



Park Academy Newsletter

Issue 11

October 2022



A message from Ms Mohey, the Principal:

The first half term of the academic year has been a busy and exciting term. Year 7 and 12 students have made great transitions into their new journeys and it has been fantastic to see how well students from all years have returned after the summer holidays and grasped every opportunity available to them. Year 11 students have shown an increased focus and are driven towards achieving their best this year. This year we are taking time to remind our students about the Three Guiding Principles of Self-Worth, Purpose and Engagement. The rewards system has been revamped and students are now receiving many merits based on the Three Guiding Principles. Several trips, workshops and activities have already taken place and our students are demonstrating their leadership abilities as well as a real spirit of adventure. The extracurricular programme is up and running and students are enjoying the many clubs on offer. We have had new staff join the growing academy and they have made a great start to their careers at Park Academy. The opportunities available to students will continue to grow over the academic year and we look forward to seeing the students develop their curiosity and creativity and enjoy themselves throughout the year.

We had the opportunity to share how well our Year 7 students had started the term at their Settling in Evening. With over 100 families attending it was a very busy, bustling evening, in which parents listened to a presentation from Mr Gardner, spoke to subject teachers about the topics that their child is currently learning about and what is coming up, as well as meeting with their child's Academic Mentor. Feedback from parents and staff was overly positive, with one parent commenting *"I really enjoyed meeting my child's Academic Mentor again and hearing how well my child has settled in. There are so many opportunities coming up and my child and I are really excited about his time at Park"*. We look forward to more events such as this throughout the year.



A message from Arti Dalal, Year 12:

Beginnings can be a tough start for everyone; whether this is the start of a new role, a new year or the start of the school term. For many students, including me, the start of this term has been challenging, eventful and exciting. As of September, I started Sixth Form which was another stage of my journey at Park Academy. It has been a major yet enjoyable transition from GCSE years to Post-16 study; I am looking forward to the opportunities and events the coming year will bring.

For members of the Student Leadership Team, a trip was organised to the House of Parliament in Westminster which proved to be an informative and compelling visit. During the visit, we were provided an informative tour of the parliament, then were able to engage in a workshop which challenged our abilities in the different positions of members of parliament. Not to mention, the honourable presence of Boris Johnson's personal assistant who answered many of our inquisitive questions and delivered an insight to his own role. We all had an excellent time and the experience was worthwhile.

Many students would recall the anticipation of starting secondary school. However, the Year 7's this year, having to return to a school environment after the disruption caused by Covid-19 over their past few years, have been feeling particularly nervous. Despite these major challenges they have proved to adapt into secondary school effortlessly and are beginning their journey into higher education. An important event for year 7 has been their settling in evening last Thursday which gave them an opportunity to showcase their work to their families. This was a proud moment for the students who mentioned *"I have been enjoying my first term of school and I can't wait for the rest of the year."*

Sixth Form News

Elevate Study Skills Workshops

To support Year 12 and 13 students to develop the independent learning skills they need to be successful, Elevate Education, ran study skills workshops for all Sixth Form students. The sessions guided students through a range of strategies students could use to support their learning. It also stressed the importance of finding the right techniques for you and the subject. The Sixth Form students were really engaged in the session and used the opportunity to ask the presenter several questions and find alternative methods to make their study processes more effective. The Elevate presenter was highly impressed by the Sixth Form students and thought that they were amazing ambassadors for the Academy.



Shakespeare on Trial, written by Eduina Qovani (Year 12)

The opportunity of participating in Shakespeare on Trial was very interesting and exciting. We started by meeting students from other schools in Hillingdon and we were taken on a tour of The Globe Theatre. I very much enjoyed watching and learning about The Tempest, even though we were standing for three hours in the rain! The second activity was at Brunel University. During this, we learnt about criminal, civil and administrative law and the differences between them. We also heard from guest speakers who we had a chance to question. This was very educational and let me learn more about studying law. We also were taught how a court appeal takes place in preparation for our mock trial. The most exciting part of the trip was visiting the Royal Courts of Justice. It was a beautiful place where we were given a short tour. Then we got put in a real court room where we prepared for our roles in court and we put a character from the Tempest on trial. Overall, the trip was immensely educational and fun and helped me understand some of the details of law. It also made me more determined to follow a career in law.



Sixth Form Social: Jump Giants

Early in the new term, the Sixth Form students participated in their first social event of the academic year. At Jump Giants in Slough, the students took on a number of challenges one of which included knocking Mr Mohammad off the beam in true gladiator fashion to a teacher vs student dodgeball match. The event was a huge success and it was also the first event to highlight one of our Guiding Principles; engagement (fun and excitement).



Year 13 Living Away From Home Day

In order to prepare our Year 13 students for their future, the year group participate in our annual Living Away From Home Day. Students participate in a range of workshops including basic housekeeping, cooking, finance and budgeting. In the cooking session, students were given a basic pasta recipe which they could adapt to suit their taste – there were definitely some interesting creations!

Student Leadership & Voice

Houses of Parliament Visit

Early in the new term, some of our Student Leaders from Year 8, Year 12 and Year 13 visited the Houses of Parliament. The group were given a tour of the Palace of Westminster and learn the history of the extensive building. As part of the tour, the group were taken in the House of Commons and the House of Lords which looked exactly like they did on TV, just a bit smaller! The tour ended in Westminster Hall where the students were able to see where the late Queen had been lying in state just a few weeks earlier. After the tour, all the students participated in a workshop based on representing and voting. Students were assigned to a political party where they had to come up with three key pledges they would make, and give consideration as to how they would be funded. After each group had presented their manifestos, it was time to vote! It gave the students the understanding of how the voting system works in the UK. It was a great trip and lots of fun was had by all.



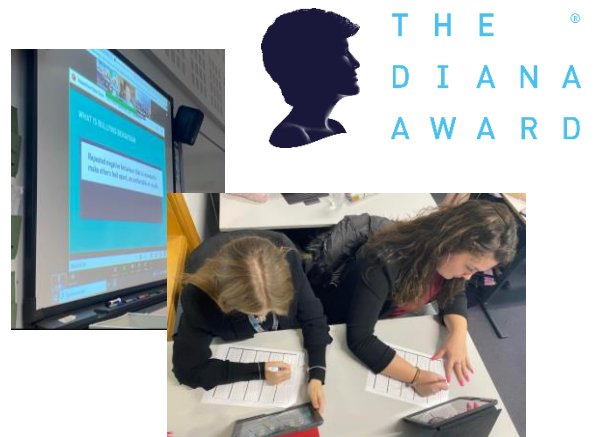
Student Leadership and Voice Workshop

As part of their training, our Student Leadership Team and our Student Council took part in a series of workshops led by Mr David, Director of Student Leadership and Engagement at Aspirations Academies Trust. The sessions gave students the chance to think about what it means to be a leader and how to listen to others. They were introduced to the idea of Listen, Learn, Lead. Listening to seek out information from students to how they want to improve their school; Learn to understand why they want this change; Lead to take action by implementing ideas. Following this, the students learnt the importance of reflecting on how well ideas have or haven't worked, and how to move forward.

The Student SLT will meet regularly after half term and they will lead opportunities for student voice and change at Park Academy this year. We are really looking forward to listening to their ideas and working with them to make positive change to our school community.

Diana Award Anti Bullying Training

The Diana Award was founded on Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change their community, their country and their world. This year at Park, we are keen to have a student leadership focus on well-being and as part of this some of our Student SLT have responsibility for overseeing student well-being. Along with our Student Year Leaders, Well-Being and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, our Student SLT participated in the virtual Anti Bullying Training. The training equipped students with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour head on, transform our approach to anti-bullying and create a safer, kinder community at Park. Our students have started to develop lots of ideas as to how they can implement and introduce some of their learning, and they can't wait to get stuck in!



Subject Areas

Year 9 History Students hunker down at the Battle of Britain Bunker

Ms Govani and 30 Year 9 students went to the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge. They were able to immerse themselves in what it was like to work in the Bunker and the different roles of men and women in the Bunker during the wars by handling and learning from objects that were used in the Operations. As part of this, the students took a tour of the bunker itself where all the decisions were made in order to gain air superiority over the Germans. They also visited the Exhibition and Visitor Centre which houses a state-of-the-art exhibition detailing the development of the UK's air defence system from the First World War to the end of the Second World War.

Whilst in this area they were able to learn about the key moments of history that shaped Britain's air defence and led to the construction of the Bunker. They saw real artefacts including aircraft wreckage, uniforms, and telecommunications equipment used by the RAF to defend the nation, gained insight into the pressures, complexity and fun of working in the bunker during the war through various interactive activities including how to use the plotting graphs in order to understand where the squadrons were and where they were going in order to have the best course of action. They learnt how the Bunker worked, inside and out, saw a replica of the original 1940 plotting map and a 360 degree touch screen experience.

The students loved the experience. They said "The underground bunkers were amazing to explore", "It was exciting to see a historic place that helped fight for my freedom. I had fun learning lots of things about WW2 and even dressing up in the uniform." They also mentioned they liked how "interactive it was and had the freedom to explore this by themselves."



An ATL Update

Students had an explosive start to ATL this year. Year 7 students have been working hard to create in-depth presentations about "How We Would Change the World". They have learnt to work in groups, use Chromebooks safely and effectively, manage independent learning time and present their findings to the class. Year 7 students were very nervous about presenting to each other at first, but they have amazed the ATL team with the confidence that they show when presenting. A number of students presented their work during the Year 7 Settling in evening.

ATL for Year 8 students has focused on Café Culture. They have demonstrated resilience and determination to solve complex problems and have shown originality and initiative during this assignment. They have presented a range of sandwiches in a variety of different languages and some in their native language such as Romanian and Polish. Planning a European restaurant is no easy job, but it seems we have some budding business owners in Year 8.

From the MFL Department

A range of extra-curricular clubs are on offer this term, including Madame Jourdain and Señora Palenzuela running two lunchtime clubs: a French Film club and a Spanish Music club. The Film Club is a big favourite amongst the students!

MFL is becoming a more popular option at GCSE, with our highest ever intake for GCSE French and Spanish this year. To support these students Madame Chetti runs GCSE French clinics every break and lunch time from Monday to Thursday in order to help our year 11 students with their speaking practice in particular.

We are pleased to confirm that both MFL residential trips to Madrid and Paris have attracted large numbers of students across current years 8 to 10. When we launched the trips in the summer term, we kept a few places for our new Year 7s. If you are interested in signing your child up for one of those trips or both, please get in touch with Mrs Chetti, Head of MFL in the first instance. (jchetti@park-aspirations.org).

PSHCE

PSHCE is delivered to all students at Park Academy and we work with a range of providers to help ensure that our programme is comprehensive and meets the needs of our students and the community. So far this term, SORTED have been in to speak with our Year 12 and Year 13 students about the dangers of party drugs and the short and long term effects they can have on the body. The interactive session also explored the laws surrounding illegal drugs and the sentences that they carry.

Year 9 Science HS2 Workshop

Sixty Year 9 students had the opportunity to participate in a specially developed interactive workshop, led by HS2 facilitators, with a focus on developing STEM skills needed in the transport sector.

Students explored the essential skills that are needed to be successful in a STEM career. Through a series of hands-on design and team building challenges which were underpinned by examples from the world or work, with students finding out about careers in transport infrastructure as they take on different roles in the challenges. The challenges included:

- **Stations of the Future.** Students designed a railway station of the future, applied their understanding of STEM career roles and developed their teamwork, creativity and communication.
- **Engineering Challenge: Tunnel Structures.** Students applied their Essential Skills to solve a real-world design and make problem.
- **Rail Rush!** Students applied their Essential Skills and understanding of STEM careers to grow and manage a rail network.



Health & Social Care



Year 10 students have been investigating how we develop in Early Childhood and as part of their research they have created activities for children to complete. These cover a range of physical, intellectual, emotional and social skills.

Year 10 Child Development are planning the equipment they will purchase and the food they will offer when they open Little Blooms Nursery! This involves budgeting, assessing safety and designing the room layout!

Year 12 students have explored the physical changes that occur to the human body across the life stages and are now exploring the theories behind how we develop intellectually. This has involved making mountains to prove Piaget's theory of egocentrism!

Congratulations to Cerys Fisher in Year 13 for completing a Nursing and Midwifery work experience course.

News from the Maths Department

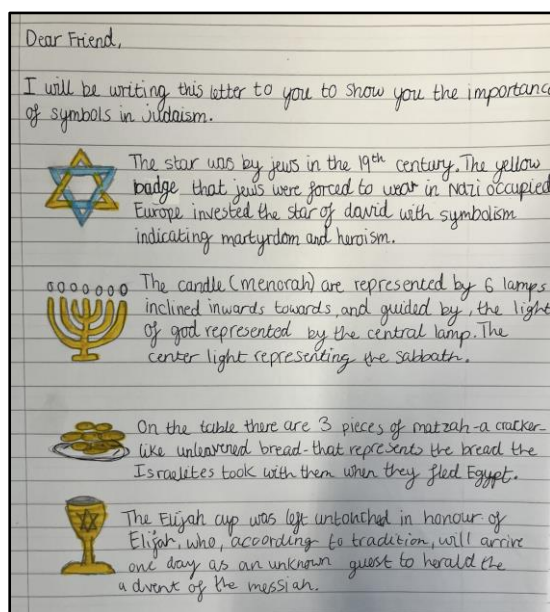
The Senior Maths challenge took place earlier this month and is a 90-minute multiple choice challenge which encourages reasoning and problem solving. To recognise the highest performers in the challenge, the top 66% of students in the country receive either a bronze, silver or gold certificate. It was great to see so many Year 11, 12 and 13 students participate and we can't wait to find out our students' scores later this month.

Well done to the following students who have been nominated as Maths superstars by their teachers

- Year 7: Stanley Brown and Aryan Khan Shah
Year 8: Ayub Omar, Sara Bakhszad, Amreet Kaur and Pritika Sakthivel Jayanthi
Year 9: Ronnie Brown, Fatima Ali, Mercedes Hill and Vanessa Whittaker
Year 10: Zoya Dost, Veer Patel and Faith Tackley
Year 11: Sophie Larcombe, Danielle-Marie Davis, Hamza Mohamud and Chelsea Edwards
Year 12: Kate Geron and Arti Dalal
Year 13: Aida Xhemajli

Art and Design Careers Focus

This half term the Year 12 and 13 Art and Design students have the opportunity to visit FORMA, a premium career event in the Arts industry. FORMA is an international fair featuring leading art schools from the UK and the USA. The fair is designed to help sixth form, foundation and undergraduate students decide where to study next. FORMA aims to transform how art and design students plan their education and early careers, helping them to think globally about where to study and where to base themselves after they finish studying. The students from Park spoke to many different organisations and companies, listened to their advice and guidance and left with a large amount of information to get them thinking.



Religious Studies

In Key Stage 3 students have been exploring religions including Islam and Judaism. Students have been able to develop knowledge on the key beliefs, key symbols and the different services provided in holy places.

Students in Years 10 – 13, have taken part in some deep learning days. Year 10 and year 11 students explored a range of topics linked to the theme of human rights and law. Students participated in interactive sessions where they analysed case studies and presented on the importance of human rights. Students were able to form and express their opinions on the importance of human rights and child rights. Key skills were developed during these sessions including communication skills, team work and presentation skills.

Year 12 and 13 students participated in a deep learning day focused on developing their knowledge of crime, law and policing and had an insight into career paths into criminology. They worked well in groups on the murder file session analysing a range of real life case studies and underpinning the different laws and the court system. Students were able to develop great communication skills and analytical thinking skills as they worked in teams.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge 2022

On Tuesday 4th October, a group of Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop. This is the largest speaking competition for young people in the world! Students from all over London and Essex compete to win this prestigious Public Speaking Competition.

Since its inception, this programme has transformed hundreds of thousands of young lives – helping students to find their voices and show their capabilities to their peers and communities. In 2023 the programme will reach the extraordinary milestone of 250,000 students trained. The students had a full day of public speaking training with Jenny, our expert trainer. The impact on the students was profound as they ended the day confidently delivering passionate speeches on a topic that they felt strongly about. Our trainer, Jenny, mentioned how she was really impressed with our students' support for each other and their willingness to take part.

The standard was so high that 6 students were chosen by our school judges. They will now deliver their speeches in assemblies in order to win a place at the Regional Finals in December 2022. Our 6 winners were: Aryan, Lilly, Diana, Charlie, Summer and Olivia. Their thoughtful and well-delivered speeches on Anxiety, Racism and Gender Equality received standing ovations and students are still discussing them to this day. Congratulations to all our winners and we wish you the best of luck in your speeches.

'Before, the number one fear I had was public speaking, now it has become the fear of not having my voice heard.' (Year 10, workshop participant).



Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!
with Speakers Trust

Careers

Year 11 Post 16 Choices

The new Autumn Term poses many challenges for our Year 11 students. Not only are they starting their final year of their GCSE studies, but they also have some important decisions to make moving forward. There are so many options available to young people that it can often lead to confusion about their options. To support our Year 11 students, they have already been introduced to the following options:

- Sixth Form at Park Academy
- Apprenticeships
- T Levels



Alastair Mullins, Assistant Principal at Uxbridge College, came and spoke with our Year 11 students about the course choices they have and also some of the advantages of attending college. It was a really informative session and we look forward to working more closely with Uxbridge College to support our students.

Our Careers Advisor from the Education Development Trust joins us in November and all Year 11 students will have the opportunity to meet with her to discuss their future pathways.

Unifrog

To support our Careers Programme, we have subscribed to Unifrog which provides unbiased careers information and advice to young people to help them make informed decisions about what to do after school. It brings all the available information about progression and careers into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform that helps bring students to make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications (when the time comes!).

Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school. All students can use their school email to log into Unifrog via www.unifrog.org. Students will receive guidance how to best use it, but lots can be gained from just playing on it! If a student has any issues accessing Unifrog, please see Ms Reynolds.

Careers Programme

We recently undertook a short survey to gain feedback from students, parents and staff about our careers programme as we are looking to review and revamp it to ensure that it fully meets the needs of our students. Although the feedback continues to be analysed and reviewed, we wanted to share with you our careers roadmap for this academic year. More information will follow through newsletters, website updates and social media.



Other Information

Attendance

Attending school regularly is vitally important for students – every day counts. Without it, the best efforts of teachers and schools come to nothing. Students need to attend regularly to take full advantage of all the educational opportunities open to them. If they do not, their education and career opportunities suffer. At Park Academy West London, we aim for all students to achieve at least 96% attendance.

When a child is unable to attend Parents/Carers must contact the Academy by 9am on each day of absence. If leaving a voicemail, please state the child's name, AM group and the reason for absence. This can be done by contacting the Academy on 01895 430066 and following the instructions for reporting a student absence.

Attendance Percentage	Missed Days of Learning (over a year)
100%	0 days of learning missed
95%	10 days of learning missed
90%	20 days of learning missed
85%	30 days of learning missed

Apple Tree Avenue Entrance

All Year 7 and 8 students enter and leave the Academy by the entrance on Apple Tree Avenue. Please can we ask that parents and carers avoid dropping off and picking up their child by the entrance. The gate area can become very crowded and with an already busy road, it can be very dangerous for our students. Please consider using other local roads to drop off or collect your child, and they can walk the short distance to and from the gate



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs every day from 7.30am every day and is open to all students. Students who receive Free School Meals are entitled to a free breakfast of one food item and one drink. All other students are able to purchase a wide range of hot and cold breakfast items. Breakfasts are provided by Cucina, the Academy caterers, in the Canteen.

Eating a healthy breakfast before starting the school day is linked to improved concentration, better test and examination results, increased energy and maintaining a healthier lifestyle. Breakfast is especially important for young students whose brains use about half of the body's energy.

We strongly encourage all students to eat breakfast in the morning, and welcome all students at our Breakfast Club.



Old Uniform

Do you have any Park Academy Uniform or PE kit, school trousers or skirts, school shirts or suitable shoes that are in good condition that no longer fits? If so, we would be very grateful if you could bring items into the Main Reception. It will really help some of our families.

