



Park Academy Newsletter

Issue 12

November 2022



A message from Ms Mohey, the Principal:

As we approach the end of the Autumn term we look back at everything that we have achieved since September and how the students have grown and developed. The Year 11 and 13 students have recently completed their first set of mock exams and we were immensely proud of how they conducted themselves during this stressful period. The invigilators were so impressed that they commented that they were the best students they have worked with. This half term has already seen many events taking place in the academy and we have been impressed with how the students have grasped every opportunity taking the chance to develop their leadership and responsibility. We look forward to many more events taking place over the last few weeks of term and hope to see many parents at the Christmas Showcase event on Tuesday 13th December.

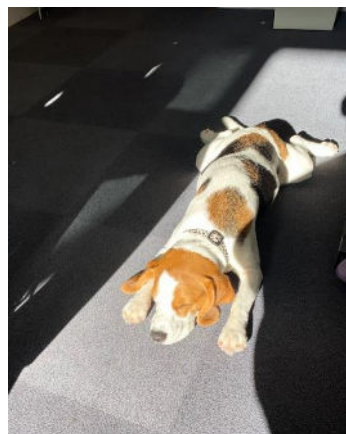
This term also saw our first Parents Evening of the year, with a focus on Year 10s. The event was really well attended and for the first time we welcomed visitors from Uxbridge College, Global Academy, Ask Apprenticeships, London Borough of Hillingdon Apprenticeships and Royal Holloway University. Our visitors were able to speak to parents and students about opportunities available to them after GCSEs. Parental feedback from the event showed that 100% strongly agreed or agreed that the evening was informative. One parent commented *"Lovely teachers who care and want my child to do well. The positivity has been brilliant."* Another parent noted that *"it was good to have information about ways to help my child with her work at home. Also the Careers section was very useful"*.



Meet the Pastoral Dog Dixie

We would like to welcome a new addition to our pastoral department. Fridays are now called Dixie Day. Dixie comes into Park Academy every Friday for our wellbeing day. She starts her day meeting and greeting the year 7 & 8 students at the gate. During the day, selected students are given an opportunity to spend some time with her, this could be walking her or giving her lots of cuddles and attention which she loves.

We can already see this is having a positive impact on our students at Park Academy; calming nerves, giving some emotional support or a distraction from everyday worries - even the staff love spending some time with her!



Sixth Form News

Aspirations Academies Sixth Form Trip to NASA

Over October half term, two of our Year 13 students joined other Sixth Formers from schools across the Trust and travelled to the USA to visit and explore NASA. Having been fantastic ambassadors for the Academy, our 2 astronauts returned to us with many stories to share:

Emily Moore (Year 13)

It was a lot of fun! I genuinely wish the trip had lasted longer. Each day had different activities and we met so many different employees of NASA ranging from a NASA SWAT officer to the first female Latina flight director (and also the 60th NASA flight director). From the process I have grown in confidence as it forced me to work in an environment that I am not usually exposed to. The trip allowed me to develop my communication and personal confidence skills with people that I have never known before. We built so many relationships with other peers it was a truly enriching experience. We can all proudly say that we have become better versions of ourselves as young adults.

Wiltold Niemczak (Year 13)

We toured the Johnson Space Centre and were fortunate to see many artefacts, including visiting Saturn 5 and the missions associated to it. We got to see the true length of the rockets first-hand, it was mind blowing the size of them. As part of the adventure we were able to see the capsules for the Gemini and Mercury missions along with the Apollo mission. To top it all off we got to see the Falcon 9 from SpaceX (the first reusable rocket ever made!). I truly felt like an astronaut when we were given the opportunity to go inside the space shuttle. As a dedicated physicist, to be able to see all the rockets that I have known since I was a child was a mesmerising experience. I will never forget the emotions and feelings that rushed through me as I had dinner with NASA engineers and talked to them about their career choices and the inspiration they gave me for my future career path. It truly was a dream come true!



Brunel University Law Taster Day by Dayana Tokatlian (Year 12)

Attending the Law Taster Day at Brunel University helped me gain a greater understanding about a law degree and the different careers within the field. We participated in some workshops that were focused on the process legal cases may go through rather than just the outcomes which was a new experience for me. Additionally we had a chance to meet students from different schools across the Borough and work with them to experience the range of roles in law and see which ones are suited the best for us as individuals. Overall, the taster day very useful and I would suggest for anyone that is interested for a career in law to not miss the opportunity and visit Brunel University.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 20th October saw a successful Sixth Form Open evening taking place at the Academy. Students were able to talk to subject teachers about the wide variety of courses on offer to them if they decide to stay at Park Academy. They also had the chance to speak to current Sixth Formers about their experiences and why they made the choice to stay. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 6th January 2023. We look forward to welcoming many Year 11 students back next year as they embark on the next stage of their journey.

The Importance of Enrichment by Arti Dalal (Year 12)

At Park Academy's Sixth Form, all students have the opportunity to participate in Enrichment on Wednesday afternoons. The purpose of Enrichment is to go beyond the realms of the examined curriculum and stimulate students' interests, in both an academic and practical sense. There are many enrichment activities to choose from including: cooking, book club, badminton, games of skill and art and design. Each activity is designed to build and refine our skills, as well as develop resilience and motivation.

When an employer is choosing from their candidates for a role, one thing that distinguishes individuals are their skills. Skills are an important attribute of life; they can offer value and individuality to a person. Whether this is risk-taking, time management or critical thinking, these can be developed over time from activities and experiences. This is the objective of enrichment: to provide students the opportunity to evolve, adapt and master their skills.

Every week I look forward to participating in enrichment. This week, I took part in games of skill in which we played board games which involved team work and resilience. It was a thought provoking game and required much concentration. One thing I learnt from this was that you have to take the risk or lose the chance. This reflects onto life, because life is like a game... you can play it safe and be good, or you can take a chance and be great.

Aspirations Employability Portfolio

All Year 12 students take part in the Aspirations Employability Diploma in which they work with employers to tackle real-life problems. The students began their Diploma by working in groups to plan and deliver lessons to younger students on the Aspirations 8 Guiding Principles. It was fantastic to watch them grow and develop in confidence as they learnt how to plan lessons, create resources and finally deliver their lessons to students. Several groups were such a success with the KS3 class they taught that they have been invited back to deliver another lesson. For their second assignment students have been given the opportunity to work with Cucina (the Academy catering company) to design a menu of their choice, Students had the excellent opportunity to meet with the Cucina regional manager to discuss the processes involved in designing and creating a catering menu for a school. Students are now critically reviewing their items of choice to ensure their items are healthy, affordable and financially viable for the business. In the upcoming weeks students will be creating and presenting their items to 3 judges who will assess them on their creativity and practicality.



Subject Areas

An update from the Maths Department

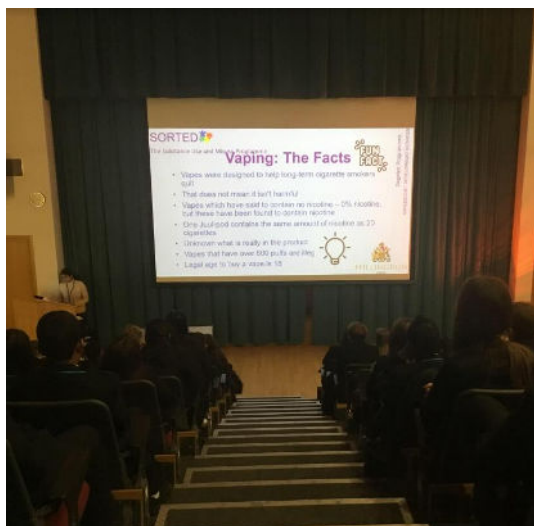
On 4th October our A-Level Maths students (and some of our enthusiastic Year 11 mathematicians) took part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge. Well done to Y11 Lumi (Year 11), Dayana Tokatlian, Kate Geron, Mingalie Zymanciute, and Saraswati Shah (all Year 12) who all received a Bronze certificate. The Intermediate Maths Challenge will be taking place on the 1st February and we look forward to seeing how well our Year 9, 10 and 11 students will do.

On 8th November, students from our Mathemagician Club attended the "Count on Us Secondary Maths Challenge" taster day held at the London Metropolitan University. It was an exciting programme which was engaging and motivating through collaboration. There were a series of games and problem solving tasks linked to the Key Stage 3 Maths curriculum including the 24 game, Grid Lines Geometry, data chart analysis, dice game and solving equations code breaker. The students were amazed by this experience, they have developed new mathematical thinking skills and explored a new side of learning.



Year 7 SORTED Presentation

On 23rd November 2022 we invited SORTED to speak to our Year 7 students about The Substance Use and Misuse Programme. This included aspects of vaping and facts; how nicotine affects the brain, what effects alcohol has on the human and nitrous oxide. Students were highly engaged throughout the presentation and enjoyed the workshop which gave them additional knowledge as personal development. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and were very mature in their approach to the topic.



Year 8 Safety First Day

All Year 8 students participated in Safety First - a Blue Light Collaboration project with the London Fire Brigade (LFB), London Ambulance Service and the Metropolitan Police.

The programme is aimed to educate young people in the dangers of a number of topics so that they can keep themselves, and those around them, safe. Students participated in workshops on knife crime, sexting and road safety. They were really engaged and focused, and were left wanting to know more!



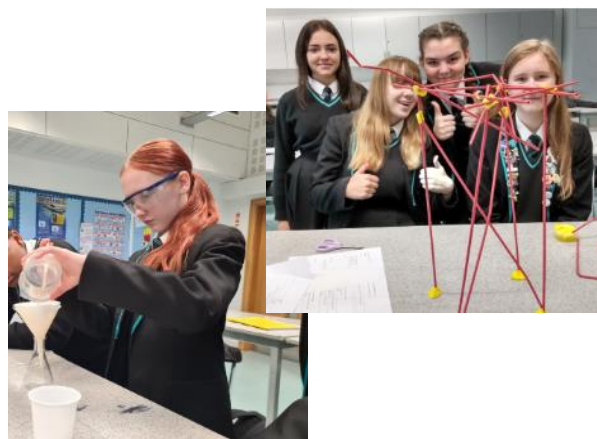
Year 9 and 12 Gambling Education



As part of our commitment to offer students a full and engaging PSHCE curriculum, this week we invited the Gambling Education Network in to talk to our Year 9 and 12 students. Our guest speaker Ben Jones spoke about the dangers of gambling. He had share his experiences and how he fell into trouble with gambling. Luckily Ben was able to received support that he needed to get himself back on his feet and to share his story.

Key Stage 3 Science

Key Stage 3 classes have been getting involved with various active lessons this half term. Year 7 has been learning about Particles in Chemistry. They had an opportunity to put their knowledge into practice by inquiring how to separate different types of mixtures into pure substances. Year 8 have been learning about Ecosystems in Biology. They went on a scavenger hunt around the classroom to find out more about decay. Year 9 has been learning about Matter in Physics. They went on to apply their knowledge to build bridges with various materials.



Open to all Year
7, 8 and 9!

Every
Tuesday
3.25 - 4pm



EXPERIMENTS

DEMONSTRATIONS

COMPETITIONS

PRIZES

COMMUNITY



A fun place to explore
STEM subjects by ditching
the textbooks and seeing
how they work in action!

A chance to have more
say over what you do!



Art & Design

Our Post-16 students are working on their own personal investigation themes such as Japanese contemporary arts, psychology of colour, food and pop culture, Peruvian culture and dreams. Students use a variety of materials including acrylic, oil paints, wood and drawing ink.



From the PE Department

Over the past few weeks Park Academy have been involved in lots of competitive football fixtures for the Borough League and have turned out some great performances against tough opposition. Most recently, our Year 7 and 9 teams faced a strong Rosedale outfit in a double header at home. This saw our Year 9's victorious in a very solid team performance. Goals from Captain Ayo Ubah (2 Goals & 2 Assists) and our Year 8 talisman Joshua Corbyn (2 Goals & 2 Assists) led the team to the win. Man of the Match Year 9s was Riley Andrews who ran the midfield and worked tirelessly all game. The Year 9 team now have 6 points from three games!

The Year 7s settled into the game well and the second half saw the team play saw amazing football and score two well worked team goals! However, unfortunately too late as Rosedale took the points in that fixture. Goals scorers were Benjamin Afshar and Aaron Barja. Man of the Match was Archie Girt for putting in a solid defensive performance in his first start for the team! Great work from the boys, keep it up! Next up is our Year 10 team vs GNSA and our Key Stage 3 mixed girls team on the 1st December!

Global Youth Summit

On Tuesday 8th November, members of the Year 9 and 10 Student Council attended the Wildhearts Global Youth Summit which was organised to run alongside COP 27. In the morning, students worked with Barclays Bank on reviewing their new sustainable site in Glasgow and the developed a range of ideas for their new New York site which focused on sustainability and making work fun. Some of the ideas that our students had included having a virtual pet that employees looked after. They also worked with Linklaters to examine how sustainability impacts businesses and the considerations that need to be taken into account. Students explored the economic and environmental impact that the fashion industry has globally, particularly focusing on fast fashion. They devised some ways that the impact could be minimised and discussed whether fast fashion is just a fad or whether it is here to stay.

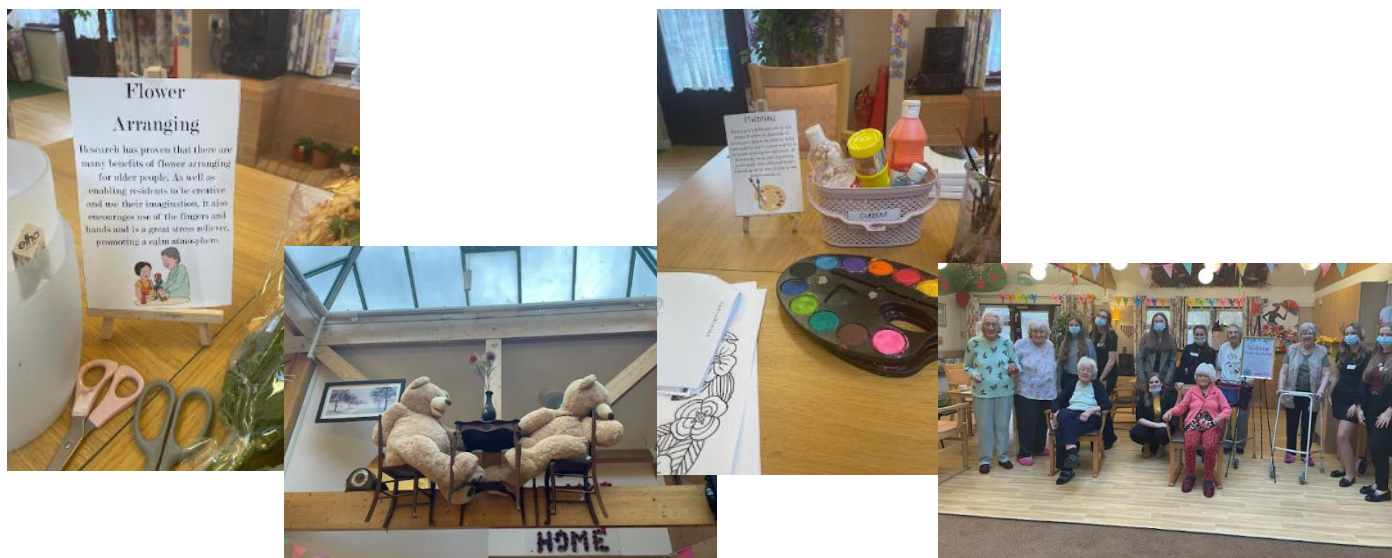
The afternoon saw all delegates at the conference participate in a mock COP. Students from Park Academy represented Japan, The Netherlands or Ghana and developed their ideas for a sustainable future. Students had to develop arguments for their ideas, whilst challenging ideas from other countries.

It was a fantastic day that really challenged the students thinking about sustainability and how it impacts us all. We looking forward to next year's event already!



Health and Social Care Partnership

Park Academy and Echelford Care Home in Ashford have formed a partnership to provide Health and Social Care students with the opportunity to gain first hand experience of working in the industry. As part of the visit students learnt about dementia and the way it impacts individuals everyday life. Students then worked collaboratively with the residents on a variety of activities to increase intellectual stimulation from painting, flower arranging to crosswords and having conversations about time gone by. We very much look forward to visiting again soon!



Modern Foreign Languages Update

Here are a few items from the MFL department for the newsletter.

- Madame Jourdain and Señora Palenzuela, from the MFL department, continue to run two lunchtime clubs: the French Film club and the Spanish Music club. We are delighted to see that the lunchtime film club is one of the most attended clubs.
- 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.
- The MFL department runs an after-school French GCSE intervention session on Thursdays. Unfortunately, our year 11 students are not making the most of these available opportunities to help them improve their confidence.
- Since 20th November, all of the MFL department have taken our subject beyond the classroom and linked it up with a world event, Qatar 2022. We have prepared a Souvenir booklet in French or Spanish for our students to complete as the event progresses. Our students have been learning new topic-related vocabulary and structures to write down their predictions about the overall winner as well as the winners at various stages, and extend their writing by justifying their prediction. All students with a completed booklet in French or Spanish will be entered into one of the two year-group draws. Secondly, all students who would have predicted the correct winning country will be entered in the second draw for their year group. We have also opened the competition to staff, who have to submit their prediction in French or Spanish. We will announce the winners in a future newsletter.



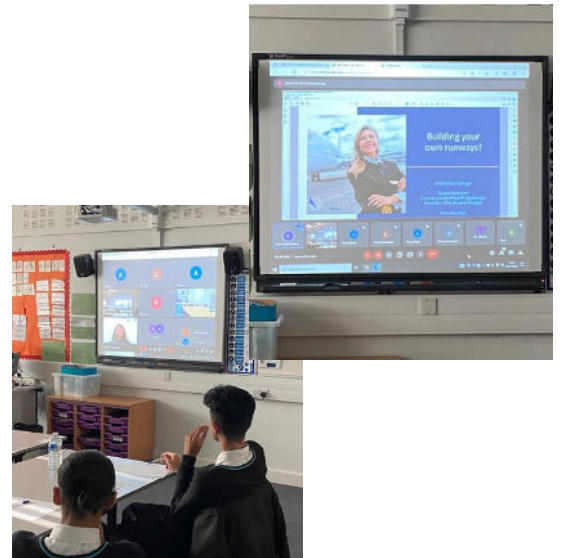
Careers

Soaring to Success

Students in Years 11 and 12 with an interest in pursuing a career in the Aviation Industry took part in a virtual conference as part of the Soaring to Success Programme. The programme is a careers enrichment programme that bridges the gap between education and industry and aims to inspire, enable, and support the next generation to consider a career within aviation and aerospace.

The virtual conference provided students with the opportunity to engage with speakers from leading organisations such as Boeing, British Airways and Teeside University and gain an insight into the distinct career opportunities across the broad scope of the aviation and aerospace industries.

The students are already looking forward to the next stage of the programme.



Year 10 and 12 Work Experience Launch

At the start of this half term, Ms Reynolds spoke to parents of students in Years 10 and 12 about the opportunity to participate in Work Experience in the Summer Term. Experiencing the world of work is important for students for many reasons including:

- It enhances their knowledge and understanding of the world of work.
- It increases self-confidence and understanding of teamwork.
- It helps them to make better informed decisions about their future.
- Placements give practical experience and help to increase motivation, self-confidence and interpersonal skills.

Since the launch event, Year 10 and 12 students have been busy researching possible employers and many have been working on their CVs to get ready to send off.

Workshops on CV writing and contacting employers will be organised early next term. Students should speak to Ms Reynolds for more information.



Brunel Lecture Series

To give students a taster of university education, we have teamed up with the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Brunel University. All Year 12 and 13 students are invited to attend the sessions and they are joined by some of our Year 11 students that are already considering their pathways at University. For the first lecture we welcome Dr Peggy Froerer who asked the question "Does money = happiness?" with a focus on developing the students' understanding of anthropology.

The next lecture is a Criminology taster session and we are already looking forward to it!

Other Events

Annual Food Bank Collection

This year, as in previous years, we will be collecting donations for our local food bank in Yiewsley. Food banks help people break free from poverty by providing additional support to help people resolve the crises they're facing so that they don't need to use a food bank again in the future. Food banks rely on the support of their local communities to support people in crisis.

If you would like to contribute to this collection, please give your child any donations and they will be collected during academic mentoring. Alternatively, donations can be left at reception but please ensure they are clearly marked with your child's name and year group. Please see the list of items below that the food bank is particularly requesting, but all items will be accepted:

- Tinned spaghetti
- Jam
- Honey
- Rice pudding
- Custard
- Tinned fruit
- Sugar
- 1L fruit squash
- Biscuits
- Long life fruit juice
- Any toiletries such as soap, shower gel, tooth paste etc.
- Microwave rice packets
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned fish
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned potatoes
- Instant coffee
- Long life milk (Ideally full fat or semi skimmed)
- Sanitary items
- Dried noodles



Christmas Jumper Day



This year, on Friday 9th December, we are inviting students and staff to participate in Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. For the privilege of wearing a Christmas jumper for the day, students will donate at least £1 to the charity.

If your child would like to participate in Christmas Jumper Day, they must remain in full uniform (their academy jumper replaced with a Christmas jumper). The only exception to this is the shirt and tie which does not need to be worn as long as they do not take their jumper off. For example, a student wearing a Christmas jumper with a t-shirt underneath who removes their jumper will be deemed as being in incorrect uniform as will be sanctioned appropriately. All students must be wearing their blazer as normal.

We look forward to seeing lots of Christmas Jumpers!

Christmas Dinner

This year our Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday 14th December. Tickets for the lunch are £2.50 and students will get a hearty roast meal plus a desert. It is always a lovely celebration lunch that is enjoyed by all.

Tickets are on sale now from Student Services.

