



Park Academy Newsletter

Issue 15

February 2023



A message from Ms Mohey, the Principal:

It has been fantastic to see so many different activities taking place this month and watch students demonstrate confidence to take action and develop their leadership abilities. All students have grasped every opportunity and have shown their Aspirations towards developing themselves and their futures. Staff are promoting the PARK values of Perseverance, Aspiration, Respect and Kindness in lessons and rewarding students who demonstrate these. This month we have had a focus on respect and promoting the importance of this to students. There are so many students who demonstrate this attribute every day that we are keen to reward them. This month sees the start of the final mock exams for Year 11 and 13 students. They have begun well and the students are demonstrating real perseverance. Their conduct in the exams has been excellent and we would like to wish them well as they continue.

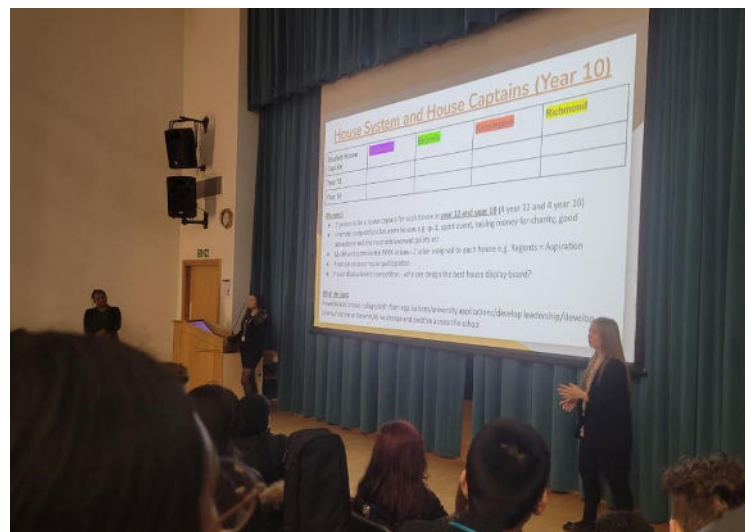
Student Voice

Last week the Sixth Form Leadership Team attended each year group assembly to introduce themselves to the rest of the school and explain their roles as student leaders. The sixth formers delivered a presentation outlining the introduction of the new rewards certificates, extra-curricular timetable, their role as Year Team Student Leaders and their leadership role within the school. The sixth formers conducted themselves impeccably during the assembly and were excellent role models and leaders to the younger students. Jenson, Daisy and Scarlet gave a great presentation showing their excellent communication and leadership skills to ensure students understand the vision and direction of the school. Cerys launched the House System to our schools with enthusiasm and we're having a recruitment drive for our Year 10 Student House Captains.

The following students make up our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team:

Scarlet Payne (Year 13): Year Team Student Leader and Pastoral Student Lead
 Daisy Littlefield (Year 13): Academic Mentor and Prefect Lead
 Jenson Lawrence (Year 13): Behaviour and Guiding Principles Student Lead
 Bradley Brazil (Year 13): Culture and Wellbeing Student Lead
 Cerys Fisher (Year 13): House System Student Lead
 Faian Ataide (Year 12): Student Rewards Lead
 Eduina Qovani (Year 12): Extra Curricular and Events Student Lead
 Lola Dawodu (Year 12): Careers Student Lead

In the last student council meeting students from all year groups school came together to devise a plan to drive their voice and opinions on school improvement. The students worked together to analyse results of a recent survey they had completed on attitudes towards school and education. The students took part in healthy and heated discussions to put across their top priorities for the upcoming year. Some deliberation is still going on, but results will be shared with all students soon.



Rewards

Rewards produce a sense of achievement amongst our students, which creates a positive learning environment, increases their motivation and well-being, which then in turn translates into more effective learning. Small achievements boost self-confidence and when a student has growing self-esteem, they begin to have high aspirations and are more willing to aim for higher results and accomplishments.

In collaboration with our Sixth Form Leadership Team, we have introduced certificates for students to work towards to give them motivation. Each merit is worth 5 achievement points, and merits are awarded for a variety of reasons but are linked to our Guiding Principles of Self Worth, Purpose and Engagement. When students reach the thresholds, they will receive a certificate, letter and a prize. So far 73 students have been awarded our Bronze Certificate with some Silver Certificates on the horizon – well done!

Achievement Points Rewards	
Bronze	350 achievement points
Silver	700 achievement points
Gold	1000 achievement points
Platinum	1300 achievement points
Perseverance • Aspiration • Respect • Kindness	

Breakfast Club Prize Draw



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and every student has the best possible start to the day. Before half term, we ran a prize draw. Each time a student purchased a breakfast item, their name was placed into the draw to win an Amazon voucher – so students who had a breakfast each day from the Cucina had ten chances to win the voucher. The winners were drawn out of the hat by some students and the winners of the Amazon vouchers were Alexia Dan in 8X and Rizwaan Hasnath in 9H – well done!

House Attendance Competition

As an on-going competition which all students can play a part, we are running an inter-house attendance competition. Each week, the attendance of all Academic Mentoring groups is reviewed. Where an Academic Mentoring group has attendance over 96% for a week, 50 points are awarded to the house total. If an Academic Mentoring group has 100% attendance for a week, 100 points are awarded.

- 1st – Regents 1750 points**
- 2nd – Kensington 1350 points**
- 3rd – Greenwich 900 points**
- 4th – Richmond 850 points**

Every Day Counts!



Year 9 First Give Social Enterprise Project

In February, Year 9 had their launch of their First Give social enterprise project. The project will be completed in PSHCE lessons over this half term and it provides students with the opportunity to research local charities and be in with the chance of winning £1000 to support their chosen charity. Students will work in groups to produce a presentation on their chosen charity. A group will be chosen from each class to take part in the First Give Finals which will be held in the summer term.






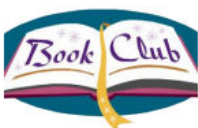

Year 9 Daniel Spargo-Mabbs (DSM) Foundation

All Year 9 students watched a performance and participated in a workshop called 'I Love You, Mum' as part of their Personal Development Programme. The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation is a drug and alcohol education charity that aims to support young people to make safe choices about drugs and alcohol and reduce harm. The play tells the true story of Dan, a popular 16 year old boy from South West London, who attended an illegal rave in January 2014, took MDMA (ecstasy) and tragically died as a result of taking a lethal dose. The play tells the story of what happened to Dan, his family and friends, using their own words. Our students were captivated by the story and enjoyed the theatre production.



SORTED Workshops

As part of our PSHCE programme, Park Academy works closely with local organisation SORTED to support young people in making positive choices by providing them with the knowledge and awareness to help them make informed choices and manage their own well-being. This month, SORTED have been in to present to Year 10 and 11 students to explore drugs misuse, in particular cannabis and the impact that this can have on the body, both short term and over a longer time period.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break 1 (11.00 – 11.35am)	RS Club All Years - 2F8, MBI History Club All Years - 1G8, SSC (Week A) Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	MFL Movie Club All years, 1F4, MJO Spanish Music Club All Years, 1F7, MPA Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH 	German Club All years, 1F7, MPA (Week B) Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Indoor Football Sports Hall <i>Different year group tournament each week</i> Gaming Club 4F4, HCH
Break 2 (1.45 – 2.15pm)	Indoor Football Sports Hall <i>Different year group tournament each week</i> Book Club All Years, 2G7 (Week B) Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Indoor Football Sports Hall <i>Different year group tournament each week</i> Gaming Club 4F4, HCH 	Indoor Football Sports Hall <i>Different year group tournament each week</i> Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Indoor Football Sports Hall <i>Different year group tournament each week</i> Creating Writing Club Open to All Years, 2G12 (Week B) Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Borough Basketball League Meeting point: CANTEEN KDR, EWL, RCH, SZL 
After School 3.30 - 4.30 pm	ATL Club Year 7 & 8, 4F4 HCH 	Basketball Club All years (boys and girls), Sports Hall, SZL Mathemagicians All Years, 2F12, YYA STEM Club Year 7, 8 & 9 - 3F9, SAL Football Club Years 9 & 10 Astro, RCH / KDR	Dance All years (boys and girls), Dance Studio, SZL Music Club All years, 4F1, VRA Girls Football Year 7, 8 & 9 - Astro, RCH Football Club Years 7 & 8 Astro, RCH / KDR	ATL Charities Committee Year 7 & 8 - 3.30 - 4.15pm, 4F4, HCH Gaming & Coding Club Years 7 & 8 - 1F8, CBA Football Club Year 11 - 13 and Staff Astro, RCH / KDR Netball Club Years 7 - 11, Sports Hall, EWL	



Subject Areas

ATL

This month we welcomed back the Globe Players Theatre Company for our Year 8 students. The group performed an exciting version of Romeo and Juliet to launch their new ATL assignment "Shakespeare Redesigned". This performance is a gateway for many students who have yet to discover the experience of live theatre. In this assignment the students will have the opportunity to create their own live performance of the classic but change it to different points in history such as the Viking era.

Students who are interested in a career within the world of Media or Performing Arts had the opportunity to ask them questions about their journey so far and how they got to be where they now are. It was a fantastic performance and the students were captivated!



Science Update



STEM Ambassadors

Many of our students will have the opportunity to work with a STEM ambassador of their choice to receive mentoring with a professional in a career they aspire to be in. It has created an invaluable link between our students and the STEM industries.

Here are a few things our students had had to say about their experiences so far:

"My mentor is someone that I relate to which is really nice" (Year 11 Student)

"I have signed up with my mentor and I excited to be working with them to get support on what I need to do for my future goals" (Year 10 Student)

"I am really happy with my mentor as she has similar interests as me and I am eager to get support on work experience" (Year 11 student)

Orbyts through University College London (UCL)

Some of our most able scientists at Park Academy students have started working with Dr. Pawel Markiewicz, a Researcher from UCL. Dr Markiewicz is an expert in high-throughput medical imaging using PET-MR and PET-CT, including statistical image reconstruction and analysis, data mining and pattern recognition applied to dementia research. The students and Dr Markiewicz got acquainted around some basic anatomy and function of the brain and how PET scanners can be used to create images of the brain. In future sessions they will delve into how PET can be used to assess conditions of Dementia and their value in future clinical trials. We are excited by what our students will discover!



STEM Club Update

STEM club happens every Tuesday after school in Science. Students get to take part in a range of activities and challenges that they wouldn't normally do! All of the students that attend say that it's lots of fun! All Key Stage 3 students are welcome to come along!

Date	STEM Activity
3 rd March	Morse code
8 th March	Perfume
15 th March	Magnetic slime
22 nd March	Modelling cells
29 th March	Rockets

MFL Update

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

1. Madame Jourdain and Señora Palenzuela run two break time clubs: the French Film club and the Spanish Music club. The lunchtime film club remains a big favourite.
2. Madame Chetti runs GCSE French clinics every break and lunch time from Monday to Friday, except for Tuesday break 1, to help Year 11 students with their speaking practice in preparation for their mocks and speaking exams.
3. The MFL department runs an after-school French GCSE intervention session on Thursdays.
4. Preparations for both MFL residential trips to Madrid and Paris for Years 7 to 10 are well under way. Parents/Carers will be invited to a short pre-trip information meeting in June. When we launched the trips in the summer term, we kept a few places for our current Year 7, should they want to join either trip. If you are still 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)
5. MFL continues to be a popular option at GCSE, with our current Year 9 cohort on track to exceeding last September's intake.
6. This half-term Year 9 are studying a topic which they relate well with and they are excited to be able to discuss New Technologies and Social Media in French. Year 7 will be focusing on Sports and other free time activities whilst Year 8 will follow the topic of daily routines, which they learnt about in half-term 3, with that of pocket-money, including helping at home with chores to earn some money. All are very 'practical' topics which students can relate to in their everyday life.

An update from Maths

At the start of February some of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students participated in the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge. The Maths Challenge encourages **mathematical reasoning, precision of thought**, and **fluency** in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Well done to the following students who received certificates.

Gold

Teigan Healey (Best in School)

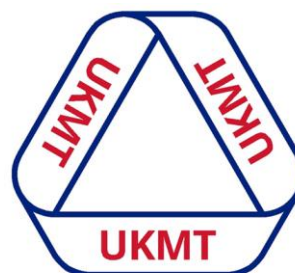
Silver

Khalil Adejo
Komal Padavala
Amber Clarke
Victor Colaco Deogracias
Elda Kaceli
Mahaal Malee
Varun Narang
Yll Lumi

Bronze

Bilal Ahmed
Gabriel Nowakowski
Tarun Kumar
Swaminathan
Massilon D'Costa Alvares
Elliot Tackley
Iustin Creanga
Joe Rossiter
KJ Teague
Kyle Teague

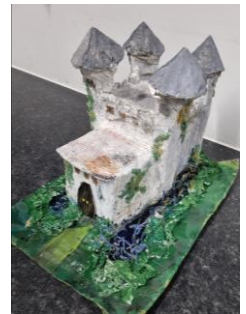
The Junior Maths Challenge will be taking place on the 26th April and we look forward to seeing how well our year 7 and 8 students will do.



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

History News

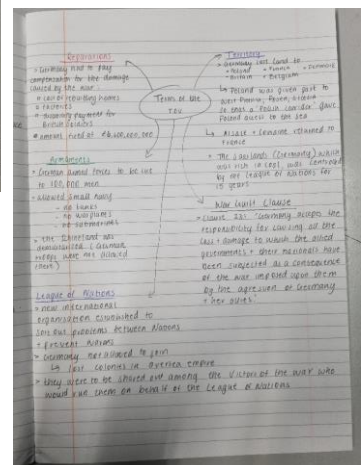
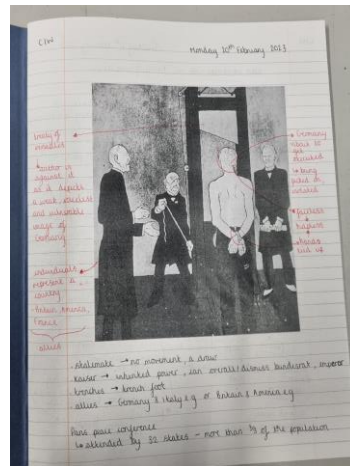
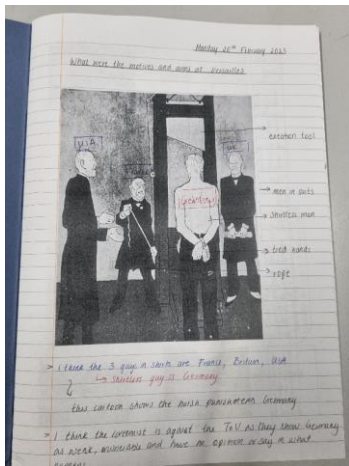
Year 7s had been learning about the Norman Conquest and how they maintained control when they took over Britain in the 11th century. One way this was done was through castles and the year 7s were given a project of creating their own castles. There have been some amazing ones that have been created!



In year 9, students were learning about World War One and how propaganda posters were used as a recruitment process for men to join the war. It gave students an understanding of how posters were 'weapons on the wall', not only during the time, but as tools throughout history.



Year 10s have made an excellent start to GCSE History. Students have studied in depth Hitler's rise to power and the change he brought to Germany. Their books reflect high standards and engagement.



Careers

Toni & Guy Learning Academy

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, a group of Year 10 and 11 students visited the Toni & Guy Learning Academy in London. Whilst at the Academy, our students learnt about the apprenticeship pathway that Toni & Guy offer and how to make applications. The group also watched hair demonstrations by International Artist Director, Efi Davies, and Academy Educator, Sanja Mandusic who are part of the Global Artist Team at Toni & Guy. They definitely made styling hair look easy! Following this the group had a workshop under the supervision of Sanja where the group practiced and refined their hair styling practice. The opportunity was inspiring for the students and provided an insight into opportunities that are available to them.



Uxbridge College Taster Sessions

At the end of Year 11, a large number of our students going onto Uxbridge College to complete a range of vocational courses. As our local college, we have been working hard to build links with them, as part of this we are able to take some Year 9-11 students to the college to participate in some taster sessions. After a tour of the college and a talk about the different courses available the students took part in either a plumbing or hair & beauty workshop. In both sessions, students learnt some of the basic skills required for the courses. The students represented the Academy really well and were engaged throughout the afternoon. Uxbridge College were really complementary about our students and said they were very talented!



Year 10 University Visits

In order to support our students with making informed choices about their future pathways, all Year 10 students have the opportunities to visit a university. So far, students have visited Brunel University and St Anne's College at Oxford University. There are more visits planned for the summer term!

Brunel University

Fifty Year 10 students visited Brunel University. They were met by Student Ambassadors and were given an introduction into University in general, but more specifically Brunel University. Students were given a guided tour of the university, including the lecture theatres, Student Union and the World Class Sporting Facilities. After lunch, the group got back together and worked in smaller groups to create their own University Society. There were some very imaginative societies including the Fashion Society where members got to travel around the world to all the different Fashion Weeks, and the Lazy Society where everyone could be lazy together. Everyone thought this was a good idea, until someone pointed out that some people may be too lazy to get together! All the ideas were pitched and presented to the group which was very nerve wracking for some, but they all did really well. The day really provided students with an insight into life at University.





At Anne's College, Oxford University

Following a workshop earlier this term, a group of 25 Year 10 students headed to At Anne's College in Oxford. After a long journey in the mini bus, students were welcomed by the Widening Access Team and their Student Ambassadors. It was a packed day, which included a tour of the college, speaking with students and a visit to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Although it was a quick visit, students were able to see their Beluga Whale skeleton that is over 4 metres in length and hold some of the fossils that they have in their collection. It was a really informative day and students and staff had a fantastic time.

Peterhouse College, Cambridge Workshops

Selected Year 9 students participated in a workshop run by Peterhouse College of Cambridge University. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the students to Cambridge University as well as explore some of the differences between life at school and life at university. The students were really engaged and helped to solve the mystery of who stole Antoni's biscuits!

Some Year 12 students then took part in a workshop focused on making competitive applications to Oxbridge Universities so that students are fully prepared when they start their applications in Summer Term. Students gained an understanding of the application process for Oxbridge, how this differs from other universities and some of the additional requirements of these universities. The students left the session motivated and inspired to achieve their best grades so that they can get to their target university.



PETERHOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Year 12 AED – Joining Forces with SCS to develop innovative solutions for HS2



For their next assignment in AED, Year 12 students are working with SCS to develop innovative solutions to real life challenges the company are facing. Students have selected either challenges facing the companies is being Diesel free, whilst still working within the financial boundaries and sticking to deadlines, whilst others are focusing on engaging with the community to get their support on the development.

During their presentation from Harrison and Gary who are working on the SCS project at West Ruislip, the Year 12 students gained a deeper understanding of the aim of the entire HS2 Project, Europe's Largest Infrastructure Project and some of the efficiency challenges that the project is facing:

- As a delivery partner SCS has been tasked with raising the standards of infrastructure delivery.
- SCS must also deliver efficiency savings of around 10% of the contract value – **that's £1 in every £10 spent.**
- With resource and material costs increasing, the efficiency challenge is critical in offsetting any additional increase in costs.
- SCS need to align our way of working to ensure we're in the best position to deliver on our promises to HS2 and the UK.

Students are busy researching their thoughts and ideas ahead of a site visit where they will check in with members of the Innovation Team at West Ruislip to talk through their ideas. We really look forward to hearing what they come up with.

Other Information

Online Safety

The NSPCC has a wealth of advice for parents and carers about how to help keep your child safe online. This includes some very helpful advice on parental controls. We would like to remind parents and carers that the legal age for young people to sign up to social media apps is 13 years old. This is important to note when deciding whether allowing your child to access these apps is appropriate. Information on keeping your child safe on line can be found by visiting the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Further information about how to safeguard your child online will be coming out via parentmail.



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

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.



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.

