



# Park Academy Newsletter

Issue 19

June 2023



## External Exams

This term Year 11 and 13 students have been completing external examinations which will give them their final qualifications for their Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 courses. Throughout the exam period students have demonstrated our Park values excellently, showing perseverance, aspiration, respect and kindness throughout.

**Perseverance:** Students had to complete a number of exams which were challenging both mentally and physically exhausting, they worked and revised very studiously in between these many exams and this will be reflected when they receive their results in the summer.

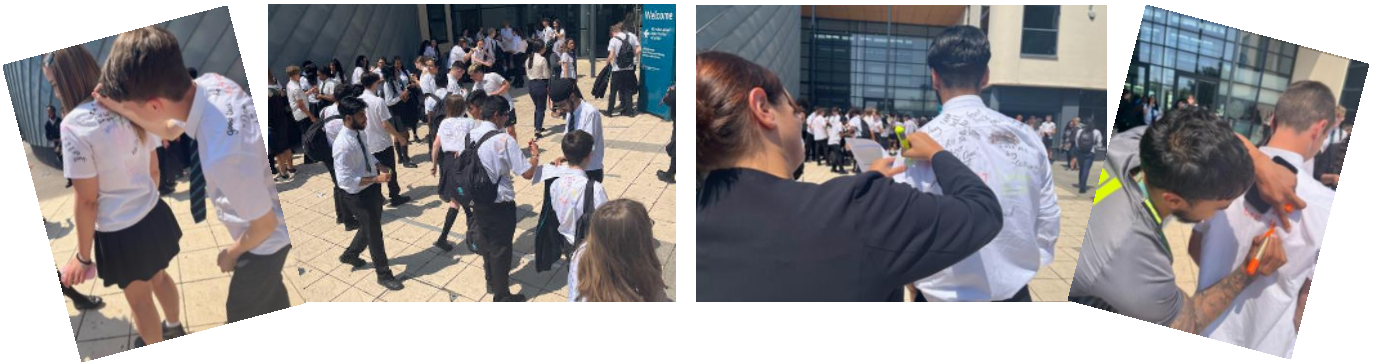
**Aspiration:** We expect many of our students to achieve fantastic results and many of our Year 13 students to attend brilliant university and apprenticeship destinations. This has been achieved through matching their high aspirations with hard work.

**Respect:** Throughout the exam period, all our students have been respectful of each other, whether it is to the exam invigilators that are there to support the students during the exams, or when attending revision and intervention sessions and guiding each other,

**Kindness:** Students and staff have supported one another with revision, mental wellbeing and motivation throughout the exam process.

It is a great demonstration of what a fantastic community we have at Park Academy West London and is another reason so many are able to be successful.

After 5 years at Park Academy, we have said farewell to our Year 11 students. It was an emotional affair, and many of the students didn't want to leave after their shirt signing! We are very proud of all that they have accomplished, and are confident for some excellent results in the summer. We can't wait to see them at their Graduation and Prom and celebrate their success with them.



## International Sporting Honours

Earlier this month, Darren Tuuling (Year 9) was selected to represent England as part of the Boys England National Ice Hockey Team at a European Tournament in Bratislava. Darren is part of the English Ice Hockey Association Elite player pathway, and this is a fantastic achievement! Whilst at the tournament, Darren was voted Hardest Worker! We are very proud of Darren, and can't wait to hear more about his ice hockey successes!



## Year 7 Team Building Day

Year 7s had the opportunity to participate in a team building day run by the British Army, which had been postponed from earlier in the year. During the day, students were given a presentation about the different careers and pathways that the Army can offer, and what some of the roles entail. The rest of the time was taken up with students participating in activities to develop a range of skills including collaboration, communication, and problem solving skills. Students had to solve problems including getting their entire team over the lava river, piecing together a giant jigsaw of a map and building the tallest, and most stable, tower. Students got really stuck in and it was great to see everyone getting so involved.



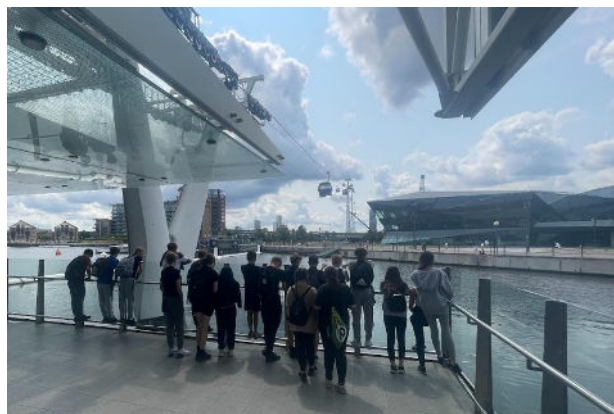
## Pastoral Trip

The Pastoral Team organised a fun action-packed day for students that they have worked with and supported over this academic year. Despite the early start at West Drayton Station and the rain, students were full of enthusiasm for the day ahead!

On arrival up to London, the group headed to Bunker 51 where they were briefed about the rules and safety of paintballing. Once everyone was fully kitted up and briefed, the group headed underground to the themed nuclear bunker. The game was action packed and got the adrenaline pumping as the three teams competed against each other. Well done to the Silver Team that won! It was a great opportunity to promote physical, social and teamwork skills in a fun and dynamic way.

After the energy of paintballing, it was time for a relaxing flight across the River Thames on the IFS cable cars, taking in some of the sites of London from a different view point.

It was a fantastic, but a very tiring day!



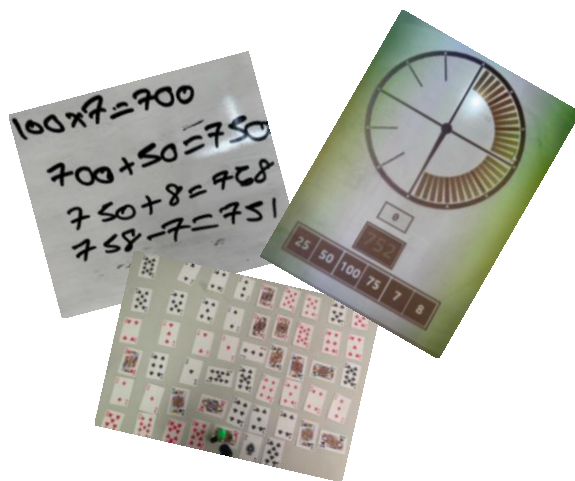


# Subject Areas

## Maths Update

Students from Alge-Bros Maths Club have been exploring the mathematics behind certain card tricks, revealing how and why they work. One of which was 'The Kruskal Count Card Trick' seen in the photo - the idea that no matter where you start from the first row, after repeatedly counting by the number on the card and treating Ace as 1 and face cards as 5, you would always end up on the "trap" card. They also played the "Countdown" game on mini-whiteboards, widely known for making the longest word with randomised letters. However in Alge-Bros, students used arithmetic with certain numbers to reach the desired goal. They enjoyed competing against the clock and were awarded achievement points for every round they succeeded.

The Alge-Bros Club meet every Tuesday and Thursday after school in 2F12 and all students are welcome.



## PE Department – Junior Borough Sports Success!

The Park Academy Junior Athletics Squad entered into the Borough Athletics Championships in what was for many of our students their first time competing on such a big stage, in front of so many people and, for some, in events new to them this year. The students were up for the challenge and prepared themselves well for their events. There was a real team spirit from the students and everyone demonstrated the PARK values throughout the day with the perseverance and aspirations they showed when competing, and the respect and kindness they showed when supporting others.



Highlights from the day include:

- Year 7 Boys 4 x 100m relay team - Bronze medal (narrowly missing out on second place)
- Year 7 Boys 75m Hurdles - Gold, LJ Macfarlane
- Year 7 Boys 100m – Bronze, LJ Macfarlane
- Year 8 Boys 200m – 4<sup>th</sup> place Aaron Barja (photo finish!)
- Year 7 Boys High Jump – 4<sup>th</sup> place, LJ Macfarlane
- High jump 4th - LJ showing his natural athleticism

A fantastic effort by everyone involved!

## PSHCE Guest Speaker – Godwin Lawson Foundation

On Monday 26th June Yvonne Lawson, from the Godwin Lawson Foundation, came to the Academy to speak to Year 10. Yvonne tragically lost her son to knife crime and she came to talk to the students about her experiences and the consequences of making negative choices. The students were captivated by her story and were amazed by her courage as she was able to recall the details of the fatal evening. Yvonne is determined that Godwin's legacy should be something to help keep young people safe, and prevent other families having to go through the pain and loss that hers had suffered. Alongside her husband they have set up the Godwin Lawson Foundation which aims to encourage young people to identify their talents and fulfil their potential through positive opportunities. The Year 10 students were great ambassadors for the Academy and Yvonne and her team were impressed by their maturity and empathy. One student commented 'it was an inspiring talk; I have no idea how Yvonne Lawson has managed to talk about her loss. She encouraged us to do the best and make the most of our chances, this is something I need to ensure I do.'



# Careers

## Careers Fair Success

On a warm Thursday in June, 20 exhibitors and nearly 300 students attended our first ever Careers Fair. With a range of exhibitors including Uxbridge College, University of West London, Kingston University, SCS Railways, Department of Work and Pensions, Princess Alice Hospice, Mitchells Power Systems, Babcock International and many more, students were invited to attend and speak to the different exhibitors.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students were invited to attend over break time and the response was overwhelming. Year 10 and 12 students attended during period 5 and were able to take more time speaking to experts to find out more information. Throughout the entire event, there was a buzz in the room. The exhibitors were really impressed with the students, the questions they asked and how they engaged in conversation, and they have all said that they would like to come back for next year's event!

Feedback from students was really positive, with one student commenting *"I got to gain more information about my future choices and speak to potential universities and employers. It made a difference speaking to people that actually do the jobs, and there were lots of different people to talk to."*

Another student said *"I really enjoyed the event. I've never done anything like it before and it has really helped me think about my future. I also liked all the free gifts!"*

Plans are already underway for next year's event!



## Year 10 Kingston University Visit

As part of our Careers Programme, all year 10 students have the opportunity to visit a University. So far this year, students have had the opportunity to visit Oxford University, Brunel University and Royal Holloway University.

At the start of June, twenty eight Year 10 students attended Kingston University. Once at the Kingston Hill Campus, the group were met by the Student Ambassadors who showed the students around the campus as well as answered any questions the inquisitive students had.

The Ambassadors spoke about their life and experiences of being a student studying at Kingston University, including the social life, library facilities and the prime location Kingston University is situated in. The students were especially pleased when the university presented each student with a £6 voucher to spend on their lunch at the canteen!

Students also participated in workshops focused on tips on how to study and revise using mind map techniques and illustrations. The day was filled with interactive discussions, quizzes and fun games all depicting the intricacies and memory power of the mind. An interesting experience all round.



## Skills for Tomorrow Workshop

A group from students from Year 7 and 8, Year 10 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a day of workshops at the BT headquarters in London. Based in Aldgate, London, the view boasted the stunning London skyline, including the shard visible through the glass planes and it provides students with a real insight into working in the City.

The students participated in a variety of practical workshops, talks and multimedia presentations which were centred around extracting essential life skills and relating these to STEM subjects specifically. They split into teams and designed a presentation from scratch based on implementing new technologies into business designs. The students excelled and exuded a lot of confidence when presenting these ideas in their teams to the room of 45 people. Overall the day was interactive, fun-filled and challenged the students to cultivate and market their skills set in the digital changing world.

The organisers and presenters commented on how well our students did throughout the day, and we hope to be able to take more students there in the future.



## Year 7 Team Repair Workshop

Earlier in June, the opportunity for some Year 7 students came about to participate in a workshop run by my company Team Repair. The aim of the workshop is give students hands on learning for inspiring interests in science, technology, engineering and maths as well as to develop students' understanding of the importance of repairing items, rather than just throwing them away and replacing them. During the one hour workshop, students worked through a series of instructions and tasks to repair broken microscopes. Throughout the sessions, students were highly motivated and were very successful in their repairs.



## Parent Feedback

We are always keen to hear the view of parents and how we can develop our Careers Programme further. We would be grateful if parents could complete the form below by 5pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

## Careers Programme - Parent Feedback July 2023



# Sixth Form

## Year 13 Leavers' Party

It was a night of joyous celebration and heartfelt farewells as our Sixth Formers came together for a memorable Leavers Party held at Uxbridge Football Club. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and nostalgia as students gathered to commemorate their time in Sixth Form and embark on the next chapter of their lives.

The party was a resounding success, with students relishing the opportunity to reconnect with friends and teachers. The vibrant venue provided the perfect backdrop for a night filled with laughter, music, and cherished memories.



As the evening unfolded, students reminisced about the highs and lows of their Sixth Form journey, sharing stories and reflecting on the transformative experiences they had gained. It was a time to honour their achievements, growth, and resilience throughout their years in sixth form.

The Leavers Party marked the end of an era and the beginning of new horizons. It was a bittersweet moment as students bid farewell to familiar faces and embraced the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

## Kingston University

This month, all Year 12 students visited Kingston University, where our students had an enriching day delving into the world of higher education.

On arrival, the students were split into groups and started with interactive icebreaker activities, to connect with the enthusiastic Student Ambassadors. The heart of the visit focused on discussing the benefits and concerns of pursuing further studies. Students actively participated, asking questions and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and possibilities ahead.

The group enjoyed an informative campus tour, exploring impressive facilities and vibrant campus life. A session dedicated to understanding student finance provided crucial information on funding options, including financial aid, scholarships, and loans. Armed with this knowledge, students gained confidence in making informed decisions about their educational pursuits.

Throughout the visit, students immersed themselves in the university experience, actively engaging and asking questions. They discovered resources to support their academic journeys and gained valuable insights into the benefits of higher education, dispelling concerns along the way.



## Empowering Year 12 Students: Literacy Workshop Unleashes Writing Skills

It's been a busy month for our Year 12 students as they also participated in a transformative writing skills workshop led by three experts. This engaging workshop focused on three key areas: essay writing, critical reviewing, and grammar improvement.

During the essay writing session, students immersed themselves in mastering effective argument structuring, paragraph development, and evidence-based reasoning. Through engaging discussions and practical exercises, they honed their ability to communicate ideas clearly and convincingly. The workshop also nurtured students' critical reviewing skills, enabling them to assess written works with a discerning eye. They learned to analyse arguments, evaluate evidence, and construct thoughtful responses, fostering academic excellence and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Emphasising grammar improvement, the workshop equipped students with strategies to enhance sentence structure, punctuation, and overall language proficiency. Interactive exercises enriched their grasp of precise and clear written communication. Throughout the workshop, students actively participated, exchanging insights and experiences. This collaborative environment fostered camaraderie, while the passionate guidance of our staff created an inspiring atmosphere.

As a result, our students emerged with enhanced writing skills and newfound confidence. They now possess refined essay writing techniques, sharpened critical thinking abilities, and improved grammatical proficiency.



## Aim Higher Day 2

During this event, students received valuable insights from Brunel University on the application process and, in particular, student personal statements. Gloria Cheng, Widening Access Manager, went through the application process step by step and students developed their confidence to research the vast range of courses and universities, and get started on the application process.



The focus of the day was on crafting outstanding personal statements, and Gloria provided expert advice on standing out from the crowd. Students learned how to showcase their unique skills, experiences, and ambitions to create compelling personal statements.

Following the enlightening talk, students delved into hands-on activities, working diligently on their personal statements. This practical experience not only honed their writing skills but also helped them gain a deeper understanding of their own goals and aspirations.

By the end of the Aim Higher Day, students emerged with newfound knowledge and inspiration. They now possess the tools to confidently pursue higher education and have developed a clearer vision of their academic future. The Aim Higher Day has ignited their ambition and reminded them that their dreams are within reach.

# Other Information

## Uniform

Do you have any Park Academy Uniform or PE kit, school trousers or skirts, school shirts or suitable school 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.



## 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/>



## WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE? HELP IS AVAILABLE



www.Kooth.com  
Online anonymous support



24 hour free texting service.  
Text YM to 85258 texts are answered by trained volunteers.  
If they think a child or young person is at risk they will share details with someone who can help.



Call 0800 1111 and there is also an online chat support, both have qualified counsellors.  
They also have a BSL video chat option for children who are deaf or hearing impaired



here for you 24/7



### MY VOICE

We want all students to feel safe and receive the support they need to have a positive experience in school.

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, scan the QR code and report it.

