

Music News

The following students all took ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) Music Exams on the 29th November and did very well!

Simon Reynolds Grade 2 Saxophone PASS

Charlotte Ingram Woodcroft Grade 2 Clarinet PASS

Theo Brockbank Grade 1 Piano DISTINCTION

Eleanor Cooper Grade 1 Clarinet DISTINCTION

Isabelle Curtis Grade 5 Piano DISTINCTION



LUCY ACHIEVES A MERIT!

Earlier this term Lucy Nixon took the ABRSM Grade 2 Violin Examinations and Passed with Merit after a fantastic performance of 'Song from the Show', 'Landler' and Sarabanda by Corelli.

Congratulations Lucy!

PARKLANDS



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Autumn Term Newsletter 2016

Message from the Head

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our school newsletter.

We were extremely pleased by the GCSE results of our outgoing year 11 and wish them every success in the future both personally and in the career choices that they make.

We are excited by the new additions to the school environment; we have invested significantly in the refurbishment of the food/catering facilities. Pupils studying this subject now have experience of the most up to date equipment which will enhance their learning and add to their enjoyment.

In addition to this the extension to our dining facilities will mean pupils have a more positive social experience at break and lunchtimes with a chance to relax and interact with each other.

A number of new colleagues have joined the school and have been warmly welcomed into our community. Together pupils and colleagues will continue to work hard to make the Parklands' experience a positive, supportive and challenging one and to drive the school forward on its continuous improvement journey.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Hollister, Headteacher

Don't forget - on Friday 3rd February 2017, it is our annual Careers Fair, held in the Sports Hall between 9am and 2pm.

If you own or run a business and would like to be involved in any way, please email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk



A big welcome to new staff at Parklands

My name is Mr Hill and I'm the new History teacher at Parklands. In my spare time I enjoy reading and visiting historical sites. The last site I visited was Hadrian's Wall. Apart from history I'm a huge film fan and enjoy visiting the cinema with friends.



Hi, I'm Mrs Weldon. I joined Parklands in May 2016 after spending two years working as an ICT Consultant helping schools in Liverpool to design and deliver their Computing and ICT curriculum. My secondary teaching experience dates back to 2002 (yes computers were invented then!) when I started life as a Business and ICT teacher and have extended my subject knowledge along the way to now teach iMedia and Health and Social Care as well. I moved to Chorley at the beginning of 2106 so now consider myself a local lass! When not teaching I like to spend quality time with my family which normally is doing some type of casual outdoor activity like a walk around Rivington with the dog.



My name is Miss Hummerston and I am a new science teacher at Parklands. My degree is in chemistry with medicines development. I have a background in swimming, having swum competitively for many years and then teaching children how to swim.

My name is Andy and I am the new LRC manager at Parklands. This is my first job working in a school previously having worked in public libraries mainly in Leyland, Penwortham and Upholland for the past decade. Unsurprisingly I love reading and all things books, the best books I came across in 2016 include Salt to the Sea by Ruta Seplys and Wolf by Wolf written by Ryan Graudin. I enjoy watching and playing football even though it seems to hurt more and more after each match and I support Everton, although don't get to go to watch them as often as I would like. I also like watching live music, most recently seeing Placebo on their 20th anniversary tour play to a half empty MEN arena. Others I've seen recently include John Grant, L7, Slaves and Morrissey.



House Competition Update!

Wow, what a term - we have had 24 competitions in total! 10 more than this time last year. Competition has been fierce between the houses and the HALs. At the time of us going to press the leader board is as follows. There are still 4 more comps before we finish including the Hampers and the Year 7 / 8 Christmas Party games.

I am hoping that next term will be even better, with more competitions and more points available!

Leader Board

<i>House</i>	<i>Points</i>
Africa	92
South America	83
Asia	76
Europe	75
Australasia	70

The learning support department hold informal events once per half-term to enable parents and carers to come together and find out about ways to support their child's education outside of the classroom. There is also the opportunity for parents/carers to network, share experiences and learn about how the learning support department at Parklands operates.

The schedule for events is as follows:

- 7th February 2017 Supporting children with their Maths and English
- 28th March 2017 Speech, Language and communication/
Autistic Spectrum Condition Awareness
- 16th May 2017 Supporting pupils with their homework.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending these events please contact the SENCo:

Ms L. Williams (lwilliams@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

Australasia House News

Ho! Ho! Ho! Sorry just getting a little carried away there!

Firstly, it is lovely to see how well our new Year 7's have settled into life here at Parklands. I am enjoying getting to know Australasia's newest recruits and it is fabulous to see so much enthusiasm and gusto peppered around the school.

Rebecca Weaver and Madison Verrechia have been doing a sterling job as Australasia's Heads of House, supporting both myself and the Prefect team with their hard work and dedication. Assisting them with their role are the newly appointed House Captains Emily Sofield and Sarah Hoyle. In the New Year I will be looking to Emily and Sarah to guide and steer the Competition Captains in enthusing and encouraging the whole house to be more involved with House events.

I cannot deny, we could be nearer the top in the House Competition (we are currently 5th...) however, anyone who writes Australasia off would be a fool. We came first in the Drama competition and the commitment from both players and supporters in the recent 5 (or was it 6?) a side football tournaments was amazing. Australasia also smashed it at the Y7 and 8 Christmas Party, coming 1st in the 'Just Dance'

Thank you to all those students who have contributed towards the Christmas Hampers, they all look fabulous and of course are immensely appreciated by those who are in need at this time of year.

Thank you for all your amazing hard work and contributions so far this year. You guys are why Australasia is such a great house to be a part of. So deck those halls, dream of a white Christmas and enjoy the festive season.

Your Proud Australasia HAL

Mrs Dewhurst



A tiny six week old hoglet was recently found outside near to north wing classrooms. Mrs Crow then took Bramble to Chorley SnJ's wildlife rescue where he is being treated. Janette will keep us up to date with his progress.

Any Hoglet that is awake day or night at this time of year is at risk. As you can see Bramble only weighs 266 grammes. A healthy weight would be 750 grammes.

He will be kept at the rescue centre until spring when he will be released.



Bramble on the scales

Student Leadership - Learning Ambassadors

The Learning Ambassadors have recently had a shake-up; we have had 16 new recruits, in particular from the year 9 boys. Congratulations to all those who reapplied and were successful and to our new members, making the Learning Ambassadors a strong team of 30! You can see them wearing their badges with pride around school.

Since September, the Learning Ambassadors have really been throwing themselves into their role and working on some excellent projects.

To start, they ran SUPER LEARNING DAY for the year 7s. This was our new starter's first Respect Day which was delivered entirely by Learning Ambassadors and student leaders. They did a fantastic job, teaching the year 7s about how to become a better learner and healthy working relationships. For their last session of the day, each pupil in year 7 had the option to pick which leadership path they wanted to know more about and they went to a personalised session. The sessions from P5 were run by student leaders from: Learning Ambassadors, Radio, Eco, Science, Digital, Sport and English. The session may have been delivered by the student leaders but a big thanks must go to all the staff involved in the smooth running of the day. They were very popular and the year 7s really enjoyed being taught by the older pupils. One pupil said:

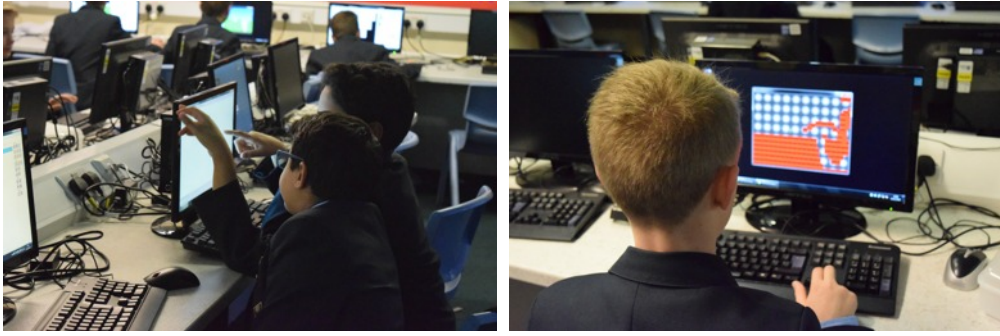
"It was really cool being taught by the student leaders because it shows me what I could be doing in a few years. I thought they were very confident and made the day fun".

After the success of this day the Learning Ambassadors then delivered CPD to the new staff members with some teaching techniques that they enjoy in the classroom and how they work best. I think they were surprised at just how good they were at leading a group, they did themselves really proud.

Our next exciting venture is working with the staff on their TLC projects which consist of educational research in practice in a variety of areas. Each Learning Ambassador has been put into a smaller group and given a research title just like the staff. They will now begin to attend, work with and generate ideas for their staff TLC group. As staff, we find that getting ideas from the pupils is invaluable as they know better than us what they like doing and how we can make their learning more effective for them. This is in its early stages but next time we will have a short update from all the student TLC groups on how their projects are coming along.

Finally, we would like to introduce our new idea which is the Learning Ambassador Training Programme for those pupils who are in years 7 and 8. Sadly, we will eventually lose our year 11 Ambassadors as they move on to pastures new but we would like to keep the Learning Ambassador legacy going by getting them to train up the younger years so that when they leave, they can join our team with the skills and motivation we need to grow and strengthen the Learning Ambassadors with new ideas, new projects and new people. More information on this to come in the New Year so keep your eyes peeled!

Miss Cosgrove



Games Design Club is back!

Over a dozen pupils have each been working on a Super Mario-like platformer game using a piece of software called Game Maker, which is simple, but very capable. The pupils have all been learning about the mechanics behind game development, how games are made, and the success that comes with video game development.

Each pupil is learning how to draw characters, backgrounds and other items that will be in their final product. They are discovering how to program using a programming language similar to C# which is quite complex, but using Game Maker has proven to make what seems difficult, an easy task.

We have been working on our projects since November, and they are already starting to come to life. All of the students are extremely keen to work on their video game, and they love the fact that you can make anything happen in your game. "It's like Super Mario, with your own personal touch."

Mr A Carlton



My name is Mr Lleo, and I currently work part-time as a teacher of English at Parklands. When I'm not teaching I keep busy by doing plenty of writing, walking the dog, and playing chess.

I'm Miss Patel and I arrived at Parklands High School in September 2016 as a full time English Teacher having trained here in 2015. I feel privileged to be able to start my teaching career in a truly remarkable school full of talented young men and women who never cease to amaze me. My passion lies in creativity, reading and (most definitely) socialising with friends. I wouldn't say being active is one of my strengths. However, if any charity related event does occur, I am not afraid to shy away.



Hi, my name is Mr Gillies, I am the Assistant Curriculum Leader for Maths. I have been teaching for 7 years now. When I am not teaching I like to travel up and down the country watching football as a long suffering Leeds United supporter. Currently attended 72 of the 92 Football League grounds, all with Leeds. I am also passionate about Formula 1.

My name is Mr Altham and I'm one of the new additions to the Maths department this year. Having grown up in Chorley I'm really excited to be working at Parklands. When I'm not teaching or working out massive calculations, like most adults I spend most of my free time watching TV and playing video games. Thanks to everyone for making me feel so welcome here and I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming years.



My name is Mr Brown and I am an NQT teaching science. I am really excited to be working at Parklands and developing my teaching skills over the next year.

Hello - my name is Mrs Fish and I have recently taken up the role of Attendance Officer. I have been in Parklands since September 2015 working in the office and in October of this year I was lucky enough to obtain a promotion to said role.

I have been in role for the last 5 weeks and am enjoying the new challenges that the job brings. As part of the role I work alongside the House leaders and we are seeking to reward great attendance. One incentive this term is the Christmas Film afternoon on Wednesday 21st December during period 4 and 5. This is available to all students who have obtained 100% attendance, and punctuality - this includes no lates - from Monday 14th November until 21st December. We will provide refreshments to all students who make the grade.

As part of my new role I will be looking into absence and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate parts of the absence policy to you:

Sickness

If your child is absent you must:

- Contact us as soon as possible on each day of absence by telephone, text or email. If your child is absent we will:
 - Telephone, email or text you on the first day of absence if we have not heard from you using ConnectEd Messaging Service.

How we manage lateness

The school day starts at 8.40am and we expect your child to be in school for registration by that time; if they are not in by that time your child will receive a late mark and be expected to serve a same day, break-time detention. Pupils who fail to attend the same day detention or are issued a late detention twice or more in any week will be required to serve an additional Friday, after-school detention with a member of the Strategic Leadership Team.

Leave in Term Time

No holidays will be authorised during term time. Parents/carers may apply for 'leave of absence' for exceptional circumstances. It is a legal requirement for parents/carers to obtain the permission of the Headteacher before removing their child from school in order to take any leave in term time. The process to apply for this must be at least 3 months in advance of the requested date. Parents do not have an automatic right to take their child out of school for leave during term time and may be issued with a penalty notice (£120 per parent per child) if they do so without prior arrangement with the Headteacher. The legislation only allows the Headteacher to authorise such leave in exceptional circumstances.

I would just like to mention the 212 students who have managed 100% attendance for the first term of the 2016 /2017 academic year. Fantastic result to all those involved and keep up the good work!



Bronze in Badminton

Our U14 boys and U16 girls represented Parklands High School in the Chorley Schools Badminton tournament. The tournament was organised by the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership and had the Parklands teams play a mixture of singles and doubles matches against other Chorley high schools. Both teams performed really well and finished 3rd. The standard has now been set for the U16 boys when they compete in their upcoming tournament.



Sports News...

Cross Country

We have had two cross country competitions this year and both were really successful for our pupils.



Here are some of the pupils after their races!

Girls Hockey

Following the inspirational performance of Team GB at the Olympics in Rio and the success of hockey in lessons, Miss Greaves has started a hockey club on Thursdays after school. All years welcome!



Girls Football

It is beginning to be another very successful year for Girls Football at Parklands. Our U16 girls are through to the next round of the Lancashire Cup - this could be our year! Our U14 unfortunately got knocked out in a highly competitive match that went down to penalties. I have never seen so many year 7 at training and they are looking forward to more fixtures and competitions.



Football News

Year 8 - It has been another successful start to the year for the current Chorley Cup holders. The team has been training hard in all conditions under the superb guidance of Mr Wright. The team have adapted well to playing 11 a side this year and have won every game except one and they are still going strong in the last 16 of the Lancashire Cup.

Year 7 - It has been a great start to the season for Year 7 who are unbeaten and working well as a new team. There is an abundance of talent and even though we have made lots of changes in each game it has not held the team back as they continue to score goals for fun. On top of the clear talent the boys have for football we have been extremely impressed with their superb attitude and commitment and we hope this continues.



Netball Skills Tournament

We took two year 7 Netball teams to the district skills tournament and again the girls did not disappoint. The A team came 2nd just missing out on 1st place! The girls worked hard and are all very committed to training.

PGL Netball and Football

On the last weekend of half term we took 2 teams of year 8 netballers and a group of footballers to the PGL Liddington. This trip is always very successful and our pupils received great feedback from PGL staff and the coaching team. The weekend includes the girls taking part in a netball tournament against teams from all over the country while our footballers got put through their paces in coaching sessions.

PGL Watersports

PGL Watersports ran for its second successful year and we have nearly filled all the spaces for Watersports 2017! The trip includes a 3 day descent of the Ardeche River, taking on the white water rapids and completing cliff jumps and challenges along the way. The second part of the holiday is separated with a trip to the Waterpark. We then arrive at Mimosa beach and do sailing, banana boats and catamaran sailing amongst many more activities. A fantastic and worthwhile trip.

My highlight of the trip was canoeing down the Ardeche or the banana boats. I also really enjoyed watching everyone do the cliff jumping! The evening activities were very enjoyable and I liked going into the local towns for shopping and ice cream! I would recommend this trip to anyone. It is a great experience. I got to meet lots of new people. Heather McDonnell Year 10.

My highlight of Watersports was doing the sit-on kayaks at Mimosa and the banana boat was hilarious. The food was great! David Thornton





Our lovely new food technology room - a lot of hard work went into the refurbishment - but what a result!



"Thanks to the Savoy Educational Trust for their generous funding, which paid for a substantial part of the renovation".



South America House News

As we busily prepare for Christmas, and the end of term is in sight, it is easy to forget how much has been accomplished over the past 12 or so school weeks.

The year 7s have made the transition from primary to secondary, and immersed themselves fully into the Parklands community. We've also welcomed three new South America form tutors: Mr Hill - Venezuela Form, Mr Altham - Paraguay Form and Mr Brown - Chile Form.

We have won and lost house competitions, some fairly, some where (in my opinion) our victory was robbed by some dubious additional players from another house!! Despite this, I am pleased to say that we are currently in second place overall, with plenty of other house competitions for us to take the lead in.

We see the year 11s preparing themselves for their final few months before they leave us and embark on the next part of their education or work journey.

New roles have been appointed to eight competition captains and eight form captains, under the guidance of our two house captains Yazan and Holly. The new appointments add to what is an already successful and effective house team.

Overall, it has been an action packed term for South America and you have all earned a well-deserved rest over the Christmas period.

Enjoy your break, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Miss Burrill





"Miss Law, originally from little old Leicester, began teaching at Parklands High School this year. She is a fairly obsessive Harry Potter fan and can often be seen wearing a Gryffindor scarf and a time-turner. Miss Law's favourite things to do are: drink ridiculous amounts of tea, go indoor bouldering (rock climbing), dance very badly in the kitchen, whilst cooking and singing (equally badly) into a potato masher and attempting to cuddle with the most demonic cat on the planet, Matilda."

Hi! My name is Miss Cree and I am the new teacher in the MFL department. I arrived at Parklands in September and I am really enjoying working with all of my French and Spanish classes. I am also a proud member of Hungary form and Europe House! I am originally from Newcastle and moved to Chorley around five years ago. In my spare time, I really enjoy travelling, especially to countries where I can use my languages. I am really excited to be part of the Parklands family and want to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received.



I'm Miss Farrell, one of the new Science teachers here at Parklands and I have really enjoyed my first term back here. As a past pupil, it is really interesting to see the school from a different perspective!



Hamper Collection

Every year, our pupils put together an amazing array of hampers which are delivered to local elderly people - this year's collection is just as impressive as ever, with sleighs and gingerbread houses as well as beautifully decorated boxes!

Africa House News

I can't believe I have only been in the position of Africa HAL for 6 months. It seems so much longer than that when I think back to everything that has been going on at Parklands. I have been made to feel very welcome by all the staff and pupils alike.

I arrived just on the back of Africa House winning Sports Day and soon got a taste of the competitiveness of the House Competitions. I think on occasions these are taken more seriously by the HALs than the students! My firm favourite has to be the Pumpkin Rolling one so far. I really enjoy seeing the enthusiasm on the faces of the students willing to take part and make a positive contribution to Africa maintaining their place at the top (I had to get it in).

Africa House students also like earning P Points, none more so than Egypt who fly our flag at the top of the charts on a regular basis. There are also a number of students who are edging ahead with their P Point tally too which is great to see, a number of these winning prizes after the half term, well done!

What has also really impressed me is commitment from the pupils in Year 11 to stay until 4pm and put in that time for some useful revision with help and support from staff. As a few of the Year 11's know, I think it's a good idea to 'use your time wisely'. I enjoy talking with Year 11 students who know where their next step is and are focused on achieving their targets, but just as much I like listening to and advising the others so they can go on and make a good informed choice about their futures beyond Parklands.

It's been a great term, have a fantastic Christmas break ready to return in the New Year and go in again!

Mr Swift



Sparkly Poppies

Thank you to everyone who bought one, we have reached a total of £289 for the Royal British Legion.



Asia House News

May I start by extending a very warm welcome to the new year 7 students in Asia House that started Parklands High School in September. You have made a very positive start to your scholastic journey at Parklands. You all seem to be taking the initiative by getting involved in the house competitions, joining in with extra curricular provisions we provide during lunchtime or after school and the huge efforts you've made to gain as many 'P' Points as possible. Concurrently, I feel that this is an ideal opportunity for me to highlight Jodie Cocker in year 7 whose hard work, diligence and positive mindset ensured that she received the highest number of P Points in the whole school at the latest count. Truly an inspirational achievement Jodie, well done!

At the start of this academic year we welcomed in our new Heads of Asia House Jess Edwards and Lewis Reilly who have thus far taken to their roles very conscientiously. It is with deep regret that Tiana Fear chose to relinquish her position of Wider School Life representative. Whilst in the role Tiana was able to give it her best shot however due to unforeseen circumstance she felt that continuing with the role would jeopardise her academic attainment. I have the utmost respect for Tiana in making this very difficult decision and I feel that we can all learn from the humility and honesty she has displayed. Once again, thank you Tiana. Moving forward we were able to find a very accomplished and conscientious replacement in Daniela Todorova who is an inspiration in her own right having won the Nationwide Talent Competition called 'Fame by Fearless'. This seems like a timely opportunity to thank all the Red Ties and Prefects in Asia house for all their hard work and commitment over the term in their respective roles.

Asia has had mixed fortunes in regards to the House Competitions this term. We have experienced some superb victories that have relied on teamwork, determination and resilience. However, we've also experienced the polar opposite. Please keep that competitive drive going so that we can strive to be victorious over the other houses!

On a lighter note thank you for the autonomous nature in which you all carried on while I was off school for Paternity leave, Daisy Mae Pilling in particular would like to extend her gratitude!

Please have a lovely break over the Christmas holidays. Stay safe, have fun and ensure you all remember that this time of the year isn't always exciting for everyone as they may not have the love and support you are fortunate to have.

Mr Pilling



Astley Village Community Christmas Lights Switch On

The Band were once again invited to perform traditional Christmas Carols for the community of Astley Village on Wednesday 7th December. The Band were joined by approximately 200 people from the Astley Village Community, including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, at the community centre to celebrate this special event and sing favourites such as Away In A Manger, O Come All Ye Faithful and Silent Night. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were even given a solo part by Mr Willsher and really sang their hearts out.

The band really enjoyed the event, which was the first performance for some of our new students. They now look forward to performing in our Christmas Concert on Thursday 15th December.

Mr P Willsher

PARKLANDS HIGH SCHOOL
is proud to present their annual
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**
15th December 2016
from 7.30pm
Featuring Parklands' musicians and vocalists

Refreshments provided by GCSE Catering Students

P Points are changing....

PPoints are the in-school reward system we use to encourage our pupils to be responsible and hard working.

Since they have been introduced we have had 5 areas where pupils could earn PPoints. They were asked to:

Be Proud; Be Punctual; Be Polite; Be Positive; Be Prepared

We have recently reviewed the categories and have replaced 'Punctual' with 'Perseverance'. This has been done, not because we don't value punctuality, but because we can reward the punctuality of our pupils automatically. We will apply PPoints to all those who have 100% punctuality for each half term. Perseverance has been introduced to replace punctuality as an area of focus because it is a quality that we value and wish to reward. The Parklands 5Ps are now:

- **Be Prepared**
- **Be Polite**
- **Be Positive**
- **Be Proud**
- **and Persevere**

We look forward to seeing our pupils' hard work, effort and perseverance being rewarded as they build up their PPoints.

*Mrs G. Aspinall
Senior Assistant Headteacher*



Parklands Alumni

This year we have set up our Parklands Alumni group. We are really interested in what our past pupils are now doing. We have also set up a display in school of just some of the stories our former pupils have. If you would like to be a part of it please send an email to:
phsalumni@parklandsacademy.co.uk



Once registered, the pupils had to wait for an interviewer. They spent their time completing an application form.



Pupils were given advice on how to be successful at interview - including maintaining eye contact, being confident and positive and having at least one question to ask the interviewer!



Year 11 Mock Interview Day

As part of the Respect Day for Year 11, we invited local employers and colleges into school to conduct mock interviews with the pupils. They were given feedback on how they had performed and tips on how to be even more successful.

I would like to thank everyone who gave up a day to be at Parklands - many of these people support us in lots of different initiatives, which is fantastic - and we are very grateful.

The next event will be the Careers Fair on Friday 3rd February, which will be attended by lots of colleges, universities, training providers and employers. Parents are welcome to come along during the day - the event runs from 9am - 2pm and is for all of Year 10 and Year 11.

If you would like any further information on the Careers Fair or indeed any aspect of careers at Parklands - please do not hesitate to get in touch via email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk



As part of our Learning Challenge week this summer, a group of year 8 and 9 students attended a residential trip to Tower Wood, an outdoor activity centre situated on the shores of Lake Windermere in the Lake District. Students spent two days there partaking in activities such as ghyll scrambling, sailing and canoeing as well as some very daring high rope activities including the famous 'leap of faith'. There were many opportunities for students to enjoy the beautiful scenery, including the views across the lake at sunset. Students particularly enjoyed skimming stones and there were some very competitive stone skimmers - 9 bounces became the record!



On the final evening we sat around a campfire, toasted marshmallows and played campfire games. Many students tried 's'mores' for the very first time; toasted marshmallows squashed between two chocolate digestive biscuits. Apparently they are called s'mores because you always want some more ... everybody there certainly did!

At the end of each evening students were asked to keep a diary of their experiences, including what aspect of the day had been most challenging. Many students found ghyll scrambling to be the most difficult but interestingly, the most rewarding too.

All students were sorry to leave but had an experience they'll never forget and certainly had plenty of new encounters to report about on festival day.



Europe House News

As usual it has been a whirlwind start to the year for Europe House. I am delighted to see how well the year 7 have settled into Parklands, they are full of enthusiasm for both their lessons and extra curricular activities, tackling House Competitions head on.

Europe House is very proud to name its newest House Captains, Holly Fairhurst and Villiers Newhouse - I'm confident that their enthusiasm and commitment to the house will do me proud.

This year we have also introduced the new role of Competition Captain and I am thrilled that five of them are from year 7. Well done Jamie-Lee Smallshaw, Jack Yapici, Lewis Greenwood, Harley Huws and Brendon Seed. That said, I also need to congratulate Ethan Wilkinson, Patrick Glover and Courtney Deehaan who have also been appointed Competition Captains.

We haven't made a great start in the House Cup competitions, but are clawing our way back. I am also hoping these newly appointed Captains will help Europe House win The House Cup, COME ON EUROPE!!

We have also nominated new Form captains, whose role it will be to support the Heads of House Katy and Jimmy with Student Voice. Our Form Captains are Eleanor O'Donoghue, Charlie Kemp, Ellie Robinson, Katie Platt, Jasmine Benson, Mathew Smallwood and Lucy Nixon. Well done guys for your nominations.

I am very proud to say that Hannah Fagg won 2nd place in the Christmas card Competition - Congratulations Hannah!

Jodie Mcurk is our P Point champion, but she can't do it alone, so I am appealing to all house members to get behind the point system and start earning points for the house!

Attendance is paramount to your child's education, please could I encourage you to continue supporting your child and ensure they attend school every day.

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

Mrs Fox, Europe House



I cannot thank you enough for the tremendous support that was shown by the whole school community when the Macmillan coffee morning was held in September. The effort from all the children, staff and their families was superb. A big thank you also has to go to all the staff and students who helped set up, serve and then tidy up afterwards, with out this help the event could not take place. We are all touched by cancer at some point in our lives. This year, we made a record amount of money for an amazing cause. Watch out for next year's event.... it's sure to be a show stopper!

Thank you, Mrs Dewhurst





Mr Roscoe recently organised a toy collection here at Parklands - which as you can see was very well supported by pupils and staff. Hopefully this will mean some Christmas joy for disadvantaged children in the local area. Thank you to everyone who supported this collection!



GCSE Pod

During December, all pupils in Year 9, 10 and 11 attended assemblies about GCSE Pod. GCSE Pod is a really useful and beneficial website containing thousands of podcasts related to subjects and topics the pupils are studying at GCSE. All pupils have been registered with the website and all they need to do is access the website and create their own login details to use it.

Parklands have been subscribed to this website for a few years now, and we have seen excellent results from high users of the website with GCSE grades; many users have achieved on or above their targets in the subjects where they accessed the most podcasts. All Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils have been told to create their login details via the website so they can begin accessing and making use of this valuable resource. It is not only useful for revision for exams, but also can help with homework or perhaps to revisit a topic they aren't too sure about or haven't fully understood in their lessons.

So to all those pupils, get watching; there are prizes throughout the year for GCSE Pod users!



6-A-Side success

The month of December has seen the boys football teams play in their annual 6-a-side tournament. The tournaments are hosted by Bishop Rawstorne High School and is entered by all the schools in Chorley. The Year 11's tournament was first. Their fantastic performances and hard work were rewarded with a second place finish. Second place was matched by our year 10 team who worked really well as a team and were a touch unlucky on the night not to win it. The year 9 team though went one better and managed to win their tournament. The year 9 team were unbeaten thanks to some excellent football and team work. We are hoping for more fantastic results from the year 8 and 7 teams when they get their opportunity to play.

Cricket have the Chance to Shine

Parklands High School are once again part of the Chance to Shine programme run by Lancashire Cricket Club. The programme includes a number of cricket based opportunities. One of these opportunities is an indoor cricket tournament. The tournament starts off with a local competition but the final is a county competition at Old Trafford cricket ground.

Our U13's took part in the Chorley Schools competition hosted here at Parklands. We are delighted to say the team won the competition and will now represent Chorley in the next round which takes place in the new year.

Our U15's are hopeful they will have also enjoyed the same success by the time this goes to press.

Year 9 Football

The team have started excellently this year. In the Chorley Schools Football competition the team have enjoyed an unbeaten start with a win and a draw so far. The performance of the season so far came against Bishop Rawstorne in the Lancashire Cup with an emphatic 6-1 victory.

Digital Ambassadors

To begin the year, the Digital Ambassadors delivered a number of sessions during Year 7 Super Learning Day. The aim of their sessions, which they organised, planned and delivered themselves, was to make the Year 7 pupils aware of how to access and use their Google Drive, and how to construct an email correctly. All of the Year 7s were engaged and said that they enjoyed the sessions delivered by the Ambassadors. I want to congratulate the Ambassadors who delivered these sessions for the day as it can be very demanding; especially when relying on technology! They all delivered confidently and proved themselves to be excellent leaders.



Children In Need - 2016

We thought we would go one better this year and have a couple of fun activities to support our Spotacular Non Uniform Day so we held a staff versus Year 11 Benchball and a whole school 'Just Dance'. Both were warmly received by the staff and the pupils!



The staff team discussing tactics!



The staff just managed to beat the pupils on the Benchball but I have to say we weren't the best at the 'Just Dance' .. our Parklands pupils rocked it!



Read to succeed

Read to succeed is a new initiative at Parklands. It started with an Apprentice-style event which challenged year 9 pupils to come up with a scheme which would encourage them to read. Pupils worked in teams to come up with innovative and original ideas and the eight winning teams presented their ideas to the whole year group.

The top three as voted for by year 9 then had the chance to present their ideas to Mrs Hollister, Mrs Radcliffe, Mr Banks and Mr Johnston.

The overall pupil choice winners were Shannon Derbyshire, Shea Duckworth, Elle Murray and Callum Stopforth. However, ideas from all of the finalists have been incorporated into the scheme, which was launched after half term. To gain their bronze, silver and gold awards, pupils are encouraged to read books and other reading formats such as ebooks and magazines, both fiction and non-fiction. The scheme is linked to the school's accelerated reader programme. Pupils also have to complete a series of cross-curricular tasks linked to the books they choose.

The staff prize for the most innovative idea was won by Georgina Ainscough, Helen Masterson, Maisie Owen, Gracy Perry and Charli Smith. Their idea, which included an ebook and audiobook library chosen by pupils, is currently being developed.

There will be more events next term.

"Reading Challenge day was really fun and it gave me a chance to be creative and pick a way for my own year to read. I think it was great to be able to decide what happens in my own year." Georgina M

"It was fun and gave everyone a chance to choose how they want to read. I enjoyed listening to everyone's ideas as well." Jordyn

"I enjoyed the reading challenge day because we got a chance to change the way we get rewards." Ben

"I enjoyed it because it was a good opportunity to develop speaking skills and more interesting than a normal lesson." Louis



At the end of November, Year 10 Spanish students visited Westholme Senior School, Blackburn to watch a Spanish play in their Croston Theatre. The play was called '¿Cuántos me gusta tienes?' which translates as 'How many likes do you have?' It was a comedy play about the perils of exaggerating on Facebook. As the play was completely in Spanish pupils had to use context, body language and of course their Spanish knowledge to understand what was going on.

13 other schools also visited Westholme to watch the play and, although none of our pupils were picked to take part in the play, we all heartily laughed along when pupils from other schools were caught unaware by the actors.

This is what a couple of pupils had to say about the trip.

"It definitely improved my Spanish and we got a feel for a normal Spanish conversation rather than the set topics in school."

Will Halstead

"The acting was good as they were speaking loud so everyone could hear and they were using hand gestures to make it easier to understand. It was funny when they got volunteers from the audience to help out in the play."

Sanchia Kumar

Going to the play meant we were able to hear a fluent conversation and pick up new phrases. Also, it shows us ways to pronounce the words correctly and it also boosts our vocabulary. Another thing is that they helped us out with actions which is a good way for us to remember phrases easier. It was a really good experience."

Arriana Brearley



Lumière, caméra, action! Year 8 pupils were given a taste of the big screen when they watched a French blockbuster in Bolton.

The pupils were studying the topic of cinema and television in lessons and got the chance to put their learning to the test when they watched *Yellowbird*, the story of an unlikely orphaned hero who saves the day.

The film was shown at the Vue Cinema as part of the Into Film Festival, which offers more than 3,000 free cinema screenings, which link it with the school curriculum, each year to children.

'Petit Oiseau, Grand Voyage' (*Yellowbird*) is about a tiny orphaned bird that has never left the nest and has no family but desperately wants one. He is all alone - that is, until he finds himself leading a flock on their migration to Africa.

The pupils followed the story of *Yellowbird* and his friends perfectly as they settled down in comfy seats with snacks and drinks.

Following the film, Susan Gaskell, from Deutschland form, said: "The film was really exciting. I'm really excited for my next French lesson."

Sam Boardman, who is in New Caledonia, added: "I want to learn plenty of French now because in the film it sounded easy to say."

And Portugal form member Ben Gosling said watching the film had inspired him to keep working hard in French lessons.



He said: "It made me want to learn more advanced French and the history of French."

Miss Cree, who led the trip, said it was really important for pupils to have the opportunity to see French being used outside of the classroom.

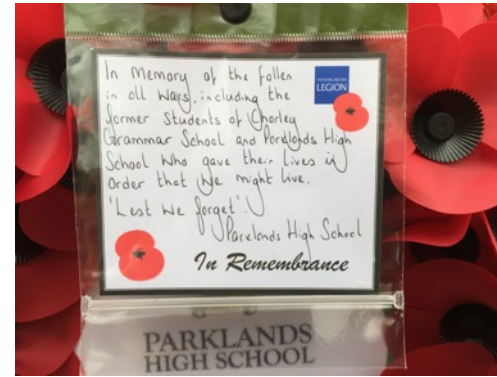
She said: "Although the trip was designed to be a fun experience, it also had serious educational purposes.

As an authentic French resource, the film allowed the pupils to hear the target language used for real-life purposes, as well as improving listening and understanding skills.

As well as this, as part of the new GCSE MFL syllabus, pupils need to be used to talking about cultural life in France and other countries where French is spoken.

The students were also working on talking about free time activities in class so the film was an excellent resource to prompt real discussion and opinions in their lessons."

Miss J Cree



Remembrance Day

Parklands was proudly represented by Year 11 student Jodie at Chorley's Remembrance Sunday commemorations on Sunday 13th November. Alongside other schools in Chorley, Parklands was part of the mayoral processions and the remembrance service at St Lawrence's CE Parish Church, followed by a service at the cenotaph in Astley Park, including the laying of a wreath in memory of those who had given their lives in times of conflict, followed by a gathering back at the Town Hall.

A number of other students from Parklands attended the event representing uniformed groups as part of the remembrance parade whilst others joined the public attending the service at the cenotaph.

We are always proud to see Parklands students participating in this important event to pay their respects to the fallen. 'Lest we forget'.

Mr T Martin



Key Dates for Spring Term

Tuesday 3rd January, 2017 - school reopens

Friday 3rd February - Careers Fair

Wednesday 8th February - Year 7 Behaviour for Learning Report issued

Wednesday 8th February - Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 9th February - Years 8 to 10 Behaviour for Learning Reports issued

Friday 10th February - school closed for staff training

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February (inclusive) - school closed for half term break

Monday 20th February - school reopens

Monday 27th February - Year 11 Review Day and Trackers issued

Wednesday 1st March - Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 6th March - Year 8 Options Evening starts at 7pm

Wednesday 15th March - Year 8 Review Day and Trackers issued

Wednesday 15th March - Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 17th March - Year 7 Review Day and Trackers issued

Tuesday 21st March - Year 8 Review Day and Trackers issued

Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th March – School Production: Musical Madness

Friday 24th March - Year 8 Options Form deadline for return

Tuesday 28th March - Year 9 Review Day and Trackers issued

Wednesday 29th March - Year 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 30th March - Year 10 Review Day and Trackers issued

Friday 31st March - school closed (after school) for Easter holiday



Road Safety Update

The amount of traffic on the roads has increased dramatically over recent years, and too many accidents involving children occur nationally on a daily basis. Unfortunately, many of these accidents concerning children happen during their home to school or school to home journey.

We recently invited Helen Fairhurst in school (a Road Safety Officer from Lancashire's Safe and Healthy Travel Team). She was disappointed at some of the poor parking she observed and she suggested a number of improvements for us to consider to help with pupil safety as they left school. We have started deploying large yellow "parking here can endanger a child's life", A frame boards along the paved area opposite the school and this has been successful in clearing the pavement for pupils to use. We have also asked our local PCSO to patrol the area and prevent people from parking on the double yellow lines. Drivers can of course receive tickets and fines for parking illegally and, under section 59 of the Police Reform Act, even have their vehicles seized.

Lancashire County Council has changed the way parking is enforced to make it more likely that drivers who park illegally will receive a penalty. Until recently, parking enforcement officers have only been able to issue a penalty to a vehicle which is parked illegally once they have finished writing out the penalty. A decision made by the county council's cabinet member for highways and transport, means that someone who drives off while receiving a penalty will still get their notice through the post, even if an enforcement officer has only started writing it out.

The school aims to promote and maintain a school ethos that incorporates:

- Safer journeys to school.
- Walking to school as the preferred means of travel.
- Congestion free school environment.
- Provide secure parking for bicycles.
- To educate children and parents in road safety issues and make them aware of the dangers of road traffic around the school environment.
- To encourage a healthy attitude and walking culture amongst the school community that will lead to a healthier lifestyle.



When picking-up and dropping-off children at school, please consider the safety of others. Only park or wait with your vehicle where it is safe and legal to do so.

Eco Ambassador news update

I would like to welcome all of the new Eco-Ambassadors who have joined us in September who are already showing themselves to be an important part of the team. Throughout the Autumn Term the Eco-Ambassadors have been making progress with numerous activities one of which can be seen on the South Wing stairwell. We have redesigned the display boards to show the importance of being sustainable and being eco-friendly, we strongly suggest that you take some time to take a look. In the next half term we will be looking into the renewal of the Green Flag Award. Pupils are also now looking into making the allotment area in school more accessible to pupils who are studying food by providing fresh vegetables in the Summer to be used by our own pupils during cooking lessons.



My name is Daniela and I am in year 11. I recently entered a nationwide talent competition called FAME by Fearless and in October I found out that I had reached the top 10 which meant that it was all up to the public to vote for their winner. The process was great and the reason that I entered was to put my talent of dance out there, to maybe inspire others to take part in dance and most of all to have fun. I was so grateful for everybody that voted and I was extremely proud of myself to reach the top 10 as that already felt like an amazing achievement for me.

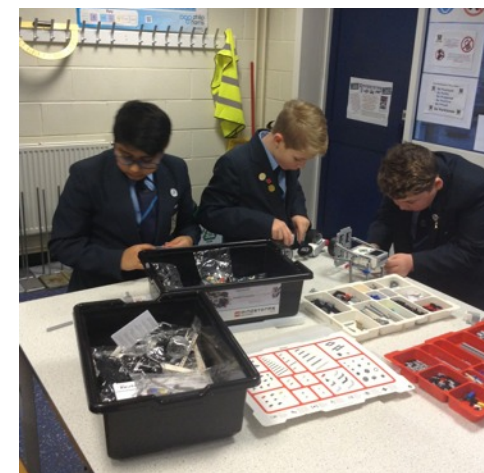
However when I was told on November 7th that I had received the most votes and therefore that I was the winner of the Fame by Fearless competition I actually couldn't believe it as I was already so fortunate to have reached the final, but that moment of finding out felt astounding and I will be forever thankful to everybody that voted and supported me. Furthermore being presented with my prizes in assembly was amazing and I am so glad that I had taken part and show cased my talent to everybody.



Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics Challenge!

Towards the end of last year Parklands Academy won the chance to compete in the 'Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics Challenge 2017'! In the challenge students learn how to build, program and control autonomous LEGO robots to complete a series of short, exciting space missions using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 sets. Alongside this, students will research, design, plan, implement and present their own solution to a contemporary scientific problem - developed by LEGO Education with NASA.

Oliver Partridge, Ellis Bradbury, James Holcroft, Will Barker, Aadam Khansaheb, Aaron Choudry, Ben Craven and Isaac Spinks are Parklands' team named 'Gamma Ray'. Currently the team have started on their first challenge, to program our robot to 'put up a fallen satellite in space'. Once all 10 challenges are completed in school, they will be competing



against other schools across the North West at the Preston College iSTEM centre in March, with the hope of moving on to the National competition at the NEC in Birmingham.

You can also follow the team on the Tomorrow's Engineers website <http://robotics.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/teams/team-profiles-2017/parklands-high-school/#>, here you can see our mini challenges, brain bots and give us a like!

Good luck to Gamma Ray!

Daniel wins Chorley Sports Volunteer Award

Europe House are very proud of Daniel - this year Daniel was awarded Chorley Sports Volunteer of the Year Award. The awards were held at The Town Hall where Daniel received his award from the Mayor of Chorley.

Daniel has given up his time over the past year to support TAAG (Teenage ASD ADHD Group) where he supports and encourages the children to engage in sports and other activities.

TAAG offer various social and multi skills activities for young children/teens 8-18yrs old who have Autism, Asperger's, ADHD or other disabilities/communication requirements.

TAAG is a non-profit voluntary community support group and became a Registered Charity in June 2014, Registered Charity Number 1157535 LANCASHIRE TAAG. for further information please see www.taaglancashire.co.uk

Mrs Fox



Daniel receiving his award



Christmas is the time of giving and once again our students are more than willing to give up their time to help others. Here are some of our year 11's helping the residents at Ravensthorpe Housing Association put up their Christmas decorations.

Thanks Jimmy Fairhurst, Vinnie Wardale, Callum Sharples, Caitlin Bamber, Maddie Verrechia and Alex Cheetham.



A Christmas Carol

On 14th December we have a great theatre company coming into school for a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

The Tiny Giants theatre company (now renamed Ginificent) came to school last year and really blew our Year 10 students (and English staff) away with their three person performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. It was a faithful interpretation of the story and very well performed. We are excited to have them back again this year to perform in front of our Year 10 and 11 students.

'A Christmas Carol' is one of three set texts that our students study at GCSE and seeing the story acted out live will be a great help in understanding the nuances of the plot and characters. It will be a good way for Year 10 to secure their knowledge of the text and for Year 11 to revise.

We look forward to a Ginificent performance.



Useful Information about making payments to school

Dinner Money

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.

Trips, events and other payments

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:

- Pupil'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.

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



Mental health is a topic that we have been discussing a lot in form time sessions over the past year. Mrs Eastham and her family decided to do some fundraising for Lancashire Mind in memory of some ex-pupils who have sadly died too young with mental health issues and to help raise funds to help those who suffer in silence (to get them the counselling that they need).

Mrs Eastham, along with her husband and daughter, ran a 5km fun run called Mental Elf in Witton Park, Blackburn on Sunday 4th December. Thanks to generous donations from Parklands' staff, Lancashire County Council Highways Department and family and friends they raised nearly £800. A fantastic achievement.



One of the many agencies that we use to put in support and intervention strategies to help our pupils is called SkillForce. Mark Isherwood has seen some of our students in his capacity as a Learning Mentor to help pupils improve in self-esteem and confidence, improve their attitude and behaviour towards learning in the classroom and to manage peer friendships and relationships with their family. He is in school every Monday.

N Fairhurst

CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)

Please see our link on the website to information regarding SEXTING the legal bit.....

The production, possession and distribution of indecent images involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal, even if you are the person in the image.

The law is intended NOT to criminalise children. From January 2016, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record this under new Outcome 21, which states that it is not in the public interest to take formal action unless necessary and are child protection concerns. Crimes recorded this way are less likely to appear on future records or checks.

Please can parents/carers and pupils be aware that content on your phone which is circulated or kept of this nature can be detrimental - if you think someone close to you would be upset or disappointed to see some images on your phone - then don't put them on or send them to anyone else!

Mrs Fairhurst

Some useful websites that may help you or someone you know

beat
(beating eating disorders)
www.b-eat.co.uk

bullying
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

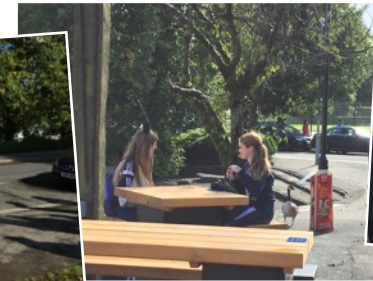
Harmless
(self harm)
www.harmless.org.uk



A fantastic day was had by Year 11 Geographers who visited Formby Point National Trust Nature Reserve followed by Liverpool Albert Docks. The aim of the visit was to enhance students' understanding of the Changing Urban Geography and Coastal Zone GCSE Units. It has certainly helped them seeing 'real life examples and case studies'!

The weather was kind to us and our National Trust guide Sonia was really interesting and knowledgeable.

*Mrs Eastham
CL Geography*



On Friday 30th September 81 Year 9 pupils and 5 staff had a lovely day in Bowness in the Lake District National Park. Pupils practised their questioning and surveying techniques to find out the opinions of both the locals and tourists on how Bowness was being affected by tourism. They also conducted a survey of their own design along with an environmental survey and pedestrian/traffic count.

Mrs Eastham



Geography visit to Bowness



Kenyan Market Stall

On the week before the half term holidays year 8 class 8YLL presented their Kenyan market stalls that they had been working on for the past few weeks. Each stall had something different and there were many creative models, Kenyan dishes and informative sheets on the country.



This picture shows my group's stall. We made a Kenyan model house, spicy rice, cinnamon cake and a chicken and vegetable curry

The stalls were presented to the rest of the class as well as our teacher, Mrs Eastham and the HALs. Everyone was excited to see what the other groups had come up with. All the class contributed and it was clear that a lot of effort was put into some of the attractions.



These are some of the best attractions:



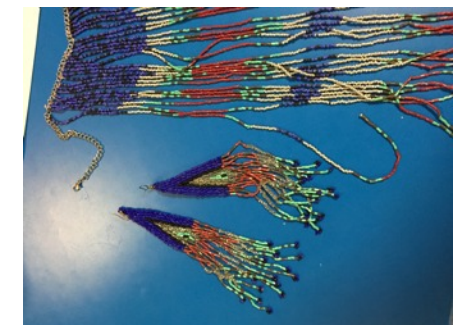
Fact sheet by Amy Jackson



Model Giraffe by Charlie Kemp



Spear and shield by Archie Bullock and Sam Walton



Kenyan Beads by Eleanor Wearing