



PARK NEWS

Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the Autumn term it has been a great opportunity to reflect on how well the students have adapted to the academy resuming normal practice and how they have grasped every opportunity available to them. The students have demonstrated on a daily basis their determination to succeed and are developing real confidence and leadership ability. I know that all of the staff at the academy are proud of how the students are developing, both academically and personally. At the academy this half term there have been lots of highlights and there have been many events, we hope that you enjoy reading about them all in this bumper edition of a newsletter. May I take the opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable break. We look forward to January 2022 where we can continue to develop a sense of fun and excitement at the academy whilst ensuring students continue to achieve academically.

Student Voice

Early in December, all the Form Reps from each year group came together to discuss their involvement in the development of Park Academy. Each session started with students exploring the three Guiding Principles which are underpinned by the eight Conditions and how these are already evident throughout the Academy. This was followed by lots of discussions about how we could develop the Conditions further and students had lots of ideas as to how this could be done. One area was the extra curricular programme and the Form Reps had gathered lots of the thoughts, opinions and ideas of students in their AM groups. We are looking forward to using this information to develop the extra curricular provision in the new year.

Student voice is really important at Park Academy and we are really excited about developing this further.



Parent's Forum

We held our first Parents Forum of the year early in December and it was great to have families with children in all year groups attend. The focus of the forum was the Guiding Principles and opportunities for our students. Ms Mohey shared her vision for the Academy going forward and there were discussions about the opportunities that parents wanted for their children and how this could be achieved.

Our next Parents Forum is on Wednesday 26th January (5pm - 6pm) with a focus on Homework. If you would like to attend please email info@park-aspirations.org.



Year 8 – Drugs Education Workshop

All year 8 students participated in a one hour workshop run by SORTED. The session covered the dangers of cannabis and the short and long term effects on the body, as well as discussions around the legality of the drug. Students were informed of where to get help if they, or someone they know, needs help.

Aspirations Edge

On Thursday 9th December, Mr David, Director of Student Leadership and Engagement at the Aspirations Academies Trust, visited the Academy to work with a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students on the Aspirations Edge Award. The Aspirations Edge is a programme that provides opportunities for students to demonstrate the Three Guiding Principles (Engagement, Purpose and Self Worth) and Eight Conditions (Belonging, Sense of Accomplishment, Heroes, Fun and Excitement, Spirit of Adventure, Curiosity and Creativity, Leadership and Responsibility and Confidence to Take Action).

The Aspirations Edge Award recognises the work and activities that students participate in both inside and outside of school. It empowers students to follow your dreams and contribute to a society of which we can all be proud. Two students Sara Joshi (Year 7) and Ronnie Brown (Year 8) are the first students ever at Park to achieve the award, and will be presented with their certificates and badges in assembly. A huge congratulations to them both! We are excited to give more students the opportunity to participate in the programme in the new year.



Food Bank Drive 2021

The annual food bank collection for the Yiewsley and West Drayton Foodbank has been highly successful again this year with over 1500 items collected! Collection of items from each year group was coordinated by the Form Reps, with the support of the Student SLT. All year groups made fantastic contributions and it was a tightly fought competition between Years 7, 8 and 10. The Sixth Form had a last minute drive and, with the support of Tesco in Yiewsley, contributed over 500 items. It was great to see all members of the Park community coming together to support the local community in challenging times. We are very grateful and proud of the contribution that everyone has made.



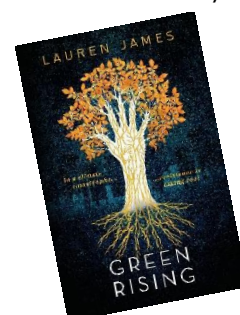
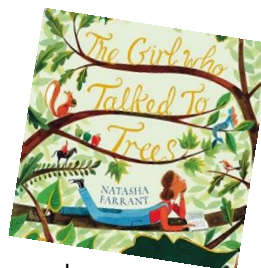
Out Student Leadership Team dropped off over 1,300 items to the Foodbank on Tuesday 14th December! Thank you for all of your support!



English

Key Stage 3 book of the month: *The Girl Who Talked To Trees* by Natasha Farrant

"When Olive's friend and soul-mate – a 400-year-old Oak tree – is in danger, she challenges the person who wants to cut it down to keep a promise. And so she begins a determined race against time, through magical lands, meeting heroic characters, and spanning seven unforgettable stories to save the Oak. With captivating illustrations throughout by Lydia Corry, and Natasha Farrant's evocative and timeless text, *The Girl Who Talked To Trees* is a truly beautiful hardback."



Key Stage 4 book of the month: *Green Rising* by Lauren James

When a girl at a climate change protest suddenly begins to grow plants from her skin, it's only the beginning of an astonishing new movement. Dubbed the Greenfingers, the teenagers who develop these powers soon become the topic of fierce debate, but could they use their abilities to help save the planet? Or could their well-intentioned interventions actually make things worse? Inventive, gripping, and ultimately hopeful, *Green Rising* is a fantastic tale bursting with a diverse range of intrepid teenagers, coming-of-age themes, charming romances and, underpinning it all, a reminder of the desperate need to tackle climate change."

Academy Christmas Showcase 2021

On Thursday 2nd December, we held our annual Christmas Showcase, and it was a huge success! The Showcase included a variety of different performances including Music, Drama, Dance and Poetry. The Showcase also included an exhibition of student work from a wide range of subjects, with parents, carers, staff and students able to enjoy a hot drink and some mince pies before the evening began.

Ms Simon, Coordinator of Expressive Arts, said after the event "It was great to have a live audience of parents and carers back at Park for our Christmas Showcase. Students performed excellently and we are very proud of them. The evening was a great success and feedback from parents and carers was very positive. Here's to the next one!"



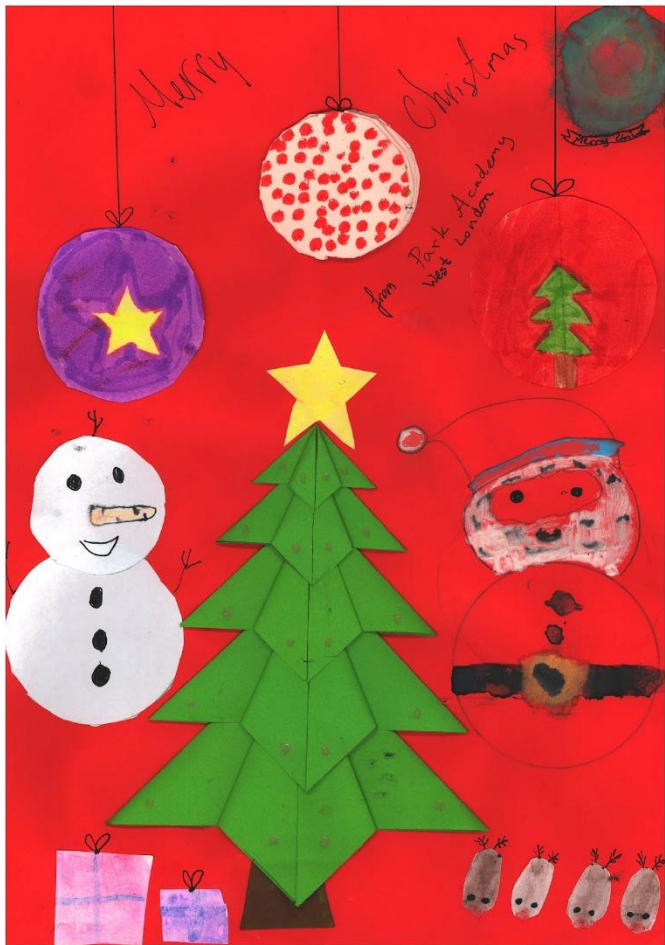
Parliamentary Workshops

Form Reps are important roles in developing student voice at Park Academy. To develop their understanding of how important having a voice is and where their voice may take them, all Form Reps took part in a virtual Introduction to Parliament workshop.

Students learnt about the work and role of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the difference between UK Parliament and Government, the work of MPs and members of the House of Lords, how laws are made and how they can get their voices heard. It gave opportunities for lots of insightful conversations and we are looking forward to developing student voice even further at Park.



Our Annual Christmas Card Competition entries for 2021!



UKMT Maths Challenges

On the 11th November 2021 the Year 12 and 13 A-Level Maths students took part in the UK senior mathematical challenge. The Senior Maths Challenge is a 90 minute multiple choice test which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

A massive congratulations to Witold Niemczak and Garik Markarian (year 12) who received the bronze award and Fahim Hussain, Jassem Aziz and Konrad Klara (Year 13) who achieved a silver award.

Challenges

Intermediate (Year 9/10/11) – 2nd and 3rd February 2022

Junior (Year 7/8) – 27th and 28th April 2022



Amazon Talk

Park Academy was one of a few schools chosen to take part in virtual talk about how computer science is used to ensure we all receive our Amazon parcels. Students from Year 9 and 10 were selected to take part and listened to a live talk on how Amazon runs their fulfilment centres and took part in a virtual tour. It was fascinating to see the many robots that run the plant and how coding is vital to ensure that the centre runs efficiently. The talk highlighted the many different careers that are on offer at Amazon and enabled students to learn how computer science and engineering work together. All of the students who took part in the tour found the session fascinating with several students wanting to learn more about careers at Amazon.

We look forward to hosting many more unique and interesting talks our students in the near future!

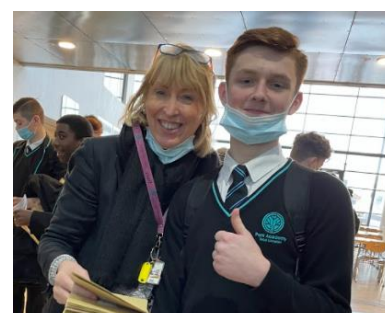


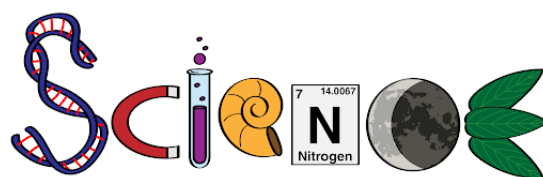
Year 11 Mock Exam Results

On Thursday 9th December, before Year 11 Parents Evening, our Year 11 students received their mock exam results – in exactly the same way they will receive them in the Summer! Students were handed a brown envelope, sealed, with their name on it, and inside was their results!

Students were excited to open their results, and there were lots of smiles, including from staff who are so proud of our students and what they have achieved since the start of this year.

Ms Mattis, Year 11 Lead, said "I am very proud of the hard work, grit and determination our students have shown since September. This is an important moment for them, as it gives a real insight into what the Summer will be like – they need to work hard and ensure they receive the results they deserve at the end of this year. Keep it up Year 11!"

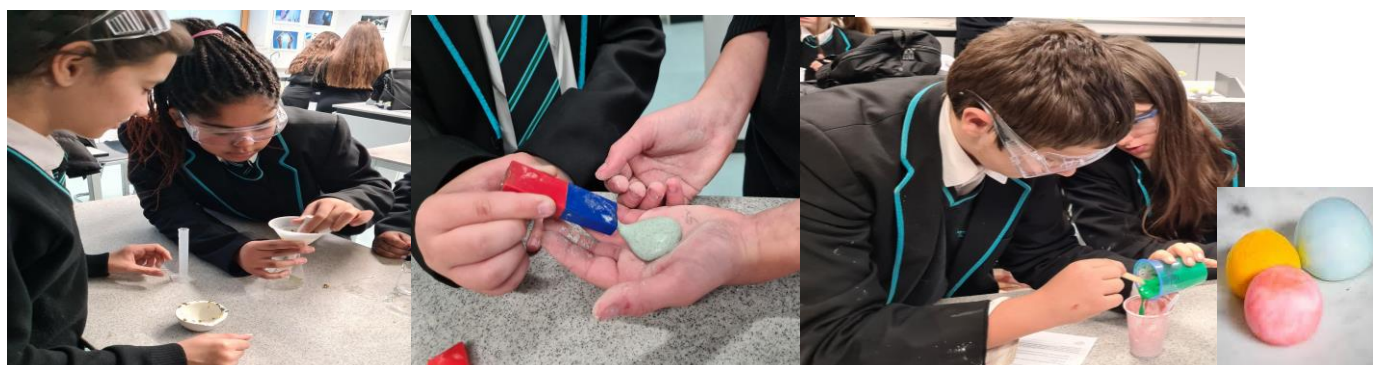




PAWL STEM club is a highly motivated and enriching extracurricular club which intends to shift pupil perceptions towards Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Run every Monday afterschool for pupils from years 7 to 9. STEM club aims Pupils are exposed to how STEM subjects work in action and develop key skills through hands-on STEM challenges.

Our students got up to many exciting challenges this term, such as creating their own stunning scents from scratch. Fragrances are full of science and students delve into the science of manufacturing perfumes as well as applying their scientific knowledge of mixtures and the particle model.

Another fun challenge that our students were stuck into was the magnetic slim challenge. Students saw the wonders of how pressure affects how their slime flowed, its thickness, its softness and its magnetic properties.



Students making perfume!

Magnets and slime!

Students making bouncy balls!

Students had another stimulating challenge by witnessing the wonders of chemical reactions by creating their own bouncy balls. Students learned the science behind their bouncy balls and how each chemical used plays a key part. Students were able to test out their bouncy balls and discussions were had surrounding the bounciness of their balls from the ones they're familiar with.

We are pleased with how successful the STEM club has been over the coming weeks with participation at the highest levels of over nearly 30 students. We are eager to continue to grow further over the next term, with plans set in motion to guide our students through their first ever long term project to enter into the Crest Reward.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to the STEM club after the Christmas holidays and encourage those who haven't come before to show up and try out our weekly challenges. We will be introducing STEM club passports for our students to collect stickers every time they attend to receive participation rewards.

Charity Committee Update

On Thursday 2nd December, our charity team held a bake sale in aid of Save the Children and Cancer Research UK. We had a wide array of baked good to sell, but a particular shout out is made to Cerys Fisher in Year 12 who baked the most delicious cupcakes for the sale!

The charities were chosen for the following reasons:

Save the Children is an international organisation which works alongside 122 countries. Save the Children's main aim is to ensure children have healthcare, food and shelter, as well as learning and child protection services when children need it most.

Cancer Research is one of the most popular charities within the UK that funds their money to scientists, doctors and nurses to help beat cancer sooner. Their main aim is to reduce the number of deaths from cancer. For every £1 donated, 80p is used to beat cancer (the remaining 20p goes towards raising funds for the future).



£71.18



£77.40

Christmas Movie Night

On Friday 10th December, we held our first ever Christmas Movie Night with over 90 students attending! They watched the Christmas Classic 'The Grinch', ate some snacks and had lots of festive fun! We can't wait for the next one already!

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day (more on this below) where students and staff donned their favourite Christmas Jumpers in aid of Save the Children!



£145.38

Christmas Jumper Day 2021



Pantomime Trip

On Wednesday 15th December, 180 students in Year 7, 8 and 9 boarded a coach and headed to The Beck Theatre in Hayes to watch Jack and the Beanstalk starring Anne Hegarty from the primetime quiz show, The Chase.

It was the first time we have been able to hold a Theatre trip since the Pandemic began, and it was so good to be back! Students were full of Christmas cheer as they joined in with lots of "boos" "hoorays" and "he's behind you!". Along with the students, 14 members of our staff attended and had just as much fun as the students.

One student commented "I have really enjoyed studying Pantomime in Drama this term and then being able to see it live! I had so much fun this afternoon and can not wait to see another Pantomime next year!". Another student commented "It really does feel like Christmas is around the corner now – thank you to our teachers for organising this amazing trip!"



Rewards Assemblies

On the last day of Term, Friday 17th December, we held live virtual rewards/celebration assemblies with all year groups, where they received a variety of different certificates and awards including: 100% attendance, 0 behaviour points, Academic Mentor and Principal!

It was an excellent opportunity to celebrate students' successes during the last term – every award winner has really earned their certificate, and we look forward to rewarding more students in the future.

Year 10 will have their Celebration Assembly when we return to school in January.

Well done to all students this Term for their hard work, determination and high aspirations!



Careers at Park

Unifrog Roll Out

We have now rolled out the Unifrog platform to all students at Park Academy West London. Each student has their own dedicated account enabling them to take advantage of resources that help them to develop key competencies, aspirations and take control of their futures.

The Unifrog platform has been integrated into KS3 PSHCE lesson enabling our student to start engaging in careers activities with the support of staff and to start recording their achievements. While our KS4 students have received a dedicated drop down session enabling them to create plans for their futures.



Careers Advice

In addition to the support our students already receive in exploring their future aspirations and careers, we have decided to employ a dedicated Careers Advisor to provide impartial advice to our students. The Careers Advisor will begin work towards the end of January starting with those students most in need. Students will also be able to request an appointment.



Upcoming Events

Friday 17 th December	End of Term (Students finish at 12:30pm)
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Lateral Flow Testing (more info to follow)
Thursday 6 th January	Year 7, 8 and 9 Lateral Flow Testing (more info to follow)
	Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 return to school
	Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening
Friday 7 th January	Year 7, 8 and 9 return to school
Wednesday 12 th January	Year 8 Careers Talk
Thursday 13 th January	Year 9 Options Evening (more info to follow)
Tuesday 18 th January	Sixth Form Applicant Interviews
Thursday 20 th January	Sixth Form Applicant Interviews
Tuesday 25 th January	Year 11 Art Workshop
Monday 31 st January	Year 7 – Prison? Me? No Way! PSHCE Drop Down Day
Tuesday 1 st February	Key Stage 3 Parliamentary Visit