



# Park Academy Newsletter

Issue 20

July 2023



## A message from the Principal, Ms Mohey:

It has been fantastic this academic year to see the students embrace all of the opportunities available to them as well as showing dedication and commitment to their academic studies. This year we have seen the launch of the PARK values (Perseverance, Aspiration, Respect and Kindness) and we have been proud to see the students demonstrating these values. Students are growing in confidence to try activities that they have not taken part in before and will persevere through the difficulties they face until they can achieve it. The careers programme has grown from strength to strength and students are now demonstrating their aspiration as they challenge themselves to achieve their dream career goals. Over the course of the year we have worked with students to ensure that they understand the importance of respect and kindness and we are proud of the journey that many of the students have taken. As we approach the end of the academic year we will be saying goodbye to some members of staff and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best in the future. We look forward to the start of the new academic year but would like to thank all of our parents/carers who have supported us this year. We hope you all have a restful and relaxing summer holiday.

## Rewards Evening

Our annual Rewards Evening is a celebratory event where we reflect on the year gone by. It is such a wonderful opportunity for parents, staff and students to come together and celebrate the successes of our students. Subject awards are presented from all subject areas, as well as Ms Mohey presenting her Principal Awards and the Aspirations Guiding Principle Awards. There was also musical performance from Abbie Garland (Year 9) and Kate Geron (Year 12).



## Year 11 Prom

The last of the celebrations for Year 11 took place at Brunel University. They arrived in various modes of transport and stepped out looking very glamorous and ready to enjoy their evening, and celebrate their last five years at Park. It was lovely to see all the students' look so dressed up, with skirts below the knee and shirts tucked in and top buttons done up! After the initial photos and welcome mocktail and nibbles, it was time to hit the dance floor, and some of the staff joined in too! It was a fantastic evening, and a huge thank you to Ms Burt for organising the evening.



## Year 11 and 13 Graduations

It's hard to believe it was time to celebrate the achievements of all the bright young students. Graduation is a major milestone in a person's life, and it's always worth celebrating. We were beyond happy to see so many students graduating this summer. It has been an amazing year watching each and every one of you grow. The year has come and gone so quickly! We are all excited for your futures and we want nothing but the very best in the years to come. We know that each and every one of you will succeed in anything you put your minds to. Remember to always work hard and never give up!

### Year 11 Graduation



To see all our Year 11 students come together, along with their families, for their graduation was a truly special event. It was incredible to see our students graduating from Park Academy West London. The students truly looked remarkable in their gowns and the atmosphere was vibrant. The year 11 students have been working incredibly hard and this ceremony just summed up how unbelievable our students are. Year 11s Dream big, we wish you all the luck in the world, whatever you do, wherever you go, be kind, be good and be amazing. Good luck and good bye, we will miss you!

### Year 13 Graduation

Earlier this month, our school had the privilege of commemorating a significant milestone in the lives of our remarkable Year 13 students—their graduation ceremony. This joyous occasion marked the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and growth. It was a celebration of achievements, memories, and the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

The graduation ceremony was a testament to the resilience and determination displayed by our graduates throughout their time at our school. Despite facing unprecedented challenges and disruptions, they remained steadfast in their pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. Their accomplishments serve as a testament to their unwavering commitment and the unwavering support of their families, teachers, and the entire school community. The ceremony itself was a memorable and poignant affair. The event was filled with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and the bittersweet realisation that this chapter of their lives was coming to a close.



To the Year 13 graduates, we extend our heartfelt congratulations. Your accomplishments are a testament to your hard work, dedication, and the support you received from your families and teachers. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember that you are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resilience to overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness. May your future be filled with success, fulfilment, and endless opportunities. We are proud to have been a part of your journey, and we look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments as you make a positive impact on the world. Congratulations, Class of Year 13!

## Head Students

As Year 13 leave, we have said good bye and thank you to our previous Head Students. They have done a fantastic job in their role of supporting and representing the Academy and we wish them well in their new ventures.

Recently, there have been numerous interviews to appoint the next Head Students for the new academic year. Year 12 students went through a rigorous process where they had to write a covering letter to support their application on why they should be appointed as Head Student, and were required to complete two teacher references to support their application. They then went through an interview process with Ms Mohey, Mr Jones, Maxine Idago (Deputy House Captain for Greenwich) and Henry Jarvis (Deputy House Captain for Richmond). All students were professional and exemplary representations of Park Academy making it an extremely tough decision, but the team appointed Akram Abokor (6B Regents House) and Eduina Qovani (6D and Kensington House). We wish them best of luck in their role and look forward to the positive change the drive across Park. September 2023 we will be recruiting Deputy Head Students from Years 12 and 13 to support the Head Students and complete the student leadership team.

## House Competition Winners!

This year saw the launch of our new House System and it has been great to see so many students get involved in all the different activities, and make contributions to their House Point total through good attendance, achievement points, sports events, participating in extra-curricular events, maths challenges, spelling bee, photography competitions, art competitions and multiple house competitions that have been taking place. A special well done to Iraj Khan (Year 8 - Richmond House) who took part in every competition and event contributing the most house points to Richmond House!

The houses have been led by our for house captains:

<b>Kensington</b> <i>Aspiration</i>	<b>Richmond</b> <i>Kindness</i>	<b>Regents</b> <i>Respect</i>	<b>Greenwich</b> <i>Perseverance</i>
Diana Mirzad (Year 10) <i>House Captain</i>	Alice walker (Year 10) <i>House Captain</i>	Nadia Ajao (Year 10) <i>House Captain</i>	Summer Cooley (Year 10) <i>House Captain</i>
Abbie Garland (Year 9) <i>Deputy House Captain</i>	Mercedes Maher (Year 9) Henry Jarvis (Year 9) <i>Deputy House Captains</i>	Patryk Skiba (Year 9) Khalil Adejo (Year 9) <i>Deputy House Captains</i>	Maxine Idago (Year 9) <i>Deputy House Captain</i>

The captains and deputies have done an incredible job introducing the House System to the school and have created a House crest to represent each house and help build a sense of identity and belonging among students and have assigned a PARK value to each House.

All the points have now been added up and the winners are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Richmond	84545 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kensington	78652 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greenwich	75997 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Regents	75965 points

A huge well done to Richmond House! The House Points will reset in September with more events and competitions to get students involved in healthy competition to win next year's house cup!

## Staff wellbeing afternoon

It is important that as a school we look after the wellbeing of staff as well as students. On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in the afternoon we cancelled our normal meetings and staff took part in a wellbeing afternoon. There were a variety of activities including tennis, football, board games, music jam session and silent reading in the library. All staff took part in an activity and it was great to see them working together and having fun. The board games became extremely competitive as they all competed to see who would be able to guess the most correct answers.



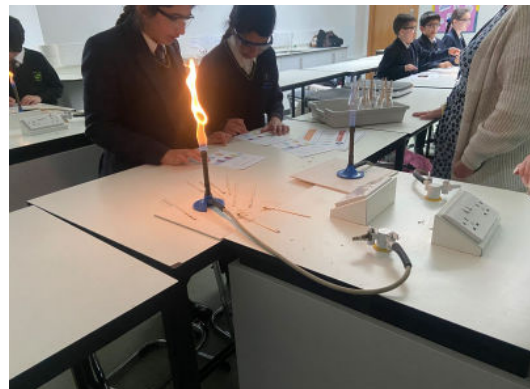


## Year 6 Induction Day and Information Evening

We are delighted to share the incredible experiences our Year 6 students had during their recent transition period. As part of these events, students and their parents had the opportunity to meet Ms Mohey and she was able to share her vision for their Park Academy journey at the Information Evening. Students were also invited in to Park Academy to spend the day with us and meet their new Academic Mentors (AM) and engaging in various activities and group work. These groups are designed to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where students can build lasting friendships, receive guidance, and develop essential social and emotional skills. The AM groups foster a sense of belonging, creating a strong foundation for each student's personal growth and academic progress.

With the day spent in their AM groups, the students participated in a range of team-building activities and ice breaker tasks. These activities provided an opportunity for students discover more about their future classmates' interests, hobbies and aspirations as well as to build trust, respect, and friendships within their tutor groups. The students also took part in taster lessons on what life at Park Academy is really like and to meet some of the teachers that they will have next year.

We are immensely proud of the enthusiasm and dedication displayed by our new Year 7 students throughout their transition period. Their eagerness to embrace new challenges, build connections, and share their aspirations is a testament to their remarkable character and the nurturing environment at Park Academy West London.



## TFL Stars Visit the London Transport Museum



At the start of July, the TFL STARS group finished their 6 month project with a trip to the London Transport Museum to present their projects. The students have been working on a 6 month long project to improve safe and sustainable travel to and from school. Over the 6 months students have taken part in running assemblies, mapping activities, creating AM time activities on safe travel, running an obstacle course, creating a pitch to Hillingdon Borough and running a bike to school competition. Students have collaborated to ensure students are aware of safe and appropriate travel to and from school and the impact travel has on the environment. Students have run this project largely by themselves and have developed excellent communication, organisation and collaborative skills during the 6 months. At the Transport Museum two students Sara and Hasna Bakhshzad created and delivered a presentation to 4 other schools and staff at the museum on the work they have done so far and received incredibly positive feedback from other schools and the museum staff. The students then had a chance to learn about the history of TFL and transport across the city and experience a train driving simulation.

## Olympic Park Trip

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, sixteen students visited the Olympic Park to experience the Olympic BMX bike track. The students on the trip won their place through walking the most amount of steps or ditching the car and cycling to school in Active Travel Week earlier this year. The week was run by the TFL STARS group to encourage active and sustainable travel to school. As a result of our TFL Stars group being awarded some funding from the London Borough of Hillingdon to support their project, the winners received a free BMX session at the Olympic Track. The students took the Elizabeth Line to Stratford to visit the Olympic Park where they had a BMX coaching session from an Olympic coach. Students got to experience jumps, tricks, cycling and ramps as part of the track. Students were impeccable during the session and learnt valuable bike safety alongside some fun. It was a great day!



# Subject Areas

## An update from MFL

### *Spanish Trip*

At the start of July, 26 Students and 4 teachers left Park at 3AM for an early flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid. Following the flight, they checked in at Hotel Victoria 4 in SOL, freshened up ready for day 1 activities amidst extremely high temperatures averaging 35°C. The trip kicked off with a visit to the Plaza Mayor – a major town square in the heart of Madrid, before stopping at the San Miguel glass market, to sample a huge range of Tapas dishes for their lunch. The students spent a few hours during the afternoon at the *Parque de Atracciones*, a Madrid theme park, before heading back to the hotel for dinner. The evening was spent on the Plaza Puerta Del Sol, one of the city's most famous sites and only a 2 minutes' walk from our hotel.

Day 2 started with a buffet breakfast at the hotel, followed by a Hop On, Hop Off guided tour of Madrid, to take in all the major landmarks. They stopped at the Parque Casa de Campo for lunch, home to the famous Templo de Debod. Students walked to the Royal Palace of Madrid, Europe's largest palace which contains 3418 rooms. The visit was followed by episodes of shopping in Sol, where the students had lots of opportunities to practise their Spanish. Dinner was at Museo de Jamon, a Tapas restaurant close to the hotel.

After breakfast on day 3, we headed to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home of Real Madrid. After the visit, the students stopped at a shopping mall before going to el Parque de El Retiro. The final hour was spent once again at SOL, for more shopping before catching the flight back home. The students were very well-behaved and polite, and displayed a sense of independence and were a pleasure to be with. An ice-cream vendor at the park, flight attendants on both legs and the hotel staff all commented on the behaviour they showcased.



### *Paris Trip*

The week following the Madrid Team, the MFL team set off again but this time to Paris. The group met at Park at 6am for an early crossing from Dover to Dunkerque, where everyone received a free breakfast which was very much appreciated!

On arrival in France, the first stop was at Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, one of the most beautiful sandy beaches on the Opal Coast. Long, beautiful walks at low tide right to the water edge. Following this, the group checked into the hotel and freshened up ready for dinner at Italian restaurant Pizza Del Arte for a most enjoyable meal.

Day 2 involved a guided visit to the Stade de France followed by a visit to The Louvre. Here the students were able to visit various parts of this world-famous museum, although all flocked to the room where 'La Joconde' – The Mona Lisa is on display. A drive around Paris allowed the group to see some of the most famous Parisian landmarks including L'Arc de Triomphe, L'Avenue des Champs Elysées, The Luxor Obelisk at La Place de la Concorde, Les Jardins des Tuileries, La Seine, les Bateaux Mouches on the Seine, Le Sacré Coeur, Montmartre, le Trocadéro and of course, La Tour Eiffel. The evening dinner was at a restaurant at the Place du Tertre, the mecca of modern art where at the beginning of the 20th century, many painters including Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, and Maurice Utrillo were living there.



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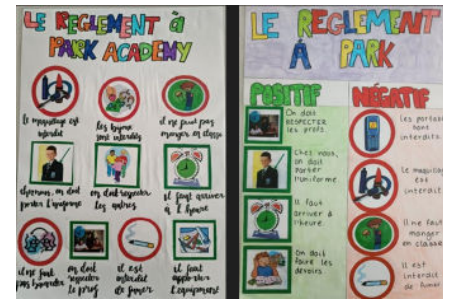
Day 3 took us to the Park Astérix for half a day of fun, rides and more before heading back to the ferry port, with a stop at Auchan shopping mall in Dunkerque. The students were excellent ambassadors for the Academy and we received lots of positive feedback from many people. The coach driver who had been with us for 3 days said: 'They are a credit to your school as I often do such trips and it is not always so nice'.





## Language Lessons

Last half-term our Year 9 cohort studied the topic of *School*. This was followed by a group project where students used the vocabulary which they had come across to design a poster in French about the school rules at Park Academy. Our students demonstrated their creativity to overcome the challenge of making their poster accessible to all, so that everyone at Park could understand the rules, even without having any knowledge of the French language. Next, the Year 9 cohort then moved on to do a film study of a French movie, *Les Choristes*, which has won many awards. Students watched the film in French with English subtitles and at the end of each viewing session, completed a section of the activity booklet which was created to accompany the film.



## An update from the Business Team



Earlier this month, six Year 12 students travelled to Monument where they attended a Reach event. The event was held at the London Institute of Banking and Finance and the students were extremely excited. The purpose of the event was to encourage women from ethnic backgrounds to enter careers in the banking and finance sector, as they are currently under-represented in these industries. The event showed key employability attributes where the students were able to practice skills that employers are looking for. Students were also given the opportunity to network and work with others. The students were very impressive, Shazfa Huthaiba was particularly outstanding as she bravely presented her case study in front of an audience of approximately 100 people. The organisers of the event were very impressed by her eloquent answers.

## News from the Maths Team

In the last week of term, 83 students enjoyed a thrilling day out to Thorpe Park. We set out at 8.30am onto a double decker bus, took many selfies and played charades on the way there. Students were filled with excitement, although some of them were feeling nervous, they were courageous to try the most intense rides. One of the best rides students (and staff!) enjoyed the most was The Tidal Wave which resulted in everyone getting soaked! Throughout the day, the activities and rides were linked to maths and the importance of the subject in a theme park. Students explored measuring speed of rides, estimated heights the rides as well as looking at quantities of time. Every student represented the Academy fantastically and queued for the rides patiently, and it was always worth the wait!



### *Sports Day*

The day dawned bright if a little breezy, and all looked set for a competitive day, full of new activities and ideas, and the first with our new House system in place. All of the year groups moved around the event stations of football, athletics track events, wacky races and tug of war, and athletics field events including throws and jumps. Winning performances were rewarded with additional points, but every student that took part in an event earned a point for their House to encourage everyone to take part. There were some notable performances across the day, and these included:

#### Year 7

Demi Mihailova 2 wins  
Myriam Mokongo 2 wins  
Aaron Barja 3 wins

#### Year 8

Lurdes Maria Martins 2 wins  
Kai Kiddle 2 wins  
Isaac Andrews 4 wins

#### Year 9

Aiden Crawley 2 wins  
Grace Anstey 2 wins  
Mika Allen 3 wins  
Kyle Teague 3 wins (all 3 sprints)

#### Year 10

Zain Hussain 2 wins  
Vietthuy Tran 2 wins

The day was a huge success with the students in great voice cheering their friends and House members on and the staff getting involved. The final event was the staff races which are always heavily contested! The female staff race was won by Ms Scott and the men's race by Mr Bovel.

After lots of adding up, the final results were:

Year 7 Winners – Greenwich  
Year 8 Winners – Regents  
Year 9 Winners – Greenwich  
Year 10 Winners – Kensington  
Overall winners – REGENTS

We will be looking to make Sports Day 2024 even better and bigger, but well done to every student who took part in any event. You all earned points for your House!

### *Colour Run*

The day started wet, and stayed that way, which is not ideal when there is nearly 50kg of powder paint to be thrown around, but it did not dampen the spirits of everyone!

Over 50 staff and students braved the conditions and took part in the first ever Park Academy Charity Colour Run. The aim was to complete three laps of the circuit (walking, jogging or running) and at each of the stations, the participants ran through a cloud of coloured paint! Once the run was finished, all of the students and staff looked like they had been in a paint factory explosion, but without a doubt a fun afternoon was had by all. Once the school council have chosen the charity, the money raised will then be donated to them.

I hope that more students will join us next year as we look to make the event as big as possible and become an annual highlight.



# Careers

## AED Finals

This term, Year 12 students have been working with GS1 UK on their final AED assignment. Students were given the task of implementing barcode, QR code or RFID technology into Park Academy to reduce either workload for staff or support student progress. Alongside this, students also had to develop a marketing campaign that they could take to other schools to sell their idea.

From the initial setting of the task, students were engaged and started developing their ideas. Following a period of research around their use and finding out from students and staff how this technology could be used in school, each group began developing their ideas further before settling on one main idea and their marketing campaign to launch their idea to schools.

For the semi finals, all groups had to present their idea and how it would work, how the idea would be beneficial for the school and their marketing campaign. They then faced questions from the Mr Mohammad and Ms Reynolds who made up the judging panel. From there the winners went through to the Park Academy AED Finals where they had to present their ideas to industry experts from GS1 UK. The students did fantastically well, and the judges had a very tough decision, but the winning group developed an idea of using QR codes on school uniform labels. The QR codes can then be scanned to help the uniform be returned to its owner.



*Winners:*

*Davide Sanita, Akram Abokor, Abdulfatar Nuur  
Arti Dalal (absent in photo)*



*Highly Commended:*

*Daniel Magar and Kacey Pearson  
Kalyn Gomes (absent in photo)*

## Work Experience

All Year 10 and 12 students have the opportunity to participate in a five day work experience placement as part of their Careers Programme. Despite some challenges in sourcing placements, students persevered and secured opportunities in a range of companies and organisations such as local primary schools and nurseries, Brunel University, Boots, solicitors, hair salons, hotels to name a few!

Students had great experiences and gained an insight into the specific industry, as well as developing some key employability skills. It has been great to hear all the feedback from the students as they talk about their experience! Student feedback has been really positive:

*"It was fun and new and interesting because they put me straight into the action of the firm and didn't hold me back to small tasks. Also I had a variety of experience as I had handled reception and some administrative duties which kept me busy and made work experience worth it."*

*"I learnt key skills needed when in a formal childcare environment and it also gave me an insight as to what potential problems could be."*



# Sixth Form

## Year 12 Scavenger hunt

The hustle and bustle of London Paddington was transformed into a playground of excitement and adventure as our Year 12 students embarked on an exhilarating scavenger hunt on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Armed with their wits, curiosity, and a sense of camaraderie, the students eagerly embraced the challenge of exploring one of London's iconic locations while completing a series of engaging tasks.

The students gathered with anticipation, ready to dive into an unforgettable experience. The Scavenger Hunt was not only an opportunity to discover hidden gems within this vibrant hub but also a chance to strengthen bonds, foster teamwork, and ignite a sense of adventure.

One of the tasks involved capturing the essence of Paddington through photography. The students enthusiastically roamed the station, capturing candid moments, architectural wonders, and vibrant displays that encapsulated the spirit of this historic landmark. Their lenses became windows into the soul of Paddington, documenting its rich tapestry of sights and stories.

Another challenge tested their knowledge of local history and trivia. Teams eagerly scoured the area, seeking answers to questions about notable landmarks, cultural icons, and historical events associated with Paddington. The scavenger hunt also encouraged the students to engage with the vibrant community of Paddington. They interacted with local vendors, shared laughter with commuters, and exchanged stories with visitors, forging connections that transcended boundaries. This immersive experience fostered a sense of belonging and nurtured their ability to engage with diverse perspectives.

The day, not only offered an exciting adventure, but also provided valuable life lessons. The students honed their problem-solving skills, developed resilience in the face of unexpected challenges, and embraced the spirit of curiosity and exploration. They discovered the importance of effective teamwork, adaptability, and the beauty of embracing new experiences.

## Sixth Form induction

At the start of July, our cohort of Year 11s were invited back into the academy for their Year 12 induction. The buzz and excitement were palpable as our school welcomed the new cohort of Year 12 students during the highly anticipated Induction Day. This two-day event served as an introduction to their next educational chapter, providing a taste of what lies ahead, fostering teamwork, and igniting their passion for learning.

The first day of the Induction program was a dynamic taster lesson day, designed to give the students a glimpse into the diverse subjects they will be exploring throughout the year. From science to literature, mathematics to history, the students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in interactive lessons and engage with passionate teachers who shared their expertise and enthusiasm. As the students navigated through different classrooms, they were exposed to a range of captivating activities and demonstrations. Hands-on experiments, lively discussions, and thought-provoking debates brought their subjects to life, sparking curiosity and encouraging the exploration of new ideas. It was a day that showcased the depth and breadth of knowledge they would acquire and the exciting academic journey that awaited them.

The second day, students got stuck in with a range of team-building activities, aimed at fostering strong bonds among the Year 12 students. Through a series of engaging challenges, the students learned the value of collaboration, effective communication, and problem-solving. One of the highlights of the day was the blindfold navigation activity, where students relied on trust, communication, and teamwork to navigate a course while blindfolded. This exercise emphasised the importance of clear communication, active listening, and the ability to rely on others—a valuable lesson as they embark on their academic journey together.

Additionally, the students took on the challenge of building the tallest tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows. This activity tested their creativity, critical thinking, and ability to work under pressure. As they faced setbacks and adjustments, they quickly realised the significance of adaptability, resilience, and the power of collective problem-solving. Finally, the day concluded with a lively pizza bake-off. Divided into teams, the students collaborated to create their own culinary masterpieces. This activity encouraged teamwork, time management, and the appreciation of diverse skills. It also provided a delightful opportunity for the students to bond over shared experiences and celebrate their collective achievements.

The Year 12 Induction Day left an indelible impression on the students, setting the tone for their academic journey ahead. The taster lessons sparked their interests, providing a glimpse into the exciting subjects they would explore. The team-building activities fostered a sense of unity, establishing a supportive and collaborative environment that will propel them forward throughout the year.



# 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.



YOUNGMINDS



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.

