

APPLYING FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

For Lancashire resident families who will require a primary or secondary school place in September 2014, the means of application is via Lancashire's on-line system at:

www.lancashire.gov.uk (then search "school admissions")

This will go live from 2nd September 2013. It is quick and easy to use and offers an e-mail receipt of all submitted applications. Please ensure that you hit the "submit" button when you are ready to send in your completed on-line application. You must apply even if you already have siblings at your preferred school or academy. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your on-line application.

The closing dates for secondary school applications for September 2014 are at 11.59pm on 31st October 2013.

8 Hour Practice-a-thon in aid of Clic Sargent

The majority of musicians in the music department spent a whole day during half term rehearsing non stop for 8 hours in a sponsored 'Practice-a-thon' in aid of Clic Sargent. The event started at 9am with The Orchestra and finished at 5pm and included the Jazz Band, Junior Band, Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Funk 'n' Soul and Year 7 Rock. We were joined part way through the day by Vicki from Clic Sargent North West. It was a fantastic day! Everyone ate very well thanks to the amazing support from several parents. It was a great opportunity to rehearse for the Summer Concert and raise money for a very deserving charity. We were even featured in the Chorley Guardian!



Website: www.parklandsacademy.co.uk

School smartphone app: search for

Parklands High School in App Store or Google Play



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Parklands



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Message from the Head

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Parklands' newsletter. We have had a wonderful year packed with a wide variety of out-of-classroom-learning experiences. I am a firm believer that school should be about much more than academic achievements, important though they are. I would encourage all students to aim to try something new next year, meeting a challenge head on is one of the best ways of developing into the adult you would like to be so go for it!

School closes at 13:00 on Friday 19th July. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Summer break and to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. I look forward to seeing all our students on September 2nd, refreshed and ready for the new academic year.



First day of Learning Challenge week... more on this in the autumn newsletter!



Primary Science Day

The Science department were really pleased to welcome 90 year 5 pupils from local primary schools on Tuesday 25th June. The pupils spent the day carrying out 4 big challenges. They were asked to design and build the best paper rocket and work out how they would compare them to find the next winning NASA design. A terrible crime had been committed in one of our labs - luckily pupils were on hand to test fabric, hair, soil and salt residue that had been left behind at the crime scene. The moment they had all been waiting for arrived when they were asked to learn how to use Bunsen burners to carry out chemical reactions and measure heat, mass and volume of a range of objects. It all got very creepy crawly in the fourth lab, where pupils were asked to dissect various insects and observe them under a microscope. All this was run by our very capable young scientists from 7AER. Thank you to everyone involved - we had a great day!

G. Woods, R. Vause, H. Beezley



Literacy at Parklands

As you will be aware, this year at Parklands our main literacy focus has on reading. It's been an incredibly exciting year! We have been out to visit authors and we have hosted book launching events in school involving Anthony Horowitz and the newly Knighted Sir Tony Robinson!

Weekly form time reading has become embedded in the culture at Parklands and we hope to see this continue to thrive in the next academic year.

Several of our teachers have also been listening to pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 read in our LRC on a one-to-one basis. The response to this has been overwhelmingly positive from both the staff and pupils. Even adults like to be read to! Well done to all involved on some superb progress this academic year!

Another exciting development this year has been the introduction of Lexia to our school. Lexia is a computer program which identifies precisely which aspects of reading our learners struggle with and suggests ways to help them overcome the barriers they face when trying to read and understand texts. Lexia tasks range from looking at phonics, patterns and how words are formed and pronounced, all the way up to adult reading proficiency.

Congratulations to all pupils who are currently using Lexia. You are really making fantastic progress! A special mention must go out to Carmella D'Aniello Britton in Year 7, who has successfully completed an incredible 131 Lexia units since Easter! Another pupil currently making outstanding progress on Lexia is Amy Holmes in Year 9 who is currently our only pupil to reach the top level of Lexia and is the closest person to completing the program!

A big thank you to two of our fantastic Year 11 students. Nicole Moss and Jack Neil-McKenna have been working through a literacy teaching book this term with Year 7 pupils. Jack and Nicole have done a truly fantastic job of teaching the younger learners reading strategies they can use to help them read and understand texts across the curriculum. Seeing them in action is a truly humbling experience and demonstrates what talented and amazing young people we have at our school. Thank you for all your hard work; you have made a real difference.

Finally, thank you to everyone at Parklands for being so involved with literacy this year! Only one question remains; what will you be reading this summer?

Mr D Banks



Sports Heats 2013



On a beautiful sunny day in June, we held our Sports Heats, to determine the athletes chosen for Robin Park. After some thrilling races and events ... the grand finale ... the staff relay race. Featuring staff from each of the five houses, with the last leg run by the House Leaders, there was tension in the air. Not only did the baton have to be passed during the handover stage, but a tutu, headband and pompoms had to be taken and worn as well! This made for a hard fought and hilarious race, with the winners being Asia House. However, the overall winners of the day were Australasia House, with the victorious Mr Parker celebrating with the House Cup!



Overall winners Australasia



Relay winners Asia



Robin Park

On 29th June we took over 120 pupils to Robin Park to compete in the annual Chorley District Sports competition. The team had a fantastic day and the spectators watched some excellent performances from our pupils. Special mention goes to Kieran Smith who won both the shot putt and the discus, having been entered as our 'B' competitor. The team finished the day in 4th position, but with only a handful of points between 2nd and 4th place, the athletes from Parklands can be very proud of themselves. Well done!



My family, friends and I are really proud of what I have achieved and I thank all of the teachers and pupils for giving me all the encouragement and opportunities here at Parklands High School.

I am really excited to inform you all that I will soon set up some after school sessions where pupils can work with me to introduce new ideas for the Parklands planner app that would allow the pupils to record their homework and be informed of upcoming events.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer break.

James Leonard, Deputy Head Boy (Europe)

Hello, I'm Jessica Haddon and I am the deputy head girl of Europe house and I work alongside James! I was overwhelmed and filled with immense pride when I achieved this position of a senior role within school, as I never expected to be awarded the position. The role entails me checking that prefects are on duty and helping out with fundraising and other memorable days that Parklands holds. I am looking forward to working with members of staff and other Parklands prefects and senior prefects next year.

I want to leave Parklands in a year's time knowing I've made a difference to how people think about themselves and how they value their self confidence. My parents and a number of teachers (especially Mrs Fox and my mum) have lead me to this position by pushing me and telling me if I want this I can push myself for it; and this is what I want to be able to help you with. Nobody who ever gives their best regrets it! I am always around school and always willing to help and answer any questions or queries.

I am very proud to be where I am today in school, as four years ago this seemed like ages away, but school flies by so quickly - so make sure you get the most out of it.

I am looking forward to meeting the new year 6's in September and will always be around to help.

Jess Haddon, Deputy Head Girl (Europe)

Congratulations to six year nine boys who after 15 weeks of participating on the T.A.L.L. programme sponsored by the Schools Sports Partnership, have achieved their certificates in Leadership. The boys attended a presentation, held at St Michael's who also participated in the programme, and were awarded their certificates. The boys have led various sports activities over the weeks in primary schools across the Chorley area as well as taking part in activities such as the climbing wall at West View Leisure Centre, kayaking, the inflatable assault course and volley ball at Brinscall baths. They also took part in a session at the BMX track at Coppull and were fortunate to have Sophie Cox take part on the track with them.

All boys were presented with a t shirt sponsored by Sky Sports, certificates and enjoyed the buffet afterwards. It was great to see so many parents, carers and family members attend and support them in their achievements.

Well done to Roland Konieczsca, Paul Garlick, Dom Stark, Tom Booth, Kyle Haydock and Jake Downham on their achievements.

Mrs Fairhurst



Prom 2013

Our Year 11s recently attended their Prom Night at Rivington Barn. Although it rained for most of the evening, it didn't dampen spirits at all and everyone had a fabulous night!



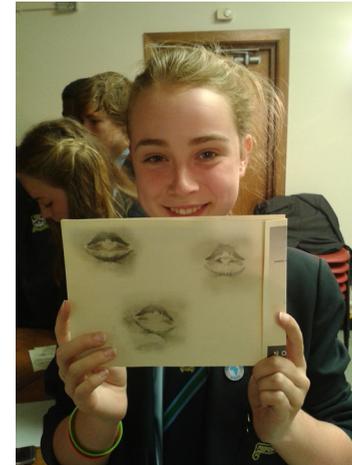
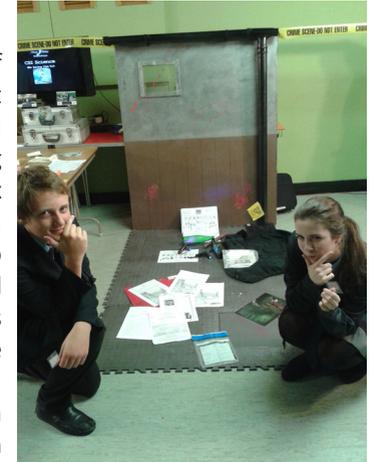
The photos show just some of the weird and wonderful ways in which people get to the Prom!



Good luck to all our pupils awaiting GCSE results in August.

Big Bang Fair!

On Wednesday 26th June a group of 30 year 9 pupils set off to the Big Bang Fair in Liverpool. Our first stop was to visit the World Museum's exhibit hall and meet loads of local colleges and universities to take part in a series of exciting experiments. The horticultural college tested Ewan Lomax on how to milk a cow and clone a plant for fuel, whilst brain psychology students wired Miette Deady up to a monitor to scan heart electricity and brain waves! Josh Bergin tested how much force you could apply to chocolate, whilst others



preferred to simply take part in a taste test instead! We then moved on to a crime scene on the fourth floor, where the group learned how to lift luminous fingerprints and use magnetic powder to find lip and ear prints. Finally we heard from a group of young fluorine chemists who work every day with a chemical that would burn through skin and steal the calcium from your bones if it touched their skin! Taking no risks, Mr Betney put on a suit that would protect him from HF! Regardless of all the free stationery the pupils managed to pick up they still managed to spend their money in the gift shop before returning to school. A fun, explosive day was had by all.

R. Vause

Russian Visitors

Just after Easter, we were lucky enough to have three Russian visitors from Moscow. They are now old friends as they have been coming to see us regularly, participating in lessons and setting up a pen pal exchange. Natasha, an English teacher in a secondary school in Moscow, was very impressed by all the technology our pupils can use, as well as the active lessons which she'll be trying out back home. Katya, her younger daughter visited English, Drama, Maths and Science with mum, whilst Dacha spent the day with Heather Hough and friends, experiencing the real Parklands and no doubt teaching a little Russian on the way!



Mrs M Preston



On 29th April and 2nd May, year 10 geographers conducted fieldwork in Bowness (which makes up 25% of their final exam). We were really lucky with the weather, as can be seen in these beautiful images! There were lots of tourists to interview on their potential impacts on the Lake District National Park and the locals were really helpful in answering students' questions on how tourism affected their businesses and way of life. Students also conducted Environmental Quality, Pedestrian and Traffic Flow Surveys to assess how tourists were affecting the town. I am pleased to report that Bowness' ice cream sellers and chippy both made lots of profit from our students, as did Costa Coffee from the staff ...

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Demet for his work at Parklands and wish him every success in his new career at St Michael's (sssh!!)

Mrs Eastham, Curriculum Leader of Geography



Cooling off ...



Duke of Edinburgh



On Saturday June 22nd, we arrived at White Coppice to do a practice expedition to prepare ourselves for our qualifying expedition on the 6th and 7th of July. We started our 25km walk at the cricket pitch and walked up to Brinscall, then Withnell and finally over Great Hill. We then had to pitch our tents and make our meals using a Trangia. Following this we had fun with camp craft skills and made friends with a Silver Duke of Edinburgh group. We then faced a night of rain and howling wind! We hardly got any sleep. Miss Ward then decided to wake us all up at 7am! We had to cook breakfast and pack our equipment away before we did the final 12km leg of the walk. This walk involved hiking around Anglezarke and back to Chorley. By the end of Sunday we were all ready for a bath and a good meal.

We really enjoyed our Practice Expedition and are really looking forward to our Qualifying Expedition. We would like to thank Miss Ward, Mrs Eastham, Mr Parker, Mrs Parkin, Miss Greaves and Miss McConnie for accompanying us on the expedition - they made the experience very enjoyable!

Jess Dalton and Dom Jolly



Time to submit your sunflower entries from our Science Week Challenge, for a chance to win fabulous prizes. Don't forget there are two prizes up for grabs:

1. The tallest sunflower
2. The best blog

I am really looking forward to announcing the winners soon!

R. Vause





Health & Social Care

A number of pupils recently volunteered to take home realistic 'babies' as part of their Health & Social Care BTEC qualification. These electronic babies are programmed to cry, soil nappies and generally behave just as a real baby would, to give pupils an authentic experience.

Once they are returned, a printout allows teacher and pupil to see if the baby has been fed, nursed and changed as it should have been. Luckily, Mrs Brookes sets the programme to go off at midnight, so the pupils get a good nights' sleep!

Jess and Jana seen here with a male and a female 'baby'.



Battlefields 2013



In April we took 48 Year 10 students to Belgium for our annual Battlefields tour. It's been going for other 30 years now, and it is always amazing to me when I hear from parents who went on the trip themselves. This year we stayed north of Ypres in Lo and visited Arras and Vimy Ridge, spent a day on the Somme, a day around Ypres, a day in Bruges and of course, for the second year running, the fantastic Platoon experience.

I'd like to thank the pupils who were fantastic to be around and the staff: Mr Gallagher, Miss Cathey, Mr Crook and the amazing returning Mr Hitchen!

Mrs E Brown

Mrs Pedley, seen here with Andy Lagor, Chris Scholey and James Allred from Unilever Food Solutions.

World Hunger Day

As part of an initiative for World Hunger Day, Mrs Pedley, Catering Manager, invited staff from Unilever Food Solutions into school to do a cookery demonstration and talk about the desperate situation some children across the world face. 20p from the sale of each meal was donated, meaning that so far, over 2000 meals have been bought for hungry children.

There will be another World Hunger Day in October - look out for details in the canteen.





Cheerleading Success!

On Sunday 23rd June we took 79 Parklands pupils, making up 6 teams, to the UKCA National Schools Cheerleading competition in Manchester. This was a huge event that saw 81 schools and over 1850 pupils competing over the course of the weekend.

The competition is split into different categories with varying levels within those categories. We entered the following competitions:

- KS3 Level 3 Cheerleading
- KS4 Level 4 Cheerleading
- KS4 Level 2 Street Cheer
- KS3 Level 2 Pom Dance
- KS3 Level 3 Pom Dance
- KS4 Level 3 Pom Dance

The squad has been training since September with many putting in at least 2 hours a week. The progress that they have made this year has been phenomenal and we were extremely excited to take our new routines to the competition. The success we achieved on the day was more than we could have imagined.

Our KS4 Squad had the most success, not only achieving National Champion status for the third year running for their Cheerleading routine, they also actually achieved first place in all three categories that they entered on the day: Cheerleading, Street Cheer and Pom Dance.



Runshaw College - pupils in the dance studio, signposts to the various buildings at the Langdale Road campus, and Student Services.



Taster Days for Year 10s

We recently took all our Year 10s to Runshaw College and Cardinal Newman College to sample lessons and courses on offer. This is a fantastic way to see the colleges and find out whether what they offer suits you. Students spent a whole day in each college, checking out the facilities, meeting staff and older students and enjoying the free lunches!

Many thanks to both colleges for their assistance.



The main entrance into Newman College, one of the many food outlets and pupils taking part in a lesson.



For more information on any college or to book a careers interview, see Miss Berry on the Admin corridor. Don't forget to log into Kudos Inspire and go to 'Plan My Future' (www.cascaid.co.uk, licence code: testcare92)



Cookery Club and Dads & Lads "It's Barbeque Time!"

Cookery Club continues to go from strength to strength, with sessions after school every Thursday. As a treat, Mrs Brookes got out her barbecue and we enjoyed delicious home made burgers and potato wedges for the final sessions of the term. Sadly the first week was a bit chilly, but by the Dads & Lads barbecue, the weather had hotted up. The photos show some of our regular attendees enjoying their own creations! See Mrs Brookes if you want to be part of Cookery Club in the autumn term.



Our KS3 Team were also very successful. Our Level 3 Cheer Team and Level 2 Pom Team both took 2nd place with our Level 3 Pom Team following in the footsteps of KS4 and taking the National Champion title.

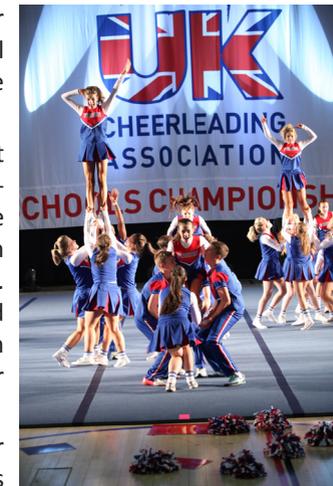
To finish the day off we were also awarded the 'Development Award' that was only presented to one school over the week-end. Pat Hawkins, the president of the UKCA, said we were the clear winners, discussing how we come back each year with not only more members but also routines of a higher quality. They were also really pleased with how inclusive we are, and were overwhelmed by the number of boys we had in the team and the standard of their cheerleading.



It was an amazing end to a year of cheerleading at Parklands and was the best possible way to say goodbye to the 12 Year 11s that are unfortunately leaving us this year. It has been fantastic working with them over the last 3 years and we wish them all the luck in the world as they move on to college, particularly Chloe, who has been a fantastic captain!

As we move into the next academic year we are hoping to see lots more new faces at cheerleading and will hopefully have the same success next years as the squad is driven forward by new captain Georgia Birchall and vice captain Henry Sofield.

Miss G Marr



Tweets:

Steph Gregson - being part of Fusion is just amazing. If you ever get the chance to go to one of the comps it will be the best experience of your life.

Rachael Keeling - Fusion gets better every year, so glad to be a part of it. Amazing experience.

Member of another team at the competition - OMG, that routine was amazing!! And the straddle cradles :o amazing! You deserved every place you came today. Amazing!

UKCA - great to see some guys competing in today's competition with Parklands Fusion, a reminder that cheerleading is for everyone.



In association with:



The Eco-Prefects introduced ... **GREEN DAY!**

We invited everyone to wear something green on a non-uniform day and donate £1.

As a school we raised over £700 to kick start our bid to move our energy supply to a more renewable source. The Eco Team have arranged for a local wind turbine supply company to come in and survey the school site and advise us on how to proceed. Exciting times!

The team also took advantage of the pleasant weather to set up a picnic table-top demonstration of wind turbines, solar panels and biomass, to raise awareness of renewable energy options. Many badges, stickers and pencils were distributed!



Congratulations to Rebecca Williams for completing her LEAP year at Rathbone. Rebecca has managed to complete qualifications in ICT functional skills, Maths functional skills, English functional skills and Employability and Personal Development Award Level 1. She has also come into school to complete her coursework and sit her GCSEs and we wish her every success in the summer when she receives her results.

Mrs N Fairhurst

Congratulations also to Leon Allsup and Shannon Barlow. Leon has passed his ABC Motor Vehicle Certificate and Shannon has passed her L1 Extended Certificate in Beauty, both with Runshaw College.



On Saturday, the weather was against us as it had poured down. The small stream that ran by the grounds was a torrent of water that would have even swept Mr Betney and Mr Parker off their feet. We chose not to do the ghyll scrambling but made rafts and went across the lake to the island to play team games in the rain. This proved to be hilarious just because most of us spent more time slipping on the ground than stood on our feet! After a hearty lunch and chance to warm up, we then went on to our biggest challenge which

was to climb the Jacob's ladder. This was a huge endeavour for our girls, boys and staff as they all aimed high to climb against the odds and with lots of encouragement to the top. All teams cheered and encouraged each other on and everyone got involved. Saturday evening saw us all entertained with a pass the parcel with forfeits, dingbats, star performances and a tug of war. We were also able to celebrate Tiana's birthday and the staff at Tower Wood made her a HUGE birthday cake for us all to enjoy. It didn't take them all long to settle down for the night as they were exhausted!

Sunday's weather was kinder to us all with some sunshine so everyone was back on the lake to kayak and do some team games in the middle of Windermere. This activity was finished by allowing those who wanted, to jump off the end of the pier and swim back to shore. After another hearty lunch, we gave out certificates to everyone and asked them to recall a funny moment, a brave moment, the most challenging moment and something that they would take away as a lasting memory of the weekend. It was good to hear so many positive comments.

The aim for the weekend had been to allow everyone to improve in confidence, self esteem and to try and succeed in a challenge or activity that they hadn't done before or didn't believe they could do. We were very proud that all 18 succeeded in a lot, if not all of everything that was offered for them to do and it was great to see so many happy smiley faces.

A very big well done to **Daniel Fishwick, Zac Scanlon, Oliver Rose, Vistoria Kilburn, Shanna Chadwick, Tiana Fear Thomas Bell, Caroline Lenardy, Alice Whittaker, Ella Doherty, Adam Fraser, Jack Cutler, Shaun Brown and Kyle Haydock** and to the staff for taking the time to give this opportunity to pupils and ensuring this was a successful and fun weekend for all who took part.

Mrs Fairhurst



Tower Wood

On Friday 17th May, 18 pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 set off with Mrs Fairhurst, Mrs Haslam, Miss Williams, Mr Betney and Mr Parker to spend a fun, action-packed weekend at Tower Wood Outdoor Education Centre in Windermere. Four pupils had been the year before and had enjoyed it so much that they had been the first to put their names down on the list and were able to offer advice and encouragement to those who hadn't been before but were up for the challenges that lay ahead.



We arrived on the Friday and were introduced to Rebecca, (nicknamed Beaker by our staff) our instructor for the weekend. After being shown to our accommodation, the first task was unpacking and making our beds before the gong went for our tea! The boys were excellent this year and set a very high precedent as the girls seemed to have brought enough clothing and toiletries for 2 weeks instead of three days! Kyle Haydock, however, did win the competition for having the most beauty products and routine every day to make himself look gorgeous! Everyone got involved in a game of Head Hunters after tea which gave them a chance to explore the grounds. Once again the boys proved to be worthy champions and won easily.



Eco Action Day

The sun was out and so were the wellies. On 19th June, volunteers from all years joined the Eco-Prefect team in a variety of activities. The boys tackled the sticky weed and mare's tails in the square seat planters. A team went to plant the new tree dedicated to the Year 11s which is just awaiting its dedication. The shelter areas and memorial garden got a good tidy and water, whilst the pond got cleared out to give the frogs some space to move! All this effort going on and yet the only question our enthusiastic pupils asked was: 'When's the next one?' Very soon ... watch the bulletin for future events.

Mrs R Vause



Summer School 2013

Parklands are this year organising a summer school, open to all new Year 7 students who will be joining us in September. This is an event that we hope will be repeated on an annual basis.

The event will take place over the 2 weeks leading up to our start in September, and will be themed around the idea of Super Heroes and Summer Fun. Pupils will be using our school facilities to access learning in an exciting way amongst other things, they will be creating their own movie trailer, costing and sourcing their own healthy eating menu, taking part in outdoor educational activities and a whole range of other fun activities linked to learning. In addition, students will meet their new classmates, meet some of their new teachers and get used to our school's learning spaces.

It's all about making the transition from primary to secondary less daunting, and starting students on their learning journey before the start of their time here at Parklands.

Moonlight Stroll

Mollie Hiller and her mum Samantha went ahead with a Moonlight Stroll as a private venture in aid of Derian House, after the original one was postponed. This was to support the chosen charity of Asia House at Parklands. Derian House supported this decision, and the route that Mollie and her mum went on was 10.1 miles. They set off at 8pm, returning at 12.30am.

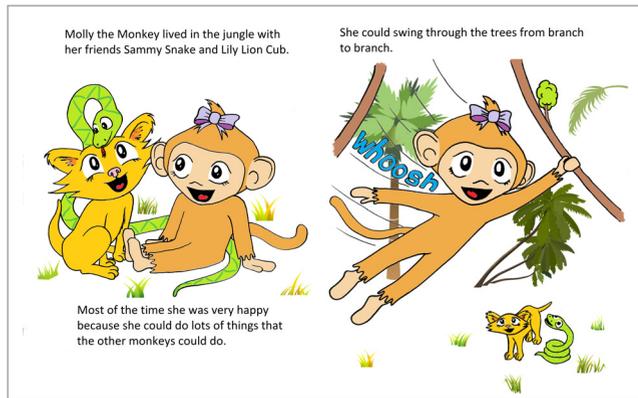
They raised a magnificent £311 that Asia House Achievement Leader Mr Metcalf, alongside Mollie, presented to Derian House.

Mr G Metcalf, HAL - Asia House



Kayleigh Webster impressed me so much with her ability to draw animals, I one day jokingly suggested we should write a book together. One year on and we are waiting to hear back from a London publishing house, with a view to publishing 'Molly The Monkey'. (We have already had an offer of a publishing contract, but the high cost meant it wasn't viable). The book is targeted towards toddlers or early readers and has been very popular with the young critics who have had it read to them so far. Kayleigh produced amazing illustrations to accompany the story of a little monkey called Molly, who couldn't jump, but helped by her jungle friends, she succeeded in the end. If published, this would be a great asset to Kayleigh, who hopes to pursue a career in animation and design, which I am sure she will achieve, given her huge talent. We have started a second book, so watch this space! If there are any parents out there with contacts in publishing, please do get in touch, as we would love to get Molly published very soon.

Mrs M. Berry



A sample page from 'Molly the Monkey', written by Mrs Berry and illustrated by Kayleigh Webster

'LOCKSTOCK' in aid of Armed Forces Day

On Saturday 29th June Mr Willsher and Mr Penketh took 'Funk n Soul', 'Year 7 Rock', the Jazz Band and the Vocal Ensembles to perform at 'LockStock'. It was an event held in aid of Armed Forces Day and featured many other musical acts including former X Factor contestant JonJo Kerr. The event was held in the grounds of The Lock and Quay near Botany Bay, right next to the canal. Thankfully the weather was good to us and everyone really enjoyed performing.



As you may know, earlier this year we bought 90kg of Fairtrade rice from a poverty stricken Malawian farmer. We had a great push of initial sales which has helped in increasing the chance of the farm workers being able to go to school and access health care. However, WE STILL HAVE LOTS OF RICE LEFT TO SELL! Please continue to help our cause by buying a bag from any member of staff for just £3. Thank you.

R. Vause

It's been a very busy term for Europe House, and I really feel that the House's identity has started to grow and develop. Our house ethos is that every child leaves here feeling valued, fulfilled and confident that they have taken part in as much as Parklands has to offer.

We are a competitive bunch and even though we may be coming last in the points, we are catching up fast and came in a very proud 3rd place on Sports Day. However with the last week of term coming up, and lots of activities planned, there are plenty of points up for grabs.

This term we have appointed a prefect team to help lead Europe House, and I am very proud of each and every one of them. I am looking forward to them leading on all the exciting initiatives they have chosen to develop in and out of school next year.

Our Deputy Head Boy and Girl are James Leonard and Jess Haddon; both my deputies are committed to supporting the team and myself, and I am excited for the year ahead working alongside the two of them.

We have also appointed Form Captains, who can be from years 7, 8 and 9. They will represent their forms and it is their job to rally their forms together for House competitions, charity events, etc. Leading this team is our newly appointed House Captain, Molly Whelan, who is chomping at the bit to get going.

We unfortunately have to say goodbye to two of our form tutors, Miss Pilkington, form tutor of Sweden and Miss Smyth, form tutor of Belgium, who have new responsibilities within school. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them well. Luckily we do not lose them altogether as they will still be members of Europe House. We also have to say a very big thank you to Mrs De Bruyn who has been looking after Czech Republic for this half term, and has done a fantastic job.

We are very happy to welcome three new members to Europe House: Mr Woods who will be the new form tutor of Sweden, Mr Hollowell form tutor of Belgium and Mrs Radcliffe form tutor Czech Republic. We are truly looking forward to getting them involved and joining in Europe House.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and relaxed summer holiday, and come back refreshed and ready to welcome our new year seven pupils.

Mrs Fox – Europe House Achievement Leader



Chorley Carnival

On Saturday 7th June, 86 pupils took part in the Chorley Carnival procession and performed in front of five thousand visitors in the main arena in Astley Park. The crowds could certainly hear us coming as we cheered, chanted and sang all the way from Botany Bay to Astley Park. Parklands' cheerleading squad wowed the crowd with their competition display of dance moves and daring stunts, KS3 dance club dazzled and entertained with a group dance featuring 50 year 7, 8 and 9s and the KS4 boy dancers strutted their stuff to a Michael Jackson megamix!

The weather simply couldn't have been better and young and old alike basked in the sunshine to enjoy the array of entertainment.

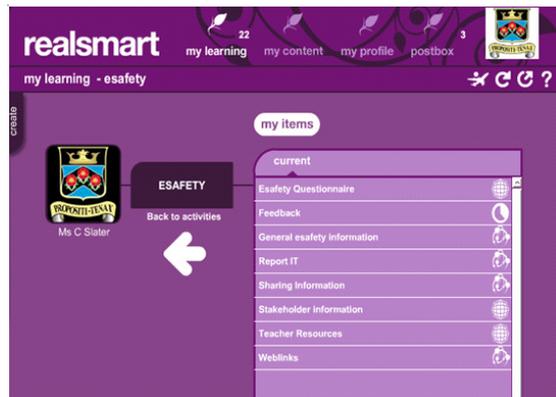
Parklands was the only local school involved in this year's carnival, which was the first in the town for 20 years. The pupils loved the experience and are keen to get involved again next year!

Miss L Sullivan



E-Safety

Parklands takes the safety of its pupils very seriously. This includes the safety of our pupils whilst using the computer network and the World Wide Web. As the qualified EPICT (European Pedagogical ICT) co-ordinator, I regularly update teachers and pupils on the importance of e-safety via their Realsmart accounts (see screen shot) I would encourage you to go through these important information pages with your child on a regular basis.



Pupils are taught about e-safety in their IT lessons; there are also posters in each of the IT rooms pointing to up to date information and also on our netbook trolleys.

Each pupil in school has recently received a 'Facebook-checklist' which informs the pupils of ways to ensure that their Facebook accounts are secure.

Our website also has information regarding e-safety under the student and parent headings; again these sections will be updated as the ever changing internet trends update.

I would urge you to keep up to date with all aspects of e-safety as a family unit. It is not just young people that can have issues online.

For younger children there are pages such as:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe> - BBC website which has games and songs for younger children to watch.

For all ages:

<http://www.childnet.com/resources> - Childnet includes information for parents, children and teachers.

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/> - Kidsmart gives information in small, bitesize pieces and is ideal to keep referring to.

<http://ceop.police.uk> - CEOP - Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is a site for ages 5 upwards. This site is also the place where e-safety issues can be reported to the police.

*C Slater
E-safety Officer*



Every pupil was recently given a Facebook Checklist leaflet which details some of the dangers that can arise from using Facebook. Full of helpful information and advice, it tells how to check and set privacy settings and stay in control of who sees what.

Please see Mrs Slater, Network Manager if you would like another copy or if parents/carers would like a copy.

Developing Future Leaders

Here at Parklands, we want to provide our students with as many leadership opportunities as possible. That's why we are creating the Parklands Leadership Academy, bringing together the work of prefects, learning ambassadors and a host of other key students within school. There will be an increasing number of opportunities over the coming academic year for our students to demonstrate their ability to lead, and that's a learning journey that many of our students have already started to recognise. This term, our senior prefects and learning ambassadors have presented assemblies to the whole school on a range of issues: public speaking in front of an audience of 1100 students is a difficult skill to learn. As usual, our students impressed us all with their confidence and articulate communication of ideas. It's one of the reasons why we believe that Parklands produce students who leave us with a wide variety of skills and experiences.



Trip to the National Football Museum on 23rd May

The National Football Museum has relocated to a new and impressive building in the middle of Manchester, and we thought it was time to take a look! 48 Year 7 pupils went along to take part in Numeracy and Literacy activities organised by the Museum.

The morning was spent looking around the Museum, in particular looking for the use of large/small numbers, decimals, negative numbers, etc. The pupils were given credits so they could try activities such as Penalty Shoot Out, Shot Stopper, Finger Tip Save. These involved accuracy, average speed and scores, reaction times, differences, positive and negative numbers. The pupils who kept their cards can download certificates for the activities they tried.



The afternoon session was Football Poetry with the resident poet Paul Cookson. This was a lively session involving Paul reading out some of his poetry, but also encouraging the pupils to offer footballing phrases that could be turned into a poem. The pupils joined in really well, especially when chanting was required!

To finish the day in style, pupils could have their photo taken in groups holding the Premiership Trophy. This was the highlight of Mr. Bellusci's day, and he will treasure his photo. The Museum is really worth a visit if you have time during the holidays.



Student Leadership

We are very committed to student leadership at all levels within school. Part of our student leadership body are prefects. Our new prefects have been selected with House Deputy Head Boys and Girls and a Head Boy/Girl selected after a very demanding selection process.

We will be launching a student leadership policy within school commencing in September enabling all students from Year 7 to 11 to gain and develop their leadership skills moving towards becoming leaders of the future.



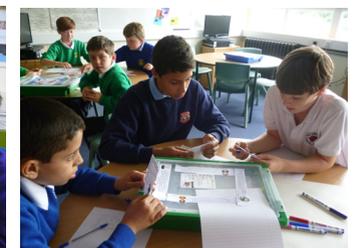
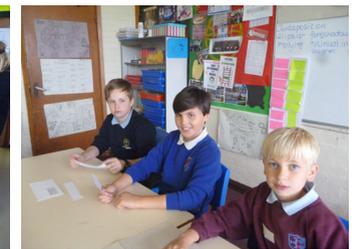
Let's Get Ready to Rumble

The House Achievement Leaders - as you've never seen them before! Preparing to perform 'Let's Get Ready to Rumble' at the Year 11 leavers' assembly! Choreographed (painstakingly) by Miss Sullivan.



Year 6 induction day

We look forward to seeing all our new Year 7s in September - if you haven't spotted yourself in *this* newsletter, make sure you get involved in something for the next one!



Vertical tutoring has made me feel more comfortable with the older ones. Also, I've made friends with people in my year and older years that I wouldn't have if we had normal forms. Furthermore it has worked out well because the older years have been able to help out with the younger ones, eg. With homework and a subject that you are struggling with.

Lexi Ilgner McEvoy

In the first two years of school I hardly ever did any kind of interacting with older or younger years. Ever since the vertical tutoring got introduced, I have made a lot of different friends from all year groups in and out of form.

Vaneeza Raja

I think it has worked out well as I have had the chance to talk to people I probably wouldn't have.

Zuzu Haigh

I think that vertical tutoring was a good idea as it gives me the opportunity to make friends and talk to people I never thought I would.

Abbie Riley

VERTICAL TUTORING - What do you think?

I think the vertical tutoring has worked well. It is good because you get to know people in other years.

Jodie-Lee Moss

The vertical tutoring system has helped Year 7s through to Year 11s be able to talk and be comfortable with the other years. Also, I think it has helped the confidence of most of the new Year 7 students and given everyone the chance to talk to people they normally wouldn't.

Rachael Courtenay

I think the VT is good because you make friends in different years and you are not scared to talk to the older ones. And you are comfortable in form.

Rohan

It is good because when you walk around school you can ask them things, talk to them and socialise with other years in school.

Lewis

I think that it's a very good idea because then we get confident with other years throughout the form.

Charlotte Rawsthorne

Eco Mosaic

Started last year during Learning Challenge week, the Eco Mosaic was recently put in a prominent place at the front of school. Showing the eco warrior logo of the Eco Prefects, with the motto 'Pull Together, Go Green', the mosaic is made up entirely from broken or leftover tiles from kitchen and bathroom renovations.

Pictured is Mrs Vause who leads the Eco Prefects.



Summer Concert

The Music Department staged a superb summer concert on July 4th: Musicals to Motown and All That Jazz. Featuring a host of incredibly talented youngsters (and staff!), the audience were treated to songs and instrumental pieces of the highest calibre. There was also an amazing raffle - prizes included vouchers, hampers ... even a skydiving experience! The concert was to raise funds for two charities: Aymes and the Tymes Trust, helping young people with ME.

Thank you to everyone who attended and bought raffle tickets.



Musicals to Motown
and
All That Jazz

LRC Update

Over the last year the school has been making improvements to the Learning Resource Centre, encouraging and allowing pupils to have a place to learn outside the normal classroom environment. There is a new leadership team of pupils, based in the LRC, who will be producing regular podcasts and a newspaper, written by pupils for pupils, addressing issues which are pertinent to them.

Recently, we have given the LRC a more open plan layout and purchased beanbags in order for continued discussions to take place outside the normal learning environment. We have also converted a wall into a giant whiteboard which will allow collaborative work both in lessons and at breaks, lunchtimes and other periods within the school day. The pupils will have access to resources such as markers, sugar paper etc. enabling them to develop, enhance and extend their learning together. Moreover, we are employing new technology to enthuse and engage students when researching and reading for pleasure, for example employing technology which allows pupils to review literature virtually to inform other pupils' choices at the touch of a button. Signs will begin appearing within the LRC which will reflect the way young people of the twenty first century locate research and reference materials, including fictional texts, allowing them to find what they are looking for more efficiently.

These ongoing improvements will continue to focus on autonomous learning enabling Parkland's pupils to become truly independent learners which is essential as they progress to further education and future careers.

Look out for the first edition of the Parkland's Press which will be available soon.



Sports Dinner

Our second annual Sports Dinner, held earlier this term, was a massive success, celebrating the sporting achievements of so many of our pupils. Our special guest was Josie Cichockyj, seen here giving a speech prior to the prizegiving.



My Battlefields tour was particularly special to me, not only for the time spent with friends, which needless to say in the foreign environment was spectacular, and not only for the fantastic experiences that only occur maybe once in a lifetime and the great opportunities to learn and gain insight into an infinitely interesting subject, but for the poignancy of the trip also as I visited some family graves and for the opportunity for me to honour three good men within my own family.
Ben Wildman



Battlefields 2013 was one of the most amazing and emotional experiences in my life. As well as it being one of the most emotional things I have ever experienced, I felt a great sense of pride when on the trip to be able to respect all of the soldiers that fought and sadly lost their lives during the war was just amazing. The Platoon Experience was extremely tiring, but to be able to be given the opportunity to experience even slightly what those men went through was eye-opening. I felt that the trip really made me realise how lucky I actually am, as well as it helping me with History GCSE. I would like to thank every member of staff, pupils and the other people on the trip for the most memorable week of my life and for giving me such an amazing experience.
Lexie Wathen

At the start of Battlefields, we were told the trip was something that you can't understand until you have experienced it. This is true. It is the most amazing, unbelievable thing and it leaves a different mark on different people. For me it put into perspective the scale of WW1. As well as being eye-opening, the trip was very enjoyable and overall an excellent experience. It is a trip I could definitely recommend for so many reasons.
Frankie Kaufmann

I will always remember Battlefields because it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We got to visit new places and experience similar conditions to soldiers from WW1. At Battlefields, I was lucky enough to lay a wreath for the Chorley Pals. Battlefields helped me to make new friends throughout the trip. Some people think Battlefields is only looking at graves, but it's also looking at the stories behind the graves and seeing the reality of the First World War.
Becky Walsh



I will always remember the Battlefields trip because it was such an amazing experience. It's helped me with my History learning tremendously and I will never forget how much fun I had with friends whilst I was there. It really opens your eyes to what the war was like rather than sitting in a classroom for an hour reading some paper. My interest in History has risen a lot since Battlefields and I just wish it didn't have to end. It really is a great trip to be part of with school.
Nicole Hirst

Year 6 Transition Evenings

As part of our commitment to ensuring our new pupils join us in September with feelings of excitement rather than anxiety. We changed our parent/carer/pupil meetings from one evening to three evenings with families attending as a House (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and South America). We hoped that parents and pupils would gain from a more personal approach and allowed families to spend an hour with other families in their form and spend time with form tutors.



The response was overwhelmingly positive and we hope that the evenings helped ease any anxieties.

Parents said:

- *'evenings were informative, useful and personal'*
- *'we really liked meeting other pupils in our form and being able to meet our child's form tutor'.*
- *'openness of staff'*
- *'we liked the fact that we were able to visit their new form room as a family'*
- *'Prefects were very mature and approachable'*
- *'amount of extra-curricular activities is fantastic'*

Year 8 Rugby

The year 8 rugby team have had a fantastic season this year. The boys have performed exceptionally well all season long winning 8 out of their 9 games. The team captained by Christian Kellet has shown a fantastic camaraderie which has underpinned their impressive performances this year seeing them win a number of matches by over 50 points. A number of the boys play rugby outside of school but it is those players that have swapped the glamour of the football pitch for the rough and tumble of the rugby field that impressed me the most. The boys successfully defended their title from the previous year and won the Chorley 10's competition. In the Lancashire cup they impressively defeated a number of teams to reach the final, which they were unfortunate to be defeated by a very strong and spirited Holy Cross team that they had defeated twice previously this year. Well done to the boys and let's hope that they can go one stage further next year!

Mr D Higham



Our third Learning Challenge Week with Festival Day on Friday 12th July

Every pupil, from years 7 to 10, is involved in some sort of learning challenge: from creating a new island community to designing educational toys, with everything in between: circus skills, fashion, music, photography, sports ...

The photos show the Year 7s on the first day, creating logos and flags, studying maps and cultures and generally getting ideas together for their new island!



Immersive Learning Spaces

It's proven in educational research that learning spaces matter. That's why we have invested in some of our new-style classrooms that focus on increased space, utilising round tables for research and discussion. These now account for over half of our classrooms here at Parklands. It's also why we this year invested in a newly designed and modern Learning Resource Centre.

Effective use of space continues to be a crucial consideration in terms of our teaching methodology here at Parklands. We have a number of exciting developments related to learning spaces next year ... these include a revamped Drama area to create more of a studio feel and enhance performance skills, a new TV studio to be used by pupils across all curriculum areas and a state-of-the-art 4D learning space ... more information to come on this exciting and innovative learning space in the Autumn term.



The 4D Learning Space

Ellis and Emily, after a brief introduction from the trainer, spent the morning demonstrating to the rest of the staff what the software is capable of.

Groundforce and Conservation

Schools do not – and should not – operate in isolation. Students need to leave the classroom at times and consider wider issues such as conservation. We are part of our local community and citizens of a planet that we need to protect and conserve.

As such, some of our Key Stage 3 pupils will next year be working with Chorley Borough Council and Astley Park to work on local conservation as part of their curriculum. In addition, all of our students at Key Stage 3 will participate in a number of planned conservation and wildlife days as they move through Key Stage 3, working with the Wildlife Trust as part of our innovative "Respect" programme.