



### Careers Fair

We held our annual Careers Fair here at Parklands on Friday 29th January and it was, without doubt, bigger and better than ever! Colleges, universities, training providers, the Armed Forces and employers - plus a visit from the Mayor - all made for a really exciting, informative day.

Pupils were able to spend 45 minutes or so in the Sports Hall, talking to the exhibitors: asking questions, taking part in competitions and activities designed to help them see the broad range of careers available.

A massive thank you to all who were involved in making this event such a success - if you would like to be a part of the next event - email [pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk) for more details.



# PARKLANDS

Learn | Respect | Aspire | Achieve



## Spring Term Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. As always it is packed with events from the term. We were extremely pleased to be able to organise a careers fair just after Christmas for years 9, 10 and 11 which they found very useful. We are indebted to the many companies that attended and provided our students with a glimpse of the many careers open to them.

Congratulations to all students involved in the diverse range of sporting activities on offer and to the many staff, in addition to the PE staff, who run extra-curricular activities which enrich the educational experiences of our students. These are just two of the articles in this newsletter amongst a range of other events, activities and celebrations that have taken place over the term, please take some time to read about life at Parklands outside of lessons.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Hollister, Head Teacher

Within this newsletter, you can read about a group of pupils who set out to make lonely elderly people happy at Christmas. They spent time decorating shoeboxes before filling them with gifts they had bought. They were delivered by the pupils who spent time chatting to the elderly ladies and gentlemen. As you can see from the photos, their simple gesture was appreciated more than they could have ever realised!



More photos inside .....

## Key dates - Summer Term

- Monday 25th April, 2016 - school reopens after Easter break
- Wednesday 27th April - Y10 Geography field trip to Formby, Liverpool
- Thursday 28th April - G&T challenge - UKMT
- Monday 2nd May - school closed for Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 4th May - Year 7 Respect Day
- Wednesday 4th May - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 10th May - SEN/ASD Awareness Evening
- Wednesday 18th May - Year 8 Respect Day
- Wednesday 25th May - Year 7 to Year 10 Behaviour for Learning reports home
- Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June - (inclusive) - school closed for half term break
- Monday 6th June - school reopens
- Thursday 9th June - Parklands Sports Day
- Monday 13th June to Wednesday 15th June - New Intake Awareness Evenings
- Tuesday 28th June - Year 10 college Taster Day (Runshaw)
- Tuesday 28th June - SEN Social Evening
- Wednesday 29th June - Year 9 Respect Day
- Wednesday 29th June - Year 7 reports home
- Thursday 30th June - Year 10 college Taster Day (Cardinal Newman)
- Friday 1st July - school closed for staff training
- Wednesday 6 July - Year 6 Induction Day
- Thursday 7th July - Year 8 reports home
- Monday 11th July - Year 10 college Taster Day (Wigan & Leigh)
- Thursday 14th July - Key Stage 3 Presentation Evening
- Tuesday 19th July - Year 9 reports home
- Thursday 21st July - Year 10 reports home
- Friday 22nd July - school closed (after school) for Summer holiday

0300 123 6720



The teacher who was worried

The family member who was concerned

The coach who noticed at practice

The neighbour who felt uneasy

**You**

If you suspect child abuse,  
visit [gov.uk/reportchildabuse](http://gov.uk/reportchildabuse)  
or call Lancashire County Council

**TOGETHER  
WE CAN TACKLE  
CHILD ABUSE**  Department  
for Education

## Useful Helplines

**CHILDLINE** Confidential helpline for children and young people

0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**YPS** Various activities and groups every night of the week in Chorley town centre, Coppull, Adlington and Eccleston. Check the website or call Interactive Services 0800 51 11 11 for opening times and venues.

[www.yps.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.yps.lancashire.gov.uk) [www.facebook.com/chorleyyouthzone](https://www.facebook.com/chorleyyouthzone)

### LGBT community

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure?

POUT is a social group for young people of the LGBT community aged 13 - 19 years old in South Ribble, Chorley and surrounding areas. Email us for details of our meetings and for support. [POUT99@hotmail.com](mailto:POUT99@hotmail.com)

**MIND** Offers a range of mental health information on :

- Diagnoses
- treatments
- practical help for well-being
- where to get help

0300 123 3393 [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

**STRIDE** bereavement support: providing support for children, young people, families and carers affected by bereavement

01772 798 746 Vine House, 22 Cromwell Road, Ribbleson, Preston PR2 6YB

### DOMESTIC ABUSE

Chorley Refuge & Helpline

01257 260 200 [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

**ChatHealth** School Nurse Messaging Service launched 29th February 2016

This gives students the opportunity to contact a nurse by mobile messaging. They can send an SMS text message from any kind of mobile phone. Students already using the service said they liked this service because... less embarrassing, quick and easy, anonymous, non-judgemental  
It can also be used during all school holidays. It has been highly acclaimed by the Department for Health.

@ChatHealthNHS <https://twitter.com/chathealthnhs>

### On-line Safety

Need help with support and advice regarding on-line safety?

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

0844 800 2382 for all enquiries on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or any other on-line concerns.

**Childnet** [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

Report abuse or grooming to CEOP [www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report](http://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report)

**The Children's Society** - (Child Sexual Exploitation)

offers to support children and young people at risk or involved in child sexual exploitation and missing from home/care

01772 759 233 [streetsafelancashire@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:streetsafelancashire@childrenssociety.org.uk)



## Parklands VIPP's - Christmas Party

The Christmas tea party and singalong, which was held on Wednesday 16th December was a huge success. We had 30 VIPP's visit us from Ravensthorpe residents home and Eldon House.

Our VIPP's were treated to a fabulous spread prepared by Miss Flight's year 9 and 10 catering classes. Our visitors couldn't believe the cooking skills our pupils have and couldn't praise them enough.

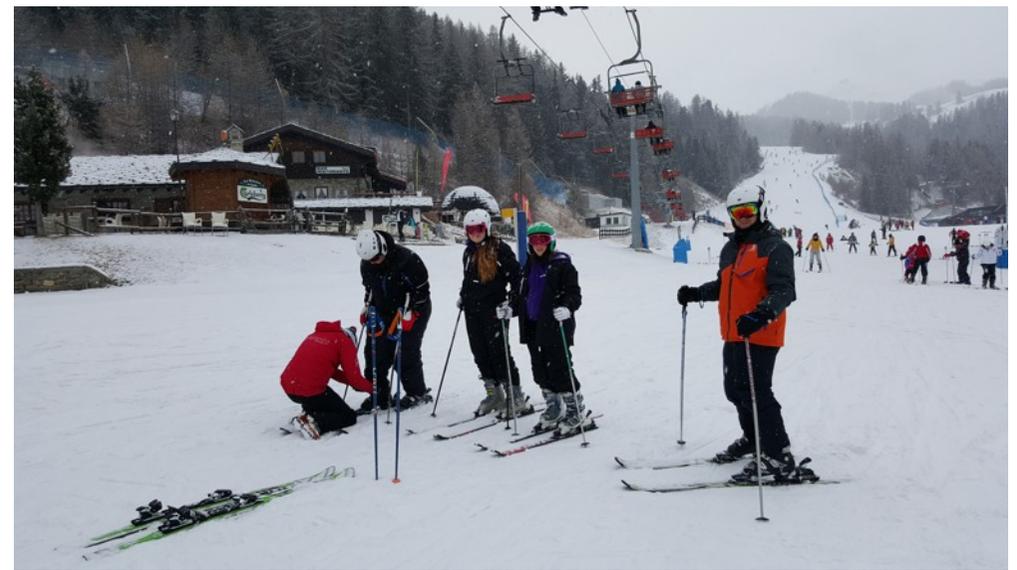


After our delicious meal, we all gathered together for some entertainment from the year 9 and 10 dancers and singers, followed by a good old fashioned Christmas sing-a-long.

We are certainly looking forward to next year's event.

Mrs G Fox





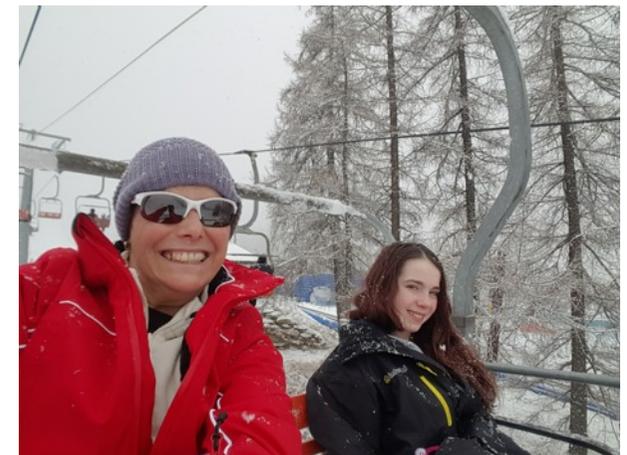
## Ski Trip

Last Christmas, I decided to go on the ski trip. It was one of the best experiences of my life, and a trip that I would definitely go on again. The week was a great opportunity for me to learn a new skill and have an insight into another country's culture and customs. Although it was mainly a week of skiing, the activities we did in the evening gave me the chance to meet many new people and make lots of new friends.

On the 27th December 2015, I and 31 other students began the trip to Italy. The coach ride was long but the excitement from all the students around me created an enjoyable atmosphere. When we arrived at the hotel we were greeted by the hotel owners who showed us to our rooms.

We skied 6 hours every day - which meant we skied 30 hours throughout the whole week. At the beginning of the ski lessons it was hard and none of us were that good at it. However, by the end of the week of skiing we were doing things that we never would have thought we could have done at first. Our ski instructor, David, was extremely helpful and made sure that we all had a brilliant time but also learnt a lot. The ski trip did not only include skiing though; we also got to do many extra activities. For example going to the Nike shop, going bowling and visiting the town and getting ice cream. At the end of the week, we had a presentation evening where we all got a certificate to acknowledge our achievements and our ski instructors said something about each of us. The trip was outstanding in all aspects and overall an amazing week.

*Rebekah Barker Year 9*



## Europe News

It's been a very busy term once again for Europe House. Each form has been given the opportunity to hold a house assembly, and I have been very pleased to see so many students taking part and getting involved.

All our year 8 students have made their GCSE option choices - this is the first year we have chosen options as early as year 8, so very exciting times ahead.

Europe are not up to their usual standard of attendance, and I would really like to see a big push for the summer term and get us back up to top spot. I am however very proud of the 32 pupils in Europe House who have 100% attendance, this is a fantastic achievement, well done!

House competitions are still going strong, and for the first time ever the top spot for House Cup may be within our reach. Come on Europe - we can do it!!!

I would like to say congratulations to all the year 9 and 10 students who have applied for prefects, I was very impressed with your applications and look forward to supporting successful candidates in their new roles. I would also like to congratulate all the year 10 students who applied for SSLT, the calibre of students is extremely high, and the students conducted themselves fabulously at interview.

I would like to thank all my outgoing prefects for all their hard work and efforts over the last year, and a very special thank you to Georgia and Ellie for all their support and help in the mornings. I don't know what I would have done without you. I would also like to say a massive thank you to Steven Reynolds for all his fabulous support in mentoring my year 7 students. To Lydia, Alan, Joe and Liberty for all the support they give the House and to all the prefects who do such a sterling job supporting around school.

To all the rest of year 11, I would like to say now is the time now to get yourself prepared for your exams, ensure you have a revision timetable and use your time effectively. Remember to ask for help if you need it. I'm confident you will all receive the results you deserve.

Good luck!

*Parents - we need you!!*

Parental Engagement - would any parent interested in being involved in consultations or forums in school please email Mrs Haslam on [shaslam@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:shaslam@parklandsacademy.co.uk) for further details.



To forge relations with the elderly and teenagers, a number of projects are being planned over the coming months.

To kick start this initiative, we arranged for our year 7 Connect group of pupils to host an event at the Age UK Lifestyle Centre in Chorley.

It was clear that year 7 are very adept at using a variety of

technologies at lightning fast speed but had not necessarily considered that more senior folk may have little interest in instantaneous access to social media, etc.

Before unleashing their amazing technological skills on the great British public, year 7 took part in a senior sensitivity programme based in the classroom. Using a mind boggling array of objects (including dried peas, vaseline, cotton wool and gloves!) this session was designed to slow down nimble fingers and help the students to empathise with the older learner and show sensitivity towards those who have different learning experiences.

The event itself was called 'How to drive your phone'. The pupils were taken to the Lifestyle Centre and met up with a number of the senior folks who enjoy the facilities there on a regular basis.

The event was very popular and students were quickly asked to display their expertise and show their mobile phone skills. Lessons were given in the basics such as switching on the telephone to helping change ring tones and displays. It was a treat to see young and old sitting chatting and genuinely enjoying each other's company.

Whilst there, the students also had a chance to explore modified technologies which help keep the most vulnerable in contact with key carers should they find themselves in an emergency situation.

Both young and old thoroughly enjoyed the event with friendships being forged across the generations. They clearly delighted in each other's company and the adults remarked on how much they enjoyed speaking with younger people. On their return to school year 7 pondered on how they could be of assistance in the future but were quick to remark about how much they could learn from their older counterparts.



## Asia House

Well done Asia house on successfully completing the spring term, a term which for many has not been without its challenges.

The attitude which the year 8 students have adopted when choosing their options for year 9 has both impressed me and further cemented the pride I have developed for this year group. Furthermore, the year 9 and 10 have produced some very impressive applications for the Prefect and Senior Student Leadership Team roles which is a telling representation of the talent, maturity and pride the students in Asia house possess. Being successful when applying for such a role shows a tremendous amount of pride for our school and Asia house.

Congratulations to all the students that took part in the 'Best Of British' dance festival. The feedback from the audience that attended, the staff and the students suggest that it was a great success which continued to further enhance our reputation within the wider school community.

Asia still lead the competition for the highest attendance out of all the houses which is astounding and I really appreciate your valued efforts in ensuring that you get to school on a daily basis on time. As a house we are still floundering a little in regards to the overall house competition so let's make a concerted effort to avoid any further embarrassment!

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to my Heads of House, Emily and Awni for all their hard work, diligence and dedication; Hannah our Pathway Leader and Aaliyah as Sports Captain. I feel honoured to have been fortunate enough to inherit such a great team and I really appreciate your commitment. Good luck to all our year 11's who will be taking their exams in May. Work hard now and celebrate the rewards in August when your result are published.

*Mr Pilling*

*Asia House Achievement Leader*

## Attendance Update

Attendance for whole school remains mostly positive, with year 7's in top position for best attenders, closely followed by years 8 and 9.

This half term saw the introduction of Attendance Focus Week. During this week pupils excelled themselves, seeing increased attendance, compared to the same period last year. It was positive to see so many pupils determined to come into school with minor illnesses. When speaking to these pupils, they admitted that they previously would have had a day off school.

The end of term also saw five forms with the highest attendance receive a celebratory rewards breakfast, with another reward planned for the summer term.



## Girls Football

Girls football has gone from strength to strength this year at Parklands with many teams being successful in competitive matches, leagues and being asked to represent local club Preston North End in competitions. Our U14 team got through to the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup before unfortunately being knocked out in the final minutes of added time.

Our U16 girls are through to the semi-finals and have a hard match ahead of them against St Wilfrid's - we wish the girls good luck! Both teams, including our year 7's, will be looking to complete the treble by winning the Euxton Girls tournament for the third year running.

## Squash

We are pleased that one of our pupils completed the Young Squash Leader award at Leyland Leisure Centre. We have been working in conjunction with Leyland Racketball Club to allow girls the opportunity to try a new sport they wouldn't normally get to do in school.





## Table Tennis

For the second year running Parklands pupils were successful at the district table tennis competition. We took 8 boys in year 7 and 8 who were victorious on the day. This means that the Parklands pupils will go to the county finals representing Chorley.

## Young Coaches

A number of pupils were selected for the young coaches programme run by the Youth Sport Trust. They will take part in training days and earn qualifications to help them deliver sport in the community and at local clubs.



## Swimming Gala

In February Parklands took a group of pupils to Chorley Leisure Centre for the annual swimming gala and splash down event. The evening involved pupils taking part in individual events such as the front crawl, butterfly and also in team events such as the relay. The splash down event is for non-competitive swimmers who take part in fun races such as the sea horse race and clothes relay to earn points for their school. Parklands once again took a large amount of pupils all keen to demonstrate their swimming abilities.



## Best Of British

Once again our VIPP's were invited to attend an event at Parklands and this time it was for the Best of British dance show. Our VIPP's were picked up from home in the school minibus and arrived a little earlier for pre-show tea and cake, served by members of the cast.



The pupils also stayed a while to chat to our visitors, where stories of their school days, hair styles and fashion were swapped. 'Good luck's were wished, and our VIPP's were escorted to their chairs.

The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with our visitors saying they "couldn't believe we had such amazing talent in one school" and "when was the next show?"

We look forward to continuing our work with the elderly community, so watch this space for further news.

*Mrs G Fox*



## Australasia House

Australasia House has continued to work hard in all aspects of school life. We have had a busy term with Y8 students making their option decisions. Also a big thank you to all those students in Y9 and Y10 for taking the time to apply for a Prefect or Senior Student Leadership Role, it makes me very proud to know there are so many of you wanting to help both the House and the School as a whole to succeed.

Please take time to read the article in this edition about Vincent Wardale, Fiji form. I love hearing about all your activities and successes out of school, so please let me know and then I can let everyone else know.

Attendance and punctuality are still a cause for concern for some in the House; however since the attendance drive in February, aspects have improved. Please keep up all the effort and hard work in this area as it will pay dividends for all your futures.

Finally, a massive thank you to Australasia Heads of House Lucy and Jordan, to Lydia, Brad, SSLT associates and all our Prefect team for your hard work, commitment and support. Good luck to all our Y11's, who will be starting their exams in May - keep revising, it will be worth it! I know you will make us proud come the summer!

*Mrs Dewhurst*

*Proud HAL Australasia*

## YEAR 11 = PROM

at Rivington Barn

Tuesday 5th July!

Three course meal, DJ , Photo Booth, Candy Cart!

Arrival from 6.30pm and carriages at 11.45 pm

All for £30 - tickets available soon!!

We all want our children to live and learn in a safe and caring environment, so that they can grow and develop to become happy, well-balanced, confident adults. You may be aware that young people can be vulnerable to risks both inside and outside of their home from drugs, alcohol, under-age sex and anti-social or risk-taking behaviour.

Over the course of last term, during SECURE and form time, your child has been following a topic based around "choices". This has involved discussions, activities and DVD clips about safety, personal and social situations/relationships and friendship groups, that they may find themselves involved in or witness, as part of their development and growing up.

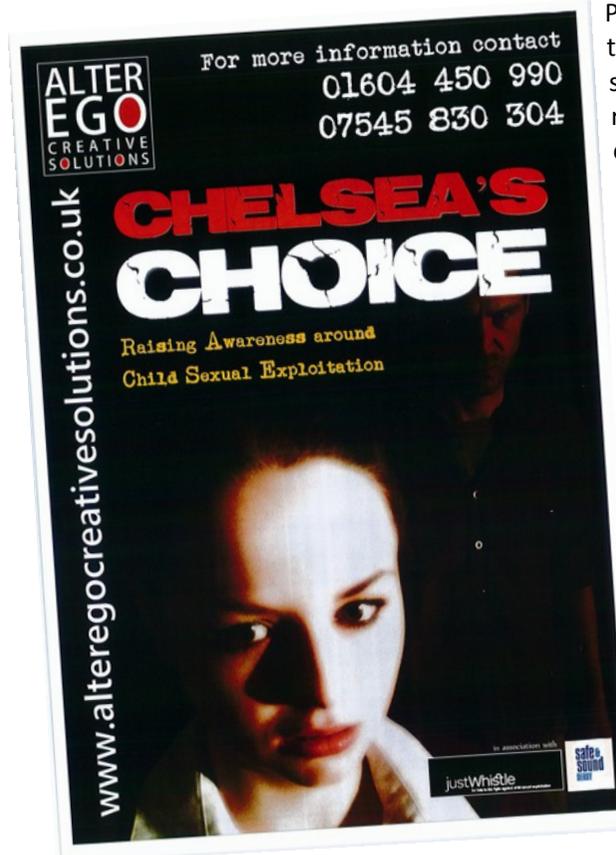
We were fortunate to secure a theatre company to deliver 'Chelsea's Choice', a play based on real-life stories, on Friday 5th February 2016 to years 8-11. It was an innovative and powerful performance that hopefully raised awareness of the issues relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, the Grooming Process, Healthy Relationships and Safe Internet Use, giving our students some skills and knowledge to be able to protect themselves from this form of abuse. Indeed, this performance was delivered at a range of county wide events commissioned by Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council to raise awareness of CSE.

Parents were also invited to watch the evening performance and we had some great feedback from them in regards to the message put across to our pupils.

We have links and guidance on our website if you wish to know more around CSE. We are, as a school, supporting Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council in promoting support for young people and parents with issues around CSE, particularly taking into account new legislation around "sexting" and other social media misuse.

*Mrs Fairhurst*

*Safeguarding &  
Intervention Manager*



Skype call to our link school in Moscow. Here are the messages after the call.

Dear Natasha,

A massive thank you to you, the technicians and your students, Natasha, for helping to set up the Skype call. The pupils really enjoyed it and I think that they were a little shy to begin with, not when they were saying hello and waving, but when they started to speak...they were tongue-tied! (For a change.)

Hope your pupils enjoyed their time speaking to ours.

Thanks again, Mrs Preston

From Natasha Tushina, English Teacher at the school in Moscow

Thank you for that exciting experience for me and my pupils. Besides, it was the first experience of such kind for our school. I had two cameramen in my classroom.



As I mentioned during the meeting, my pupils of year 6 and 7 gathered together, some of them already finished their lessons for today and stayed longer specially to meet their pen-pals. They were really eager to talk.

What did your pupils say after the meeting? Were any photos taken from your side? Could you share if there are any? I attach mine.

I am very grateful to you for such an opportunity; the only sad thing is that we (you and me) hardly talked. Now I have Skype switched on in my classroom all the time, so just give me a call!



On Tuesday 8th March, the PE Department sent a group of enthusiastic Year 7's to the Winter Games at the Chill Factor, Manchester. The group were in competition with a number of schools in the North West in activities such as lugging, igloo building, rock climbing and of course skiing. The group, led by Mr Rimmer and Mrs Fox had great fun during the day and the end result was Parklands came a very respectable 3rd. A special mention goes to Kenzin Watson who was the fastest slalom skier at the whole event.



## Africa House News!

It's been another busy term for pupils in Africa House and we are looking strong in the House Competition with a marginal lead over Europe! It has been pleasing to see that many pupils are still involving themselves fully in the competitions and that most are keen to represent the house.

I'm expecting great things from those pupils who have pledged to try something different with the 'Give it One Hundred Challenge'- I have to say that learning to ride a unicycle may be one step/one fall too far for me!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Millie Wright and Tom Rothwell, our Heads of House, for their representation of our house over the last 4 years. Their leadership and dedication has been faultless and an example to the younger students. I will be sorry to see Year 11 leave this time, we have had a few characters who I am sure will be missed by their form groups. It's the last push now before the most crucial time of their Parklands careers; I really appreciate the effort that most of them have displayed and the support that parents have shown the school.

Enjoy the Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all next term!

*Mrs S Haslam*



## Ben Hughes - Year 9

Ben Hughes (Mauritius Form) in Year 9 has recently won his first national medal this month in the Boys U15 Combined Events (Pentathlon) English Championships. He came 3rd in the National competition, and won the Northern Athletics championship - gaining Personal Bests in all 5 events! This is a fantastic achievement and we are all really proud of him.

<http://www.englandathletics.org/england-athletics-news/day-2-1>

## World Book Day

For this year's 'World Book Day' celebrations a special event took place at the Preston Guild Hall - 'World Book Day Biggest Book Show on Earth'.

15 carefully selected Parklands pupils were invited to attend the event where they were given the opportunity to meet a host of children's authors and illustrators including TV's Sam and Mark and Children's Laureate Chris Riddell. The pupils who were chosen have all been demonstrating a great deal of effort and some impressive progress with their reading at school and deserved a well earned, exciting reward.



Pupils gained a fascinating insight into the opportunities available to young linguists and scientists at a national exhibition in Liverpool this term.

The Germans are world-renowned for their scientific research and engineering prowess and pupils had a chance to talk - in German - to scientists about their work in the UK, which included the disposal of waste from the Sellafield nuclear plant and work on the regeneration of human heart cells.

The aim of the Erfinderland Deutschland exhibition and workshops was to promote the teaching of STEM subjects through German and give pupils a chance to see the fantastic opportunities open to scientists and engineers throughout Europe.

The event was organised by the Goethe Institute, which promotes German language learning in the UK. German is still the number one language sought by UK employers according to the British Council. The trip was organised by Mrs Radcliffe and Miss Ferguson.

Dan Hartley, year 10, said: "The German science trip was a great way of learning German and science as well as having a good day out to see the university."

## ADVENTURES IN HIP-HOP, THEATRE AND PUPPETRY

A group of 15 KS4 Drama students visited Bolton's Octagon Theatre to see a touring production on Thursday the 25th of February 2016. They were accompanied by Mrs Gray and Miss Greaves.

20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites joined forces to create a unique mash up of hip-hop, theatre and puppetry bringing together 4 amazing artists: beat-boxer Hobbit, b-boy LoGiTics, singer/rapper Elektrik, and puppeteer Mohsen to form The Broke 'N' Beat Collective.

The students spent the evening with The Collective witnessing a raw, gritty, funny and moving gig that explored the hardships faced by young people in the UK today.



Students said: 'I'm so inspired for my controlled assessment now!'; 'I've just got so many ideas popping round in my head after seeing that'; 'I would never have come to watch this on my own, I'm so glad that school ran this trip - it's really amazing how they pulled all those different styles together.'

After the show, The Collective held a Q&A session with the intimate audience which saw Parklands' students asking relevant and useful questions which will inform their class work. Every single student had something positive to say about the trip... they can't wait for the next one now!



## Chorley Grand Prix

Pupils from the Year 7 Connect Group decorated a bike to display on the route of the Chorley Grand Prix, which took place recently. Their theme was recycling and taking care of the earth - an apt topic as the bike is such a planet-friendly mode of transport!

Well done on such a brilliant project!



Our year 7, 8 and 9 after school groups joined forces this half term to create some tasty treats for their mums and carers on Mother's day. Pupils baked six small cakes each and came up with their own unique designs to decorate them.

Reports came back that mums and carers enjoyed the cakes enormously...but there were strong suspicions that some pupils didn't gift all six!



## South America

Another busy term for South America House!

It was great to see so many parents attending the year 8 option event, and various year group parent evenings. I would especially like to thank the year 8's for showing such maturity in choosing the subjects to take forward to their GCSE's and that they felt they would be most suited to.

The Challenge 100 is also drawing to a close, which, at the time of reading, may have resulted in me injuring myself on my 'learning to walk on stilts' challenge. I am looking forward to seeing all of your skills, such as having a conversation using sign language, learning the periodic table, and equally as impressive - Miss Rose's pledge to spin a basketball on one finger!

Attendance for the house is an area in which we need to improve. We are disappointingly still at the bottom of the whole school attendance league. I am optimistic though, that when we return from the Easter break, with a concerted effort from the whole house, we can begin to climb back up the leader board.

We have also seen the appointment of our house P Point Ambassador, Grace Webster Year 7.

### New Role

I love being a P Points ambassador at Parklands. My job is to make sure that the P Point chart for South America is filled in each week. The form that has been filling in the chart most this month has been Chile, Miss Cathey's form. Make sure to remind your form tutor to fill in the chart each week and keep achieving all the P Points for your form.



## Primary Matinee Performance

As part of our transition process from Primary to Parklands we offer the opportunity to watch a matinee performance of our Best of British show. This year it proved particularly popular with 380 pupils from 12 primaries attending! The result - they loved it!

Mrs S Haslam

## Product Design News

Here is our latest news. The Product Design department are still busy encouraging the creativity and flair within our two popular clubs. Plus other news .....

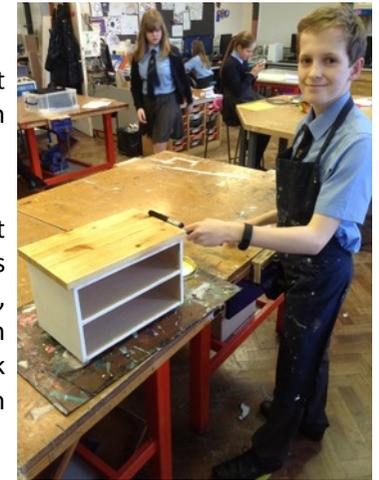
### Product Design Club

Product Design club is full to capacity with a waiting list for places. Pupils work on developing their own products using their chosen material area including: textiles, wood, plastics or a combination of each. It provides pupils with an opportunity to develop their own products and work with technology to build on their creativity within design and make projects.

### Fashion Club

Fashion Club sees the emergence of some budding young designers working on their own garments and building key skills within the manufacture of fashion products.

Pupils are encouraged to work independently to build key design and make skills which will then help them as they progress in Product Design.



### Trips

London trip - we are excited about the forthcoming trip to London which is taking place in May. We will be visiting the Design Museum, V+A museum and the Museum of Brands. This will be an invaluable experience for our GCSE Product Design pupils to provide them with inspiration and hands on experience of real life product design. Meet the parents evening is on Tuesday 26th April at 6pm in the Hall to impart all the relevant information.



### GCSE Product Design

We are excited to be expanding our Product Design offer with the introduction of GCSE Product Design - Textiles. This will now give pupils the opportunity to specialise in Textiles or Hard materials. We look forward to welcoming the next wave of budding young designers to the department to build on creative design and make skills and also develop key knowledge of Design History and other key theory areas.



## Science Busking

Meet the Science Buskers: Louis Greenbank, Matthew Rankine, Sarah Gur, Jake Oliver, Bailey McLean, Emelia Moss and Eleanor O'Donoghue.

The Science Buskers have been working very hard behind the scenes for many weeks planning a range of exciting Science experiments.

The Science Buskers, along with the assistance of the Science Leaders in Year 9, have visited a number of local Primary Schools, where they have worked with younger pupils to get them excited about Science.

A big thank you from Miss McConnie to all the Science Buskers and Science Leaders involved.



## The Big Bang Fair

45 year 8 and 9 pupils visited the Big Bang Fair at the NEC, the biggest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Pupils enjoyed the vast range of activities, shows and exhibits on offer, providing them with an insight into exciting opportunities available in education and beyond into the world of work.

*Miss H McConnie*



## Astronomy Club goes Planet Hunting

In the colder (and darker) days of February, our Astronomy club went on the hunt for clear skies and a view of our five closest planets. Early February gave us the relatively rare opportunity to see all five visible planets in the night's sky at once. Despite the weather, which managed to obscure some of the planets, we were able to get an excellent view of Jupiter. The pupils were also able to learn about some of the practicalities of stargazing - such as how to set-up a telescope, how to orientate yourself in the night's sky and why you should always bring gloves!

Our Club was also privileged to take part in a live screened link up with Major Tim Peake on the International Space Station. All of our students recorded video questions to ask Tim and were entered into a national draw to win the chance to put those questions to him. While none of our students were picked this time, we were able to take part in the live event online and learn about life on the International Space Station.

As we approach summer and the weather (hopefully) becomes more predictable, we will be organising further Stargazing events, so please watch out for news.

*Mr A Cunningham*



Parklands joined hundreds of other organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day and promoting the safe and responsible use of technology.

To celebrate the day, Parklands pupils produced hearts which contain their thoughts on why the internet is a great tool for learning and for fun. The pupils discussed with their form and digital leaders why they enjoy using the internet whilst considering some of the online safety issues that can occur.

During lunchtime the digital leaders were available to hand out leaflets on Social Media Sites privacy and security settings and to offer advice to peers and staff. Parents/Carers are invited to take a short online training with an emphasis on Online Safety and will receive a certificate once they have run through the questions to say they have successfully completed it. To receive a login for the training parents/carers simply email [cslater@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:cslater@parklandsacademy.co.uk), quoting **SID** in the 'subject' bar.

Safer Internet Day 2016 was Tuesday 9th February 2016 with the theme 'Play your part for a better internet', offering the opportunity to focus on both the creative and positive things that children and young people are doing online, as well as the role that we all play in helping to create a better internet.

Mrs Hollister, Headteacher at Parklands said: "Online safety is a crucial part of our pupils' education, we are proud to be part of a programme that will ensure that our pupils know how to keep themselves safe and are able to use the internet in a socially responsible way"

Our Year 8 to Year 11 pupils also attended the play 'Chelsea's Choice'. The play tours venues to help raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation. On Friday evening parents were invited to come along to view the play and the school received some very positive feedback.



*C Slater  
EPICT (European Pedagogical ICT Licence)  
Trained Officer/Network Manager*



## Modern Foreign Language Family Learning Scheme

Since January of this year, we have been running a Family Learning Scheme where parents and carers of our Parklands pupils in year 7 can come and learn beginner's Spanish together for free!

Pupils and parents have been dedicating their Thursday evening to learning something new and it is an hour of the week that we all look forward to, including the teachers! The sessions are relaxed and fun, filled with laughter and learning along with competition between pupils and adults to make it even more interesting. More often than not....the pupils win (well done Parklands)!

We study vocabulary that you may need on your summer holiday to a Spanish speaking country to make the sessions relevant and useful. The topics we've covered so far are:

- Basic information and greetings.
- Ordering food and drink.
- Body parts and visiting the doctor.

The sessions have been such a success and we are so proud of what we have achieved and the dedication that our pupils have shown to this new challenge.

- "It's great to get involved with my child and we enjoy doing the course together!"
- "Very enjoyable and a great way to spend time with your child"
- "The teachers are friendly, fun and enthusiastic and it is good learning with a parent"
- "I have learnt a lot in only 6 weeks"
- "It is a great chance to see what children are learning and pick up new skills along the way.
- "The staff are brilliant and make you feel at ease"
- "A very informative and worthwhile course"



If you read this and you think you'd like to get involved in this wonderful opportunity to do something different, then please get in contact with us at:

[bcosgrove@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:bcosgrove@parklandsacademy.co.uk)  
[rwilkinson@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:rwilkinson@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

We'd love to have more people involved in this exciting project!

*Miss Cosgrove and Mrs Wilkinson*

## Youth Parliament Update

Over the past 5 months current Youth Parliament School Representative Tiana Fear (Yr 10) has led the school-wide campaign to raise awareness of the YP scheme and encourage younger members of the school to join up. Back in December, Tiana successfully delivered a series of House assemblies to introduce the role and soon after pupils began to write their election manifestos. Manifestos were considered and the final candidates carefully selected. Campaigns were produced by the final few and sent out across the school. The candidates then began to drum up support and put their cases forward explaining why they should be given the job.

The election day on Monday 29th February proved to be a great success with over 60% of the school choosing to cast a vote for their school representative. After a long process of counting and recounting all of the votes cast, the final results were in and the 2 schools reps found - Year 7 pupil Adnaan Khansaheb (44% of overall votes) and Year 8 Eleanor O'Donaghue (32% of votes).

The process continues for our 2 young school reps who are now tasked with liaising between school and Chorley Youth Council. Their role is to ensure that the voice of pupils at Parklands is heard and that young people have the opportunity to make a real change in their local area.

Well done to the 2 new Parklands School Representatives and to all those who applied to stand in the election.

If you do have any suggestions for change to your local area then make sure you contact your reps!

*Miss Rhodes*



## Digital Ambassadors

On 23rd March, the newly-appointed team of Digital Ambassadors at Parklands High School held a Parent Drop-in session for any technology-related issues or queries. Our Digital Ambassadors are experts in all aspects of technology and on the evening they focused around several key areas such as social media security, using iPads for more than just games and utilising school's digital services for as-it-happens update information on events and homework. If you did not get chance to attend our Drop-in session but you do have a technology-related query, then you can email our Digital Ambassadors and they can help and give any advice with your issue, no matter how big or small. Be sure to look out for future digital events taking place or if you would like to see something covered in the future.

You can contact the Digital Ambassadors at [digitalambassadors@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:digitalambassadors@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

## GCSE Pod

GCSE Pod Week was held at Parklands between 28th March and 1st April 2016. As GCSE exams are now fast approaching for Year 11s, GCSE Pod is an extremely useful online resource to use to aid with revision which can be used on the move as well as at home and at school. During this week, rewards and prizes were available to a selection of pupils who used GCSE Pod to aid their revision. Names of pupils who have been awarded prizes will be announced in the next newsletter.





Learning your ABCs second time around may sound like an easy job. But these year 7 pupils challenged their linguistic skills by learning the French alphabet to compete in the Routes in Languages MFL Spelling Bee.

The competition started in class in October with every year 7 pupil learning to spell 50 words in French. Two winners from each class then learned an additional 50 words to compete against each other in the year group final, which was judged by Mrs Hollister and Mrs Seeds.

All the class winners earned points for their houses.

Hui Hua, Mohamed Zentani and Katy Metcalfe won through to become the MFL Spelling Bee team 2016. In March they competed against teams from 102 other schools in the North West in the regional final in Manchester. They were supported by MFL leader Jacy Robinson, who was Parklands' highest scorer in the final two years ago.

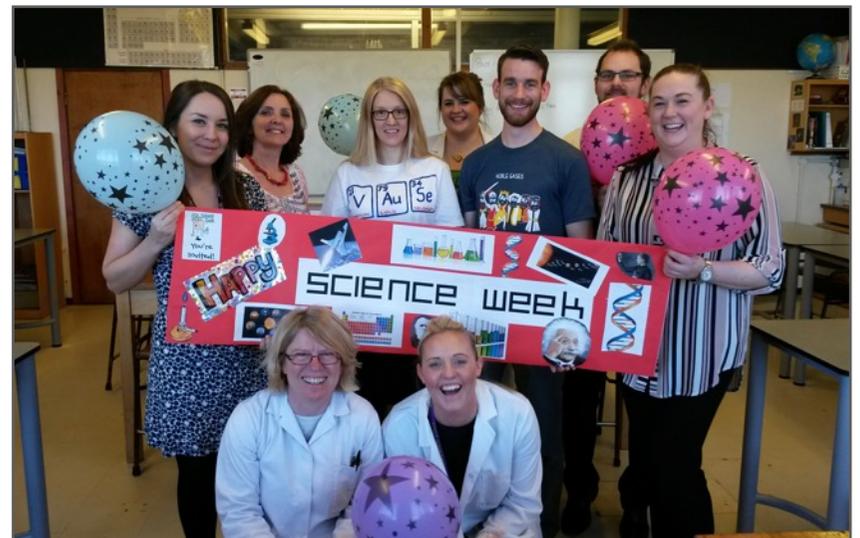
Mrs Radcliffe, who organised the spelling bee in school, said: "The competition is always fierce in Manchester and it is a nerve-racking experience to stand in an auditorium in front of so many people. Hui, Mohamed and Katy worked hard and although they were obviously nervous, they did an excellent job. We are extremely proud of them."



## Year 7 Science Club

Since September Year 7 have been attending Science club which takes place once a week at lunchtime. They have completed lots of fun activities, with some of the highlights including making slime, moving a robot through a maze, flame tests, making a kettle from paper and studying chemical reactions to name a few!

Jorja Thomas-Major who regularly attends Science club says, "I like coming to Science club because it's exciting and we do lots of different things and learn more about Science".



## Holocaust Memorial Day

On Saturday 23rd January, Lucy and Lydia, two of our red tie students, attended an event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This began with a service in Astley Park, followed by a gathering at the Town Hall where students from Parklands, St Michael's, Holy Cross and Southlands all participated, reading to an audience made up of local dignitaries, including the Mayor and Lindsay Hoyle, MP for Chorley. All of the students presented themselves in a very mature and respectful manner.

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was 'Don't Stand By'. The event commemorates the victims of the Holocaust alongside those who suffered under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur and aims to build tolerance and understanding of different faiths and cultures throughout Chorley and the wider world.

*Mr T Martin*



In geography, some students from year 8 got the amazing opportunity to do a Skype call to a school in India called Sacred Heart School. We exchanged questions and answers which gave us an insight into what their lives/school lives are like in India. We also created presentations on the festivals we have in England including Christmas, Bonfire Night, Halloween and Easter. They told us about Holi, Krishna, Diwali and a few others. We were all extremely grateful for the opportunity to Skype call Sacred Heart and learnt so much. We found out that they enjoy school just as much as us and that they can speak very good English. This school specialized in teaching children how to speak English as a first language and very rarely use their native language at school. This was an unforgettable experience and I am sure everyone agrees it was great to learn a bit about their culture.

*Charli Smith Yr 8*



Year 11 pupils have recently completed the final practical exam for their Catering GCSE. As part of their assessment brief on international cuisine, they had to create a 2 course meal based on a country of their choice. Some countries chosen by pupils included: Mexico, America, Thailand, France, Germany and Italy. As well as having to prepare and cook the food from their Menu, they had to plate it up, present it and set the table. Many pupils produced their own fresh pasta, speciality breads, pastries, relish and dipping sauces.

They all worked extremely hard and produced some fantastic (and tasty) dishes. Well done!

*Miss E Flight*





**Join Time to Talk Day 4th February 2016. Let's get the nation talking about mental health!**

time to change  
time to talk  
day 2016

#timetotalk

let's end mental health discrimination

As part of this term's work in SECURE time, the school are looking at and addressing issues of mental health and well-being. Last half-term, Mrs Brookes and I held our first Time to Talk lunchtime drop-in where all students had the invitation to drop in for a drink and a biscuit and the offer of a chat.

We were not sure what the take up would be and thought that it may well be only me and Mrs Brookes having a brew and a natter but were pleasantly surprised when up to 10 students, a little apprehensively turned up to have a chat! Once they had a coffee, chocolate, tea or juice, everyone soon started chatting away and agreed that they felt better for it.

We aim to continue with this offer once each half-term. All details of the next Time to Talk lunchtime drop in will be posted on the school's bulletin.

Further information for support with mental health, contact [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

*Mrs Fairhurst and Mrs Brookes*

### Respect Day - The grim realities of prison life



As part of our Respect Day programme, a small team of volunteers, including ex-offenders, came into school to talk about the harsh realities of prison life. They brought along a mobile cell (pictured) complete with toilet, sink and bunk bed - no Xbox or PS4! Not even a window!

### Down at the Farm

Our ongoing project to learn about where our food comes from saw our Year 8 Connect group make another visit to Cobble Hey Farm in Garstang. This spring visit saw our pupils exploring the differences on the farm since our last visit in winter. We learnt about the start of the growing season and how farmers ensure a good harvest of crops and vegetables with their preparation now. As Cobble Hey is a hill farm, we also learnt all about lambing and what life was like on a farm around this time of the year (tiring – according to Farmer Dave!)



Our pupils were able to help feed the lambs and help collect some of the first of this season's eggs, as well as planting a variety of crops that we will grow on at Parklands.

Both our Connect groups (Years 7 and 8) immediately put their new knowledge into action by planting fruit trees along



the front of our School. This new orchard area will help us to produce our own edible fruits for the School community. Over the next few weeks we will also be planting out vegetables in our new Allotment areas. Alongside the work that the Eco-prefects are currently undertaking, we hope to contribute to a greater awareness in school about how you can grow your own fresh food.

Have you ever wanted to do this?

Hi, my name is Oliver Wood and I do ballroom and Latin dancing. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment but, once you get involved, it feels just like being part of a big family. It's a great way to express feelings and you don't have to worry about what to say.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to win against a group of people? For me I get a real thrill and it can be quite emotional because you're competing against other people who are also really good. Even if you don't win, you still get a great buzzing feeling about taking part and performing with your dance partner who you've put in so much hard work with.

If you think you could have fun and do this send me a quick email ([19owood@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:19owood@parklandsacademy.co.uk)) and I will reply back to you with the details.



### Year 7 and 8 Food Critics...

Pupils have been busy creating their own website and posting blogs following each of their food practical lessons. They've been great 'food critics' taking the evaluation of each of their practical lessons very seriously, providing feedback to their friends and noting any comments from home too!

Now you can add your own comments when you've tasted their food ... ask your son/daughter which class they are in on the Food Studies home page and find their name! Use the link to take you straight to the website. <http://phsfood.blogspot.co.uk>

### Invigilator Vacancies

We are looking for reliable and confident people to join the invigilation team for future Parklands High School exam seasons.

Successful applicants will be able to work alone or as part of a team, be flexible, have a pleasant demeanor, have a good eye for detail and be able to remain calm under pressure.

The ability to run a large examination room would be an advantage.

Please contact Mrs Eaton, Exams Officer, for further information and an application form by email: [leaton@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:leaton@parklandsacademy.co.uk) or call 01257 264596.

*The appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS clearance. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.*



On 30th March, Year 9 Geography students visited Westfield House/Springfields Nuclear Plant at Preston. Pupils were involved in a workshop where they learnt about the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non renewable energy. They answered really well and won several small prizes in a question and answer session.

We then toured the plant in the school minibuses and proceeded to visit the plant that makes the nuclear fuel. It was interesting to see the robots at work making and moving nuclear fuels (all in a highly

safe environment). The tour guides were men who had worked at the plant for many years and they were very informative and interesting when they gave us the tour. Many of them had begun their careers at Springfields as apprentices, many years ago. As part of the visit students had some potential careers suggested to them, involved in engineering. It was made clear to students that female engineers were welcomed in the industry as well as males.

A really enjoyable visit was had by all!

*Mrs Eastham*





Parklands Dance Team

This year I have had the privilege to be a part of the Parklands Dance Team. It was an honour to be chosen for this team, and we have already had great success through competitions and within school, such as the Best of British dance show. We have already competed at two competitions this year and we have been able to do very well throughout, within our solo and duet competition we came home with many 1st, 2nd and 3rd trophies and the day was a great success for each individual as well as the whole team.

We have also competed at the European Qualifiers, where we were up against some very tough competition, performing our street cheer and cheer dance routine, which we were able to place 3rd and 6th, which was a great experience, being the first time competing at such a high standard of dance. We also have many more opportunities to do well and we are preparing for the next set of competitions coming up throughout the year.

Being a part of this team has been a great experience for me as I have been able to learn new styles of dance, and I have also been able to learn so many new skills that I will be able to use throughout the rest of my dance career, whether that be in or out of school. I have also been able to work with people, who I may not have had the chance to otherwise, and I have also learnt so much from my peers within the dance team and I feel very lucky to be a part of such an amazing and talented group of people.

*Lucy McManus Year 9*



Parklands High School have been very fortunate in being given the opportunity to work with Runshaw College in their Gifted and Talented Programme. So far over twenty of our students have attended Runshaw for the day. They have had the opportunity to sample college life and develop their options for post 16 education. They have also attended workshops and seminars in the following subject areas: RE - Freedom and The Existence of God, Forensic Psychology - Offender Profiling, and Law - A Mock Trial. We are also looking forward to sampling Geology seminars, as well as trips to the Tate Modern, Beamish and Lancaster University.



Five year 10 pupils attended Runshaw College's mock trial competition. They were absolutely brilliant. The pupils were definitely a credit to Parklands and fantastic representatives. On top of this they won the competition!! Parkland's team were the first up and against year 11s. They really put forward an excellent, unbeatable defence and made mincemeat of the prosecution.



Thomas, Samuel and Conan - all defence barristers, who put forward their case and were not having their defendant, Jessica, prosecuted, who also defended herself well. Alex was a witness, who the prosecution tried to discredit but failed miserably as she argued her point so well that she actually made them speechless! In addition to this we had Jade, a past Parklands' pupil, who was part of the College Mentor group.

A massive well done to them all!



Last term a group of ten year 9 pupils set out on a mission: a mission to bring joy to some of the people that need it the most - the elderly.

10 mind maps later we had a plan! We would send gifts to those who don't get many so off we went to town. We bought them personalized gifts that matched with their hobbies and likes; we also brought some essential things (even though some of the girls went overboard with the body lotions and bath bombs, cough cough, Arriana!) we also gave them large amounts of chocolate and I mean LARGE AMOUNTS!

Our next job was to decorate the boxes in order to fill them with the gifts we bought and make them look nice to show how much we care and to display our efforts. At last the boxes were finished and they looked wonderful. Now all we had to do is deliver them in style - well, as stylish as you can in a mini bus with tight santa hats and a school uniform! We were greeted with smiling faces at the care home. We never knew our simple gifts would make them so happy. They told us about how life is different from how it used to be and gave us some advice. When we left we truly went away with more knowledge than what we walked in with. I feel like this trip has inspired us to always give because even simple things bring smiles to people's faces and also to try and make the elderly feel more welcome not isolated and lonely.

*Written by Amal and Ethan*



## Lancaster University Revision and Study Skills Residential

On the 19th March, 7 year 11's embarked on a journey to Lancaster University. We were met by student ambassadors lining the route up to the drop off point. We got off the minibus and had a photo taken with Miss Halliwell who then wished us luck and said farewell; leaving us in the hands of the university's student ambassadors. We were then directed into the Faraday Theatre, the university's physics lecture theatre, where we waited to receive our packs and room keys. We were shown to our accommodation; each room has its own ensuite bathroom and in each corridor there is a kitchen.

We were taken by our daytime ambassadors and given a Campus tour. During the week we were given lectures about different types of revision and types of learners. We also had lectures on managing stress and given independent study time in the library on campus. We had the chance after half past four for free time to chill out after a long and tiring day. After tea the night ambassadors arrived and arranged activities for the evening, with the people on your floor. After the evening activities we could go to the common room to play pool or table football or just chill in our rooms.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and made new friends, some who weren't even from this county. We all wish we could go back we enjoyed it so much!

*(Scott Abram Yr11)*



For the past 7 years, Vincent Wardale- FIJI form, has been riding in 'Off Road' events. Over the last few years he has competed and excelled in Endurance events. He has regularly achieved podium positions and was overall winner in the 'Pulotine Winter Series'. These are fierce competitions raced in extremely harsh conditions over winter.



Vincent continues to juggle his outdoor pursuits with his busy school life. Many of you will have seen him recently in the 'Best of British' dance show, where he performed in a number of routines. Vincent who is currently a prefect, has also now applied for a position



with the Senior Student Leadership Team which if successful will add to his responsibilities around school. Vincent's 'One Change Challenge' - a change machine in school, has also been a popular choice amongst both staff and students.

Vincent continues to set an exemplary example to others in school as he remains on or above target in his classes, with a continued perfect 3 for Behaviour for Learning.

Well Done Vinny!

Once again the Eco Ambassadors have been busy with their projects in and around school. At the start of the year the Eco Ambassadors decided that one of their key aims would be to introduce a greater emphasis on 'Healthy Living'. This is already starting to take place as they have been busy fixing the allotment area near the Student Social Area. The pupils have planted easy to grow foods and hope that they can be used in the school food tech rooms once harvested. On top of this the Eco Ambassadors have recently set up a house competition asking forms to create at least 2 logos that can be used in the school cafeteria and placed on any item of food that is the healthy option for the day. The idea behind this is to make it more obvious for their peers to see what options they could be eating that is both healthy and delicious.

Once again the summer term brings with it new challenges for the Eco team and we look forward to bringing you more updates.

Mr Needham



## Breaking the myths about Child Sexual Exploitation

**CREATING  
DRAMA  
CREATING  
CHANGE** **ALTER  
EGO  
CREATIVE  
SOLUTIONS**

### The Myth

Child Sexual Exploitation is very rare and doesn't happen where we live.

### The Fact

It is much more widespread than most people imagine. It is often hidden and can only be uncovered by people being vigilant and reporting their concerns. To ignore the signs is to collude in the abuse!

### The Myth

Child Sexual Exploitation only happens to girls and young women.

### The Fact

It can and does happen to boys and young men as well - although the warning-signs that suggest that they are victims are often missed. Boys and young men can also find it more difficult to talk to anybody about what is happening to them.

### The Myth

Child Sexual Exploitation only happens to children who are in care, who come from a 'bad' family, or are of a particular race, religion or economic background.

### The Fact

Any child can potentially become a victim. Young people are more at risk if they are 'vulnerable' - but 'vulnerability' can manifest itself in many ways. Naivety is a vulnerability that is easy to exploit!

### The Myth

Child Sexual Exploitation only happens to older children.

### The Fact

The average age that young people are most at risk is between 12 and 15, although it can happen older and it can happen younger.

### The Myth

Child Sexual Exploitation only takes one form.

### The Fact

There are various different forms or 'models' that CSE can take. These include, but are not limited to:-

- Individual. A single perpetrator may groom and exploit the victim(s)
- Gang. Exploitation may form part of a gang culture and may be used as an initiation or as a punishment
- Group. A group of people come together with the explicit aim of grooming and sexually exploiting young people
- Peer-on-peer. Exploitation is perpetrated by a person or persons of the same age as the victim(s)
- Online. Grooming and exploitation take place entirely online and the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s) never meet in real life
- Abuse of Authority. Grooming and exploitation is carried out by somebody with authority over the victim(s)
- Party. Victim(s) are invited to a party where they may be plied with alcohol or drugs and then sexually exploited

There are different ways in which these models can work and there can be cross-overs of models used. The perpetrators of CSE are not stupid. They have thought about this, are well rehearsed and know how to get what they want.

### The Myth

A lot of these 'exploited' children are over 16 and have consented to sex.

### The Fact

The sexual exploitation of any young person aged under 18 is child abuse and needs to be stopped, or even better, prevented from happening in the first place. Even if a young person 'seems' to have given consent it is not 'true' consent if they have been manipulated or pressured into giving it.

For more information you can go to the following websites:-

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) [www.nationalworkinggroup.org](http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org) [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd. The Portfolio Innovation Centre, Avenue Campus, Northampton. NN2 6FB. Tel : 01604 450 990. [www.alteregotheatre.co.uk](http://www.alteregotheatre.co.uk)

## BEST OF BRITISH

This year I decided to join in with the Parklands show: The Best of British. I have been in the show since I joined the school in year 7 and it has been an annual event for me ever since. To me this show is an opportunity to perform and for students to grow in confidence as well as show off their talents.

We invited primary schools to come and watch, to show them what activities they could get involved in. As well as that we invited elderly members of the public to show our local community what we had been doing. Of course we all made sure our family could come and watch so that we could show them what we had been doing after school and show them the dedication Parklands' pupils display.

All of the students had auditioned and stayed after school to perfect their numbers. The atmosphere in the gym was so thrilling and it was clear everyone was having fun. I believe this show really showcased the talent that our school has and it is so exciting to be involved.



*Charley Burke Year 9*

The show was an amazing experience for the whole school to take part in. It gave pupils with a passion for singing, dancing and acting to really shine and show what they have been working really hard on.

This was my first ever dance show in school and it was an amazing experience for me and I will definitely be doing the next one. My favourite part was the fact that you could add your own choreography into the dances and even audition as well. It was great to watch the BTEC dancers; they really helped me and made me work my hardest. I took part in the year 7 and 8 dance and the PE dance which we learnt in our PE lessons. I also auditioned a solo which was in the show as well. Some of the BTEC dances were used as an assessment piece which would go towards their qualification. The show is a really fun and exciting performance which gives pupils an amazing experience if they ever want to be a performer.

*Lucy Cheetham year 7*

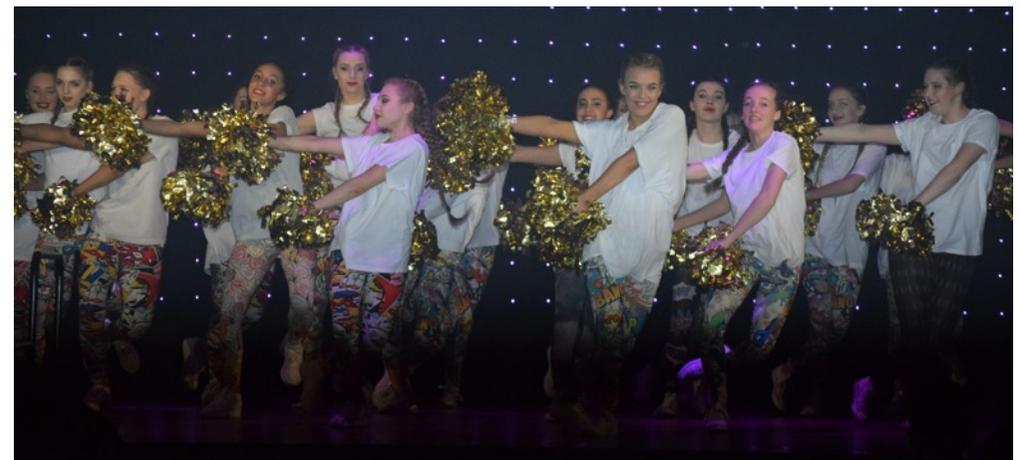


## BEST OF BRITISH

This year we decided to have a British theme to our annual dance show and the number of pupils involved, as always, was huge. A staggering 220 pupils were involved, both in the performance and production side of the show. As with previous years, the show included numbers from the BTEC dancers, PE classes, cheerleaders and dance club as well as those talented pupils who choreographed and auditioned their own pieces. Over the four performances the students performed to over 1000 audience members all of whom were so positive in their feedback at the end.

Every year we feel the show cannot get any better as the standard is so high, but every year the students continue to surprise us. We would like to say a HUGE well done to all pupils who were involved in the Best of British. You are all incredibly talented and a credit to our school! We are so proud of you all and can't wait to do it all again next year!

*Miss Marr & Miss Sullivan*



# BEST OF BRITISH!

# 9, 10, 11 MARCH

