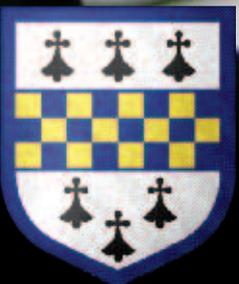




Park Life

Spring 2015/#4
The Journal of Park Hall Academy



PARK HALL
ACADEMY

Stretching and Challenging

Dear Parent/Carer

It is a delight to introduce another edition of Park Life. This term has been filled with so many learning experiences for our children and with many extra-curricular opportunities. The sense of purpose and pace of our students is incredibly impressive. We are proud of the students ensuring that their behaviour for learning and effort is used so effectively to benefit from the enormous range of learning opportunities and experiences we offer as a school.

A sample of the exciting things that have happened so far at Park Hall Academy this year are...

- Mock Examinations
- New Year's Party for the Senior Citizens in the Cyber Café run by the Year 12 Health & Social Care group
- CBSO visit with Year 7
- Literacy Intervention
- Lots of sport! For example; Level 3 County Games, Badminton Under 14 and Under 16
- Debate Mate at KESH, Sheldon
- Study Skills visit to Cadbury World
- Year 11 and Year 12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics visit to Bristol University

We have intensified our focus on 'Stretch & Challenge' making sure lessons provide learning opportunities for all of our students to make **above expected progress**.

Please encourage your child to ask for stretch and challenge activities and to share their learning with you (there will be various rewards celebrating their participation and achievement this term).

Homework is an essential part of the learning process and we have a homework timetable. Homework is to be set on the nights designated on the timetable – homework is set at the start of the lesson and recorded in planners by the students. Please check your child's planner to see the homework and support the school by ensuring your son/daughter completes their homework to the best of their ability. The planner should be signed **each week** by the parent/carers and the Form Tutor. Please ensure to inform your son/daughter's Head of Year or Mr Stackhouse who is the Senior Manager with responsibility for homework if this is not regularly visible in your child's planner.

Year 11 are working really hard to capitalise on their remaining months here at Park Hall – they are taking advantage of all the **Period 6 Revision Classes**, which are taking part at the end of each day and will have the opportunity to attend Revision School on Monday and Tuesday of February half-term. We look forward to welcoming parents and students to the Year 11 Consultation Evening on the 10 March, 2015 at 3.30pm where revision stalls will sell support guides and staff will be on hand to support Parent/Carers and students.

Park Hall Academy are delighted to have appointed their first **Head Boy and Head Girl**, Leadership Team and Senior pupils, detailed on the following.

These teams have been selected by staff and students as role models and young school leaders – we are immensely proud of them and we look forward to feeling the impact of their work across the Academy. Initially, they will be leading on **anti-homophobic work/project** with Mr Gregory, Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion).

This term in our journey for **achievement** we have launched the **Flight Paths** sent to you on the 30 January 2015, which I hope you are using to help your child's progress. If you use the flight path with the information sent home about your **child's progress tests/levels** you should be able to support them and offer that part of encouragement our children love to receive. This parental support is vital to children's progress.

We are continuing to enforce high standards of behaviour and uniform – our standards continue to rise – sadly some of our students have found these requirements difficult and have had to leave the Academy. Our aim is to provide a school which is safe, happy and progress driven we will not tolerate behaviours that do not support this.

We have had our second successful visit from one of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools on 22 January, 2015 and we feel pleased that so many of our improvements have been recognised.

We are so grateful to our parents for their flexibility and support as we push forward in making Park Hall a great centre for learning and a place where success is expected every day that your child attends.

Please continue to ensure that your child comes to school with the basic requirements – a bag, **excellent uniform** (no trainers), **completed homework** and a **positive desire to succeed**.

Thank you for your on-going support and work in helping us to empower your child to be successful, progress driven and a rounded young person. This term's 'Ethos' focus is to **'Do all things with kindness'**. Our tutorial programme going forward, will continue to hit hard hitting topics regarding safeguarding such as anti-radicalisation – underpinning this will be a theme of recognising the role of kindness in any society and organisation and seeing how kindness helps the 'culture' of success and achievement as well as the surrounding community.

Damian Burgess
Park Hall Academy Headteacher



Enhancing Learning and Strengthening Teaching

Our Autumn and Spring terms have continued to see a wealth of exciting developments and improvements to the quality of learning and progress throughout Park Hall Academy. We continue to focus on the importance of students using the new learning books to respond to the marking and feedback given to them by their teachers and by their peers. To allocate time for this process, enabling students to absorb their feedback and to check their work, teachers are building 'Dedicated Improvement and Response Time' (DIRT) into their lessons. During this time, students are expected to review; respond; correct; and check their work for spelling, punctuation and grammar, answer any challenge questions and show their workings out.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and British Values

At Park Hall Academy, personal development is at the heart of all that we do. The development of confidence, resilience, empathy, communication skills, respect for different views, curiosity and insight and cultural understanding are all integral to the learning journey and the curriculum paths that each student follows. In recognition of SMSC and British Values of respect, democracy, the rule of law and equality, every lesson has adopted a community and awareness theme. To emphasise this to students, the last few days of the Autumn Term were designated as 'CARE' days aimed at highlighting to every student how each subject promotes both personal development and the core values of Community, Awareness, Responsibility and Equality.

Thank you and well done to all students and staff who contributed to the Autumn CARE days. Students' non-uniform donations helped to raise a total of just under £900. £448 has been sent to Save the Children to support the Ebola Crisis Fund, with the remaining £448 raised being donated to Water Aid.

Praiseworthy Progress

A recent visit from the Local Advisory to review the quality of teaching and learning at Park Hall praised the significant progress that has been made over the past year. Feedback from the visit noted that 'The school is calm and orderly and there is a buzz about learning from both staff and pupils' and 'staff are really keen to encourage a love of learning'. Whilst this is excellent feedback, we will continue to drive up teacher expectations, and stretch and challenge every student's and standards and expectations of themselves.

The progress Flight Paths continue to support students in their understanding of what 'good progress' looks like. Stretch and challenge activities are being set in lessons to push every student up to and beyond their target levels.

New Signings

During this academic year, we have been delighted to be able to appoint the following excellent new teachers across the curriculum:

Assistant Headteacher and SENCO: Mr Halligan.

English: Miss Chorley, Curriculum Leader for English; Mr East, Second in Charge of English; Mr Green and Ms. Green.

Maths: Mrs Hulme, Curriculum Leader for Maths; Mr Goodridge, Director of Maths; Mrs Corbett-Lees and Ms Scott.

Science: Mr Phillips, Assistant Headteacher - Science; Miss Lawrence, Mr Doran and Ms Ahmed.

Citizenship: Miss Bartlett, Citizenship Coordinator; and Ms. Thomas.

Art: Ms. Blackman, Curriculum Leader for Art; Miss Gibbs, Art; Miss Norris, Mr Short, Mr Smith and Mrs Whaley - all Art/DT Faculty.

PE and Food Technology: Mr Jones.

Media: Miss Kouhi (Media)

The key to maintaining and raising achievement for every student at Park Hall will, of course, depend on the commitment of every pupil; taking on responsibility for their own learning, doing the right thing and ensuring they complete homework and being prepared to learn every day, with the right equipment and student planner.

Together, learning and achievement at Park Hall Academy will be outstanding!

Mr J Barber, Deputy Headteacher

Behaviour

Since the last issue of Park Life, there have been many steps forward in our promotion of what we consider to be the Academy's core principles of behaviour and conduct. As we continue to strive for ever better standards of behaviour and discipline, the majority of students have responded excellently in developing their own sense of **behaviour for learning**.

There is now a greater sense of students taking responsibility for their own learning in classrooms and at home. Our homework policy is now being strictly enforced and homework planners are being checked daily to ensure students are completing them. **We need parental support** to ensure that learning does not stop at the school gates and homework is completed on time and to a good standard.

Our unrelenting expectation of high uniform standards is ensuring students are ready to learn, take pride in their appearance, and are part of the Park Hall team. **It is simply not acceptable to come into the Academy without wearing the correct uniform.** Again, support from parents has been instrumental in securing a smart and prepared Academy culture. However, there are still a small number of students that choose not to adhere to our high standards of dress and are directed to wear our supply of shoes, blazers and ties until they are able to wear their own.

The Behaviour For Learning Room continues to have an enormous impact on behaviour in lessons and learning spaces, to ensure that learning and progress are not disrupted by any individual. It still remains **the central consideration of Park Hall Academy that we must not allow individuals to damage the learning of others**.

To support and capitalise on the improvements, we organised a two-day immersion programme just before the Christmas break. One of the days was dedicated to Water Aid and the Ebola crisis and the other was focused on 'British Values' and what it means to be British. As part of this, every student was introduced to the CARE pledge and the importance of caring for others in the school community. It specifically concentrated on Community, Awareness, Responsibility and Equality, the four principles that not only underpin British Values but also the values of Park Hall Academy.

I was absolutely astounded by the overwhelmingly positive attitude from students during those two days, and the feedback from staff, students, and parents alike was that it was an incredibly successful two days, which allowed students to learn, debate and discuss important fundamental issues in their lessons.

Finally, as we come towards the mid-point of the year, it is important that we keep the momentum of continued improvement in learning, progress and behaviour. We can only do this with full parental support so this work can continue to be effective as possible.

Mr S Gregory,
Deputy Head, Behaviour and Student Leadership



New **Head Boy** New **Head Girl**

Congratulations go out to the new Senior Student Team and Student Leadership Team and, in particular, to our new Head Girl, Chelsey-Ann Kyniacou and Head Boy, George Chance-Osman who have the distinction of being the first Head Boy and Head Girl in Park Hall Academy's history.

Deputy Head Girls are Katie Payne, Chloe Hall and Brooke Cope and Deputy Head Boys are Thomas Attwood, James Hunt and James Dixon.

The Student Leadership Team are Martin Mach, Alex King, Rhys Davies, Jacob Eccleston, Adama Sonko, Maame Agyeman and Chloe Allat.

All students were nominated by staff and Year 11 students in a morning election process. Once nominated all of the students were interviewed by The Headteacher, Mr Burgess, Head of Year 11 Miss Jones and Miss McDonald, Mr Roper and Mr Gregory.

The standard of responses during the interviews were exceptional. We look forward to their contributions over the academic year, which has already begun with crucial involvement in the Academy's Awards evening held just before the Christmas break.

We wish them well in their ongoing studies and their forthcoming examinations.

Mr S Gregory,
Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour and Student Leadership

Chelsey-Ann Kyniacou: "I am delighted to be the first Head Girl at Park Hall Academy and have already had the opportunity to help and support numerous events in this capacity, including the Academy Awards Evening, presentations and visitor tours of the Academy. Meeting The 2013/2014 Mayor of Solihull Mr Joe Tildesley was a pleasure and I would like to personally thank him for visiting Park Hall Academy." ■ Chelsey-Ann is an exemplary student who aims to achieve the highest grades possible in her forthcoming GCSEs. She intends to go on to study A Levels in Biology, English Literature, French and a BTEC Diploma in Sports Science. Chelsey-Ann then hopes to study Physiotherapy at university. Over the summer holidays she secured a prestigious placement at Birmingham Children's Hospital as a result of her determination and tenacity.

George Chance-Osman: "I was shocked and delighted to be chosen as Park Hall Academies first Head Boy. It is such an honour and I intend to make the most of this amazing opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed delivering the vote of thanks with Chelsey-Ann at the Annual Awards Evening and it was a privilege to meet Chris Thompson, the Accounts Director for Education at British Telecom. The opportunity to serve my school in the capacity of Head Boy, is enabling me to represent my peers and to make a difference in the community." ■ George is a delightful young man who has the ability to put everyone at their ease and who really makes a positive contribution to Park Hall Academy. George is working hard to achieve the highest grades at GCSE to enable him to progress to Park Hall Academy's Sixth Form to study A Level Physics, Mathematics, History and a BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts. He intends to study Civil Engineering at University, before following a career in this area. George will be completing a prestigious placement at ARUP Engineering over the summer vacation.

Pictured Left: New Head Girl, Chelsey-Ann Kyniacou and Head Boy, George Chance-Osman pictured with The Mayor of Solihull 2013-14, Councillor Joe Tildesley.

Park Hall Presentations

11 December 2014 saw family, friends and members of the community join Park Hall Academy in celebrating our students' fantastic achievements during 2013 and 2014.

It was an excellent evening and we were absolutely delighted to be able to welcome Chris Thompson, the Accounts Director for Education at British Telecom as our distinguished guest for the event. Chris delivered an engaging, informative and inspiring speech to the audience composed of parents, students and invited guests.

We were also honoured to be joined by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Mark Hayes and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Mrs Pauline Allen, as well as numerous past students, Headteachers of other local schools, and Park Hall Governors and staff.

The evening also provided an opportunity for our Executive Principal, Mr Martin Murphy to deliver an extremely informative keynote speech

in which he congratulated Park Hall Academy's students on their superb achievements throughout the year and gave the audience an update on the new Multi-Academy Trust.

Park Hall Principal, Mr Burgess then gave us an inspirational talk which commended the exceptional talent which our academy is home to - both within the student body and amongst its talented staff.

It was a truly wonderful evening and we received a lot of positive feedback from parents and members of the community who were delighted to be able to join us in celebrating the achievements of our students.

Well done Park Hall students! You are indeed a credit to the Academy, our community and your families!

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS



Jon-Joe Smith: Winner of The Castle Bromwich Parish Council Award for Service to the Community: *Jon-Joe is a delightful young man and a talented student who has made numerous contributions to his local community. He mentors younger students at Park Hall Academy on Thursday lunchtimes; he was on the Editorial Team for 'The Chronicle' and part of the 'press team' which organised interviews and photographs of Academy events. Jon-Joe is also a Youth Councillor on Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council, and has been an Academy Councillor for the past five years. He helped to organise the whole School Academy Election and the UK Youth Parliament Elections in 2014, producing appropriate literature to support the campaign. He has also helped at Open Evenings and completed the St John's Ambulance First Aid Award. Jon-Joe attends the bi-monthly Castle Bromwich Youth Council meeting at Arden Hall; and has supported the Junior Schools' Carol Service; led the Remembrance Parade; and supported various charity events in the local community. He is also part of the team that contributed to the 'How to set up a Youth Council' DVD which was distributed at a major national and international conference. The contribution Jon-Joe has made to the Academy and local community is wonderful; he really is a special young man who makes a positive difference to the lives of others.*

Dominic Blackwell: Winner of The Headteacher's Award: *The Headteacher's Award 2014 went to a student who serves as an excellent role model to ALL our students. Dominic is a student that has had to work hard for his academic achievements; making the most of his positive relationships with staff; and is relentless in his determination to achieve his full potential. This young man has also been a leader on the sports field throughout his time at Park Hall. Captaining the Football Team. Beyond his academic and sporting achievements, however, there are a number of qualities that make Dominic Blackwell stand out as an example to others: During the 2014 World Challenge Expedition to Kerala, India he demonstrated excellent teamwork and leadership skills; taking responsibility for planning, organising and leading a team in cooking the final expedition meal for TWELVE hungry challengers, as well as a team of TEN mountain guides and local cooks. Despite the unfamiliar environment and culture, he repeatedly demonstrated great responsibility, sensitivity and support for fellow team members. In the Sixth Form, Dominic continues to shine. We are delighted to record that right from the start of the academic year; having achieved an A in GCSE Maths; that he volunteered to provide extra support for younger Maths students. However Dominic's greatest quality is his humility; he does not expect praise or recognition for simply doing the things that come so naturally to him. It is for this reason that he fully deserves our most prestigious reward. VERY well done Dominic!*

Natasha Adcock: Winner of The Governors' Award for service to Park Hall: *Natasha was highly successful on her BTEC Media Production course, resulting in a qualification at Triple Starred Distinction. Throughout her Media course she embarked upon every brief in a professional manner; researching, planning and producing the work to a very high standard. Because of her excellent technical skills, Natasha has been our go to person when high quality video productions were needed. She has produced all of the films for this evening's celebrations and whilst on her course she was selected to create a promotional video for the local Castle Bromwich Youth Council. This video has been used nationwide to promote the work of youth councils and to encourage other regions to set up their own groups. Once her course was finished, Natasha came into school voluntarily to work in the Media Department as teacher support in lessons. She was able to assist younger pupils in their coursework and use her artistic skills to update displays in the Media area. Next September Natasha will take her place on a BSc course in Digital Media Technology at Birmingham City University. She was offered this place unconditionally on the strength of the work she produced on her BTEC course. In the meantime we are very fortunate to have her working in the Media Department as our Media Technician: a role which sees her contributing to whole school projects as well as sharing her expertise with students in the department. We are very proud of her achievements and delighted to be working with her.*





Step up to serve...

Park Hall Academy students were invited to give feedback on Community Action Projects to The Minister for Civil Society at Birmingham University

Park Hall Academy's involvement in numerous Youth Social Action Projects is getting noticed at the highest level! Our students and staff recently received an invitation from the Cabinet Office to attend the Youth Social Action Project 'Step Up to Serve: Reflections on the Double Benefit' held in the University of Birmingham's prestigious Senate Room. Our students were accompanied by Paul Wright and Flo Berrow from 'The Hub' (Worth Unlimited) who have worked in close partnership with the Academy during the past year, organising five Community Action Projects for Year 7 and Year 11 students.

Park Hall students Euan Downes, Coral Western, Harry Millward and Jamie Hanus had the honour of delivering presentations on a number of Community Action Projects that they had been heavily involved in. The students were so proud of their contributions, they spoke eloquently in front of a select group of people including the Minister for the Civic Society, Professor Adam Tickell, Provost and Vice Principal, University of Birmingham, Charlotte Hill CEO of Step up to Serve, James Arthur Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, and the Chair Tom Harrison from the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, as well as a number of representatives from the Cabinet Office.

The Minister for Civil Society made particular reference to Park Hall Academy and the students' special contribution to their community. He specifically referred to the projects which our students took part in during his concluding remarks.

Euan, Coral, Harry and Jamie had the opportunity to meet other young people and invited guests during lunch before contributing to a number of focus groups on Character Education and Social Action. Jenny Higgins of the Jubilee Centre complimented our speakers, saying "There are not many people who could talk so eloquently in front of an audience like this. It is wonderful to meet young people who are out there doing the Social Action projects and making such a difference to their communities, I think you should be really proud of yourselves".

Euan, Coral, Harry and Jamie said that it was a privilege to be invited to represent more than 200 Park Hall students who had contributed their time and energy to community projects, adding that it was "An honour to work with members of their community and to be able to make a difference locally".

These projects are a superb example of Citizenship Education at its very best; involving young people in their community to make a positive impact. We intend to complete many similar projects this year we know everyone appreciated the community-spirited effort put in by the young citizens of Park Hall Academy.



SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS



Lillia Messaoudi: Winner of The Sarah Martin Memorial Prize: *Lillia has been an absolute joy to teach! She is one of those students who inspire and enthuse in their use of creativity, analysis and insight. Lillia always goes that extra mile to produce work of an exemplary standard and her quiet and thoughtful contributions to lessons enliven class debates... She is quite simply a delight in the classroom!*

Tom Anderton: Winner of The George Waite Memorial Prize: *Tom is a very talented and dedicated performer. Since the start of Year 9 he has always worked hard to understand different styles of performance and never shies away from doing something different with his performance. He is confident and supportive during rehearsals and performances, and this has definitely had a positive effect on others within his GCSE Drama group. Most recently, Tom took on the key role of 'Mercutio' in Park Hall Academy's performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' at The Shakespeare School's Festival.*

Kirsty Tuffin: Winner of The Andrew Steventon Memorial Trophy: *Kirsty is a delightful young woman who has made a significant contribution to life at Park Hall Academy. Kirsty was on the Editorial team of 'The Chronicle' and part of the 'press team' which organised interviews and photographs of Academy events. She is also a member of The Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council, and has been an Academy Councillor for the past five years. Kirsty was also recently selected from over 100 students to represent the Academy on the Global Young Leaders' Project, spending two weeks in New York and Washington DC in the Summer of 2014. During this time she developed links with over 400 international students, made a blog, presented a proposal at the United Nations and took part in global debates as part of the Global Young Leaders Project. This sterling work was instrumental in her being selected as the American Ambassador for Park Hall Academy by her peers.*

Park Hall's Sixth Formers Top of the local League!

The publication of the Sixth Form performance tables in January once again reflected excellent news for Park Hall Sixth Form. Yet again, Park Hall has come TOP of the local performance rankings for A Level results.

The ranking is based on an average point score per A Level entry and average point score per A Level student. Our top level placing means Park Hall Academy outperformed ALL other local Sixth Forms, including Smiths Wood, John Henry Newman, Grace Academy, and Coleshill.

Park Hall was also the Sixth Form with the highest number of A Level entries at 71; compared to Smiths Wood with 53; Grace Academy, 65; and John Henry Newman with 37.

Park Hall also topped the tables for Academic Progress. This is a key measure of academic performance against national targets based on students' GCSE performance. This confirms that students make greater improvement in their academic subjects from their original starting points than at any other local school.

By this measure our levels of academic progress at Park Hall also exceeded that made by students at Solihull College (-0.21) and those from Sixth Form College Solihull (-0.15).

Vocational Results

In terms of vocational performance, a number of our local Sixth Forms performed very well in 2014, with students from Park Hall, John Henry Newman, and CTC all achieving an average grade of Distinction, or better.

However, Park Hall still tops this table on average point score per student rather than per qualification. This reflects the fact that a higher proportion of Park Hall Sixth Formers studying vocational qualifications, study the equivalent of four subjects rather than just three, with a number of students also combining vocational qualifications with A Level studies.

Whilst most of our local Sixth Forms are clearly progressing, it is with great pride that Park Hall can once again say that its Sixth Form 'tops the table' as it did in both 2012 and 2013.

Our Sixth Form can be considered a real strength for the school and the outstanding achievements of many of our students; such as Jess Schofield, pictured left, who achieved three Grade A's in her demanding History, Business and Politics A Levels; serve as a fine example of just what Park Hall students can achieve.

Mr I Cornell, Vice Principal, Post-16, Role of the Tutor, Tutorial Curriculum, Rewards, Celebration and Assemblies



Jess Schofield - three A Level Grade As!

GCSE Flight Paths

We hope that you will have read the recent mailing about the introduction of our new expected progress 'Flight Paths'. In Park Hall's ongoing drive for academic progress we have developed Flight Paths to demonstrate to students and their families each student's potential and their expected outcomes. The Flight Path diagram featured below demonstrates where students are now in terms of grades and levels, and the improvements they are expected to aim for. To ensure students remain familiar with their targets, these Flight Paths are now on display in every classroom at Park Hall.

Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time

Students will be encouraged to reflect upon how they are progressing, through half-termly checks, assessment grades/levels achieved and by reading/listening to teachers' feedback in Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT). After every progress check, students are expected to complete a Self Reflection sheet.

Challenging target grades have been set for all students, however they are not a 'ceiling' to learning; we have high expectations of our students here at Park Hall and hope everyone drives hard to exceed these targets and deliver their full personal potential.

Learning is not a Straight Path

We do however also recognise that learning does not always move forward in a straight line, but these Flight Paths provide a useful guide to explain where each student should be at each stage of their learning journey. We are sure that Parents and Carers will also want to examine their child's progress and compare it against the expectations laid out in the Flight Paths.

If you require any further help or clarification of the Flight Paths concept, please contact your child's Head of Year or the Progress Leader on 0121 748 0400.

Dr T Close, Senior Deputy Headteacher

KS2 Outcomes BASELINE	Progression across KS3 (At rate of 4 Levels of progress KS2-4)			Progression across KS4 (At rate of 4 Levels of progress KS2-4)		GCSE Outcome 4 Levels of Progress from KS2 baseline
	End of 7	End of 8	End of 9	End of 10	End of 11	
				A*	A*	A*
				A+	A+	A
				A	A	B
8				B+	B+	B
				B	B	C
7				C+	C+	C
				C	C	D
6				D+	D+	D
				D	D	E
5				E+	E+	E
				E	E	F
4				F+	F+	F
				F	F	G
3				G+	G+	G
				G	G	U
2				U	U	U
				U	U	U
1				- Pupils in need of support		Entry Level Certificate



PHA Awards

Rewarding Progress and Attitude to Learning

This year Park Hall Academy's Spring Term started out with a celebration of success, as students were presented with a new series of certificates developed to commemorate their outstanding progress and attitude to learning. Years 7-11 took part in assemblies to celebrate the hard work of their peers.

Students received Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificates. We hope that every one of our students will go on to receive at least one of these commendations before the end of the year.

Huge congratulations go out to all the students who received a certificate. A special mention must go to those who received a coveted Gold Award for Attitude to Learning which recognises their outstanding work ethic in all their lessons.

Meanwhile those students who received Gold for Progress are well on their way to meeting or surpassing their target grades; which with only one term down of the academic year is a huge achievement!

Well done everyone - keep up the hard work!

Mr J Roper, Director of Progress



Year 7 PHA Awards



Year 7 PHA Awards

Year 7 PHA Awards

Bronze Progress Award

- McDonald, Ethan
- Johnson, Megan
- Thompson, Morgan
- Cartwright, Emily
- Smith, Josh
- Jicmon, Michael
- Noakes, Charlie
- Hussain, Zishan
- Rodney, Tyreek
- Challoner-Barnes, Millie
- Bosz, Anna
- Roy, Diangelo
- Cotton, Rebecca
- Rhodes, Ella
- Mattis, Alana
- Woodhouse, Benjamin
- Lawrence, Luke
- Glendinning, Sam
- Roberts, Libby
- Ali, Farhaan
- Parker, Dale
- Barrowcliffe, Michael
- Donoghue, Sinead
- Edwards, Kyro
- Aherne, Lucy
- Rayson, Toby
- Reid, Shemiah
- Horton, Lewis
- Sharpe, Ellie
- Thearia, Amrita
- Priestley, Blayne

Bronze Attitude, to, Learning

- Webb, Connor
- Dark, Jamie
- Deverell-Lawrence, Scott
- Dainty, Sophie
- Moore, Freya
- Kilmister, Mia
- Hunter, Halle
- Yates, Dylan
- Brown, Freya
- Evans, Molly

Silver Attitude to Learning

- Jones, Poppy
- Kempson-Byrne, Shannon
- Bagshaw, Carly
- Rankin, Ellis
- Ward, Annabel
- Bull, Abbie
- Birch, Georgina
- Herbert, Harriet
- Bailey, Adam
- Symonds, Oliver
- Haden, Courtney
- Wheeler, Alex
- Luckman, Oliver
- Gardner, Renae
- Thearia, Amrita
- LaMoon, Melodie
- Powers, Jordan
- Gates, Annie-May
- Smith, Holly
- Mattis, Alana

Silver Progress Award

- Riley, Sophie
- Rooney, Megan
- Rainey, George
- Paul, Kaierah
- Beddow, Alexander
- Touray, Mohammed
- Druce, Sian
- Hennessy, Morgan
- Zamani, Paria
- Glenn-Toques, Monique
- Akhtar, Aishah
- Mustafa, Samad
- Birtles, Jessica
- Mbanzabugabo, Harry
- Beard-Ullah, Olivia
- Rehman, Zarar
- Martin, Charlotte
- Jarrett, Lettisha
- Salmon, Rhyio
- Mclean, Isabel
- Miles, Anaya

Gold Attitude to Learning

- Cox, Katie
- Boaler, Clare
- Byrne, Eaden
- Cartwright, Emily
- Sajjad, Hiba
- Hardy-Grady, Savannah
- Chance-Osman, Nancy
- Coward, Lily
- Cruise, Lauren
- Brown, Jai
- Buckley, George
- Waldron-Lees, James
- Dolaghan, Jack
- Field, Ciaran
- Shaw, Karla
- Powell, Theo
- Witten, Katie
- Appleton, George
- Bennett, Kofi
- Abbas, Abdur-Raheem
- Winters, Mia

Gold Progress Award

- Mafina, Merit
- Allso, Rachel
- Harris, Shoshanna
- Sunner, Aaron
- Cond, Bethany
- Axford, James
- Hussain, Imam
- Aslam, Azeem
- Mahmood, Humaira
- Riley, Sophie

- Wallbank, William
- Cotton, Rebecca
- Pollock, Molly
- Noakes, Charlie
- Woralert, Bonita
- Cole, Madyson
- Tanner, Jacob
- McDonald, Ethan
- Brady, Callum



Year 8 PHA Awards

Silver Progress Award

Murphy, Jay
 Job, Harrison
 Platt, Reece
 Robb, Perry
 MCGowran, Jacob
 Eaglestone, Chloe
 Rose, Reiss
 Perks, Thomas
 McNicholas, Lewis
 Maling-Newman, Lewis
 Mallen, Daniel
 Card, Amari
 Braddish, Callum
 Coward, Clark
 Hazel, Regan
 Straker, Shynnina
 Esuruoso, Oluwabori
 Sonko, Abbie
 Caines, Owen
 Fearnhead, Bahija
 Howell, James

Bronze Progress Award

Al-Moraba, Hamzah
 Hawkins, Jack
 Price, Luke
 Dixon, Masson
 Islam, Mohammed
 Parker, Matthew
 Sherwin, Kelsie
 Garrard, Tyrese
 Peers, Dominic
 Cooke, Rebecca
 Thacker, Maisie
 Wilkins, Megan
 Belgrave, Talor
 Steward, Hannah
 Pearce, Cole
 Taylor, Kara
 Gatehouse, Mia
 Blackwell, Sophie
 Byrne, Kain
 Evans, Michael
 Powers, Skye
 Keen, Alexandra
 Neath, MacKenzie
 Sandhu, Simran
 Rice, Vicki
 Davies, Joel
 Faux, Thomas
 Bolton, Jayden
 Freeman, Joshua
 Parker, Ellouise
 Smith, Jay

Gold Progress Award

Bashir, Ryan
 Moore, Chloe
 Tranter, Megan
 Fuery, Emily
 Mclaughlin, James
 Boone, Mikkel
 Atterbury, Demileigh
 Smythe, Jason
 Monkman, Kane
 Hobbs, Reece

Bronze Attitude to Learning

Thompson, Morgan
 Kader, Louie
 McMahon, Kieron
 Morton-Mulholland, Hevanna
 Lawler, Kari
 Mclean, Isabel
 Osborne, Taiyon
 Jackson, Elica
 Clifford, Carter
 Ali, Anisa
 Dove, Warwick
 Nolan, Harvey
 Yates, Emily
 Ashwood, Quanna
 Didcote, Ella
 Axford, James
 Wilde, Harrison
 Murray, Paris
 Grant, Aidan
 Baker, Maddison
 Smith, Chloe
 Harrison, Jack
 Hayden, Kaine
 Rice, Aaliyah
 Phillips, Brandon
 Jarrett, Lettisha
 Barker, Thomas
 Bathurst, Kate
 Carter-Abbotts, Lilli-Su
 Woodward, Ben
 Akhtar, Aishah

Silver Attitude to Learning

Witts, Lewis
 Dodd, Morgan
 Gagin, Lezah
 Anjum, Aishah
 Davis, Rosa
 Sandhu, Simran
 Froggatt, Melissa
 Lester, Elle
 Washbourne, Hannah
 Al-Moraba, Hamzah
 Basharat, Sana
 Dorgan, Lucy
 Lomas, Megan
 Trotman, Brandon
 Johnson, Aaron
 Fealy, Morgan
 Blackwell, Sophie
 Painter, Olivia
 Lodge, Zoe
 Stronge, Molly

Gold Attitude to Learning

Commander, Tia
 Butler, Adelle
 Al, Athamneh, Abdulrahman
 Raii, Sid
 Brown, Callum
 Akheel, Atif
 Morris, Mia
 Phillipson, Hannah
 Knowles, Alexander
 Sale, Warren



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 8 PHA Awards



Year 9 PHA Awards

Bronze Progress Award

Hallahan, Joseph
 Stanyard, Thomas
 Carthew, Hannah
 Kill, Shannon
 Nash, Megan
 Bevan, Rebekah
 Patel, Riddhi
 Jenkinson, Eve
 Frost, Leah
 Cowley-Bryenton, Luke
 Reynolds, Georgia
 Wheelton, Eloise
 Martin, Megan
 Reeves, William
 Weston, Robbie
 Wright, Benjamin
 Barnes, Felicity
 Townsend, Ruby
 Hunt, Jamie
 Sturdy, Darcy
 Hamblin, Joseph
 Davies, Amber
 Ricketts, Laura
 Parkes, Chloe
 Borland, Elle
 Mann, Alexander
 Bull, Kirsty
 Hutton, Kia
 Smith, Luke
 Cund, Lillie-May
 Downes, Cameron

Silver Progress Award

Aherne, Callum
 Adams, Chloe
 Reynolds, Chloe
 Cairns, Luke
 Steward, Dylan
 Bostock, Thomas
 Waldron, Reece
 Barnes, Taylor
 Welby, Daniel
 Green, Liam
 Evans, Sam
 Williams, Dyllon
 Paling, Connor
 Rooke, Lacey
 Butler, Thomas
 Rhodes, Megan
 Jones, Mollie
 Russell, Natalie
 Roberts, Harper, Ellie-Louise
 Butler-Simpson, Chelsea
 Gill, Ellie

Gold Progress Award

Shaw, Nathan
 Grimmit, Chloe
 Kearney, Jacob
 Bird, Kayce
 Thomas, Bethany
 Irish, Louie
 Melvin, Mollie
 Pettitt, Nathan
 Crawford, Rebecca
 Bayliss, Paige
 Hands, Joshua

Bronze Attitude to Learning

Khan, Nayer
 Schofield, Katie
 Brassington, Ben
 Kibria, Niaz
 Bayliss, Paige
 Bull, Kirsty
 Carthew, Hannah
 Tolley, Ben
 Dodwell, Hannah
 Jaffier, Tamia
 Beckett, Jessica
 Blackhall, Aliscia
 Evans, Madison
 Lawrence, Rachel
 Raja, Amaani
 Russell, Natalie
 Watson, Euan
 Barnes, Taylor
 Beasley, Georgina
 Williams, Megan
 Crawford, Rebecca
 Crisp, Aimee
 Kill, Shannon
 Larkin, Amy
 Jones, Mollie
 Round, Cameron
 Sale, Jessica
 Simpson, Gemma
 Agyeman, Nana
 Tanner, Oscar

Silver Attitude to Learning

Martin, Amy
 Coward, Hannah
 McNamara, Alycia
 Mobbs, Amelia
 Wheelton, Eloise
 Johnson, Harry
 Caraher, Darla
 Turberville, Faye
 Andrews, Lucy
 Hoare, Emma
 Howell, Harrison
 Gambon, Kiera
 Hall, Millie-Jay
 Hutton, Kia
 Marshall, Kelsey
 Pitters, Kamarra
 Reynolds, Georgia
 Cund, Lillie-May
 Groves, Jack
 Christopher, Leah

Gold Attitude to Learning

Patel, Riddhi
 Judd, Lucy
 Sheridan, Paige
 Townsend, Ruby
 Maddocks-Spooner, Alysha
 Chiha, Layla
 Jones, Caitlin
 Underwood, Kelly
 Kavu, Natalie
 Roberts, Harper, Ellie-Louise

Sorry no pictures available of our Year 9 Award Winners.



Year 10 PHA Awards

Bronze Progress Award

Gibbs, Aaron
 Raja, Aliyyah
 Gregory, Michael
 Owen, Liam
 Boone, Lauryn
 Keogh, Hannah
 Groves, Isabelle
 Millward, Evie
 Moore, Mia
 Pym, Megan
 Butler, Morgan
 Smith, Tyrell
 Corbett, Cody
 Fida, Anisa
 Perks, Jamie
 Tuohy, Connor
 Malone, Callum
 Parke, Chelsea
 Lewin, Alex
 Marshall, James
 Girvan, Kayleigh
 Rickus, Christopher
 Smith, Rhiannon
 Cooper, Chloe
 Piper, Jack
 Oliver, Amelia
 Johnstone, Lauren
 Barnett, Violet
 Harris, Lottie
 Mason, Daniel
 Pearce, Ashton

Bronze Attitude to Learning

Groves, Courtney
 Sullivan, Chloe
 Slater, Holly
 Gregory, Michael
 Lewin, Alex
 Sullivan, Chanel
 Hughes, Joseph
 Perks, Jamie
 Bailey, Emma
 Coates, Shauna
 Commander, Jade
 Stratford, Lauren
 Mills-Allen, James
 Jenkins, Oliver
 Turner, Lauren
 Williams, Eva
 Cooper, Chloe
 Ilsley, Laura
 Porter, Oliver
 Gregory, Jemma
 Martin, Imogen
 Keogh, Hannah
 Sale, Callum
 Wood, Emily
 Casey, Liam
 Derome, Emma
 Hendricks, Portia
 Portman, Reece
 Evans, Joe
 Reynolds, Luke
 Clarke, Aidan

Silver Progress Award

Sullivan, Chloe
 Taimoor, Zunaira
 Sansoni, Molly
 Wilkins, Amy
 Jones, Ellie-Mae
 Butler, Jack
 Tyson, Liam
 Ilsley, Laura
 Davies, Maisie
 Gatehouse, Jack
 Wood, Emily
 Messaoudi, Lillia
 Sale, Callum
 Avery, Eleanor
 Byrne, Destiny
 Hawthorn, Elizabeth
 Yeomans, Eden
 Martin, Imogen
 Atkinson, Luke
 Davis, Jessica
 Haynes, Molly

Silver Attitude to Learning

Waddingham, Josh
 Downes, Carys
 Butler, Jack
 Rose, Lydia
 Wood, Lucy
 Hawthorn, Elizabeth
 Ataria, Aliyah
 Strong, Niamh
 Wood, Eden
 King, Aimee
 Downes, Leanne
 Cox, Olivia
 Byrne, Destiny
 Haynes, Molly
 Williams, Emma
 Groves, Isabelle
 Jones, Ellie-Mae
 Moore, Mia
 Pym, Megan
 Twigg, Elizabeth
 Tyson, Liam

Gold Progress Award

Carrington, Kyran
 Slater, Holly
 Downes, Carys
 Downes, Leanne
 Vokes, Leah
 Derome, Emma
 Cox, Olivia
 Morris, Jamie
 Afridi, Hamza
 Wood, Lucy

Gold Attitude to Learning

Davis, Annabelle
 Messaoudi, Lillia
 Rickus, Christopher
 Anderton, Thomas
 Power, Daniel
 Raja, Aliyyah
 Wilkins, Amy
 Freeman, Stacey
 Girvan, Kayleigh
 Nicholls, Amy



Year 11 PHA Awards

Bronze Progress Award

Hunt, James
 Ratcliffe, Mollie
 McCausland, Mark
 Hamilton, Damarney
 Quinn, James
 McColl, Jake
 Webb, Carly
 West, Sophie
 Abdi, Majid
 Davies, Rhys
 Plant, Sophie
 Merriman, Siobhan
 Ford, Charlotte
 Thompson, Georgia
 Wright, Amber
 Smith, Owen
 Sang, Rebecca
 Chalmers, Reece
 Baaz, Suhail
 Hutton, Kershaun
 Jones, Harry
 Shaughnessy, Thomas
 Billing, Matt
 Payne, Thomas
 Sampson, Bradley
 Sweeney, Harry
 McCabe, Joshua
 Morgan, Paige
 Milnor, Harry
 Tooze, Amanda
 Butler, Cara

Bronze Attitude to Learning

Downes, Euan
 Ensor, Emma
 Webb, Carly
 Millard, Ben
 Agyeman, Maame
 Attwood, Thomas
 Cope, Brooke
 Iqbal, Muzafar
 Taylor, William
 Wright, Amber
 Fletcher, Victoria
 Hamilton, Damarney
 Li, Christopher
 Merriman, Siobhan
 Hasan, Kayleigh
 Avery-Smith, Jade
 Hussain, Afsana
 Eccleston, Jacob
 Diver, Emilie
 Caines, Danielle
 Crook, Ajay
 Chance-Osman, George
 Sungu, Manpreet
 Dorgan, Ashleigh
 Ratcliffe, Mollie
 Gonzales, Dray-Darnell
 Reed, Adam
 Brennan, Callum
 Quinn, James
 Handy, James
 Fumagalli, Lauren
 Hall, Chloe

Silver Progress Award

Ensor, Emma
 Parker, Cherie
 Dorgan, Ashleigh
 Hasan, Kayleigh
 Ward, Jessica
 Diver, Emilie
 Morgan, Paige
 Lee, Georgia
 Avery-Smith, Jade
 Brennan, Callum
 Lyttle, Sam
 Ellis, Emma
 Painter, Louis
 Caines, Danielle
 Cole, James
 Hall, Chloe
 Simonds, Jasmine
 Woakes, Kirk
 Dixon, James
 Lloyd, Niamh

Silver Attitude to Learning

Cole, James
 Jones, Joseph
 Duncan, Stacey
 Goldsby, Hannah
 Hodson, Demi
 Chalmers, Reece
 Payne, Katie
 Butler, Cara
 Ford, Charlotte
 Jobson, Charlotte
 Kyriacou, Chelsey-Ann
 West, Sophie
 Stapleton, Edward
 Iqbal, Inaya
 Tooze, Amanda
 Batterham, Ellie
 Lyttle, Sam
 Hunt, James
 Waud-Shaw, Olivia
 Jones, Ethan

Gold Progress Award

Goldsby, Hannah
 Agyeman, Maame
 Scott, Isabel
 Lockwood, Elizabeth
 Li, Christopher
 Western, Coral
 Batterham, Ellie
 Brown, Paige
 Hodson, Demi
 Allatt, Chloe
 Downes, Euan

Gold Attitude to Learning

Parton, Chad
 Alnababtah, Anas
 Farrell, George
 Moran, Callum
 Morgan, Paige
 Bevan, Lewis
 Allatt, Chloe
 Lockwood, Elizabeth
 Millward, Katie
 Franklin, Megan



BBC Outreach

December 2014 saw the Park Hall Media Department invited to take part in a major community outreach project run by the BBC.

The aim of the project was to introduce students to documentary filmmaking and the portrayal of real life stories in the media. Students were asked to think about 'what makes a good story?' considering different audiences and how factual stories are presented.

Our Year 13 BTEC students took part in a range of activities during the day, working with BBC staff from different areas within the corporation, including Radio WM presenters Jenny Wilkes and Nikki Tapper and ex-Blue Peter presenter Andy Akinwolere. For the main task students were asked to devise a concept for a new TV show, taking into consideration the target audience and narrative structure.

In the afternoon session student were able to demonstrate key skills such as presentation and public speaking, decision making, negotiation and influencing as each group had to pitch their ideas to a panel of BBC Editors and Presenters. I was able to observe both pitches that were delivered by our students and was very proud to see how confident and professional our students are becoming.





BBC Feedback

In January the BBC again contacted the Media Department, and students were asked to provide feedback on their day. Every student who that took part in the workshop was interviewed and filmed by one of the BBC's journalists. This footage will now be included in an internal BBC film.

The project provided a great opportunity for our students to develop their media skills, gain an insight into the world of television and also to find out about the range of exciting careers available at the BBC. Everyone enjoyed the day and our Sixth Formers were a real credit to Park Hall. This was confirmed by Katy Stead, BBC Project Manager; "There was such a great spirit of collaboration and creativity from everyone involved. The Park Hall students were a credit to you and the school – they really embraced the day and I'd like to thank them for their involvement and enthusiasm. I know several people were moved and motivated by the stories they shared and I'm hoping that we may be able to progress some of those ideas into possible programme content."

Blog Article

Park Hall was asked to provide a blog article for the BBC's website:

"Over in the Media department Mr Howell has been creating a new way for students to communicate with their teacher about their learning."

The all new Park Hall Media site is up and running and nearing the end of its Beta testing phase. Mr Howell has used one of his Year 10 GCSE Media classes as Guinea Pigs for this first term to prove how useful having a dedicated department resource can be. The class has been using it to submit their home learning, which due to the easy accessibility of the site can be done from a PC, lap top, mobile or tablet. No more 'My dog ate my homework' excuses, unless your dog can swallow an iPhone!"

For our A Level students they can take ownership of a blog of their own to collate all of their coursework, from the early research and planning stages, through to the production and evaluation stage. The exam board looks for inventive use of new Media throughout their blogs so the bigger the variety of presentational devices used the better."

Mr Howell has been updating the department on the success of the website and Mr Edwards, Head of Media, intends to roll out the blog system to the whole Media department in the new year. Make way future - here we come!"



"My personal opinion about this amazing new blog is that it is such a great and ideal way of using this in class and out of class time. for setting homework and different tasks. For me there wouldn't be any improvements AS IT'S GREAT!"

Aliyah A., Year 13

"I personally find the website effective and useful, I think it is an easy, good way to set and complete individual homework tasks and the layout works well."

Eden Wood, Year 13



Media Students visit Jaguar Land Rover

Our Year 13 BTEC Media students have recently been planning and filming their own promotional videos. In September, our Sixth Formers were challenged to research a client, approach them with a proposal and produce a promotional video. They've certainly risen to the challenge and are now working closely with their clients in the local area.

One of the students' first tasks was to respond to a professional brief set by Jaguar Land Rover. The young filmmakers were asked to work in groups to develop their ideas, before presenting a final pitch to a panel of judges. Two groups were chosen from the class to take their ideas forward, and have already had the opportunity to visit both the Castle Bromwich and Solihull JLR plants to shoot footage. Kirsty Tuffin and Katie Dixon filmed at the Castle Bromwich plant, a week later Noel Jones, Gemma Berrigan and Leah Bishop collected footage of the Solihull plant.

Working closely with advice from the team at Jaguar Land Rover and Media Teacher, Mr Cowdell, our Media students have now created a detailed video for both plants. The video is aimed at promoting the specific work that 'Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (AME) contributes towards the design and production of the Company's prestigious cars. It will be shown at the JLR's annual local meeting and has the potential to go national, if not international, around other plants. The production of the video also gave our filmmakers unprecedented access to top of the range equipment that most media students do not even get the chance to see.

Other Video News

Kurt Fox, Daniel Berns, Josh Hogan and Shaun Gardiner are currently working on a promotional video for Solihull Barons, a professional Ice Hockey team who play home games at Solihull Ice Rink. The four Sixth Formers have had the opportunity to attend weekly training sessions and home games in order to record footage. "This is a great project as it allows us to work with local people to create our media project" Josh Hogan. "As this is a real client it gives us experience working under pressure as deadlines are real and have to be met" added Kurt Fox.

Sam Cartwright, Kieran Waud-Shaw, Reiss Troughton and Cameron Dalley are filming the bell ringers St Mary & St Margaret's Church. Former Captain of the Castle Bromwich Bell Ringers, Bill Dargue who is now responsible for the trust's Public Relations, took students on a guided tour of the church and gave them a brief history of bell ringing. The video they are making can make an important local contribution, because the trust is currently trying to raise £100,000 as part of a restoration project. "I look forward to working with Bill Dargue and the bell ringers. Hopefully this video will play a role in helping to restore an historic Solihull landmark" commented Park Hall's Sam Cartwright.



& Romeo & Juliet

The tragic story of Romeo and Juliet is one that we all know very well. The story has remained extremely popular throughout the centuries and there is little doubt that it's one of Shakespeare's best loved plays; spawning operatic and ballet versions, as well as forming the template for 'West Side Story'. Recently, students at Park Hall Academy have come together to form an extraordinary cast who've worked tirelessly to create and perfect their very own performance of Romeo and Juliet.

In the play a long feud between the Montague and Capulet families disrupts the city of Verona and causes tragic results Romeo and Juliet, whose warring families mean they cannot be together. A secret marriage forces the young star-crossed lovers to grow up quickly because Juliet is to be wed to another. She takes a sleeping potion that makes her appear to be dead, but Romeo is secretly told that she is in fact still alive. Tragically the good news does not reach him in time and, unable to live without her, he purchases poison so he can be with Juliet in death. He goes to her tomb and takes the poison; Juliet then awakes from her deep slumber to see her lover dead before her. The only way to end her pain is to kill herself, enabling her to be with Romeo for eternity.

The Park Hall production of Romeo and Juliet was certainly unique, as the cast utilised aspects of dance and physical theatre to enrich the fight and death scenes within the play. Every movement piece, whether a fight scene or a dance, took the audience's breath away because of the precise choreography delivered perfectly by every member of the cast. These movement sequences were not only breath-taking and beautiful; they also provided a better understanding of the play which is often steeped in complex and archaic Shakespearean language.

I think that one of the best things about taking part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival is the process of coming together as a cast and contrasting the start of the project with its successful fruition. It is lovely to see the way in which this opportunity has brought so many of us together as friends and not simply as 'cast members'. Since the casting of all of our roles, we started to rehearse as much as we could every lunchtime and on Fridays after school. We had six weeks to put on this performance, so the cast packed in a lot of rehearsal time to make it happen. As the cast ranged from Year 8 to Year 11 students, it was lovely to see that age gap blur as we became closer the more time we spent together and the more we got to know each other.

I would like to talk about how the Shakespeare Schools Festival has helped me develop individually as a performer. Within this play I got the character of Juliet's father; a role I considered very challenging for me to play as he is a very powerful and angry character and I had never played anyone like this before. In the rehearsals I worked hard on my character and his personality, but it was only with the support of the staff and my fellow cast members that I was able to do bring him to life.





& Romeo & Juliet

The staff were able to give me a better understanding of what my character was like and what he was 'saying', enabling me to develop my understanding of the Shakespearian language that was being used and how I should portray him. This opportunity has really given me the chance to put everything into my performance and to give it my all. Without this opportunity I wouldn't have made so many new friends and wouldn't have gained this wonderful experience, which will stay with me for a long time.

I am very grateful that this experience was offered to the students of Park Hall as I believe that it has also really helped many other students become friends with new people, try out new things and develop their confidence. It was such a positive experience and I am glad that we saw it through to the end as the buzz of it all and the cheers from the crowd were most definitely worth it!

Contributed by Year 11's **Katie Payne**

"Nothing less than ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING! I loved it!!!! The cast were fantastic! I really enjoyed it!"
Miss L. Traynor

"Wow! What a sophisticated and particular performance... I felt very proud watching them all!"
Mrs N. Whitehouse

"Amazing! The performances, staging, lighting and sound created a unique version of 'Romeo and Juliet' that had me simply enthralled from start to finish. The students did Park Hall Academy proud; it really WAS another Performing Arts masterpiece!" Mr D. Cox

"I loved it. I was genuinely moved by the students' performance, it was above and beyond what I ever expected from them. They were a credit to themselves, the Performing Arts Department and Park Hall Academy! Well done!"
Miss K. Seazell

"Just a quick message from me to say a massive 'WELL DONE' to you all for last night. It was spine-tinglingly good! The players were absolutely incredible. It really was a very professional outfit and that is no doubt, in no small part, down to all of your hard work and effort. What a pleasure it was to watch such talent! Well done, well done, well done! And thanks for letting me come and watch."
Miss H. Rhodes



It's Showtime!

On Tuesday 25 November our Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts students (above) took to the stage for an evening of Musical Theatre for their parents, friends and families.

It was a great evening, full of popular West End show tunes that had the audience singing along and smiling. The students had devised and choreographed a variety of performance pieces showcasing their skills in acting, dancing and singing. The evening culminated in two fantastic numbers from 'Oliver' and 'Grease!' featuring the entire class.

"It was great to see students who, less than a year ago, were terrified of the idea of performing in front of others. Now when spotlight fell on them they did nothing but shine!" said a proud Mrs Cullum-Kenyon.

Charlotte Ford

After a successful audition in Year 10, Year 11 Park Hall student Charlotte Ford was selected to perform with the prestigious English Youth Ballet in 'Sleeping Beauty' at The Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. She appeared in all three performances on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2014.

Due to the pressure of rehearsals Charlotte had to miss a few days from school, but still kept up-to-date with all of her GCSE work. Mrs Jones, Head of Year 11, attended one of the performances, commenting "It was a beautiful performance with lots of young dancers, but so professionally performed that you would not have known they were not all professional dancers. Charlotte looked simply stunning and gave a performance that made us proud she's a Park Hall Academy student. Many congratulations to Charlotte and her parents."



Park Hall's All-Boys Dance Company

2015 sees the launch of a boys' Dance Company for Park Hall Academy. The new group comprises a mixture of students who auditioned for the Company; Year 7's Kofi Lambert, Tyreek Rodney, Joshua Harris, Azeem Aslam, Harry Mbanzabugabo, Jake Dologan, Mohammed Kinte and Rio Salmon; from Year 8 Connor Curtis, Fenton Lockley, Remi Colbourne-Boxhi and James Howell; and Year 9's Cieran McSwiggan and Robbie Weston.

The lads have shown fantastic dedication and commitment to the work created and to each other; students who had never previously spoken now dance side by side, showing great trust during lifts and contact work.

The Company was recently visited by David McKenner (left) who is Artistic Director of the BeingFrank Physical Theatre Company. He has been on national live TV and worked with groups of boys across the country, including youth offenders.

David was so impressed by the talent we have here at Park Hall Academy that he has invited us to perform at a professional festival in Tenbury, Worcestershire. The Boys' Dance Company members have been so excited to hear this news that they are even willing to give up two of their Saturdays to rehearse and perform!

This is undoubtedly the beginning of a great new dance company and we are all very proud of the boys in the team!





Park Hall InBrief

English

As part of our Murder Mystery Season, Year 9 students have been studying the structure of the detective story. We looked at 'The Speckled Band', one of the famous Sherlock Holmes mysteries written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and excerpts from 'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill.

In each case we compared the film version to the written word and extrapolated features that underpin the writing of this genre.

Year 9 responded with great enthusiasm and were eager to stage a murder mystery of their own that would reflect their understanding and knowledge of the genre.

'The Whitechapel Homicide' became the focus for a dramatic rendition of a murder mystery. Students were given role playing cards and were asked to develop their own character from the information supplied. The role play relied on the group's 'detectives' interviewing those who were 'suspects'. Following the investigation of the detectives a verdict was reached.

The unit's second stage saw students writing their own murder mystery based upon our studies, with some the outstanding pieces of writing submitted.

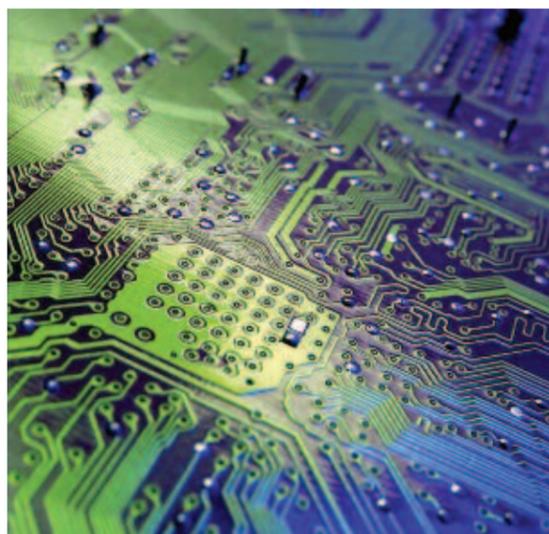


History

Year 7 were hard at work recently creating their own highly impressive 'Roman' artefacts. As a homework task Year 7 students were recently asked to create an 'artefact' from their chosen area of the 'Romans' topic to help demonstrate the influence and importance of the empire in the ancient world.

The creations were put on show in a gallery in the classroom and students visited other groups' exhibits to see the variety of impacts the Roman's had. They then considered the ways in which Roman influence continues to impact on us today.

A prime example of Roman technology was demonstrated by one group's 3D model of the 'hypocaust' hot air underfloor heating system at Wall near Lichfield, which was an important staging post on Watling Street Roman road. This was then compared to modern underfloor technology which uses heated pipes.



ICT Congratulations to our Year 13 Level 3 OCR ICT students following another successful visit from the Cambridge Technicals moderator. They've now completed three units and ALL passed with a 'Distinction'.

This impressive achievement represents a huge effort by everyone involved and goes to show that, by setting deadlines and sticking to them, Park Hall Academy students are more than capable of achieving great things.

Every member of the group has now set themselves a target of achieving a 'Distinction*' by the end of this academic year... All indications show that this is more than achievable!

Once again a huge 'well done' and thanks to all the students and of course staff involved in their achievements.

Homework at Park Hall Academy

At Park Hall we consider learning at home to be an essential part of a good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives students the opportunity to reinforce knowledge and skills learned in class. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help them throughout their time at school and on into adult life. ■ Park Hall Academy works hard to raise the profile of homework to support pupil progress this year. All pupils have been issued with a new homework timetable and they are expected to record all homework tasks in their student planners. This structured approach will enable pupils, parents and teachers to ensure that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed outside the classroom, as well as within. ■ A Homework Club is also available to pupils in the library, with allocated slots for different year groups during the week before tutor time, during break times and after school for those pupils who do not have access to computers or printing facilities at home. ■ **Mr O Stackhouse**, Vice Principal, Student Behaviour, Discipline and Transition.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

EVERYONE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD to the Christmas Party on Tuesday 13 January 2015 and could not wait to meet our visitors from St Catherine's Lodge Sheltered accommodation. A lot of planning had gone into the event, with Sixth Form students helping to plan the party, and the Health & Social Care students making Invitations, Christmas Cards and Christmas Decorations, and preparing the tables for our visitors.

Park Hall Sixth Formers then wrapped the presents, collected flowers and put up the decorations, whilst the Performing Arts students prepared a number of musical and dance pieces for our visitors. The school's catering staff did us proud, putting on a lovely spread that was enjoyed by all.

Our very special guests arrived early on Tuesday afternoon to be warmly greeted by staff and Sixth Form students. It was a real treat to see our young men and women gallantly take the arm of each visitor and escort them into the Party. Everyone was really excited and thoroughly enjoyed looking after their guest for the afternoon!

Once everyone was settled, the party goes from St Catherine's were each served by their own personal Sixth Former, who brought in the plates of food before sitting down to chat with their guests. Later everyone joined in with the bingo and a general knowledge game. Both our guests and their attendant students learned a lot about each other's lives and really got to know one another.

Following the event, our guests sent the students some beautiful thank you cards, a thoughtful gesture that was really appreciated by Park Hall Academy's students who had thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their new friends.

Special thanks must also go to Mrs Todd, Ms Danks, Mrs Cullen-Kenyon and Mrs Tranter for all their help and support. Mrs Todd and the Health and Social Care group certainly ensured that the Christmas Party was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you!





Winners!

Park Hall Sports are off to another flying start in 2015

Girls' Football

The girls' football teams have got off to a flying start this season in the Solihull league, with the U 13s winning their first game away against Alderbrook 9-0. Goals came from Ellie Tuohy X4, Toni Simmer X2, Giorga Byrne X2 and Olivia Howard.

The U 15s also got off to a brilliant start, also beating Alderbrook in their first match with a score of 6-1. The goals came from Millie Hall, Felicity Barnes X2, Megan Pym and Katie Schofield.

In the U15s' second match they faced the much tougher St Peter's side. Nevertheless they battled through to gain a 1-0 win, the only goal being scored by Shonea Holligan. The U15s then took part in the Solihull Cup where they faced nearby CTC Kingshurst - a really tough side. Both teams played excellent football throughout the game, but unfortunately as the final whistle blew it was Park Hall who had been defeated 2-1.

With the great success of the football at the start of the term we are hoping the Girls' Football Teams can go on to contest for the league in both ages categories this year. Go girls!



Badminton.

After half term the U14 and U16 girls competed in a Level 2 County Games Badminton competition. Four girls from each age group represented the school, playing both singles and doubles matches against Smith Wood, CTC Kingshurst and John Henry Newman. The Under 14s got off to a slow start, but played their hearts out, eventually winning the tournament on points. The Under 16 girls got off to a flying start, winning most of their matches and also winning the whole tournament on points as a group.

The following week it was the Under 16 and Under 14 Boys' turn, with four boys representing each age group. The Under 14 boys got off to a good start, playing both doubles and singles, winning the tournament on points. The Under 16s had a phenomenal start and **WON EVERY SINGLE MATCH THEY PLAYED** against Smith Wood, CTC Kingshurst, John Henry Newman and Grace Academy.

Park Hall are now once again Boys' AND Girls' Tournament Champions for 2014-2015. The teams will now go through to represent North Solihull in the Level 3 County Games in Coventry.



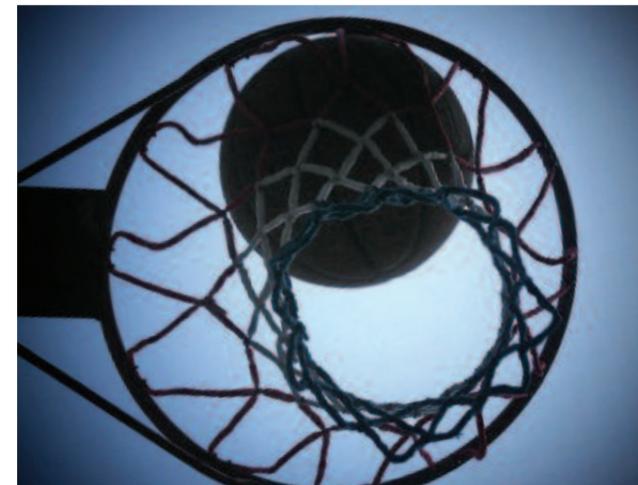
Girls' Netball

Since it's still so early on in the year only a few Year 9 Netball fixtures have been played so far. Unfortunately we had a few injured players at the start of the season, which resulted in the girls not doing quite as well as they would have liked in the local Solihull tournament. However they picked themselves up and continued to train hard, determined to improve... And they did!

The first league match was played at home against John Henry Newman. This resulted in the girls playing an amazing game packed with skilful Netball. All their hard work and effort during training really paid off and they were rewarded with a storming 18-2 win.

The girls also recently played the tough Light Hall Highschool team, which is made up of some very experienced players. The match was incredibly close, it ended with just one point in it, but another Park Hall WIN!

Well done girls! This consistent success is showing just how well your hard work is paying off, we confidently expect you to come out on top during the rest of your remaining games. Good luck for the rest of the season.



Boys' Football

The Year 7 boys have recently had a few victories with the Solihull Cup and are already through to the next round.

Year 10 boys have also had a few victories which has put them through to the quarter finals of the Birmingham Cup.

The Year 11 boys have been simply 'inundated' with tremendous wins this academic year so far and are through to the Fourth Round of the Birmingham Cup with wins over Langley 3-2 and Turves Green 5-1. They are also through to Round Two of the Solihull Cup - beating St Peters' by a whopping 9-1!

They have also beaten a tough Sandwell Academy side 3-2 and Pingle School 2-1 in the English Schools Cup, but were sadly knocked out in the Third Round on penalties.

On to the Sixth Form Boys, who have had a good start to their year by getting through to the Semi Final of the Cup where they will face our sister academy, Arden.

Well done to all the boys football teams so far this academic year and good luck for all the games still to come.

Trampolining

Every Park Hall girls' team from Year 7-10 competed in the Level 2 County Games Trampolining, with four girls in every team.

The Year 7s and 8s got off to a 'flying' start, with the Year 7s coming second and the Year 8s winning their completion. The two top scoring girls from each competing year group were also from our school; well done to Year 7's Katie Cox and Year 8's Tia Commander. Both year groups were up against three other local schools and performed fabulously.

The following week it was the Year 9 and Year 10's turn. The Year 9s got off to a fabulous start. They won the Level 2 competition, with Jai Cox being the highest scorer, whilst the Year 10 girls came third.

All our team members performed brilliantly, but were up against three very tough local schools. The winning Year 8 team now goes through to the Level Three School Games in Coventry on the 28 April 2015.





Park Hall's 2014 British Taekwondo Champion

PHA student **Lucy Judd** became the British Junior Taekwondo Champion on 30 November 2014; adding to the title of English Champion, which she gained in March 2014. Interestingly Lucy's club, where she trains on a Thursday evening, is actually based here at Park Hall.

Lucy attended the 2014 TAGB British Taekwondo Championships with dad, Steve. The event's impressive Worcester University Sports Complex venue provided an ideal arena for the Taekwondo National Championships as it is able to accommodate an amazing 1,200 competitors from across the United Kingdom. Each year the country's very best Taekwondo competitors descend on the Championships, ensuring an awe-inspiring spectacle of non-stop action, packed with high-flying kicks and twists.

Over 3,000 spectators packed in to watch the action across 15 competitive mats. Park Hall Academy student Lucy competed in the Girls' Junior Heavyweight Sparring section, finally first being called to the mat just after lunch. The referee checked the girls' in and ensured all their protective equipment was correct, then her tournament began!

Each bout lasts for a minute and a half: One point is awarded for any punch landed; two for a body kick; three points if the kick's landed on the opponent's well-protected head; and four for a spinning kick. After some hard-fought bouts and some very impressive wins; one even being stopped early when Lucy reached the maximum ten points through a flurry of head kicks; it was time for the final...

Lucy was called to the ring, making the traditional bow to the referee and her opponent before the final began. Her opponent landed a good punch for the opening point of the bout, but Lucy came straight back out with a flurry of head kicks, landing one well to take three points. As time passed, the well-matched girls battled for position, but great defence on both sides kept points off the board. Spurred on by teammates, family and friends, Lucy finally landed a chest kick, giving her a commanding 5-1 lead. Late in the bout and desperate for quick point to level the score, her opponent charged - only to get caught with a solid punch from Lucy, making it 6-1. The final bell sounded and Lucy was crowned British Junior Heavyweight Taekwondo Champion 2014.

...It was a fantastic day for the Judds, with Steve also winning the Bronze Medal in the Men's Heavyweight Sparring Competition - promising that both Lucy and her dad will be real stars to look out for in the future!

Contributed by **Lesley Browne**



Park Hall Paris Trip December 2014

On Monday 8 December 2014 we set off for our long anticipated visit to Paris. Unfortunately on arrival at Dover we discovered that the Port in Calais was on strike - but with the assistance of our coach driver, we were able to transfer to a Dunkirk crossing. Though added several hours onto our travelling time, pupils were more than happy to get a stop-off en route. 45 meals later, we finally arrived at our accommodation in Lesigny just outside the capital about 10.30pm; giving us just time to unpack before settling down for the evening.

Tuesday 9 December, our first day in the French capital, we visited the Christmas Market on the Champs Elysées. The market, which sells all sorts of wares, is simply vast - spanning both sides of the famous avenue. We were happy to wander round, picking up small gifts for family and friends, before spending an hour or so walking up the Champs Elysées itself, passing by the Eiffel Tower for lunch, before heading up the hill to Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur for a photo call. We then sampled French café life on the Place Du Tertre, before returning to the coach exhausted.

One part of the journey the students really enjoyed was our tour of Paris by night. We drove round the centre of Paris marvelling at the Christmas Lights on the Champs Elysées and the Eiffel Tower's spectacular illumination. For 5 minutes each hour at night the Tower lights up - literally 'sparkling' - which the pupils were able to record for themselves. After such a long and eventful day and a hearty evening meal, we all relaxed with a film in the projector room, before bedtime.

Wednesday 10 December was our day out at Disneyland, Paris and the Walt Disney Studios Park. We spent the entire day going on rides and buying gifts, before moving on to Planet Hollywood for our evening meal. After our exciting excursion we arrived back at our accommodation for our own disco, which we all thoroughly enjoyed,

Thursday was our last day and it was time to set off for the long journey home. It is with pride that I can report that the staff at PGL commented on the good behaviour shown by our group throughout the visit.

Sadly, due to inclement weather, our travel arrangements were again delayed by several hours and we eventually arrived back at Park Hall Academy at 11.00pm - a long and arduous day, made easier to deal with by the goodwill of all concerned. Au revoir!

Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust Health Conference

A number of Sociology, Children's Care, Learning and Development, and Politics students attended the Regional Health Education Conference at Solihull College on 28 November 2014. This important conference focused on what young people perceive as being 'healthy', and whether or not the wider community is doing enough to both protect and teach about good health and different interpretations of what 'being healthy' means.

Students attended a Health Education Fair, watched a performance by 'Loudmouth Education and Training through Theatre'. The group delivered a performance about relationships called 'Safe and Sound', this was followed by a question and answer session with the actors which certainly proved to be an enlightening session! Nicole asked the 'victim' what she would do if one of her friends was in an abusive situation and how would you support her. The actress replied that she would want her to know that 'I'd always be there for her and provide a support network around her.'

This session was built on discussions in class about staying safe and recognising the warning signals in abusive relationships. A workshop took place on offering advice in terms of mental and sexual health, and suggestions were given on 'changing your mindset' and where young people can go for support; such as The Health Education Council and friends and teachers.

The Park Hall students then took part in a speed dating-style discussion on a range of health issues; moving from table-to-table every 10 minutes when the buzzer sounded. They discussed a range of issues including bereavement, drugs & alcohol, food labelling and five a day with experts from The Central England Co-Operative, Health Scrutiny, the Ambulance Service, Body Image, Solihull Hospital Changes, Health Clinics, Sexual Health, Health Watch, Health Scrutiny and Urban Herd.

The conference emphasised that being healthy should be a big part of EVERYONE'S life; whether that be by maintaining a balanced diet, looking after your mental health or undertaking regular exercise.



Maths

On Friday 30 January 2015 a group of talented Park Hall maths and science students from Years 11 and 12 (below) travelled down to the University of Bristol for a STEM enrichment day.

The students were given a tour of the university and attended a lecture about 'The Physics of Making Ice Cream'. The pupils had a really great day and many were inspired to consider science or mathematics beyond school and even Sixth Form. Let's hope that this trip is the beginning of a lifelong love for STEM!



Staff First Aid Course

As part of Park Hall Academics' ongoing program of staff training, all new staff are now required to complete a recognised course in First Aid. The Academy is very lucky to have our very own accredited St John's Ambulance Trainer on our staff in the shape of Mr Clarke. He recently delivered two very enjoyable First Aid sessions across two separate evenings that will help ensure staff have an all-round awareness of basic First Aid.

The course included Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), which is an especially important first aid technique that can be used if someone is not breathing properly, or if their heart has stopped. They also learned the recovery position for an unconscious or semi-conscious patient, how to deal with bleeding, fractures and other day-to-day injuries and ailments.

All of the staff who participated in the course said it was great fun and an extremely valuable course which has now equipped them to deal with front line first aid in the school if required.



Geography trip to the River Dove

AS part of our AS Level Geography course, on 11 November, Mrs Elliman and the class visited the River Dove in the Derbyshire Peak District to investigate and test our hypotheses using the Bradshaw model. We wanted to measure and record the width, depth, velocity, sediment particle size of the river and the slope angles of the beautiful Dove Valley.

We initially started our journey by walking upstream towards the upper course of the River Dove. The journey was at first quite challenging because of the prolonged rainfall, which meant that we all faced difficulty in clambering up the slippery slopes towards the river. To Mrs Elliman's pleasure none of us complained; we simply persevered in our assigned tasks like true geographers!

We were actually fascinated to see the various famous sights of the valley, like Lovers' Leap, the dark, spooky caves and the 'Wishing Well Logs' - whereby inserting a coin into a log meant that one's wishes may be fulfilled. As for myself, I was enthralled by the beauty of the river as we made our way down a small section of the upper course. I noticed the many picturesque rock formations and meanders within the river, and was utterly inspired by the natural environment and surroundings.

Before we ate our lunch beneath trees near the footbridge, we held our own minute's silence to mark Remembrance Day and 100 years since the start of World War I.

After lunch we reached our first destination and start preparations. Each of us was assigned individual tasks, which we all performed very well. Harry and Dom, our brave 'water babies', made a tremendous job of wading into the freezing cold river. Not only did they measure the river's depth, but they also collected various sediments from the riverbed. Well done to you guys! Though hard at work, we also took time to warmly greet the tourists that passed us by as they walked the Peak District trails.

Sediments and Slopes

George, Dan and I measured the valley's slope, the size of sediment particles, and the width of the river and recorded the data. Mrs Salatheil, who drove the school minibus, and Mrs Elliman also helped us in our individual tasks. This meant that we were quicker in collecting our data for our ten sampling sites spaced at regular intervals down the river.

Our work done, it was finally time to travel back to the school minibus, clean off our muddy boots and head back towards school and home. It was indeed a long day and we all worked extremely hard, so to reward ourselves we stopped at McDonalds for some welcome hot food and well-earned relaxation.

It was a fantastic experience we'll all remember! Well done everyone!

Contributed by **Manjit Kaur**



Geographic Mapping Techniques

This term Geography students have been hard at it to develop their group and paired working skills. Our young Geographers have been working collaboratively on choropleth mapping, desk mind mapping and the prediction of the pattern of the demographic transition model from information given.

Visualising concepts on large sheets of paper attached to their desks allowed students to develop ideas in a carefully structured environment, allowing them to change and amend their thought process in response to additional information, before writing up the final version in their workbooks.





Public Services @PHA

First Aid

Year 12 students from our Public Services course recently took part in a practical first aid lesson. During the session they practiced administering CPR and placing casualties in the Recovery Position, and also learnt how to correctly tie a bandage and how to place an arm in a sling. The students are enjoying the practical side of this course, which could potentially help them to save someone's life one day.



Canoeing

Spring Term 2015 sees Year 12 Public Services students working towards completing their Unit 11 on Outdoor Water Sports. As part of the unit, students have gained practical experience of canoeing and kayaking over a six week course and have had to maintain a detailed 'skill development' diary, as well as carrying out their own risk assessments and developing a 'Personal Development Plan'.

Students were a little worried taking to the water for the first time – particularly at this time of year when temperatures are low. However, they soon developed the skills they needed to become competent canoeists and kayakers and successfully achieved the practical criteria for this part of the course.

Reflecting on the enjoyment of the course and their own achievements, a number of the students are now planning their own summer canoe excursion.





In January, a group of Park Hall Academy students took part in the national Level 3 Bikeability programme being delivered by Solihull Council.

The sessions took place on the roads surrounding the Academy during the school day. Everyone gained loads of cycling knowledge and experience, such as basic bike control and cycle positioning on the road. In the afternoon the students' skills were tested on a route down Chester Road, which entailed learning to tackle obstacles, such as roundabouts and dual carriageways. At the end of the course the entrants all received a badge and a certificate to prove they had passed the course.

The students involved had a fantastic time and more importantly learned lots about road safety and how to cycle safely on the roads. Park Hall will be running more sessions later in the school year giving all our cyclists the opportunity to learn these valuable skills. A great success story from the sessions was Year 7's Megan Rooney; according to the instructors she made an incredible amount of progress through the day - lacking confidence at the start, she finished as one of the most competent cyclists they have taught. If you would like to be involved in future sessions please give your name to Mr Foster, those already signed up will be involved in sessions later in the year.

What is 'Bikeability'?

Bikeability is 'cycling proficiency' for the 21st Century; it's the perfect way to ensure when you ride, you ride safely. It's fun and gives you the skills and confidence to cycle in modern road conditions.

There's a Bikeability level to suit everyone, whether you're just starting out or simply want to use your bike more safely and more often. You might start from the beginning at Level 1 and train all the way through to Level 3, or you might dive in with Level 3 if you already have lots of cycling experience. There's always something new to learn and the right level of Bikeability training will help you to develop safer cycling habits.

Level 1 During Level 1 Bikeability training, you learn to control and master your bike. The training takes place in an environment away from cars or traffic – usually in a playground or closed car park.

Level 2 During Level 2 Bikeability training you will get out on the roads! Level 2 gives you a real cycling experience so that you are able to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school.

Level 3 During Bikeability Level 3 training you will learn the skills to tackle more challenging roads and traffic situations. Level 3 training is often delivered one-to-one so can be tailored to your individual needs, such as your route to work or school.

<https://bikeability.dft.gov.uk>



Bikeability

Why is Science SO important?

Science is a subject which students at Park Hall, and indeed all schools, spend a great deal of lesson time on. It is a subject which, when embraced, will inspire and challenge students, whilst also developing their key skills along the way.

One of the main reasons that students have a lot of science lessons is because 'science' is really three huge, closely interconnected subjects merged into one; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

However, the sheer importance of science is the reason why the government invests SO much in science education. So WHY is science such an important subject?...

1. Science has created and explained the world you know today and will create the world you will live in as adults. Everything you use, from a television to a mobile phone, has been invented by a physicist, every medicine you take has been designed and trialled by a biologist, and the chemicals we rely on everyday from paint to petrol in cars has been developed, produced or purified by chemists.
2. Science will aid you in your everyday life, because it is science that explains everything and can make your life easier. You can use science to save yourself money, make yourself healthier and look after those around you.
3. Our future needs science. The world is facing tough new challenges and the government is now investing heavily in science careers to ensure we can answer the challenges of tomorrow. We need to combat the ever-growing resistance of bacteria to our antibiotics; we need to find new fuels to replace fossil fuels to keep our electricity on and our cars moving; we need to not only reduce the CO₂ emissions that cause climate change, but also try to reverse the effects.
4. There will always be jobs in science. Science is a constantly developing area where the skills you develop can be transferred from one industry to another as requirements change. This means that if you have a background in science you are likely to have a more secure career and a brighter future.
5. Scientists have skills which they can use in any job. Many students who get a good Science GCSE and A Levels in science, but who don't go forward to study a science degree can still use the skills they have developed and the qualifications they have attained to move into very rewarding careers. By gaining a good GCSE or A Levels in science, students will develop skills in; logical thinking, problem solving, prediction, numeracy, literacy, presentation, communication and many more key areas. These important abilities open doors to exciting, well paid careers like accountancy, law, medicine, management and almost every other field of work.
6. We have a wonderful planet, science is the means by which we understand and learn about it. There are so many things in our world which will inspire you, and sometimes understanding how and why things happen is even more incredible.

Mr A Phillips, Assistant Headteacher,
Middle Leadership and IAG



PARK HALL
ACADEMY

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