

Park Academy Newsletter



Issue 16 March 2023

A message from Ms Mohey, the Principal:

It has been fantastic to see so many students grasp the opportunities available to them in what has been another busy month at Park Academy West London. The students have been demonstrating the Park Values through their respect and kindness towards others. It was great to see so many students attending the Cultural Showcase to cheer on and celebrate with their peers. Many of our students have high Aspirations and watching the students take the careers events so seriously has been amazing. We have had lots of positive feedback and many of the external visitors have been impressed by the students. We are so proud of them. We hope to continue to be able to offer such great opportunities for all

Comic Relief comes to Park

On Friday 17th March, we had our charity events to help raise money for Comic Relief; Red Nose Day. The Park community came together to raise over £125.

On the day, we held many different events at break time including a cake sale and guess the sweets in the jar. The cake sale gave the canteen some tough competition as there were some amazing cakes made by students and staff. The guess the sweets in the jar had students and staff using their maths skills to try and calculate the exact number. The winner was Year 9 student, Grave Anstey, whose guess was spot on!

The highlight of the day was the Staff versus Sixth Form football match. The match was attended by over 150 students and enjoyed by all. Even the rain stopped and the sun came out to celebrate with us. Unfortunately, the Sixth Formers were unable to hold onto their title from last year and victory went to the staff who had a convincing win 4-0.



The events on the day were successful through the support of Jensen Lawrence and Veronica Lilhadar, our Year 13 Sixth Formers who helped out with selling the tickets every day for two weeks and promoting the events, as well as those who helped out on the day with the bake sale, and during the match. A huge thank you to everyone that got involved!



Royal Opera House Visit

On 9th March, 27 students from all year groups travelled to the Royal Opera house in Covent Garden to watch a performance of "Woolf Works" an award winning ballet inspired by the writings of Virginia Woolf. Woolf Works recreates emotions, themes and fluid style in three of her novels: Mrs Dalloway, Orlando and The Waves. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to see something that they had never seen before and were lucky enough to be sitting in the front row!

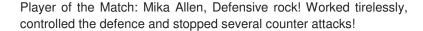


Girls Football Success!

Our Under 13 girls' football team has been going from strength to strength this season. They recently faced Kingston Grammar School (KGS) who came into their game against Park fresh off a 7-0 victory in their last game.

The game started off cagey with no team really taking control. However, after a long ball from KGS' centre back, our defence was suddenly chasing down their number 9 who slotted the ball calmly past Grace Anstey in goal. This seemed to be a blessing in disguise as our girls soon kicked into gear and for the next 10 minutes bombarded the KGS goal and kept them in their own half.

A goal was bound to come with all this pressure and shortly after half time a perfectly placed cross from Amy Fryer found the back of the net. Amy was a constant threat on the wing and a key contributor to our success. The second goal came shortly after again from a dangerous cross from Amy, this time with Abbie Mckenzie getting on the end with a close range volley. The midfield magician Abbie wasn't done there and 3 minutes later struck a stunning half volley from 20 yards out looping the KGS keeper and finding the back of the net! Finally to finish off our 4-1 win Donya Mirzad did what she does best, created a chance out of nothing, drove straight for the KGS goal, dribbled past two defenders and slotted the ball into the bottom corner.





Special mention to Donya, who earned a trial for Chelsea WFC advanced centre for her performance after impressing the opposition coach, Grace for an almost flawless performance in goal and keeping us in the game with crucial saves and Amy for being a constant attacking threat and our outlet when we was in trouble!

Celebrating our diversity during Cultural Week

This half term, students and staff held the first ever Cultural Week event celebrating different backgrounds and creative talents of members of the school community. During the week, there was a photography competition and a guess the flag event, as well as the Academy Showcase. The Showcase included performances from all year groups and included singing, musical, dance and drama performances which celebrated a range of cultures including Spanish, Polish and Albanian as well as contemporary Indian dance. The event was presented by Bradley and Cerys (both Year 13) who have been involved in every showcase since Year 7. The event was extremely successful, with a packed audience of family and students. Well done to all the performers!



Do you have The Edge? Our Students Do!

The Edge is an award that enables students to be acknowledged for what they get involved with outside of, as well as inside school. It is based around the Aspirations Guiding Principles of Self Worth, Purpose and Engagement. Students select a challenge, and then set themselves a target to work towards which shows them demonstrating this value. The Apprentice level is currently being rolled out to Year 7s, and shortly after Easter the Apprentice and Pioneer levels will be rolled out to Year 8 students. All students have an individual log in where they set themselves targets and review their progress. We look forward to sharing lots of our students who have The Edge!



TFL All Stars

The TFL All Stars programme is well underway! During session one of the project five students worked together to create a pitch to Hillingdon Borough to win funding to run their project. Students have decided to focus on improving road safety and sustainable travel to and from school in an aim to reduce the number of students travelling on buses and ensure all students have road safety awareness. The students created their own script and filmed their pitch asking for funding to support their project and encourage engagement from students across the academy. The 5 students: Bailey Clatworthy, Denisa Flore, Sara Bakhshzad and Hasna Bakhshzad. Were confident speakers, excellent script writers and delivered an articulate and persuasive pitch to which they were awarded the full grant of £700!



The following sessions focused on the entire group working together to explore some of the travel issues students experience when travelling to school and created solutions to some of these issues. Students worked in pairs, groups and individually to explore the environmental, social and economic struggles experienced by students, parents and the public when travelling throughout Hillingdon. The students were impeccable at all times and a member of TFL who led the session commented on the professionalism and enthusiasm from all students.

Diana Award Anti-Racism Bullying Training



During the last week of term our Diana Award trained Anti Bullying Ambassadors, undertook some Anti-Racism training. This is the first action, out of five, on the journey to achieving their Diana Award Respect Badge. The training developed the students understanding1st Feb of what racist bullying is and how to identify it and how it makes someone feel. It also gave the students time to think of ideas of how to support students in school and how to make the school a kinder, more respectively place. The team of Ambassadors are looking forward to meeting after the break to put some of their ideas into action.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break 1 (11.00 – 11.35am)	Debating Society 2F8, MBI	MFL Movie Club 1F4, MPA	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Film club 1F7, MPA	Indoor Football Sports Hall Different year group tournament
	Myths and Legends (History) 1G8, SSC	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	GCSE Maths Foundation 2F13, CSC	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	each week
	(Week A) Gaming Club	GCSE Maths Foundation 2F13, CSC		Anime Club (Week B) 1G13, HHE	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH
	4F4, HCH	Harry Potter - spells, quidditch	60	GCSE Maths Foundation	GCSE Maths Foundation 2F13, CSC
	GCSE Maths Foundation 2F13, CSC	and games 1G5, SGO	No.	2F13, CSC	
Break 2 (1.45 – 2.15pm)	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	Gaming Club 4F4, HCH	GCSE Maths Higher 2F13, CSC
	Dragons Den Young Entrepreneurs 2G14, ABE/MBO	GCSE Maths Higher 2F13, CSC	GCSE Maths Higher 2F13, CSC	GCSE Maths Higher 2F13, CSC	Eco Warriors 3F7, SAL
	PE Sports Hall, RCH	Art Club 3F3, DGA	Table Tennis Dance Studio, KDR		Cricket Astro, KDR/RCH
	GCSE Maths Higher 2F13, CSC		Science Experiments 3F7, SAL	I A A	Dodgeball Sports Hall, EWL/SZL
					Frisbee Astro, MNE
After School 3.30 - 4.30 pm		Tennis Tennis Courts, SZL	Athletics - Throwing Astro/Field, KDR	Drama Drama Studio, RWA	
		Girls Football Club Astro, RCH / KDR	Athletics - Throwing Field, RCH	Boys Football Astro, KDR	
		Alge-bros 2F12, YYA	Softball/Rounders Field, EWL	Netball Club Sports Hall, EWL	



Subject Areas

An Update from the Maths Team

It's been a very busy month in the Math Department with trips, visits and Pi Day!

This month saw some of our Year 11 students travel to London for a "Maths in Action" day. The day was structured into 4 talks held by the speakers, each of these deepened students understanding of key mathematical concepts which included: calculating your luck in getting struck by lightning vs winning the lottery; thinking beyond our world into space, stars and galaxies; using Geogebra to animate graphs which demonstrated the changes between the degree of polynomials. Finally, an exam masterclass held by experienced examiners. Students were really engaged with the interactive activities and it was great to hear back from them that they enjoyed their trip. Definitely worth a visit to the next event!





Our keen Mathematicians in Year 8 took part in the M & G Enterprise challenge. The aim of the day was to give students the opportunity to act as Large-scale event organisers in charge of arranging a concert for 10,000 young people. Using maths 'by stealth', students analysed the information available to help make informed decisions about which artists they can afford to hire for the concert and how to arrange the respective stage layouts. As well as the concert, students were also be asked to consider the event's catering, staff costs and much more. The day really provided an insight into large scale organisation of events and got them to see how many different ways maths is involved outside of the classroom.

On the 14th March the digits of the date (using the US convention) and time will read 3/14 which make up the first 3 digits of Pi. To celebrate, the maths department hosted a range of activities to get Park Academy excited about Pi. On Monday, students went head to head against the teachers to answer some tough maths questions. Well done to Ayaan Soori, Sara and Hasna Bakhshzad, Sahib and Sahij Singh who were victorious against their teachers. If the student won then the teacher was Pi(e)d in the face. On Tuesday students had to guess what flavour pi they were eating and throughout the week there was a treasure hunt around school answering mathematical questions. Well done to all students who participated.





Exploring Dream Careers in ATL

In ATL, Year 7 and 8 students explored their dream careers as part of National Careers Week. Activities were set up to allow students to experience the skills needed for different professions such as cosmetic surgeon, engineer, forensic investigator and mechanic. Students worked together and applied critical thinking to their job roles. Investigating the skeleton and understanding the cause of someone's death to creating a safer living environments following events at Grenfell tower.

Students were able to use the Unifrog platform to investigate their dream career. Students learnt about the qualifications and skills needed for their dream careers, as well as finding out other key information such as wages. It was very refreshing to hear their aspirations about what they want to achieve after their schooling career.



Book Week comes to Park

Week commencing 27th February to the 3rd March, the entire Academy celebrated our annual Book Week which coincided with World Book Day. Students across the Academy took part in various activities throughout the week from quizzes to Ginger bread men character decorating, guess the character/novel and a sponsored readathon to raise money for the Yiewsley and West Drayton Food Bank. Even the teachers got involved by dressing up as different characters from their favourite stories. All students also had an assembly focusing on developing their love of reading whilst highlighting the importance of reading to improve their vocabulary and processing skills.

Although our Book Week celebration is over, we would like to encourage all students to continue their reading journeys and to remember: The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go- Dr Seuss.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" Student "B" Student "C"
reads 20 minutes reads 5 minutes reads 1 minute
each day each day each day

3600 minutes in a school year a school year





8,000 words

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

Encouraging everyone to get involved in PE

On 22nd March we hosted our own #LetGirlsPlay football festival, rearranged from the National event earlier in March which was postponed due to snow.

Just under 50 girls from all year groups participated in a mass football practice as part of an FA supported project to increase physical activity and participation in sport amongst girls. The session was run by Mr Drake, and Head of PE Mr Chessman.

The session involved practices to embed and improve football basics such as dribbling, passing and tackling, as well as more advanced skills for some of our talented girls. The practice was then followed by a 6 team tournament where the girls were able to showcase their skills and put what they had learnt into practice. The day was a huge success and all of the girls posed for photos at the end. Organiser Mr Chessman said, "It was a fantastic experience for the girls, and I am so pleased that so many came along and joined in. Girls football is growing in popularity in the school and their record of winning 11 of their 14 games is something to be very proud of. I hope we can keep this going."

The girls certainly enjoyed the event and we are proud as a school to have been able to #LetGirlsPlay







From the Geography Department

This half term has seen the Year 11 Geographers set off across the school site to undertake a physical geography investigation. They made use of quadrats to determine which sites had the highest biodiversity, as well as constructed land use surveys and analysed the soil's pH. Afterwards, they evaluated their research so that they could improve its reliability and validity. It was a great, although very windy, morning and the students looked forward to conducting their human geography fieldwork later in the term.





The Year 11 Geographers, then practiced their human geography skills on a visit to Uxbridge. On what was a classic wet and windy day for a geography field trip, the students were able to practise and hone the skills and theory that they learnt in the classroom. Students tried a range of techniques ranging from questionnaires and interviews with members of the public to conducting environmental surveys looking at the quality and cleanliness of the shopping areas in town. All vital elements of any fieldwork and valuable experience for those looking at getting into town planning and environmental work.

All students were pleased with the results and chance to practise their skills. At first they were all apprehensive about speaking to members of the public and local community, but after a few setbacks and building up their confidence and courage, all students were able to speak to members of the public so freely and openly about their coursework, why they were in Uxbridge and how their responses would help them in their exams in the summer!

The teachers could not be prouder of the way the students conducted themselves and so much so that multiple members of the public even came and spoke to staff to praise their mannerisms during the interviews. One elderly lady commented "the way in which your Park Academy students just spoke to me has changed my opinion of the younger generation."

An Update from the Business Team

The Year 11 Business Studies students delivered their business pitches over the course of the last week, all of which were of a very high quality. Students had to individually present their business idea to a panel of staff with the main aim being to convince the panel to invest in their business. Many students, although nervous, delivered their ideas confidently and professionally and the panel were very impressed. Notable mention must go to Saki Mohammad who blew the panel away with an outstanding pitch, his business idea being 'Meals on Wheels' selling authentic Somali food. Well done to all those involved!

Religious Studies (RS) Days

Year 11 students were involved in an RS deep learning day focusing on mock trials and the justice system in the UK. We have had the opportunity from the organisation of BPP Street Law, the largest University Law School pro bono project, delivering a full day. The first half of the day was organised for the whole cohort to attend two sessions delivered by the Pro Bono Streetlaw manager Isabel Acheson who led and facilitated the sessions and a law student remotely asked questions and gave her insight into law which increased engagement as students asked and responded to a range of questions. The second half of the day students were split into groups attending sessions around the historical periods of law and how it has changed and impacted society over time, discussing different case studies and completing a quiz to assess their understanding. The Streetlaw workshop has enhanced the students' knowledge of law and inspired individuals to be wary of the legal system and take action in their community.

Students in Years 12 and 13 were involved in the RS deep learning day focusing on the theme of cultural awareness/diversity and religious tolerance. Miss Bira delivered a session on the importance of cultural diversity and how this impacts our lives daily and explored the notion of religious tolerance living in a multicultural and religious society. The students were engaged in discussions around what culture is and why it is important? Students worked in groups during the sessions creating their cultural Island following a set criteria of laws, rules, culture, attitudes, religious and non-religious beliefs and created their own presentations and flags. Each group delivered their presentation to the sixth form cohort and they received a prize at the end. The groups were very competitive in particular when creating a brochure for their cultural island where they demonstrated excellent team work, communication and leadership skills.





Careers

The Big Interview

As part of National Careers Week, our Year 10 and 12 students were invited to take part in The Big Interview. In collaboration with SCS who are working on the HS2 project, students were given the choice of three jobs to apply for:

- Onsite engineer
- Community Engagement Officer
- Apprentice Quantity Surveyor

In the lead up to The Big Interview students were given job descriptions, company information and a range of questions that they may be asked. The students arrived at their interviews smart, prepared and a little nervous.

Visitors from SCS asked our students interview style questions and gave them feedback on how to improve and develop their interview technique. The students were really engaged in the interview and left the interview smiling and more confident. One student commented that "The interview gave me an insight into how interviews might be in the future and I have built up more confidence to do an interview in later life."

It was a great day seeing the students getting stuck in and making the most of the opportunity. One of the visitors commented "the students today have been some of the most prepared, articulate and personable school students I have ever had the opportunity to interview, if not the most. They all have very bright futures ahead of them".





Year 9 Bank of England Talk

As part of National Careers Week, Students in Year 9 were given the opportunity to experience of the real world as Fatima Abukar, manager in the Supervision Directorate Department at the Bank of England (BOE) made a visit to Park Academy. Fatima narrated her truly inspirational journey making it into management having started as a software engineer moving into change management, Operational resilience and financial regulation. With many promotions spanning a 9 year period, students received practical awareness of how subject knowledge can be applied to different domains and the power of transferable skills. Fatima personally mentioned that whilst BOE valued good grades for the recruitment process, key factors considered were personal drive and willingness to learn, thus gaining the rapt attention of the audience. The students were particularly enthralled by learning that the BOA have a gold vault storing billions pounds worth of gold bricks. Needless to say, all questions at the end were centred around the curiosity of the origins and function of the gold vault.

Year 9 Work Shadow Day

Experiencing the world of work is a valuable experience for all young people. It can help students decide on the right careers path for them and improve their self-confidence, maturity and independence. Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit a work place for the day to gain an insight into that profession. Participating students visited a range of employers including Uxbridge Football Club, various primary schools, Hasbro Games and various trade companies. Students got stuck in during the day and one student commented that they enjoyed meeting new people, whilst another student said that they learnt the different roles within a company and what each of the roles did.





Bellway talk to our students

This term we have welcomed Bellway into speak to students in Years 10 and 11 upwards who are interested in careers in Construction. Bellway is a large scale property developing company based in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, but working all over the UK. Bellway prides itself on attracting the best talent in the home building industry and they spoke to our students about the range of opportunities they offer, including their apprenticeship pathway. Angie, from Bellway, was able to pitch the talk in a way that was relatable to the skills students have acquired via their day to day activities and connect them to how the students could use this to apply for an apprenticeship. Students learned that the construction industry is immense with jobs roles beyond the construction site, ranging from marketing, to communications and Sales. The students benefited from a live question and answer session with the industry expert. The talk ended on a high as all participants received a merchandise -a stress ball in the shape of a construction hat just in time for exams.



Year 12 AED HS2 Site Visit

As part of their Aspirations Employability Diploma, Year 12 students visited the HS2 construction site getting first hand exposure of all the different elements involved in this local mammoth project. Industry experts in their field shared their knowledge and offered feedback on the students' carbon emissions projects, proving to be both useful and insightful. Students were given a detailed tour with an environmental specialist of the water treatment site, the actual train tunnels as well as shown intricate recycling points of all construction waste materials bringing to life their related projects.

It was a great opportunity for the students to see the site and develop their understanding of the enormity of the project.

After the Easter break, students will be presenting their innovative ideas to experts from SCS Railways who are heavily involved in the project.



Year 8 Royal Navy Leadership Days

Leadership skills are important in whatever career path students decide to embark on. To some, these skills come more naturally than others, but it is important that all students are given the opportunity to develop them. Following their Introduction to Leadership assembly in December, all Year 8 students took part in a leadership day led by members of the Royal Navy. Students took part in a carousel of activities including Navy Skills, STEM activities and Swedish Long Ball. Working in groups of 15, students were able to practise and develop skills such as collaboration, communication and trust, as well as building comradery amongst the students. It was a great few days!







Sixth Form News

Kira gets off to a Flying Start!

Congratulations to Kira Hart (Year 13) who has been offered a place on PWC's Flying Start Apprenticeship Degree programme for September. PWC is the second-largest professional services network in the world and is considered one of the Big Four accounting firms globally. Their Flying Start programme is a notoriously competitive course, and Kira has performed consistently well throughout all stages of the application process and has been offered a place. Whilst on the course, Kira will not only study for a degree in accountancy, but she will also be starting her careers in the industry. A huge well done to Kira!



National AED Finals

On Monday 13th March, our Year 12 AED finalists Chloe Hall and Callum Benford travelled to River's Academy in Feltham to participate in the Aspirations Trust AED Final which saw them compete against Sixth Form students from other schools. Each group presenting was a winner in their own regards as they had made it to the current stage. Presenting in front of a range of people, including members of the Aspirations Trust Executive Board, was a fantastic experience for Chloe and Callum. It was also a great opportunity for Chloe and Callum meet other like-minded students across the trust.

Chloe and Callum had the following to say:

"AED stands for Aspirations Employability Diploma. As Year 12 students, Callum and I were chosen for the final as we were the winners at Park. Although we did not win it allowed us to feel more comfortable when doing future projects. It was also beneficial to see how other groups completed and presented their projects and allowed as a group to take things away that could improve our future projects. Overall, it was an amazing experience that will improve our presentation skills and the skills needed when working on a joint project."



Enrichment

During the last enrichment session of the term, sixth formers have the chance to take part in an alternative enrichment – Easter themed cake decorating. After the success of last year's event, students were under pressure to create some high quality designs! Students were very creative in their designs and our very talented students created cupcakes designs that would be a perfect fit even on Waitrose shelves! Some would classify then as Egg-cellent!

Year 12 Visit to the UCAS Discovery Exhibition (Eduina Qovani, Year 12)

The trip to the Excel Centre for the UCAS Discovery Exhibition was very useful and informing. There were a large variety of university stalls which each had information booklets that you could take with you. Each stall had multiple people that we could talk to, and they answered any questions we had. There was also a Q&A UCAS section where we were able to ask any specific questions that we had towards UCAS points or application processes. We even got many free goodies such as pens and tote bags. We were also introduced to so many universities that had many different and interesting opportunities. Overall, it was an amazing, educational and fun trip that we all enjoyed and found very enlightening.

Urveen Khalsa wrote that visiting the London ExCel centre where UCAS held their annual exhibition was a fantastic opportunity which allowed us to meet and speak to a number of universities as well as other companies and organisations such as Chapter, a luxury accommodation company based in London. It was great as they were able to provide us with the entry requirements for 2024 which hasn't been published on the university websites yet so it allowed us to see the requirements of subjects as well as the modules in the different courses. It was great as I was also able to find a course at University that interests me and also offered me two years abroad. Overall it was a great experience for me and was very informative as well as opening my eyes to potential universities.



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		

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 I you could bring items into the Main Reception. It will really help some of our families.







