

During the interval the audience could buy a range of crafts that had been handmade in Uganda. These were sold by several volunteers from Pearl of Africa Child Care UK who were on hand all night to inform people about the work of the charity.

The second half began again with The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir and another set of high energy music and dance. They were followed by St. George's C of E Primary School Choir, directed by Mr Purcell, enthusiastically performing a 'Disney Medley'. Next was a debut performance by our Year 9 Vocal Ensemble followed again by the Senior Vocal Ensemble. The evening culminated with a joint performance of 'Sing' by a 100 strong choir featuring all three choirs and vocal ensembles.

At the end of the day's events we were able to raise over £1,400 to donate to Pearl of Africa Child Care UK. It was such a fantastic event and we are looking forward to hosting the choir again in 2015 to help raise even more funds.

Mr Willsher

TECHNOLOGY NEWS



This has been a busy term for our Digital Ambassadors. They have worked really hard to build a brand new student website, which is packed with content created for and by the students. They launched the website in a full school assembly, and as ever they did a fantastic job, despite their nerves! Featured on the website are photo

galleries, interviews, competitions and news from several departments. You can visit the website and see for yourself by clicking on the link from the main school website, or by visiting <http://parklandsacademy.blogspot.co.uk/> Alternatively, just scan the Qr code!



Also featured on the website is the #proudo myselfie competition which was launched by the Digital Ambassadors in assembly. Students and teachers were asked to think of something they were proud of, write it on a sign and send us a selfie! We had lots of fantastic responses, and it is really amazing to see all of the achievements that were featured. We certainly have lots to be proud of! See the entries for yourself at <http://proudo myselfie.blogspot.co.uk/> or scan the code!



This term also saw the launch of GCSE pod, a brand new revision resource for KS4 students. This resource is a website and app that features thousands of exam specific revision podcasts. These podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on any device, making revision just that little bit easier. No more wasted bus journeys to school - do some revision! All year 10 and year 11 students have an account with the GCSE pod; if you haven't already registered, simply visit www.gcsepod.com to activate your account.



The Digital Ambassadors also took part in an exciting event this term. Parklands were one of only three schools in the country who took part in a live Google Hangout with Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikipedia. Our students were able to listen to him give a speech, then were able to ask him questions live on screen! It was a really interesting talk, and a fantastic opportunity for our Digital Ambassadors to get some advice about making use of their technical skills in life after school!

You can watch the hangout on YouTube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RWh_VPKH8Y

Eco Ambassadors

Hello, my name is Mr Needham; I am a Geography teacher newly arrived at Parklands High School and I have started to work alongside Miss Burrill improving sustainable living within school life. The Eco-Ambassadors will start to work alongside different departments to enhance the school's sustainability programme. The Ambassadors have also recently carried out a whole school assembly focusing on pride in their school and the environment around it.

There may also be some exciting changes that will become visible in the new year around the school, including the installation of new lighting and also the potential installation of renewable energy sources.

Parklands Cheer in Primaries!

Over the last few weeks some of our experienced cheerleaders: Lydia Brooks, Aaliyah Baker, Liberty Bryan and Ellie McManus have been delivering taster sessions in our feeder primaries. It has been a pleasure to see our Year 10 students delivering lessons in an engaging and professional way! The pupils have loved it and will be able to develop their skills in the extra sessions we will be offering.

Mrs Haslam



Advanced Notice for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils

Wednesday 11th February - Year 11 Meningitis C immunisations. The consent forms returned last year will still be valid, however if you haven't returned one and want your child to have the immunisation, they are available from Mrs Haslam.

Thursday 12th February - Year 10 Meningitis C and DTP immunisations. Forms will be issued and must be returned to school to Mrs Haslam.

Groundforce

Pupils have visited Astley Park twice this year to work with Yarrow Valley Park Rangers to help clear the undergrowth. The idea of this is to help flowers grow on the "lighter" woodland floor and to make the area safer for members of the public walking through Astley Park.

Here some of the pupils watch John Bolton demonstrate how to safely cut down a small beech tree.

Mrs F. Eastham



The Music Department will host their annual Christmas Concert on Thursday 18th December at 7:30pm. It will feature, as always, all music department ensembles including The Orchestra, Jazz Band, Funk n Soul, Senior Vocal Ensemble, Junior Vocal Ensemble, String Ensemble and the Saxophone Ensemble. This year will see the new Year 9 Vocal Ensemble, which grew from the first Junior Vocal Ensemble, as well as some solo performances. The concert is free to attend, however admission is by ticket only. Please contact Mr Willsher for tickets and more information about the concert. pwillsher@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Parklands High School Music Department
presents their
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Thursday 18th December
7.30pm start
FREE ADMISSION
Tickets available from the Music Dept.

Parklands High School, Southport Road, Chorley PR7 1LL Tel: 01257 264596
Email: pwillsher@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Parklands has been privileged to hold fencing tutorage by none other than a four time Olympic fencer. It's great fun and easy to get involved - just bring your PE kit, £2, and meet in the gym after school on Wednesday. So far it's been great: we've learnt things like footwork, different stances, parries, riposte, lunge. We start off with different warm ups, e.g benchball and then move into different footwork drills. After this we get into fencing kit, and begin practising different parries, lunges, riposte.

After we've finished practising the moves, we start having short bouts with the other fencers, finally ending with a little competition.



PGL Football and Netball

On the 7th November 2014, I took a group of pupils on the PGL Netball and Football weekend held at Liddington in Wiltshire. The trip involves the footballers taking part in coaching sessions with the Manchester United Football Academy, whilst the netballers took part in a tournament against teams from all over the country, and indeed, the world!

The trip was a great success with our footballers performing to a high level and completing all the PGL activities while the netballers narrowly missed the final due to losing in the semis against the International School of Geneva in Switzerland.

Due to the success of this trip, we are running it again next year - and have already had 30 places taken!

Miss N. Greaves

New Studio



Over the summer holidays and continuing into the winter term, the entire music department has been renovated, a whole block added and a lot of cool new gear installed. It is accessible through W04 and is split into two rooms.

One is a recording studio with mics, guitars and all sorts of awesome stuff. The second is where the magic happens, the editing studio. It has lots of fancy gadgets and buttons that even some music tech students can not remember them all and what they do.

Being in there makes you feel like an artist about to record your greatest piece. (If you are interested in this sort of stuff keep a lookout for the article on Rock FM academy!) You may have seen it being built last summer and all that hard work has paid off.

B. Wilkins



Hallo, mein Name ist Renè Schiller.

Ich bin 14 Jahre alt und gehe in die Steinhagener Realschule in Steinhagen. Das ist ein Dorf mit ca. 20.000 Menschen in Deutschland.

Ich war 2 Wochen an eurer Schule. Diese 2 Wochen waren sehr interessant für mich.

In der ersten Woche haben wir hauptsächlich gebacken. Am ersten und zweiten Tag wurden Cupcakes gemacht, die ich noch nicht kannte. Da ich zu Hause nur selten backe. Am dritten und vierten Tag haben wir Kuchen gebacken, der mit Zuckerschrift verziert wurde. Am letzten Tag in der ersten Woche wurden die Kuchen ausgestellt und die anderen Schüler konnten sie bestaunen, durften sie aber nicht essen. Während die anderen unsere Kuchen ansahen haben wir uns die Sachen die sie in der Projektwoche gemacht haben angesehen. Damit war die Projektwoche zu Ende.

In der zweiten Woche hatten wir Unterricht. Es wurden z. B. verschiedene Quizze ausgetragen oder Filme angeschaut, die ich aber nicht so gut verstanden habe, weil so schnell gesprochen wurde. An einem anderen Tag haben wir Fahnen gebastelt und auf der großen Wiese einen Wettbewerb veranstaltet. Zwischendurch wurde auch mal gechillt oder auch ein Raum aufgeräumt in dem einiges lag, das in den Müll kam.

Das Essen in der Mensa war sehr lecker. Viel besser als in Deutschland. Hier wird den Schülern kaum Fastfood angeboten. Es gibt z.B. nur selten Pizza und wenn, dann sind die Stücke ziemlich klein. Bei euch hat mir der Salat gefehlt, den ich gerne mag.

Meine Mitschüler in der Schule waren sehr nett. Wir haben in der Pause oft zusammen Fußball gespielt und mit der Zeit habe ich sie auch immer besser verstanden. Alles in allem haben mir die zwei Wochen sehr gut gefallen.

Hallo, my name is Rene Schiller.

I am 14 years old and go to Steinhagen Technical School (Realschule) in Steinhagen. That is a village with about 20,000 inhabitants (in the north of Germany near to Bielefeld).

I spent two very interesting weeks at your school (at the end of the summer term).

In the first week we baked mainly. The first and second day we made cupcakes, which I had not come across before because I rarely bake at home. On the third and fourth day we made cakes which we decorated with sugar icing. On the Friday the cakes were exhibited so other pupils could see them but not eat them. While others were looking at our cakes, we got the chance to see what they had been doing during Learning Challenge week. This was the final day of Learning Challenge.

In the second week we had lessons. We did various quizzes and watched some films, which I did not understand very well as they spoke too quickly. One day we made banners and went to the sports field where a big competition was being staged. In between races we chilled or helped to clear up all the rubbish.

The food in the canteen was very good, much better than in Germany. Here there is hardly any fastfood on the menu. There is only rarely, for example, pizza and then only small slices. I especially liked the salad which is one of my favourites.

The other pupils were all very friendly. We often played football at break and lunch and in my short time with you I got on well with them. All in all I had a great two weeks at Parklands.

Get Eco!

Always be thinking about the things you do in everyday life and how **you** could make them more **eco friendly**.

For instance: instead of being lazy and just dropping paper in the normal waste bin put it in the recycling bin. Or taking a long time in the shower and letting the water run for ages, you don't realise how much water and energy you are wasting. Try and get in and out quickly, saving as much water as you can.

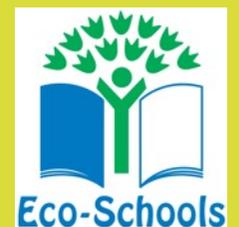
The team of Eco prefects at school work very hard to maintain the school in an eco-friendly way and we want your help. Come along on eco-action days and get involved, especially younger years if you are aspiring to be an eco-prefect in the future. Getting involved in the wider school community can look good on resumés and CV's.

The eco-prefects are very proud of their tomato and potato patches that produce fresh vegetables and fruit that can be sold to the public. This shows our dedication as it takes up our time and effort to produce these.

We have the pond which we think is very special as it's a habitat for small pond wildlife such as frogs, tadpoles etc.

As a whole school we need to make sure that school is litter free. If you see a friend or anybody dropping litter, please just pick it up and put it in the nearest bin. It's not as if there aren't enough bins around school!

Millie Wright





Formby Visit

On the morning of 24th September 56 keen Year 11 Geographers visited Formby Sand Dunes to learn about coastal processes (and see the cute red squirrels), which they will study later in the year. It was wild and windy; many a grain of sand moved by saltation ended up in our eyes and we thought we were going to find the remains of Jenny and Rachel years later buried in the sand but we laughed and enjoyed the experience greatly.

After lunch we moved to Liverpool Albert Docks and pupils got to see how the area had been regenerated since the "shipping days" ended. They got to visit some of the attractions and museums and managed to squeeze in a chippy or Costa.

Pupils' behaviour was impeccable and mature and they were (are) a credit to themselves and their parents.

A good day was had by all and the rain stayed away!

Mrs Eastham



On 30th September the Onatti players came into school and entertained all of our year 8 pupils and some year 9 groups with a very amusing play entirely in French. Some pupils were also invited to take part in various scenes and all enjoyed the experience.

D. Poole



The Apprentice - You're Hired!

It's always great to hear of success, especially when that success is 'homegrown'. This particular success story is a first for Parklands. From the start of Year 7 it was clear that Alex Woodcock was a 'natural' when it came to all matters technical. He developed over his time at school and his interest and love of technology looked set to become his career path, through an ICT apprenticeship. Unfortunately, near to the end of the year 11 the company Alex was set to work for was restructured and his apprenticeship was withdrawn. It was at this point, sharing his disappointment and recognising a lost opportunity, that we stepped in.



Never having had an apprentice, we explored the possibilities of taking on Alex ourselves and after some time were delighted to be able to offer him a Level 3 apprenticeship as an IT technician. After only one term, Alex is already proving himself to be a skilled worker and integral part of the team.

We took this opportunity to find out more from Alex...

• *How does it feel to be working at the school you attended?*

To work in an environment which I've developed in over the past 5 years can be very challenging, but overall a dream come true. As the place is extremely familiar, working at Parklands just 3 months after my graduation is brilliant. I'm very fortunate to be in this position and to be Parklands' first ever apprentice, doing the job I love.

• *What are the biggest challenges?*

The transition from being a pupil to a developed member of staff has been considerably hard. Applying myself to the school policies has also been a challenge, as just 6 months ago I was in the shoes of a pupil. There are many limitations to being a member of staff in comparison to a pupil, but I'm coping just fine!

• *What are your best and worst memories of your time at Parklands?*

Many memories of my more mischievous younger years are perhaps not appropriate for the newsletter, but school held the best memories of my life so far. Some notable memories range from discussing cow tipping with my former maths teacher and form tutor Miss Laughton and the people of my maths class, to being sent out of lesson for the excessive laughter. Watching people get struck down by Dodgeballs during PE activities, resulting in everyone laughing is also a great memory. My Science teacher may recall how I managed to lose focus and work out how our seats had been built instead - perhaps I should end that story there!

I haven't always been a model student and did spend a long time on report, it felt like 4 years straight. However, it all worked out in the end and look where I am today!

• *Did you ever imagine that you would be working doing your 'hobby'?*

I would've never imagined myself working at a school I used to dislike or to have an occupation which I love. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to be working at a good community. I could work here forever!

• *What advice would you give to students here?*

Don't mess up! Revise and reach your full potential. Have some fun, but ensure that school is your top priority. If you can't wait to leave school, you're going to be very upset on your final day of year 11! Create a bond with your teachers and appreciate that you're in a great school surrounded by your best friends. When you leave school you will lose contact with 95% of the people you have grown up with for the last 5 years, regardless of what you may think. It's inevitable! So make sure you're at school every day, learning but enjoying yourself at the same time. And please do revise. The certificates you gain in August are the first step of your ladder to success.

Looking back I wish I'd participated in more activities held by the school. Even though for the first 2 years I hated school, I absolutely loved it by the end and would give anything to go back (as a pupil), or at least see myself in years 7-9. Parklands High School is an excellent school, as there are helpful staff, nice friendly pupils, the great SLT team and Yazoo milkshakes(!) in the ever-changing canteen. Growing up for 5 years with best friends I've never met earlier, the work and support I gained from staff proved that Parklands is a great school.

Christmas Hampers

Pictured here are just some of the Christmas Hampers, being put together ready for delivery to elderly people in the local community. Thanks to everyone who has donated food items and decorated the hampers so beautifully.



Our standards system is changing...

For the past few years pupils have been required to carry a standards card with them while at school. This card would be signed by a member of staff if they didn't bring the correct equipment or didn't wear their uniform to the correct standard.

The vast majority of pupils wear their uniform in a smart and presentable manner and in recognition of this we will be trialling a different system after Christmas. The change to the system will mean pupils will no longer need to carry a standards card with them in school. Provided their uniform is correct and they bring the equipment needed they will not need to worry! Standards will still be checked during form time and lessons and any standards concerns will be addressed on an individual basis.

A reminder of the standards expected:

Girls

Navy blue blazer with school badge

Plain charcoal grey school regulation trousers with PHS lettering.

No other trousers are permitted
OR

Grey pleated skirt including logo.
It must be worn no shorter than 3" above the knee.

Plain light blue shirt

Clip-on school tie

Short dark socks or black opaque tights

Sensible black leather shoes.

No coloured soles, laces or logos.

No boots, trainers or canvas footwear are allowed. Sports logos/brands are also not permitted.

Navy cotton V neck jumper or cardigan (optional).

Boys

Navy blue blazer with school badge

Plain charcoal grey school regulation tailored trousers. No black or 'skinny' styles are permitted.

Plain light blue shirt

Clip-on school tie

Short dark socks

Sensible black leather shoes.

No coloured soles, laces or logos.

No boots, trainers or canvas footwear are allowed. Sports logos/brands are also not permitted.

Navy cotton V neck jumper (optional)



GOING FOR

GOLD

Jack Durcan, aged just 14, won a gold medal for Taekwondo in the Commonwealth Games

Jack is a Parklands student in year 10 who started Taekwondo at 9 years old. He started because he enjoys the sport and he has a lot of friends there as well. He proceeded to do extremely well in the martial art, going as far as winning a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in his age group. He told us: 'It was a very proud moment' when he won the medal.





ROCK FM ACADEMY

One thing most people from Parklands will have heard of is Rock FM. However, one thing many people won't have, is Rock FM Academy. The Rock FM Academy is an offshoot of the main radio station, and most, if not all, of its projects are run by members of the Lancashire community of all ages and backgrounds. The shows, once completed, are posted to an online player, where anyone can listen and enjoy!

The academy works to improve teamwork, as well as increasing confidence and self-esteem. It teaches valuable communication skills and time management, while providing a fun experience for all involved! These shows are particularly useful for primary school children and people who want to go into Radio, as it provides an insight into what it's like to work on a station.

The Rock FM Academy, as well as being a good place for aspiring writers, presenters, directors and business people while at home, has also made significant contributions while out and about. Caroline Greer explains it:

"The Rock Academy and Places for people have been working closely within the Astley Village area developing a new food growing programme. The programme has been launched in Parklands, Southlands and Buckshaw Primary and has worked and spoken with over 1400 pupils and residents in the area. The food growing programme enables young people to take ownership of the food they grow and help others have a healthy balanced diet. The group have worked on Radio interviews podcasts and developed pictures and evidence of their food growing programme."

So if you ever want to try out a test run of what it's like, make sure to submit an application on the website, or go down to one of their events!

Abigail Sallery

In the Summer Holidays this year, I ran the PGL Watersports Holiday. This was a 7 day trip where we took a coach down to the south of France and completed a range of water sports activities.

The first part of the trip included a three day descent of the Ardeche where the pupils paddled over 19 miles encountering white water rapids, cliff jumping as well as the underwater currents. This proved to be a fantastic and challenging experience. After the 3 day paddle we headed over to Mimosa, not before stopping at the Waterspark for some slide and wave action. While at Mimosa pupils got the opportunity to do the water sports within the Mediterranean Sea including body boarding, sailing, wind surfing and the fantastic banana boat.

During the stay pupils experienced a huge thunder storm with lightning! Disco and evening trips to the beautiful towns in the area were also enjoyed. PGL also had a fantastic choice of food on offer that pupils and staff alike tucked in to!

It was a fantastic trip and we cannot wait to run it again in the future, so please watch this space for next year's trip!

Miss N Greaves



Parents' Guide to Feedback / Marking that you can see in your child's books

At Parklands, we have invested a great deal of our teacher training time in making some significant improvements to the style of our assessment and marking. Good assessment and marking should not look completely the same across every subject in a school: the format depends both on the nature of the work, and the demands of each subject. Every department has its own unique ways of marking work, but we also have some common features that we all use.

This summary explains some of the key features that you will encounter in students' books ...

What is **Summative** and **Formative** Assessment?

Summative assessment takes place at the end of a topic ... an end-of-topic test in Science, or a Maths test that tests the unit you have just been taught on algebra, or a Geography essay summarising the work on coastal erosion. Summative assessment tests if you have understood the work, and can demonstrate your understanding.

In isolation, summative assessment doesn't help students to improve because the learning has already taken place by the time the feedback is received. Good teaching needs a mix of both summative and formative assessment, but it is actually formative assessment that helps pupils improve their work and overall achievement. As a result, teachers focus on formative marking in books.

Formative assessment is all about a (written and verbal) conversation or dialogue between teachers and students. This dialogue happens during the learning on a regular basis, rather than simply at the end of a topic. Teachers comment on the quality of the work, and how students can improve their work moving forward in the topic. Drafting work is important, and we stress this to our students.

What are some of the features of formative assessment that you can find in books?

Dialogue in books is shown in three clear ways: teacher assessment, peer assessment and self assessment. All three are valuable in their own way, and work in combination. Obviously teacher assessment will provide specific feedback from teachers to students, peer assessment is where students review, assess and compare each others' work to help improve their own understanding and self assessment is where students look at success criteria for a piece of work, and evaluate how successful they have been.

Some of the terminology that we use in our formative marking

WWW and EBI

A simple format that many teachers use in their work to structure feedback. Students respond better to teacher comments if there are specific areas on which they can work. So "www" stands for "what went well" – the teacher praising aspects of their work, and "ebi" stands for "even better if" – specific areas that the student can address to improve their work. Praising alone is not helpful, so we try to focus on the next steps in their learning.

DIT and Purple Pens

DIT is central to our teaching methodology in this school. In the past, teachers marked work then handed books back. Then the learning moved forward. However, students need to be provided with time to reflect on, and improve, their work. Teachers have identified areas where improvement can be made, and teachers are encouraged to ask students questions in their feedback, in order to move their learning forward and reflect on the next steps.

DIT stands for "Dedicated Improvement Time". After a teacher has returned work, students are given a block of time in a lesson to respond to their teacher's questions or improve their work. This is usually completed using a purple pen, to signify that this work is different: it is improvement based on their teacher's comments. So we can easily see by looking back through the book where a student has responded to teachers' comments. Looking for the purple pen, you are finding examples of where students are responding to their teachers, and therefore making progress. It is the dialogue here that is important – a two-way communication between student and teacher.

UPS

Each department operates a slight variation on this, to suit their particular subject requirements. However, you may find stamps in books, often looking similar to a traffic light format. This is particularly important at Key Stage 3, where we now no longer use National Curriculum Levels. UPS refers to students' understanding of a particular topic or piece of learning. This understanding is measured by teachers in terms of Underachieving, Partially Secured or Secure in terms of understanding. We find this more helpful for students than the old system of providing levels: students are more focused on the actual learning, rather than limiting learning to a level.

Prior learning

Teachers also often provide students with a summary of the key learning within a unit, broken down into each key learning objective. Teachers will check at the start of each unit that students understand the basics before the unit is taught. So, for example, if a student in English is being taught a unit on the effectiveness of advertising, they may be tested in advance to check that they understand each feature of persuasive writing before teaching the new topic.

Parklands has been fortunate to welcome a number of organisations into school to speak to pupils about post-16 education and careers. So far this year pupils have been visited by UCLAN, Liverpool Hope, Training 2000, St Mary's College, the Army, Cardinal Newman and Little League Sports, as well as pupils going out of school to visit the Lancashire Skills Festival in Preston and Chorley Careers Fair at the Town Hall. Year 11 have also received a day about revision techniques from Learning Performance which received fantastic reviews from pupils.

Year 11's should now be completing their application forms for their post-16 education and we recommend they apply for at least two college/ apprenticeship placements.

Coming soon ... Careers Fair

Put a note in your diary for our annual Careers Fair - to be held on Friday 6th February 2015 in the Sports Hall. This is always very popular and well attended - over 50 stands last year! Parents are very welcome to come along and meet the many exhibitors: from universities and colleges, to apprenticeship providers and employers. All our Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils will visit the fair during the day.

If you are involved in a business of any kind and would like to get involved, please email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Since September one Year 7 class have been songwriting during their Aspire lessons with Mr Willsher. The class started by discussing subjects to write about which included bullying, cancer, friendship and many more. In the end the class decided to write about suffering from cancer, bullying and friendship. The class were then divided into groups and began writing and constructing their own verses which they performed to each other. As the weeks went by the class gradually shaped a number of verses and a chorus.

As we approached Christmas, students decided that they wanted to sell the song to raise money for a cancer charity so they looked at a number of charities and decided upon Clic Sargent, Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research UK and Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Their next step is to record the song and promote it around school so look out for their Christmas Single and support worthy causes.

Battlefields Tour in October

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, the Government have been sending two pupils and a member of staff from every school in the UK on a First World War battlefields tour. At the end of October, I accompanied Jamie Blackburn and Ashleigh Conroy on this tour.

We went to many of the sites that we visit on our own Battlefields tour, including major museums, cemeteries and preserved battlefields in France and Belgium. It was great to meet staff and pupils from other schools in the area and learn about how they are marking the centenary.

Both pupils got a lot out of the tour as it helped them to gain a deeper understanding of the scale of the First World War, the geography of the battlefields and the fatalities represented at the various memorials and cemeteries. We felt honoured to have been part of this very special opportunity.

Mr Gallagher



As part of the new GCSE Law course at Parklands, all year ten law students had the opportunity to visit Preston Magistrates' Court and Preston Crown Court.

Pupils were spoken to by a court clerk at the Crown Court who allowed some pupils to sit in the dock and to take their oath in the witness box. Pupils then had the opportunity to sit in the public gallery for a number of active trials. Some pupils even had the confidence to go and question barristers and a judge about their role in the courtroom.

On the second day pupils were able to sit in an active trial at the Magistrates' Court, which was being heard by a District Judge. The judge stopped the trial at appropriate intervals and gave pupils the opportunity to ask questions. This was unexpected and was extraordinarily beneficial to pupils.



Coming up in the law department we have police and local magistrates coming into school to speak to pupils. Year nine will get the opportunity to visit court next year when all pupils turn 14.



Thank you to all parents/carers who have signed up to have their child enrolled on our Biometrics System and to those who have sent requests for an alternative to this process.

All pupils at this stage have either had their thumbprint scanned (using just 3 points of the thumb, not the whole thumbprint) or been allocated a PIN number; this enables pupils to enter money into our new Cash Loaders which are now available on the concourse. Once money is loaded onto an account it can be used within our catering system to purchase food either at break or lunch times.

The benefits of using the scanning system rather than the PIN are:

- Reduction in administration time dealing with lost or forgotten PINs
- Reduction in opportunities for bullying as there is nothing that can be stolen for use by another student
- Reduction in the need for cash handling - money can be added to accounts via our online system
- Pupils do not have to remember their PIN and are served quickly
- Reduction in queuing time

If your child is using a PIN at the moment and you would like them to be scanned there is still time.

Pupils need to come to the IT Technicians' office and pick up a form which is then signed by the parent/carer. When the form is returned they will be immediately scanned and can use the thumbprint from then on.

If you have any concerns regarding your child being scanned please do not hesitate to contact me either by email; cslater@parklandsacademy.co.uk or by telephoning the school and asking for extension 166.



C Slater
Network Manager

Hosting my German partner at first was a really scary thought, what we would do, talk about, etc., but after the first couple of hours it was easy and it felt like we had been friends for years! We ended up being really close and I can't wait until we go to Germany. I also learnt a lot from her, especially pronunciation. I'm so happy I took part in this experience! *Alex*

It is a great experience to learn about and meet people from another countries plus it is REALLY FUN! *Joshua*

It was really fun and a great experience. Also it was really cool learning about his culture. *Liam*

I had a great time with my German exchange (Eva). In the week we did many fun things. We had movie nights in, we went shopping and so much more. Me and my family learnt a lot over the week Eva was at our house. It will be an experience I will never forget and I can't wait to go to Germany. *Rebecca*

German exchange was amazing, when they arrived we were all very nervous! But as soon as we all met it seemed as if we had known each other for years. We took them many places such as Manchester, South Lakes, Blackpool and Lytham. I managed to learn much more German from them being over and it really benefited our lessons. When they left it was quite sad but now we are just waiting till we stay with them! I would really recommend the trip to all German students!! *Lexi*

Instead of sending Christmas cards, staff have been donating money and food items to the Living Waters Church Christmas Food Hamper appeal.

Their generosity will go some way towards making up the 300 Christmas hampers required this year. Thank you to all who have kindly donated.

Christmas Hamper Appeal



South America have started the year by coming to terms with their 5th place finish in the House competition last year. We may have finished at the bottom but this year we are determined to be better than that. The South America approach to House competitions has drastically changed with the introduction of an inter-form competition which directly links with how well we perform in House competitions. At the moment Ecuador form are leading the inter-form competition but more importantly South America look as though they are in with a chance to get to the top of the leader board at some point in the next few weeks, a feat which has not been achieved by South America at any point since the introduction of the House system. Mr Betney has promised form time treats to all South America forms if they are able to top the leader board at any point this year. A new focus has been put on the importance of form captains to take part in the House competitions and congratulations to those who were elected to represent their forms: Grace Evans, Lewis Singleton, Ellie Scott, Scott Abram, Danny Boon, Tom Mainon, Daanish Mahmood and Tyler Iggulden.... well done to you all! We have also elected our dedicated and enthusiastic House Captains: Tasha Birk and Kristian Fairclough and look forward to working with them organising teams for competitions.

Following on from year 11 trackers there have been nine pupils from South America with 100% attendance (Nikkita Birk, Toni Goldie, Connor Harwood, Harry Miller, Callum Neary, Daniel Neary, Elliott Preston, Jasmine Price and Holly Radford..... very impressive!) and one pupil (Lara Wilkins) is working above her target in six of her GCSE's! As well as one pupil (Emily McKenzie) receiving a perfect 4 on her average learning profile!

Couldn't ask for a better start to the year and South America will be dropping their slogan from last year ('It's the taking part that counts') and will be adopting the slogan: 'win at all costs'.

Welcome to our new Year 7s! They appear to have settled in well and we have great hopes for them. Their enthusiasm and dedication is apparent already! We would like any parents of Year 7 pupils to help us improve our transition process by filling in a short on line questionnaire. The address you need to type into your web browser is as follows:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G8ZXPVG>

or alternatively please email Mrs Haslam on shaslam@parklandsacademy.co.uk and let her know your thoughts and ideas.



On Monday the 24th November year 8 pupils were involved in a Respect day project; Keep The Cash! Financial skills for real life

Keep The Cash! is an educational game designed by Ambitious Minds to give students in Key Stage 3 an insight into the realities of managing their own financial affairs whilst helping them to develop the skills they'll need to thrive in the future.

Players (pupils), worked in teams of five to run their 'household' efficiently by earning enough cash to pay their bills, debts, taxes; giving them an insight into the financial challenges they will face when they become independent adults.

Keep The Cash! is played in a competitive environment and each player gets the chance to apply for a job, prepare a CV and attend interviews with real employers on the day.

This 'game' gives pupils the opportunity to focus on their own personal aspirations and the realities of achieving of them. Over the course of the full day session year 8 began to develop an understanding of managing personal cash flow, how to avoid the pitfalls of debt and what concepts like tax, credit and interest actually mean.

Some Year 8 quotes when asked about important things they had learned;

- How expensive things are
- How quickly debt can rise
- That you can't always have everything that you want, you need to spend your money wisely
- How important it is to represent yourself well at interview
- Save up and only buy the things that you need
- You should always pay off debt as soon as possible
- Life is harder than you think, you have to pay to live
- How to understand responsibility with money; respect your parents because it is tough



Useful Helplines

ADFAM - Families affected by drugs and alcohol
020 7553 7640
www.adfam.org.uk

CHILDLINE - Confidential helpline for children and young adults
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk/

CRUSE - Confidential helpline to help with bereavement
0844 477 9400
helpline@cruse.org.uk

Beat - Eating disorder advice website
0845 634 7650
fyp@b-eat.co.uk

Kidscape - Bullying prevention
020 7730 3300
info@kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC - Safer society for all children
0800 1111
www.nspcc.org.uk/

Jigsaw4u - Charity supporting children and young people through loss and trauma
020 8687 1384
www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/

National Self Harm - Network that provides help and support.
www.nshn.co.uk/

National Domestic Violence - Support against violence.
0808 2000 247
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/

The Samaritans - If something's troubling you, then get in touch, offers support and advice.
08457 90 90 90
www.samaritans.org



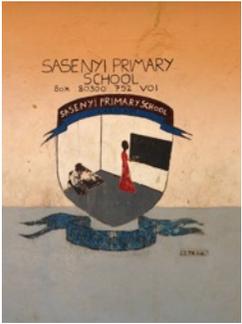
Building Work at Parklands

Here's a selection of Before and After shots, showing just some of the work that has been going on at Parklands since the summer holidays. Toilets have been refurbished, extra storage areas created by the gym and the gym itself refurbished, extra car parking spaces at the front of school ... and, coming very soon ... the brand new all weather pitch! This will be available for bookings after Christmas - contact Mr A Hopkins for more details: ahopkins@parklandsacademy.co.uk



Camp Kenya

A number of pupils are currently raising funds for their trip of a lifetime to Kenya next summer (see article on back page). Pictured here are just some of the people and projects they will be involved with.

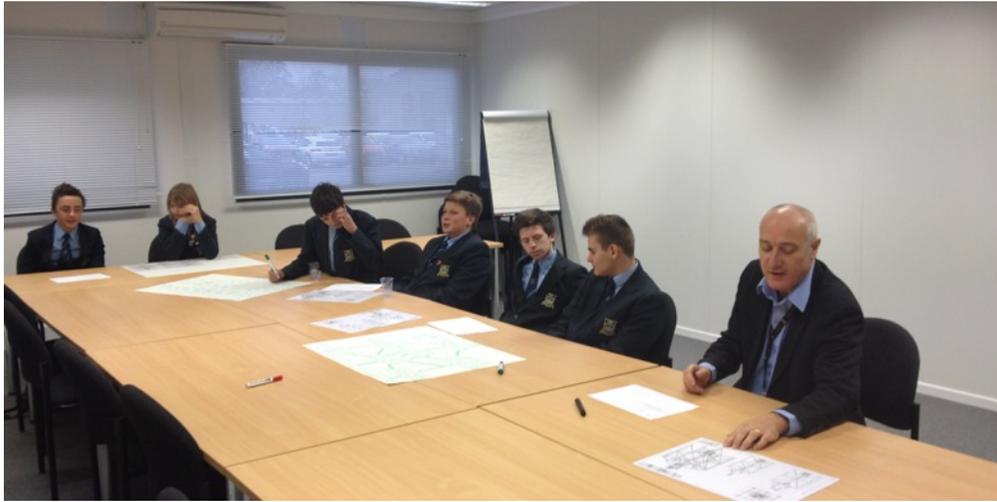


On Remembrance Sunday, Mr Parker accompanied the Head Boy and Head Girl, Ewan Lomax and Gabby Blundell to a church service at St. Lawrence's Church, followed by the Mayoral Procession and finally to place a wreath at the Cenotaph.

It was a moving occasion as over 3,000 local people turned out in Astley Park to pay their respects to those servicemen and women who have sacrificed and go on to sacrifice their lives on a daily basis.

It was great to see so many Parklands pupils taking part in various aspects of the morning. It was equally good seeing lots of ex-pupils at the Cenotaph continuing the strong tradition of remembrance they demonstrated at school.

Over 8,000 Achievement Points have been awarded so far this year with year 7's being the highest earners of any year group. Pupils with 20 or more Achievement Points have received a certificate for their hard work and the top 10 Achievement Point earners in each year group will receive a 'well done' treat at the end of each half term. Well done to the highest earners so far (Josh Conroy, Amely Fernandez-Redwood, Hallie Roberts and Oliver Wood). Now is also the time for year 11 pupils to start thinking about Prom and the top 10 year 11 Achievement Point earners will receive a free ticket!



Parklands has developed strong links with local business NIS Integrated Engineering and recently visited with a group of pupils. They took part in a number of engineering tasks and discovered the processes involved in planning, developing and engineering products for an international market. The visits have also included a tour of the facility and an opportunity to ask questions related to the industry.

Parklands appreciates the strong community link with NIS Integrated Systems and the support they have provided to give pupils an experience in a working environment. If you are involved in a local Chorley business and might be able to offer pupils a similar opportunity please get in touch with Mr Betney at school on:

lbetney@parklandsacademy.co.uk



Australasia House News

Australasia House has started on a really positive note. The Year 7 students seem to have settled in really well and I am getting to know some fabulous new young people. I would also like to give Mr Needham (Form Tutor for Papua New Guinea) and Mr Cottrell (HLTA Maths) a warm welcome, having also started in September. The House competition has also started with a bang as we are currently overall in second place with the Year 7 and 8's winning the basketball competition last week.

The current Form and House Captains are leading by example and I am looking forward to supporting them as they expand their role in the coming months. Our Year 11's commence their mock exams in the coming weeks, therefore it is heads down and focus - we are all behind you! I look forward to updating you with more news and achievements in the near future.

Mrs K Dewhurst

Careers - your future

Mark Holt, the careers adviser, is in school every Thursday and Friday working in an office on the admin corridor and is available to speak to any pupils about careers. If you have some questions about careers just pop down to speak to him during a lunch or break time.

Year 11 pupils have also been involved in numerous assemblies about post 16 education and Parklands is very grateful to UCLAN, Liverpool Hope University, Training 2000, St Mary's College and Runshaw College for their involvement.

All the local colleges have held lunch time drop in sessions: thanks to Runshaw, Cardinal Newman, Winstanley, Blackburn, Wigan & Leigh, Preston and Myerscough for their involvement - it is really appreciated.

College interviews - more details after Christmas!



The 'Get Caught Reading' House competition saw some fierce rivalries between pupils and staff as they aimed to submit the most photographs possible that showed unique (and sometimes bizarre) places people were caught reading their favourite book! Once the deadline passed the winners were South America having submitted just one more photograph than Australasia to claim 1st position. This House competition was not just important for South America because they won, but represents a change in fortunes for this year. During the 2013/14 House cup South America finished 5th overall... but not only did they come last at the end of the year, throughout the year they only ever came 1st in four competitions. The aim this year was to improve on this and it's great to see that along with a dodge ball competition, The Cube and the Achievement Points competition, South America has now come 1st in four competitions, and it's not even Christmas! Well done to everyone that submitted photographs from across the Houses... over 200 photographs in total!



GET CAUGHT READING!



Thanks to the amazing efforts of pupils at Trinity, St Mary's and Brinscall St. John's Primary Schools, staff at Parklands were incredibly moved by the beautiful wreaths created. We intend to take them to key sites on the Battlefields tour in March and place them there. These include the Thiepval Memorial, which remembers the missing from the Battle of the Somme. There are 60,000 names on this memorial. We will send photos home to the primary schools involved so they can see where their beautiful tributes are placed.

Mrs Brown - Curriculum Leader for History



Congratulations to all of year 7 who took part in a whole year True or False quiz. Questions tested all pupils on their knowledge of members of staff and included some unusual facts. Final scores were counted and joint winners were Europe and Australasia!



SECURE; the 21st Century Skills Curriculum at Parklands Enquiry Based Learning; Including Aspire, XR & Explore

It is becoming increasingly important that our young people leave Parklands not only with academic qualifications but also as well-rounded individuals who are actually prepared to face challenges in the future. Young people today need to leave school being adaptable enough to gain employment in fields and industries that perhaps haven't yet been thought up. They need the skills, qualities and determination to be successful within an increasingly competitive environment. As the world changes around them, they need to have the skills to change with it.

When we began planning and developing Aspire; the first stage of Enquiry Learning to be introduced in May 2012 we made a very important decision in response to our recognition that we are preparing our pupils for the 21st Century world. We decided to invest valuable curriculum time in developing enquiry programmes aimed at equipping our pupils with the transferable skills that they will need in the world after school. Of course this is to complement excellent academic achievement! We have continued to develop and implement new programmes to deliver 'Enquiry Based Learning' which is recognised as a tool for success. This programme has the umbrella title SECURE.

- [Aspire; Years 7, 8 & 9 Group and project based programme](#)
- [XR \(Year 7\) and XR+\(Year 9\); Individual cross-curricular research project](#)
- [Explore; Year 10 Creative Thinking projects](#)
- [Extend; Year 11 Developing Thinking & Curricular Enhancement](#)

The programmes of study for SECURE are underpinned by the Parklands 'Enquiry cycle', this provides a framework within which a personal or group research project can be constructed to suit a pupils' interpretation of a chosen theme. This structure also informs lesson planning, chronology and development of schemes of work. Assessment is all based on the development of transferable skills. We have identified 8 core transferable skills are a critical part of success criteria, planning and lesson objectives:

Problem solving

Leadership

Teamwork

Technological

Research

Communication

Independent learning

Creative thinking

The development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of learning are also instrumental in the overall objectives of this programme.

The main aims and philosophies of our 'Enquiry Based Learning' programmes are:

- **Active learners:** students are highly engaged in different activities that allow them to answer their enquiry question. The teacher is a facilitator of their learning.
- **Student-led:** pupils decide on a project to pursue and are then involved in the decisions about how to gather the necessary information to answer the question.
- **Inductive:** pupils are responsible for generating their own theory and, where appropriate, answer.
- **Working with success criteria:** success criteria are shared with pupils and pupils self-and peer-assess to determine how well they have done and what they need to do to improve.
- **Cooperative environment:** pupils work together and the environment is low stress. It is OK to get answers wrong, pupils and teacher provide support.
- **Exciting process of exploration:** lesson takes twists and turns to allow pupils to discover information for themselves.
- **Allows discovery:** modern information-finding methods are employed. Pupils have the capacity to answer the question set and to go beyond this.
- **Knowledge constructed:** pupils find out the answers for themselves and are able to link prior knowledge to existing knowledge. Some pupils will also be able to consider how they would like to extend their knowledge.

Creative Thinking & Enquiry Based Learning

"Give someone a fish and they'll eat that day. Teach them how to catch a fish and they'll never go hungry"

Proverbs like this remind us how learning skills helps to move us towards self-reliance. Memorize the solution to a problem and you may master that particular problem. Improve your ability to use transferable skills and you'll give yourself the tools to create your own effective solutions to a multitude of unfamiliar problems. The cultivation of an attitude of curiosity and eagerness in our pupils serves to widen their perspective and creates divergent thinkers. The development of transferable skills provides our pupils with keys for unlocking their own talents and capabilities; creating lifelong learners with the means to be successful in the 3rd Millennium.

Our exchange with Parklands High in Chorley

On the 25th of September 2014 the third exchange between Parklands High School and Fichte Gymnasium took place. Twenty pupils from Fichte Gymnasium experienced a lot of things while they were staying in Chorley, not only with their host families, but also with their own form. Each of them made the effort and wrote their experiences down in this article.

Mirjana

Family weekend

We are so glad that we had so nice and friendly families, for letting us feeling like a part of their family and like we were home. On the weekend they showed us the popular sights of England and took us to nice places like Blackpool, Lytham, Preston, South Lakes Animals Park and Lake District. We learned more about England (it was strange to drive/ sit on the right side of the cars) and we had very funny conversations with our families. It was a great and amazing week, which we'll never forget. So we want to thank a lot to our families!!! Xoxo

Medya, Melis



Manchester

On Monday we were in Manchester. First we were shopping and after that we were in the Old Trafford Stadium from Manchester United. The best was the cabine from the football players. After that we were in the museum where you could see all the trophies of the team. That was amazing. All people bought souvenirs for their families in Germany and themselves. The shopping tour was very great as well, because we could go with our friends.

Sarah, Vanessa, Jacky

Manchester United

The Old Trafford Stadium is very big. In the dressing room we sat on the players seats. We were not allowed to go on the pitch. We took a lot of photographs. I was so excited.

Philipp





Liverpool

On Tuesday we were in Liverpool with our exchange partners and with the teachers. First we had some free time and were shopping with friends from Germany and England. After shopping we took a ride on the Echo Wheel. On the wheel we had a very nice/ awesome view. After that we were allowed to go to museums or to take a walk along the river. The Art Museum (Tate) was very nice and it had modern pictures and sculptures. Liverpool was a very great and interesting city.

Louisa, Zara, Eva



British Food

One thing in England that we don't have in Germany were the sandwich shops which sold very delicious sandwiches.

In England there is a special fast food dish called „fish and chips“. It's fried fish fillet with a portion of chips normally with vinegar and salt.

We went on an Afternoon tea on the countryside. The view was very beautiful and we got an „Half“. That's a small table with a small step where the food was on. It was very tasty.

Mahsun, Joshua A., Ric

In conclusion every single student enjoyed their wonderful time with their families and partners in England and were surprised by all the fun and the friendship they experienced here. We want to say many thanks for all this and we hope we'll keep in touch even after the exchange.

Mirjana