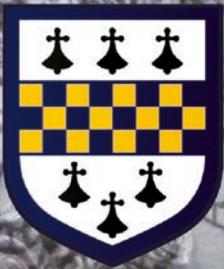




# Tosarklife

Spring 2016 / Issue Six  
The Journal of Park Hall Academy



**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY



# Exciting Times at Park Hall Academy

## Dear Parent/Carer

I am once again, delighted to introduce Parklife. It is a very exciting time for Park Hall – our successful OFSTED has identified the 6th Form and Leadership & Management as being Good. The inspection identified many strengths including the Care and Guidance and PSHE as being of a high quality. We are very clear that we are on the next stage of our journey and still have areas of school which we need to improve together. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure that as an organisation Park Hall continues to strengthen and provide the best possible outcomes and futures for our students.

A sample of the exciting things which have happened at Park Hall so far this year are: a geography GCSE educational visit to Iceland, a Christmas Party organised by the Health & Social Care BTEC students for St Catherine's residents which has contributed to the students coursework, sixth form students have designed and painted a mural for the Library at St Mary and St Margaret's Primary School, Citizenship GCSE students are currently writing up the analysis of the 29 Community Action Projects that they completed throughout the year, five more students have joined Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council, the Academy and United Kingdom Youth Parliament Elections have taken place, George Chance Osman and Jody Barnsley were on the Young Peoples Panel for the Assistant Director of Children's Services position and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Our Performing Arts students have been extremely busy performing Hamlet at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre and at Park Hall to extremely appreciative audiences.

Our focus for the rest of the year is accelerated progress. Our one aim is to work with our children to ensure that they make **above expected progress**.

Our teaching and learning training this term for staff and pupils is focused on making activities as challenging as possible – stretching understanding enables pupils to secure greater knowledge and skills in subjects at a more rapid pace. Faster progress in Year 7, 8, 9 will enable your son or daughter to obtain the best **GCSE grades possible**. These will open the door to a broader range of opportunities. In today's challenging job markets, **young people need to prove more than ever that they have the skills and attitude to learn and work with others**. A good and broad range of good GCSEs and BTEC grades demonstrates skills and determination which will put them as front runners for jobs, training courses and higher education.

We continue to be delighted with our 'A' level and BTEC results in the 6th Form which are the schools highest ever results. The provision in the 6th Form is very good and this was verified by the HMI Inspector of Schools. We have been approached

by many parents anxious to be assured that their child will be able to secure a place in our 6th Form. There is also rapidly increasing interest from external candidates who have attended other schools and wish to join our excellent 6th Form.

Our drive to ensure that children complete meaningful and well-presented homework continues. **Thank you to all those parents who have supported and encouraged their children to complete homework to the best of their ability**. We are also very grateful to the many parents who **regularly test children** and assist in revision for school tests – this has such a powerful effect in improving childrens progress. **Those parents can be rest assured those hours of time are an investment in progress**.

We continue to raise standards and we are focusing on improving attendance and punctuality.

Please understand that we cannot approve holidays in term time, this is the policy of the Government which is based on the clear philosophy that to get the best education pupils need to attend every day.

We continue to enforce high standards of appearance and uniform. Many thanks to our parent body for supporting this. Our children look smart; there is only a tiny minority who do not. We are so proud of how pupils have developed and the pride they have in our School.

We look forward to our next phase of the school's development, helping your children to succeed and build the biggest and brightest future.

**Mr D K Burgess** Headteacher



# Features



# Index

- 01 Exciting Times at Park Hall Academy
- 03 SMSC & British Values
- 04 Attendance
- 05 Head Team
- 07 The Curriculum for next year/options
- 08 Academy Rewards Programme
- 09 Awards
- 13 ATL Winners
- 16 Election Fever!
- 19 Year 11 – The Future Starts Now
- 21 Maths
- 23 Science
- 25 Geography
- 27 Sixth Form
- 29 Remembrance Parade
- 30 Castle Bromwich YPC Civic Service/Young Enterprise
- 31 Media
- 33 Art
- 35 Sport
- 39 Healthy Self Youth Conference Takeover
- 40 Young Drivers Workshop
- 41 Drama, Dance & Performing Arts
- 45 Abac Christmas Rewards
- 47 Senior Citizens Christmas Party
- 49 Off to the Theatre
- 50 Literacy at Park Hall Academy
- 51 WHY English?



# SMSC & British Values

## Promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development including British values at Park Hall Academy.

Our core purpose is to inspire Park Hall learners to embrace learning in all its forms and to use their educational experience to make a real difference to their own lives, and to the lives of others.

Our ambition is to support and inspire all our learners to be confident, respectful, reflective, creative, resilient, collaborative, inquisitive and aspirational.

As part of our values led approach and the government 'Prevent' strategy launched in 2011 we actively promote the values of:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and those without faith as part of our work to promote equalities**

Across the curriculum, opportunities are built into lessons for students to explore and practise SMSC and fundamental British values, either through topics studied or by following the schools general structures and behaviour policies. Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment.

There is a full programme of assemblies, with particular emphasis on respect, aspiration; tolerance and diversity culminating in our 'Diversity Day' at the end of last term.

Through our PSHE program and humanities we educate students on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely.

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school.

At Park Hall we recognise and are tolerant to a range of faiths and cultures. Recently, we invited an external speaker, Santosh Buhurra to conduct assemblies for Year

7 and 6th form students about why Sikhs and Hindus celebrate Diwali. Mrs Burrah said that she 'really enjoyed coming over to Park Hall, the students were absolutely super.'

We are striving for all students to achieve an outstanding attitude to learning in all aspects of Park Hall life. We want all of our students to be fully equipped for the challenges that they will face in the outside world. The importance of a positive **attitude to learning**, and indeed to life, will allow for our students to be resilient in the face of adversity.

**Positive attitude to learning** is the core value that all students must adhere to. I can't stress enough how important co-operation and good behaviour is to a young person's learning and school experience. Successful education is founded on a close, **positive relationship with parents**. In order to deliver a good education, parents are expected to work in partnership with the school and back our behaviour policy and sanctions.

The continued improvements in behaviour and attitude at Park Hall are something that we all should be proud of and ensure that we, without hesitation, strive to maintain and push for ever higher standards of uniform, homework, and engagement in learning.

Your child's good attendance is absolutely critical in order for us to ensure that they fulfil their academic potential. Your support in this area is paramount. Please be aware that in the event of **5 days unauthorised absence** being accrued (consecutive or non-consecutive) the school is obliged to follow its statutory duty to report this to the local authority who will then pursue the option issues a Penalty Notice payable up to £120 to the parent/carer.

The majority of students have outstanding attendance records and I would like to praise all of them in maintaining this high standard.

**Mr S Gregory** Deputy Headteacher

# Attendance

All pupils with 100% attendance from September to December received a 100% chocolate reward on non-uniform day, for their efforts in getting into school every day.

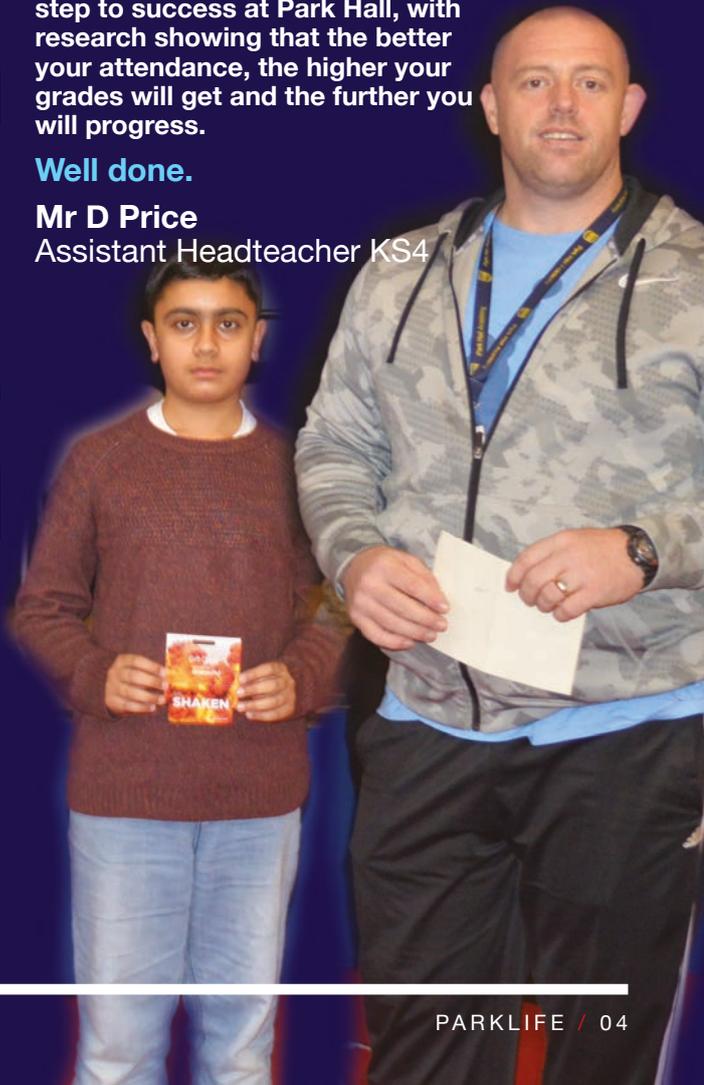


Getting into school every day is a fantastic achievement and is something which can be added to pupil's references when they apply for sixth form or for future job applications.

Excellent attendance is the first step to success at Park Hall, with research showing that the better your attendance, the higher your grades will get and the further you will progress.

**Well done.**

**Mr D Price**  
Assistant Headteacher KS4





# Head Te

**It is with great pleasure and delight to officially announce the 2015/2016 Senior Student and Leadership Team, despite them being in post working hard on a number of projects and initiatives since the start of September.**

## Head Boy Profile

My name is Tom Anderson and I am sixteen years old and very proud to be Head Boy of Park Hall Academy. As Head Boy I have enjoyed helping out in Awards Evenings, conducting assemblies to other year groups and representing the school with various visitors over the last term.

My hobbies include playing darts at county level and I enjoy playing Sunday league football as goalkeeper. I am currently a season ticket holder at Coventry City F.C.

I plan to remain at Park Hall and complete my A Levels in English Literature, Health and Social Care, Physics and Government and Politics.

For the rest of the year, I aim to improve Park Hall even further and help others enjoy their time here as much as I have done!

## Head Girl Profile

My name is Aliyah, I am sixteen years old. I am very proud to be the second head girl of Park Hall Academy. I would like to thank all those that nominated me. It is such an honour and I am very grateful to have many opportunities to help the school in events and represent my peers.

Already I have participated in assemblies; raising awareness of issues like bullying and leadership. I have also been able to attend Arden School to meet the Arden Leadership Team, which was a delightful experience. I am looking forward to forging more links with the Arden team and participating and leading the rest of the year's projects.

Outside of school I like to play tennis at the Edgbaston Priory Club, spend time with my family and do commercial modelling. I am a very sporty and active person; I try and involve myself with many clubs and opportunities. In addition, I enjoy ice-skating with my friends, which I attend every other Saturday.



# am

## The Senior Student Team

**Head Boy:** Thomas Anderton

**Head Girl:** Aliyah Ataria

**Deputy Head Boys:** Liam Tyson, Joe Evans, Hamza Alfridi

**Deputy Head Girls:** Elizabeth Twigg, Niamh Strong, Bronte Turner

## The Student Leadership Team

Kane Wilson, Luke Reynolds, Callum Sale, Emma Bailey, Molly Sansoni, Olivia Cox, Kayleigh Girvan

As previously, all students were nominated by staff and Year 11 students in a morning election process and were put through their paces in a rigorous interview process with Mr Burgess and myself.

We look forward to their continuing contributions over the rest of the academic year.





# THE CURRICULUM FOR NEXT YEAR / OPTIONS

Dr T Close Senior Deputy Headteacher



## Key Stage 3

We have confirmed the planned improvements to our curriculum offer at Key Stage 3 in order to further help raise aspirations and outcomes and ensure that students are best prepared for the next stages of their learning. All students receive 4 hours per week of Maths and English to help increase progress. We have also increased the amount of time students spend on Technology to help them develop their practical skills. All new Year 7 students will experience MFL.

Students in Year 9 are in the process of choosing their options for Year 10 and Year 11, following the Options assembly and Parents Information Evening that was held on Monday 8th February. This follows the work that Mr Brady, our Careers Officer, has been undertaking with small groups of students over previous weeks. Subject leaders have also been into lessons to advertise their subjects! We will be using a specialist computer programme to ensure fairness and that the maximum number of student first subject choices is achieved, following the success of its first use in 2015. Parents and carers will then receive letters with the provisional suggestions and from there we will be able to refine student choices if necessary.



## Year 9 Options for Key Stage 4

Please do read the option booklet carefully as this will help explain the new GCSE courses that are starting in September 2016.



## Post-16

Many of you will be aware that A levels have been changing to meet the latest assessment reforms. New AS levels and A2 exams have been de-coupled from September as part of a rolling programme by subject. This means that AS grades will no longer count towards final A level grades and these A level exams will have to be taken at the end of the course. We have decided we will continue to run AS level exams as well as A2 exams in order to provide students with an opportunity to practise necessary skills in the vast majority of subjects.

# CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT

As you may be aware, GCSE **English & Mathematics** will be graded using the **new 1-9 grading system**. This was introduced by the government in September 2015 and affects students currently in Year 10. A grade 5 is considered to be a good pass. Using the 1-9 system, the same number of students who achieved a C grade in 2015, are expected to achieve a grade 4. All other GCSE courses will continue to be graded using A\*-G. BTEC courses will continue to use Distinction \* -Pass.

National Curriculum Levels for key stage 3 have also ceased to exist and are no longer expected to be reported home to Parents/Carers.

Our new Park Hall Levels, upon which teacher assessments have been made, continue to use the same numerical scale as National Curriculum levels. This is to ensure clarity of the progress being made by your child.

Mrs R Bellingham Director of Assessment & Dialogue

# PARK HALL ACADEMY REWARDS PROGRAMME

Rewards System	<b>Abac Reward Points</b>	
Source of Information	Rewards Data entered by staff every lesson through their electronic register.	
Students rewarded for..	Good standards of behaviour and positive attitude to learning throughout the lesson	1 point every lesson
	Completing good quality homework on time	1 point every lesson following homework
	Making Progress through... a. Meeting 'challenging' objectives b. Completing 'outstanding' homework c. Moving up a level or sub level	5 points at teachers discretion
Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate positive praise</li> <li>• Praise texts or emails home for all students achieving 70 points in a 2 week cycle.</li> <li>• Special Commendation letter for students achieving 100 points in a two week cycle.</li> <li>• Termly rewards event for top 60 Rewards Points Performers</li> </ul>	

At Park Hall we are committed to rewarding students for meeting our high standards of behaviour, attitude to learning and progress.

'Abac' reward points are entered every lesson by staff on their electronic register. Students can earn extra points by achieving 'challenge' objectives and completing outstanding homework.



The table shows how Abac reward points are recorded and clarifies what students can do to earn points.

We have improved 'transparency' for parents by clearly indicating the number of points a student needs to achieve a praise email (70 points over a fortnight) or a special commendation (100 points over a fortnight). We recommend that students keep the above in a 'record of achievement'.

**Mr I Cornell**  
Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form





# Awards Evening 2015

**The Park Hall community was delighted to come together to celebrate our students amazing achievements throughout 2014 and 2015. Family members, friends and members of the local and wider Park Hall Community look forward to this important evening of celebration and they were delighted to extend a warm welcome to our Guest of Honour, Kate Grey.**

Kate is a Paralympic swimmer who represented Great Britain for ten years, during which time she competed at European Championships, World Championships and the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. She gave an inspirational speech to students, parents and guests from the local community which really made us think about goal setting, chasing our dreams and the importance of hard work delivering success in any field whether it be the academic or personal arena.

We were also joined by the Chair and Vice Chair of Castle Bromwich Council, Councillor Mr Mark Hayes and Councillor Mrs Pauline Allen respectively, along with numerous ex-students, local Headteachers, staff, Governors and a many very proud parents.

The awards evening provided an opportunity for Mr Burgess, Park Hall Academy Headteacher to give an inspirational talk, celebrating the exceptional talent amongst our students. The Review of the Year looked at the academic, sporting, arts and community-based achievements of our students. Mr Burgess also highlighted

the progress we have made since the last OFSTED report and made a number of references to Park Hall Sixth Form achieving the highest grades in the North of the Borough. Our Executive Principal, Mr Martin Murphy then gave an enlightening and informative update on the Multi Academy Trust and extended a warm welcome to Kate.

This evening is a very special one for Park Hall students and their families and it was a delight to see the joy on their faces throughout the evening. It was also particularly pleasing to see former Year 11 and Year 13 students who had returned from university especially to attend the celebration evening.

This was definitely a joyous occasion and we were delighted with the positive feedback from parents and the local community. A huge well done to every individual student. You are a credit to yourselves, families and the Park Hall community.

**Dr L Browne** Assistant Headteacher (Community)







# Special Awards



## **George Oley - Andrew Steventon Memorial Trophy**

George Oley has been an integral member of the Sixth Form over the last two years. Well respected by both staff and students he is a young man who never fails to contribute in the classroom and to the 6th Form community beyond the classroom.

George has shown incredible strength of character and dedication over the last year and it is a credit to both himself and his family that he has been able to achieve so much in his sixth form career to date.

In May 2015 George was responsible for organising a fund raising event for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer foundation and the Teenage Cancer trust. George recruited 10 other sixth form students to participate in the Great Midlands Fun run – an 8 mile run, based around the town and park of Sutton Coldfield. Of the 10 Park Hall runners 7 of them had never run more than a mile before. George's capacity to motivate others and encourage them to take on such a challenge for a good cause is indicative of his spirit and the high esteem in which he is held by others.

For his contribution to the life of the Sixth Form, and in recognition of his resilience and strength of character it is with great pleasure that we present George Oley with the Andrew Steventon memorial prize.



## **Kelly Underwood - The George Waite Memorial Prize**

Kelly has only been studying GCSE Performing Arts for a term and already she is showing fantastic passion and enthusiasm for her studies. She has gone above and beyond in her to complete extra work, support her peers and

create music for company pieces. She is dedicated outside of her class time and often spends break and lunch rehearsing. She is constantly challenging her knowledge and physical application of characters and is an absolute delight to teach and we are ecstatic with the work she has produced so far. We have high hopes for Kelly's future.



## **Kari Lawler - The Sarah Martin Memorial Prize**

Kari is an exceptionally gifted writer. Her writing submissions in year 7, both in class and out of class were engaging, complex and humorous.

It is rare for someone who is so young to have such a mature vocabulary and understanding of character. We hope she continues to write for pleasure as it could really take her places.



## **Starr Smith - Governors' Award for service to Park Hall Academy**

The Governor's Award for Service to Park Hall Academy goes to a student who has been an integral member of the school community for many years and who, in the sixth form has continued to contribute to the wider life of the school.

Starr Smith has been a trailblazer for young women's participation in Sport. Starr has coached the netball team in lower years and played for the football, netball, rounders and badminton team. Starr is always willing to offer fellow students extra support in lessons and in her own time. As a sixth form student not only did

Starr apply to become our Sixth Form Sports Rep she argued persuasively that we needed both male and female sports reps to address the distinct needs of both boys and girls in the sixth form.

In the summer of 2014 Starr raised over £1800 in order to join our World Challenge Expedition to Kerala in India. This adventure involved a 4 day mountain trek through the rainforest and tea and Cardamom plantations of the Western Ghats. Not only did Starr excel at this physical challenge but she also demonstrated great leadership skills in supporting her fellow students and made a significant contribution to team morale.

Her overwhelming positivity and winning smile led our Indian guides to give her a nickname that has stuck. She is our 'Shining Starr'.



## **George Chance-Osman - Headteacher's Award**

The Headteacher's Award this year goes to a student whose contribution to the life of the school goes well beyond his hard work or dedication to his studies. George Chance Osman is a young man who possesses all of the traits of a 'model' student. He is dedicated,

organised, hardworking, independently driven and possesses plenty of initiative. What makes George stand out, however, is his courage and sense of civil responsibility. Over the last two years the academy has increasingly looked to our own students to provide 'leadership and inspiration' to fellow students. In the creation of Park Hall's first ever 'Student leadership team' George was selected to take on the prestigious role of head boy. In this role George had an integral part to play in the groups

many achievements from writing, performing and filming an 'anti homophobia video' for use in school to leading assemblies, forging links with Arden's senior team and representing the Academy on open evenings, Year 6 transition and of course award evenings.

As a sixth form student George became the Y12 President of the Sixth Form student executive and now regularly chairs meetings with 6th form students in which the group independently set their own targets for fundraising, sports participation, student research and mentoring support. In the New Year George will be delivering assemblies to our main school students on current affairs. He has a passion for raising awareness of important issues with young people and is willing to take personal responsibility for creating a world that is more fair, welcoming and tolerant. It is no surprise that a potential career in politics beckons for a young man with a great deal to offer. Winner of this year's Headteacher's award is George Chance-Osman.



# ATL Winners

## Rewards at Park Hall Academy

Every half term we celebrate students' efforts and achievements at Park Hall. Last half term we gave many of our students' attitude to learning certificates to reward their hard work in lessons. To receive a bronze certificate, students had to get outstanding and good attitude to learning grades. To get gold, students had to get all outstanding grades for their attitude to learning. These students are well on their way to successful futures due to their hard work and commitment to learning. Well done to you all! We look forward to rewarding more students in the future through our progress awards, subject colours and ABAC points.

## Attitude to Learning and Progress

A positive attitude to learning helps ensure success. Students consistently demonstrate outstanding attitude to learning at Park Hall, many of these students can be seen in our rewards photos in this publication.

Subject teachers grade each student's attitude to learning from 1-4.

1 = Outstanding attitude to learning

2= Good attitude to learning (the minimum we expect as an Academy)

3= Satisfactory attitude to learning

4 = Attitude to learning that is cause for concern.

Attitude to learning is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of behaviours, which contribute directly towards their success in lessons. We expect our students to display this attitude in the following ways:

- Pride in presentation of work
- Demonstrating good listening skills in class

- Completion of homework to a good standard and on time
- Contribution towards class discussion
- Bringing the correct equipment (As a minimum this should be a pen, pencil, ruler, homework planner and bag. Should students forget their equipment it is on sale in student services)
- Beginning work as soon as it is set
- Being willing to stretch and challenge themselves in lessons

These behaviours will help students prepare for further education and the world of work. Once a positive attitude is in place, progress towards target grades will accelerate.

To support students' progress we have a comprehensive team of staff that regularly meet with students to discuss their achievements. Parents can expect to be kept informed as these conversations take place.

If students require extra support, the library is staffed and opened after school for catch-up club, and subjects run support sessions to give students further help.



Gold



Silver



Bronze

## Year 11

### Gold

Jack Butler  
Lily Davey  
Annabelle Davis  
Mia Moore  
Megan Pym  
Chris Rickus  
Callum Sale  
Olivia Cox  
Jake Collyer  
Ciaran Doherty  
Carys Downes  
Rhys Farrell  
Molly Haynes  
Liam Tyson  
Emma Williams

### Bronze

James Allen  
Kyran Carrington  
Leanne Downes  
Laura Ilsley  
Jamie Morris  
Luke Reynolds  
Kieron Shand  
Lauryn Boone  
Shauna Coates  
Elie Cooper  
Michael Gregory  
Elizabeth Hawthorn  
Oliver Jenkins  
Elie-Mae Jones  
Jamie Perks  
Lauren Stratford

### Silver

Charlotte Tranter  
Chanel Sullivan  
Eden Wood  
Stacey Freeman  
Aimee King  
Holly Eaton-Smith  
Oliver Porter  
Daniel Power  
Elizabeth Twigg  
Emily Wood  
Summer Ashmore  
Harrison Birch  
Aaron Gibbs  
Kayleigh Girvan  
Demi-Leigh Roche  
Caraigh Shaughnessy

# Year 10

## Gold



### Gold

Alicia Blackhall  
Emma Hoare  
Darla Caraher  
Layla Chiha  
Alysha Maddocks-Spooner  
Faye Turberville  
Kelly Underwood  
Riddhi Patel

### Gold

Taylor Barnes  
Ben Brassington  
Roxanne Burke  
Megan Kennedy  
Courtney McLaughlin  
Amelia Mobbs  
Thomas Stanyard  
Thomas Bostock  
Madison Evans

### Silver

Jessica Beckett  
Aimee Crisp  
Benjamin Jones  
Rachel Lawrence  
Katie Lund  
Bethany Smith  
Daniel Ameghino  
Lucy Andrews  
Millie-Jay Hall  
Jamie Hunt  
Harry Johnson  
Kamarra Pitters  
Katie Schofield  
Nayer Khan  
Chloe Reynolds  
Ellie Roberts  
Paige Bayliss  
Liam Green  
Alycia Mcnamara  
William John Reeves  
Miah Baker

Louie Irish  
Kieran Merriman  
Inaya Phillips  
Rebekah Prescott  
Isaac Toranzo  
Georgina Beasley  
Jai Cox  
Hannah Dodwell  
Jack Groves  
Shonea Holligan  
Niaz Kibria  
Shannon Kill  
Alexander Mann  
Jordan Martin  
Amaani Raja  
Megan Tongue

## Silver



## Bronze



## Gold



# Year 9

### Gold

Lezah Gagin  
Hannah Washbourne  
Mia Morris  
Abbie Sonko  
Aishah Anjum  
Giorga Byrne  
Connor Curtis  
Rosa Davis  
Morgan Dodd  
Megan Kirby  
Charley McMahon  
Molly Stronge  
Katie Tooze  
Carlie Wilson

### Bronze

Griffin Beech-Webb  
Kay Hodson  
James McLaughlin  
Atif Akheel  
Sana Basharat  
Adelle Butler  
Tia Commander  
Megan Corcoran  
Rebecca Davis  
Lucy Dorgan  
Milan Grant  
Jamie Hanus  
Alexander Knowles  
Annabel Lloyd  
William Painter  
Simran Sandhu  
Calum Walsh  
Holly Williams  
Lewis Witts  
Luca Yeomans  
Tom Blackwell  
Harry Millward  
Demileigh Atterbury  
Daniel Mallen

### Silver

Daniel Jackson  
Oluwabori Esuruoso  
Katie Redfern  
Tom Rogers  
Shynnia Straker  
Sumayah Abdul-Raheem  
Athameh Abdulrahman Al  
Sophie Blackwell  
Alexia Clifton  
Milly Corbett  
Amy Dyke  
Shannon Eldred  
Morgan Fealy  
Olivia Howard  
Elle Lester  
Rebecca Li  
Amelia Lloyd  
Zoe Lodge  
Eve Lowe  
Hannah Phillipson  
Sid Raii  
Daniel Riley  
Warren Sale

## Silver



## Bronze



# Year 8

## Gold

Sophie Dainty  
Harriet Herbert  
Katie Witten  
Emily Cartwright  
Kari Lawler  
Nathan Parkinson  
James Axford  
Abbie Bull  
Nancy Chance-Osman  
Lettisha Jarrett

## Gold

Maddie Baker  
Millie Barnes  
Clare Boaler  
Madysen Cole  
Rebecca Cotton  
Jack Dolaghan  
Molly Evans  
Annie-May Gates  
Amy Newman  
Hiba Sajjad  
Holly Smith  
Morgan Thompson  
Harmony Wheeldon  
Bonita Woralert  
Katie Cox  
Rachel Allso  
Georgina Birch  
Lauren Cruise  
Aidan Grant  
Louie Kader  
Aaliyah Rice  
Karla Shaw  
Harrison Wilde  
Melodie Wynn  
Sian Druce  
Adam Bailey  
Tom Brassington  
George Buckley  
Lily Coward  
Halle Hunter  
Zishan Hussain  
Mohammed Khan  
Paris Murray  
Libby Roberts  
Connor Webb  
Dylan Yates

## Silver

Anisa Mirza  
Aishah Akhtar  
Jamie Dark  
Scott Deverell-Lawrence  
Renaë Gardner  
Hevanna Mulholland  
Ellie Sharpe  
Annabel Ward  
Kate Bathurst  
Freya Brown  
Bethany Cond  
Philip Francis  
Courtney Haden  
Riyadh Kibria  
Jayda Brown  
Molly Pollock  
Mia Winters



Gold



Silver



Gold

# Year 7

## Gold

Thomas Adshead  
Rachael Bevan  
Jack Dooley  
Sam Jones  
Chloe Lorimer  
Eleanor Shaw  
Amy Tilley

## Bronze

Jasmine Alder  
Jake Astley  
Alyah Bhar  
Eleyah Bisseker  
Tilly Byrne  
Lucy Cole  
Kaci Coward  
Cara Davies  
Jessica Elliott  
Bronte Howell  
Thomas Lytton  
Eavie Neal  
Logan Palmer  
Mattie Prentice  
Alicia Roberts  
Dakota Shurahi  
Keira Tarpey  
Chloe Taylor  
Bobby-Jane Ward  
Ellie Whitmore  
Karar Alnour  
Cody Treen  
Katie Turner  
Chloe Blakemore  
Ethan Fletcher  
Chloe Gaff  
Kayleigh Gagin  
Nathan Huddleston  
Morgan Kilmister  
Chloe Lutumba  
Chloe Nokes  
Bethany Owen  
Joe Piper  
Ethan Potter  
Charlotte Slammon  
Katie-Lee Steward  
Maddi Temperton  
Ben Thomas  
Alexander Timmins  
Abbi Wood

## Silver

Chloe Crees  
Oliver Crisp  
Lauren Fleming  
Lily Gadsdon  
Shuaib Khan  
Emma Reeves  
Karis Shewell  
Annalise Stevens  
Alfie Timmins  
Abigail Wilde  
Emelia Wilson  
Sam Hardy  
Carmilla Cameron  
Matthew Fisher  
Katie Green  
Adele Greenway  
Madison Mitchell  
Rio Thompson  
Leonie Wilson



Gold



Silver



Bronze

# ELECTION FEVER!

## Academy Elections

The whole School Academy Elections took place at Park Hall Academy on Thursday 11th February 2016 with a huge turnout. Every tutor group elected one male and one female student to represent them on their Year Council. Students then elected two students (or three if they received an equal number of votes) from each year to sit on the Whole Academy Council.

The successful candidates will meet on a regular basis to discuss items put forward by the whole student body. The Academy Council has been consulted about supporting a range of charities, immersion days on Anti Radicalisation & British Values, links with the Azad Choudhery Academy in Bangladesh and represented students by meeting with OFSTED and the Department for Schools.

Academy Elections are an important part of Citizenship Education at Park Hall Academy as students have the opportunity to take part in an election that replicates the national election process. All students register to vote, collect a ballot paper, vote and put their vote in the ballot box. We then have an official count which is conducted by Year 10 Sociology students. Students learn how simple it is to vote and, on this occasion, every student chose to cast their vote demonstrating that they value the opportunity to elect those who put themselves forward for office.

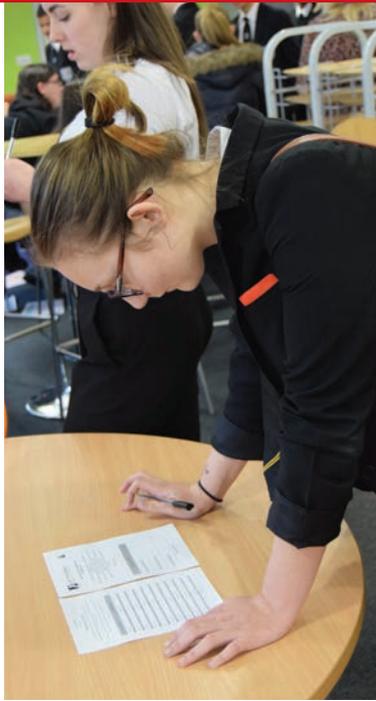
**Dr L Browne**  
Assistant Headteacher  
(Community)

## Election Results

**Emboldened names identify those students who also sit on the Park Hall Academy Council; other named representatives sit on the Year Councils.**

Form/Tutor	Female Representative	Male Representative
7A1 Miss Keyte	Taira Hussain	Shuaib Khan
7A2 Miss Green / Mrs Covell	Chloe Mullan	Jake Astley
7B1 Miss Newlands	Cara-Leigh Curry	Mattie Prentice
7B2 Mrs McCartney	Mia Prentice	Jack Cleary
7J1 Miss Smith	Charlotte Slammon	Anees Hussain
7J2 Mr Davis / Mr Turton	Kaci Coward	Nathan Huddleston
7S1 Mr Short	Abigail Wilde	<b>Oliver Cairns</b>
7S2 Mr Rowland	<b>Ellie Whitmore</b>	Sam Hardy
8A1 Ms Corbett-Lees	Anisa Ali	Aiden Grant
8A2 Mr M Smith	Molly Evans	Connor Webb
8B1 Mrs Williams	Anaya Miles	Abdur Abbas
8B2 Miss Tomlinson	Nancy Chance Osman	Jack Dolaghan
8J1 Mrs Murshed	Jayda Brown	<b>Jack Harrison</b>
8J2 Ms Carnatt	Tianna Rawlings	Harrison Wlyde
8S1 Mr S Allison	Alana Mattis	Harry Mbanzabugabo
8S2 Mrs Norris-Betteridge	<b>Kaierah Paul</b>	James Greenway
9A1 Mrs Stackhouse	<b>Sophie Appleton</b>	Alex Martin
9A2 Mr Smeaton	Eve Lowe	Cole Pearce
9B1 Miss Pound	Coral Beech	Arik Uddin
9B2 Mr Hughes	Ellie Morris	Warren Sale
9 Lit Miss Hirons	Ellie Hambling	<b>Joe Orme</b>
9J1 Mrs Salathial	Annabel Lloyd	Alexander Knowles
9J2 Miss Seazell	<b>Charley McMahon</b>	Bori Esuruoso
9S1 Mrs Haywood	Hannah Phillipson	Connor Curtis
9S2 Mrs Baugh	Karen Gardiner	Morgan Feasy
9Num Ms Brown / Miss Sibley	Annaleigh Stratton	Will Simmons
10A1 Miss Bartlett	Kelly Underwood	Darnell Hamilton
10A2 Miss Matthews	Gemma Simpson	<b>Josh Hands</b>
10B1 Mr S Smith	Charlotte Slammon	Anees Hussain
10B2 Mr Edwards	Faye Turberville	Benjamin Jones
10J1 Mr D Allison	Alysha Maddocks-Spooner	
10J2 Mr Ward	<b>Darcy Sturdy</b>	Tom Bostock
10S1 Miss Rolfe	Aimee Crisp	Jamie Hunt
10S2 Mr Cullum-Kenyon	<b>Madison Evans</b>	Uriah Griffiths
11A1 Miss Scott	Emma Derome	James Marshall
11A2 Mr Plackowski	Evie Millward	Dan Power
11B1 Miss Lawrence	<b>Eva Williams</b>	Ryan Powers
11B2 Mrs Hulme	Heather Allen	Harry Wragg
11ECDL Mr Bellingham	<b>Ellie Cooper</b>	Jamie Felton
11Sci Mr Phillips	Lauren Stratford	<b>Kane Wilson</b>
11J1 Mr Crotty / Mr Browne	Trinity Townsend	Liam Owen
11J2 Mrs R Davies	Amber Khan	Matthew Cartwright
11S1 Mr East	Courtney Groves	Kyle Webley
11S2 Miss Chorley	Hannah Keogh	Daniel Mach
11Lit Mrs Kirkbride	Cody Corbett	Max McMahon
12A1 Miss Begum / Miss Leigh	<b>Charlotte Jobson</b>	James Dixon
12B1 Mrs Todd / Mrs Hayles	Chelsey Kyriacau	<b>George Chance-Osman</b>
12J1 Mrs J Davies	Chloe Wenlock	Thomas Payne
12S1 Miss Vaughan / Mr Jones	Ashleigh Dorgan	Christopher Li
13B1 Mrs Edwards	Charis Gambon	<b>Dominic Blackwell</b>
13J1 Mrs Cullum-Kenyon	Chloe Marshall	Keaton Slater
13S1 Mrs Churchill	<b>Courtney Stokes</b>	Thomas Henningham
13J1	Chloe Marshall	Keaton Slater

# ELECTION F



# EVER!

# UKYP

## UNITED KINGDOM YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION

Park Hall Academy was a designated polling station for The United Kingdom Youth Parliament Elections on Thursday 11th February 2016. The Academy Council voted for Charlotte Jobson to stand in the election and assemblies took place for each year group to raise their awareness of the importance of voting in order to ensure their voices are heard. Social Science students organised the election which enabled every Park Hall student to experience the voting process that is followed in the General Election.

Interestingly Park Hall Academy students have a proud tradition of success in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament Elections. Kirsty Tuffin is the current MYP for Solihull (2015/6), Lewis Earp and Alex Jennings (Arden Academy) (2014/15), Bradley Smith (2013/14) and James Hunt (2012/13). Up until this year there were two MYPs for Solihull, however this has been reduced to one MYP for Solihull this year.

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament is the national 'voice' of young people in the United Kingdom and has a rolling programme of activities across the year. This includes an Annual Sitting, Regional Meetings, and regular dialogue with national decision makers as well as the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons in November 2016. We wish Charlotte good luck in the election and will inform our readers of the result in the next edition of Park Life.

**Dr L Browne**  
Assistant Headteacher  
(Community)



UKYP  
ELECTIONS



culus

# Year 11 — The Future Starts Now





## As part of their ongoing Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) programme to support them to achieve a successful future, Year 11 completed an Apprenticeship and Future Careers morning at Park Hall Academy.

This October morning was highly successful and saw over twenty independent employers including BMW, Balfour Beatty and The Army as well as further education facilities, offering careers advice and guidance to our students completing their final year of GCSE courses. Students were praised by our visitors as being driven and determined to succeed in life with a very mature approach to the event. This was followed up in November when the whole of Year 11 and 35 Year 13 students visited the National Skills Show at the NEC, which showcased over 500 potential future employers, and was aimed at all students regardless of their future plans following their GCSE courses. Students were able to enquire and commence initial applications towards Apprenticeships, meet people who were pursuing their dream jobs and try out some of the careers in which they were interested. There was something for everybody regardless of future aims and this was seen in the range of activities



from cake making to forensic science and from RAF pilots to being a presenter at the BBC. Feedback from the event was very positive, with students agreeing that it was helpful to find out the correct pathways they needed to take in order to get the jobs they hoped for. Students felt it helped bring careers alive in a way they couldn't access from school, and offered insight into what they can become if they work hard and ensure they aim above their target grades.

This year Park Hall Academy's Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) programme is being fully developed for all year groups. This initiative will aim to encourage students to think ahead and develop skills for their future. Several events will take place for all year groups to take part in, helping students make choices that are right for them.

**Mr A Phillips** Assistant Headteacher



# Maths

## UK Maths Challenge

**Park Hall's A-Level Mathematics students recently took part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge.**



This involved a series of challenging questions which the students had to complete to gain points. We are very proud to say that four of our students achieved a bronze award. Joe Jones and Danny Kettle both achieved the award as well as Gianni Sassoni who also achieved the Best in the Year certificate. Year 13 were also represented in the awards with Jodie Barnsley achieving the bronze award along with the Best in the School certificate which is a fantastic achievement. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to the four who achieved the bronze award.

## Challenge Days

Last term, Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in a Challenge Day. Each student received a challenge card at the start of the day and the idea was to complete the stretch and challenge task in each of their five lessons during the day which was then signed off by their teacher.

Each year group fully embraced the Challenge Days with an incredible number of students completing the stretch and challenge task in all five of their lessons. 70 students from Year 7 completed the Challenge Day which, at the time, stood as a record. But in the final week of the autumn term Year 8 won the battle of the year groups as an unbelievable 116 students completed the stretch and challenge activity throughout the day. This is a wonderful achievement for Year 8, one that Miss Trayner,

Head of Year 8, is very proud of. In total 268 students completed the Challenge Day across the four year groups. Following the Challenge Days a prize draw took place by the respective Head of Year and a £10 Cineworld voucher awarded to the lucky winner from each year group.

The Challenge Days will be taking place again throughout the Spring term and we very much hope even more students succeed in completing the stretch and challenge activity in all of their subjects.

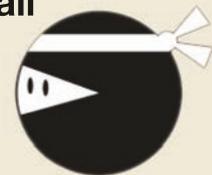
# Numeracy Ninjas

**Park Hall has recently been overtaken by Ninjas!**



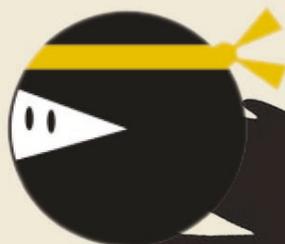
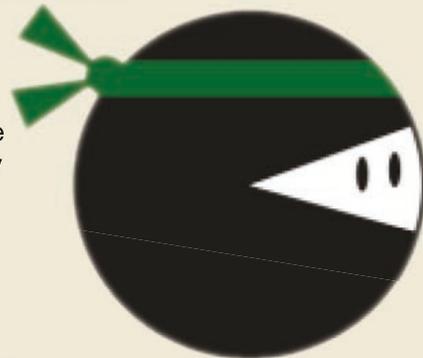
That's right, there are currently over 200 ninjas prowling unnoticed around the Park Hall building each day quietly going about their day.

However, once each week these Year 8 students don their karate gi, tie their coloured belts around their waists and become Numeracy Ninjas. Whilst we breathe a sigh of relief that we are all safe from sword wielding Year 8s, these students have been completing a weekly numeracy challenge during form time in an attempt to work their way through the various coloured belts in an attempt to be awarded a Numeracy Ninjas black belt. And Year 8 have taken this by storm.



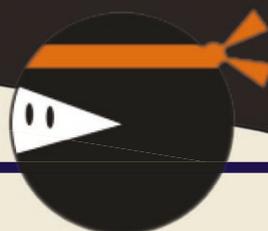
Following an assembly led by Mr Goodridge who explained the history of karate and the significance of each of the coloured belts Year 8 have made outstanding progress. 84 students have said 'Sayōnara' to their first belt by improving their karate belt by one level, 55 students by two levels, 14 by an impressive three levels and 4 students by an even more impressive four levels.

There have also been 24 students who have achieved either a brown or black belt, the two highest ranked belt colours in karate, every week. This shows an extremely high level of consistency as they battle it out to become Grand Masters. This has been a huge success and over 80 students were awarded a certificate due to their performance over the autumn term. It is now Year 7s turn as they have recently embarked on their Numeracy Ninjas challenge and we very much hope that they enjoy similar successes.



NUMERACY  
**NINJAS**

Mr A Goodridge Director of Numeracy and Stretch & Challenge





# Science CERN Trip

**Park Hall and Arden students visited Geneva in Switzerland to study the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.**



Scientists at CERN are using the Large Hadron Collider to research the origin of the Universe. They also research other things there such as how to treat cancer using protons and even where the World Wide Web was invented.

Students visited the UN Palace of Nations, the centre of many organisations such as the World Health Organisations. Martin Mach commented, "The UN tour was really interesting, and it was fascinating to think about all the decisions that have been made in those rooms over the years".

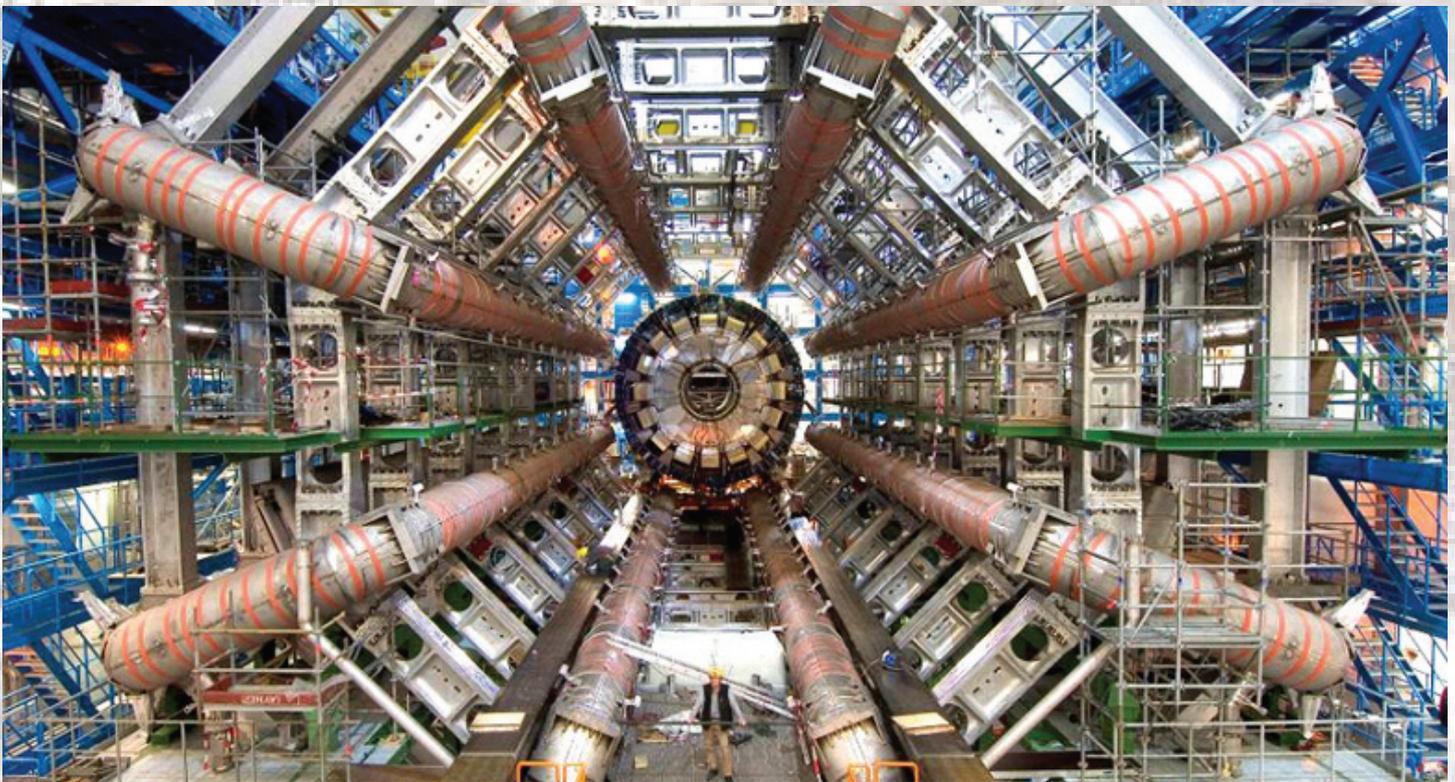
The students spent a whole day at CERN, they weren't able to go into the collider itself because it was working. They spoke to

actual scientists employed there and found out about what they do. Ben Millard remarked, "It's going to be really useful when we come to study particle physics next year".

On the last day, students visited Geneva's old town, including the Natural History museum, which has an exhibition about Lucy, the oldest human specimen ever found.

James Cole said, **"I really enjoyed the trip; it was really interesting to see what I could do with physics later in life if I work hard enough".**

**Miss B Sekha**



# Year 9 Trip

**In September, Year 9 students went to the University of Birmingham for a University experience day.**

**It was a great opportunity for the students to see what University would be like, speak to real students and find out what they would need to do to study Science at degree level.**

The students were really surprised to find out how important their GCSEs would be when applying to University, as they would be their most recent academic qualification.

The students took part in a workshop all about higher education and had a tour of the campus. Many of the students hadn't visited the University before so it was a great chance for them to see it first hand – it's never too early to start thinking about what you want to do next!



## Excellence in Science Teaching at Park Hall Academy

Science teaching at Park Hall Academy has never been so strong which is evident from a high proportion of Year 9 students opting to complete Triple Science as an option rather than the standard Double Award Science which all students must take. At GCSE, over 80% of students taking Additional Science gained a C or better in 2015. This success was replicated at A level where all students achieved their target grades.

Recently, the excellent teaching of the department's youngest teacher, Miss Harriett Lawrence was identified and celebrated by her being nominated for the prestigious Royal Society of Biology, Biology Teacher of the Year Award 2016 which is open to all Biology teachers in the U.K

According to Amanda Hardy of the society, Miss Lawrence's nomination was 'singled out for a special mention as being Highly Commended by the award's judges' and Miss Lawrence was recommended to enter next year with another year of teaching to support her entry.

We would like to congratulate Miss Lawrence for this accreditation as one of the most inspiring biology teachers in the U.K and thank her for all her hard work.



**School  
Biology Teacher  
of the Year Award**  
(11-16 category)





In October, our A level Geography class went on an 'eventful' trip to Dovedale, Derbyshire. As part of our AS coursework, we study changes along a rivers course and so Dovedale proved ideal as it has a footpath running alongside some stretches of it.



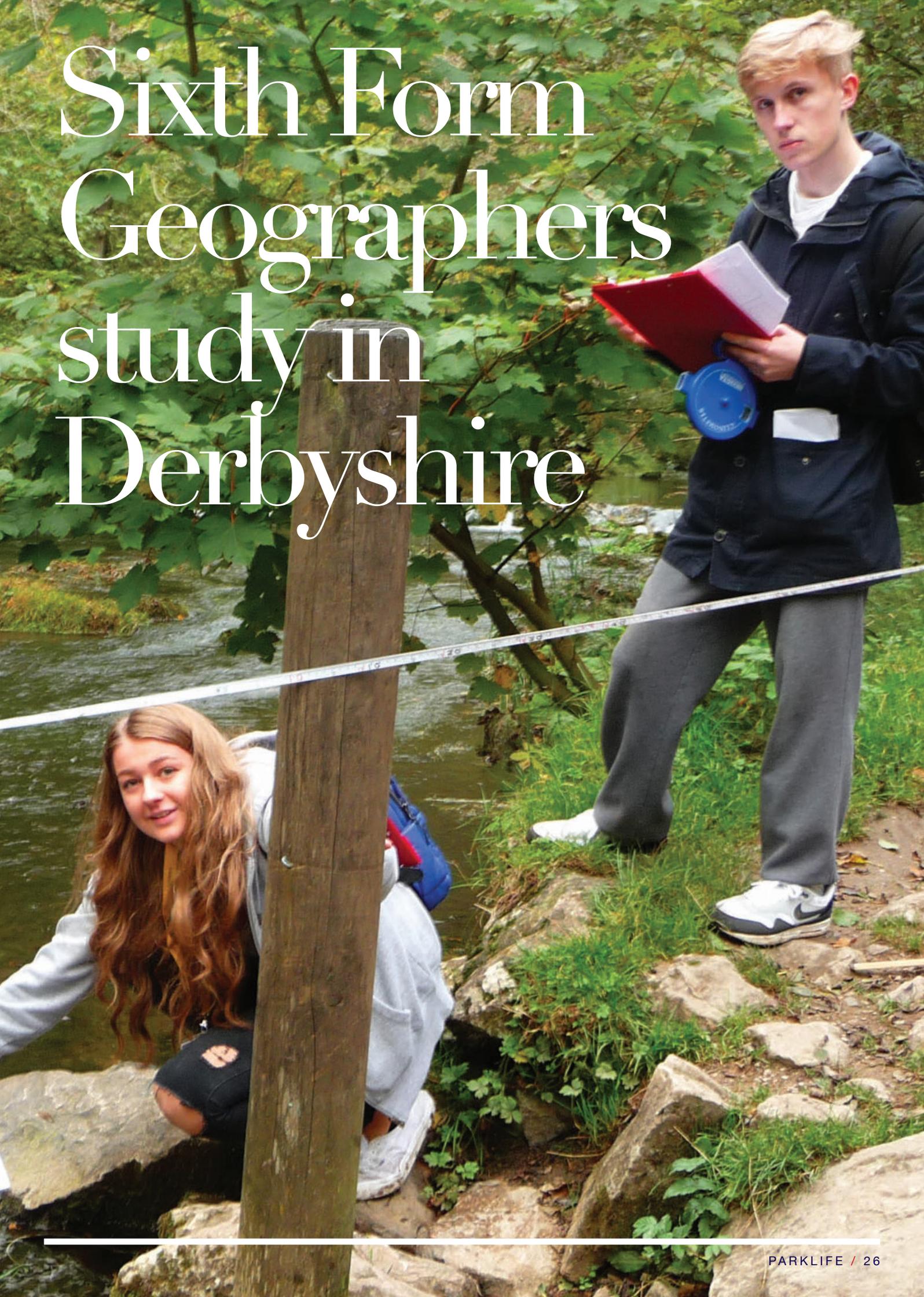
We set off in the school minibus, loaded up with all of the equipment such as ranging poles, tape measures, clinometers and dog biscuits. Just after 9am and after a journey of 2 hours, having been slowed down by traffic, we arrived in Dovedale. We parked near the stepping stones and walked two miles upstream towards the upper course of the river, where we began our investigations. As our aim was to study changes along the river's course; we decided to measure the velocity (speed) of the water as well as depth, width and the angle of the valley slopes at 10 sites along the 2 mile stretch. We also wanted to see if the material in the river altered as you moved downstream in terms of its size and how angular or round the pebbles were.

We went into a cave near our first site and had a picnic lunch to give us energy before starting our data collecting. We then walked back downstream recording information at different parts of the river; Ben and Charlie were our 'willing volunteers' to go into the river at all 10 sites and take measurements. They were brave as they jumped into the very cold water, to measure the width and depth of the river. Ben said "the river was freezing but it was good fun and it was good to see the class working together." However he did say that, "someone else can go in the river next time though!" Jess was chief timer and George did a good job of measuring slope angles. Georgia and George collected and measured the pebbles. Danny spaced the 10 metre intervals and recorded the results with Alex. We did end the trip with a quick stop at McDonald's for some warming food before setting off home.

We would also like to say thank you to Mrs Elliman and Mrs Salathiel for taking us, it was a great day.

**Jess Ward and Georgia Thompson**

# Sixth Form Geographers study in Derbyshire





# The perfect place to step up to your Sixth Form studies

Park Hall is a vibrant, friendly and caring place of learning. Students are encouraged to look beyond themselves and to seek ways of helping and supporting others within the school community and the wider world.



Students in CERN, Switzerland.



Outstanding results for Alicia Morris.



Park Hall Academy students painted a beautiful mural for the Library at St Mary & St Margaret's CE Primary School during their Work Experience week.



Great Midlands 8 mile Fun Run raised money for Teenage Cancer Trust & The Roy Castle Foundation.



Park Hall Academy is extremely proud of its Sixth Form students who have excelled in so many areas this year. At Advanced Level students once again excelled, and everyone is delighted that our students achieved the best results in North Solihull.

Mr D Burgess, Park Hall Academy Headteacher said **“Our students achieved excellent results this year. The Advanced Level and BTEC National results have all gone up! This is another excellent set of results achieved by our students. The students, staff, parents/carers and Governors are very proud of all the skill, hard work and effort that have made these improvements possible.”**

Everyone is proud of all the hard work that made this possible. For example, Alicia Morris gained outstanding results at Advanced Level including Government and Politics at grade A\*, Business Studies at grade A and History grade B. Other examples of good results at Advanced Level include Elisha Sturridge who gained Psychology A\*, Sociology A and Biology B, Laura Whelan Sociology A, Psychology B and Biology C, Georgia Harper Business Studies A, History B and English Literature C. Alicia and Georgia are now on the apprenticeship scheme with Heart of England Trust for Managerial Accountancy studying for the CIMA at degree level. Elisha is studying for a Nursing Degree at Wolverhpton University and Laura is reading Psychology at Aston University.

Park Hall Academy's focus is very much on providing its students with the best possible preparation for the future. The Sixth Form is celebrating some amazing performances from students across the board, with sport, art and community involvement being just a few of the many activities on offer.

Rising football stars include Kane Wilson, a member of West Bromwich Albion Academy, along with Charlie Newbold at Walsall FC Academy, Lucas Powell and Kye Shewell who are at Birmingham City Academy and Tanisha Smith at Aston Villa Academy.

Always keen to put something back into society, students have raised money for local, national and international charities throughout the year, as well as developing many projects. For Sport Relief next year Park Hall Sixth Form students aim to beat the £6,000 they raised last year through their organisation of this whole school event.

The Academy Student Council continues to flourish in the community and Park Hall's students also sit on Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council, Solihull Youth Council and in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. A number of students represented the community at the recent Remembrance Parade at Castle Bromwich Cenotaph.

Interestingly, Kirsty Tuffin is the Member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament for Solihull (2015-16) recently attended the Global Young Leaders Conference with Gazel Raii in Washington and New York, USA where they put a forward a motion to the United Nations. All in all an impressive record, demonstrating that Park Hall Academy students really do make a difference.

Our A Level Physics students recently went to Cern, Switzerland, Media students visited New York, geography students completed coursework in Dovedale, Derbyshire and students visited the Careers Education and Skills Show at the NEC Birmingham. There have been a number of in house 6th Form Apprenticeship days and UCAS Application Days put on by numerous universities. In January the whole of Year 12 will be attending a driving experience event at the NEC.

Students completed the World Challenge expedition to Kerala, India in the summer, which involved trekking in the Western Ghats, visiting an Elephant Sanctuary, and working at the Don Bosco Orphanage, where the students received a warm welcome with a performance of traditional drums and dance in their honour. Mr Burgess said:

**“Park Hall Academy Sixth Form really is a very special place of learning, where we strive to create a positive ethos which focuses on everyone's self-esteem through reward and recognition. We believe that the more successful our students and staff feel, the more successful they will be.”**

You will be able to find out more on the Academy website at [www.parkhallschool.org.uk](http://www.parkhallschool.org.uk) or contact the Assistant Headteacher & Director of Sixth Form Mr Cornell [icornell@parkhall.org](mailto:icornell@parkhall.org)

# Highlights

## 100 students achieved Distinctions at BTEC National Diploma

Every Level 3 BTEC student achieved significantly above the national average predictions.

## All BTEC students achieved at least one grade above the National Average in the following areas

- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Public Services
- Information Technology
- Most students achieved Distinctions instead of Merits
- All BTEC Children's Care Learning and Development students achieved three straight distinctions (the equivalent of 3 A's at A level) for the 9th year running.

## A level success

At A level and AS level our students made progress above the national average in all subjects.

## University success

Over 59% of our students decided to pursue a place at university. Students achieved places at university based on both A level and BTEC courses. A range of degrees including: Mathematics, Psychology, Nursing, Politics, Media Studies and Chemistry.

## Apprenticeship Success

Alicia Morris (having achieved Government and Politics at grade A\*, Business Studies at grade A and History grade B) chose to go onto a level 4 apprenticeship with Heart of England Trust for Managerial Accountancy studying for the CIMA at degree level.

## New Opportunities

In the last 12 months our Sixth Formers have been on:  
A world challenge expedition to Kerala in India (12 students).  
Attended a Global Young Leaders conference in Washington and New York.  
A Media Studies trip to New York.  
A canoe trip on the River Severn as the culmination of Public Services Unit 11: Outdoor Water Sports.  
A trip to the world famous Cern, Switzerland for A Level physics students.

## Employability

We fund all of our Y13 students to complete a Level 2 Qualification in Employability.  
We also support all Y12 students in their development of an 'E portfolio' – An alternative CV for their 21st century that records and celebrates their achievements.  
Year 13 students attended the skills show at the NEC in November.  
Year 12 students attended a Driving Experience Day at the NEC.

# Award Winning Building

**Park Hall Academy is extremely lucky to have one of the best educational facilities in the country, a £27 million beautiful new building including:**

Football Fields	Gymnasium	Technology Suites
Cricket Field	Two Court Yards	Science Laboratories
Rugby Field	Learning Resource Centre	General-use Classroom
Rouder's Field	Drama Studio	Assembly Hall
Tennis Court	Dance Studio	Dining Hall
Running Track	Recording Studio	Sixth-Form Refectory
Two playgrounds	ICT Classrooms	
Indoor Sports Hall		



# Remembrance Parade 'Lest we Forget'

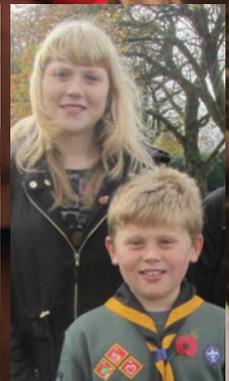
**The Castle Bromwich Service of Remembrance, held at The Cenotaph on Castle Bromwich Village Green, ensures that no-one is forgotten as our local community unite to honour all who have suffered or died in war.**

The Rector Gavin Douglas led the Remembrance Service and paid tribute alongside Caroline Spelman MP, Park Hall Academy Governor and Solihull Councillor Mr Mike Robinson, Solihull Councillor Mr Ted Richards and Chairman of the Parish Council Councillor Mr Mark Hayes, representatives of the Armed Forces, and over 2,000 members of the local community. It is fitting to note that Park Hall students who are members of Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council led the Remembrance Parade at the Castle Bromwich Cenotaph and Park Hall representatives laid a wreath in remembrance of those who lost their lives in conflicts around the world. As a number of veterans participated in the March Past, in a most poignant moment, we were reminded of

the significance and relevance of this Service of Remembrance. It is important that we take two minutes out of the year to remember those who have died in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts to establish the peace we have today.

During the week of Remembrance, all students and staff of Park Hall Academy honoured our fallen heroes at 11am on 11th November 2015, upholding the two minutes silence to remember the millions who have lost their lives. Students took part in lessons and tutorials to highlight the high price paid by soldiers and civilians so that we can live in peace.

**Dr L Browne** Assistant Headteacher (Community)



# Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council Civic Service



Park Hall students have continued to take an active role in Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council and we are delighted to announce the election of Councillor Ashleigh Doran, Councillor Emma Ellis, Councillor George Chance-Osman, Councillor Charlotte Jobson, Councillor Ellie Batterham and Councillor Bronte Turner as Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Councillors. The new Youth Councillors join long standing member of the Youth Councillor Niamh Strong who was also awarded the Award for Community Service in Castle Bromwich this year.

During the year the Youth Council launched a DVD of their work at the Senior Clerks Practitioners Conference. Park Hall Media Studies Students worked closely with the Parish Council to make the promotional video. The aim of the video was to try and recruit more young people and to show exactly what a Youth Council can achieve.

**We are delighted to report that six more Youth Councils have now been established as a result of our young people's hard work and effort. Students also led the Remembrance Parade at Castle Bromwich Cenotaph which was an extremely valuable and moving experience. Well done to Park Hall Academy students and Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council.**

**Dr L Browne** Assistant Headteacher (Community)

# Young Enterprise

This year's Young Enterprise team, Timeless, are a group of six Year 10 students who have been researching and developing their products since September. Their primary products are clocks made out of vinyl records.

The Christmas Trade Fair in Central Birmingham gave the team a fantastic experience, despite the cold and windy December weather. They had amazing feedback from the Young Enterprise judges who identified their products as having major potential. The students are eager and motivated to put these ideas into place ready for the next trade fair on the 5th March in Touchwood, Solihull, where they will be competing against schools from Birmingham and Solihull.

Miss H Begum Business Studies





# Park Hall Academy Radio

**Testing! Testing! Is anyone listening? Park Hall Academy is live and on the air!**

This year marks the return of Park Hall's Academy Radio programme, beginning with the Academy Radio Tutor Time programme; a 10 minute show that students can enjoy every morning with their form tutors. We have been broadcasting tutor time radio programmes featuring a range of exciting topics, including study skills, anti-bullying, and drug awareness. We have also produced some fun Christmas shows and tributes to tragedies that affect us most.

As the year progresses, we will add more exciting content and regular shows discussing football, celebrities as well as other fun topics. The purpose of the radio show is to be informative, entertaining and provide discussion topics for form teachers to debate with their classes. So far we have had really encouraging feedback about the quality of the shows. Students are enjoying listening to their friends broadcast and teachers have commented on the exciting discussion that the daily radio programme is generating.

Academy Radio is ambitious this year. We hope to expand to live Youtube streams, lunch time Free Radio shows and after school programmes. We also hope to enable parents to listen in on the radio shows, so that families can talk about the topics at home and stay informed with what students are doing at school.

All the shows are written, produced and hosted by students and the shows are getting better day by day! Shout out to Sam Lyttle, the Year 12 student who is in charge of the Tutor Time programme. Sam and other Year 12 students are doing a fantastic job developing our daily broadcasts.

Are you interested in being part of Academy Radio? As we expand we will need more writers, announcers and people to help develop shows each week. Some shows will be pre-recorded and some will be live. If you want to get your voice out there, contact Mr Smeaton and you too can be a broadcasting guru!

**Mr D Smeaton** Media Studies Teacher

Radio

# Media



## SCRIPT WRITING WORKSHOP

BTEC Level 3 Media students had a taste of University life when lecturer, Philip Nichols came to visit from the University of Wolverhampton. Park Hall students are currently writing their own TV drama scripts, using original concepts and characters, scripting ideas for a new soap opera, crime drama or a fantasy drama.

The workshop provided by The University of Wolverhampton showed Park Hall students an example of an award winning script and short film production to get them thinking about how they can use dialogue to engage an audience in their own script.

**“He inspired me a lot – helping me to decide what I would want to do with my future in the media industry. The overall experience was most beneficial especially as he showed us a short film created by his former students, which allowed me to get an insight of what university media studies is like and what I could achieve.”**

Emma Ensor Year 12 Media student

During the summer term, students will film their scripts, working in partnership with local Birmingham TV channel - Big Centre TV. Students will have the exciting opportunity to air their short dramas on the channel.

Mr P Edwards Head of Media



# Art

The superb remembrance exhibition based at the Tower of London was used as inspiration for Park Hall art students, who made a poppy in form time during November and wrote down some thoughts about why it is important to remember our fallen soldiers. This culminated in a powerful site specific art installation in their honour. We will remember them.





**Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, the 888,246 ceramic poppies installation in the Tower of London, each poppy representing a British military fatality during the First World War.**



# Sport

It has been an extremely busy first term for the Park Hall PE department. We have entered a variety of competitions and tournaments and have had a great deal of success. Below are all of the football results for the first term for boys.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
7-0 win vs Lighthall	10-0 win vs Myton School	10-0 win vs John Henry Newman	4-0 win vs Lyndon	1-0 win vs Moseley School
4-3 win vs St Edmund Campion	4-2 loss vs Heart of England	9-0 win vs Lighthall	5-1 loss vs Heart of England	7-6 win on penalties vs Lyndon
6-2 loss vs St Bedes Middle School	2-1 win vs Moreton School	1-0 win vs St Albans Academy	2-1 win vs Walsall Academy	3-2 loss vs Kingsmead School
6-3 loss vs Bishop Challoner		6-5 win vs Bishop Ullathorne	6-0 win vs Tamworth Enterprise College	
6-1 win vs Southam College (A Team)		6-1 win vs Rawlett School	4-2 win vs South Bromsgrove High	
1-1 draw vs Southam College (B Team)		4-3 loss vs North Leamington School	4-2 win on penalties vs Idsall School	
14-2 win vs Southam College (C Team)				
7-0 win vs Heart of England				

The girls have also had a busy first term and have had regular fixtures, below are the results:

#### FOOTBALL:

##### U13 GIRLS:

PHA White 1 v PHA Blue 9

PHA Blue 0 v Arden 3

U13 Girls won 4-3 against St Peter's

U13 Girls Blue Team drew 2-2 with Heart of England

U13 Girls Blue Team drew 2-2 with John Henry Newman

U13 Girls White Team lost 4-2 to Heart of England

##### U15 GIRLS:

PHA 3 v Arden 2 (Felicity Barnes hat trick)

U15 Girls won 4-1 against St Peters

U15 Girls Football drew 2-2 with CTC.

The Year 10 girls also beat Lighthall 9-4 in their netball fixture. The Year 10 girls also had a great success in winning the North Solihull Indoor Rowing Competition.

We have also competed in the North Solihull indoor athletics competition with the Year 7 boys, Year 8 boys and Year 9 girls all coming 1st in their team competition and qualifying for the Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire competition which will be held in March.

The Year 8 and 9 boys have also competed in the North Solihull Indoor Rowing competition and came 1st in both age groups.

This term sees the start of Rugby Club, to be held on Tuesday evenings after school with a professional coach from Worcester Warriors. The regular clubs of fitness (at lunchtime), Badminton (Tuesday), Trampoline (Monday and Wednesday), Table Tennis (Wednesday) will all still be running as usual. Football will start again after February Half Term.

**The PE department.**

# Football Boys

## YEAR 7

The year 7-football team had a terrific start to the year with a comfortable 7-0 win over Myton School in the English Schools cup. There was a standout performance from Luis Cowley Bryenton who scored a hat trick on his debut. The year 7's followed this up with good wins over St Edmund Campion (4-3), Southam College (6-1) and Heart of England (7-0). Unfortunately

they were knocked out of the English schools cup by a strong St Bede's team. Despite being 3-1 up with 10 minutes left they were also knocked out of the Birmingham Cup by Bishop Challoner. The boys have done remarkably well in their first year, they have been excellent ambassadors for Park Hall and are performing well in the Solihull Cup.



## YEAR 8

The year 8 football team are having a successful season so far and are currently undefeated. They started the season with a fantastic 10-0 win against Light Hall and worked hard to secure

a 2-1 win against Moreton School. The boys have progressed to the semi finals of the Solihull cup after beating Arden 9-4 in the quarterfinals.

## YEAR 9

The boys had a successful start to the year scoring a flurry of goals against John Henry Newman (10-0), Light hall (9-0) and Bishop Ullathorne (6-5) before losing to North Leamington School 4-3 despite having 4 players unavailable. There have been standout performances from Mikkel Boone, Reece Platt, Lucas Powell, Matthew Parker and Kye Shewell. The years 9s still remain in the Birmingham cup and have also reached the semi finals of the Solihull cup after beating Arden in the quarter finals.

### Team Semi Final

Following on from last year's football success in winning both the Solihull Cup and Birmingham Cup, the Year 9 boys football team are now in the final of the Birmingham Cup after a 10-2 win against Priory School (who were last year's finalists).

**The team would really appreciate as much support as possible in the Final on Monday 11th April at 4pm at Bodymoor Heath, the training ground of Aston Villa Football Club.**

All the other boys football teams are also in all the Solihull Cup semi-finals so hopefully at least one of the teams will win a trophy this year.

**Daniel Price** Assistant Headteacher - KS4



The Year 9 team  
Alex Knowles  
Reece Platt  
Thomas Faux  
Remi Colbourne-  
Boxhill

Mikkel Boone  
Callum Brown  
Matthew Parker  
Lewis McNicolas  
Kye Shewell  
Will Simons

Talor Belgrave  
Tom Kitchin  
Lucas Powell  
Kaine Hayden  
Charlie Noakes  
Rahmal Miles

## YEAR 10

Year 10 reached the last 32 of the National cup beating Walsall Academy, Tamworth Enterprise College, South Bromsgrove High and Idsall College before being beaten comfortably by Thomas Telford. It really was a fantastic effort to reach the last 32 of a competition that had over 600 entries, showing just how skillful and talented this team is. Along with year 7, 8 and 9 the Year 10 team are also in the semi finals of the Solihull cup after a comfortable win against Arden in the quarter finals. Asa Crosling and Jack Symonds have been consistently outstanding and have made great contribution to this teams success.



# Football Girls

The girls have also had a busy first term and have had regular fixtures, with the u13 girls beating St Peters 4-3, and drawing 2-2 with both Heart of England and John Henry Newman. The u15 team have been very successful, they opened with a 3-2 win over Arden with Felicity Barnes scoring a hat trick! They have also beaten St Peters 4-1 and drew 2-2 with CTC. A great start to the season. Both the u13s and u15s have tournaments coming up and will be looking for even more success.

# Indoor Rowing

Park Hall pupils proved just how versatile they are with success in Indoor rowing. Teams were entered in every year group with Year 10 girls and Year 8 boys securing gold medals and Year 10 girls B team and Year 10 boys working hard for their silver medals. The gold medalists went onto to represent North Solihull against other schools from the whole of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. The year 8 boys team came in at 5th place, which was a great achievement. The PE department is particularly proud that these teams were awarded the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire 'Values' award for demonstrating Olympic Values, Friendship, Respect and Excellence – well done, we are very proud of you!



Year 8 girls – Indoor Athletics



Year 8 girls – Indoor Athletics



Year 8 boys working as a team at the regional rowing event.



Jamie Dark holding the "Values" award. Awarded to the team that demonstrated Olympic values



The Year 8 Boys rowing team at the County Games (January 2016) 5th place. From l – r George Appleton, Jamie Dark, Kyro Edwards, Tom Barker

# Indoor Athletics

Park Hall pupils have found great success in Indoor Athletics with year 7 boys, year 8 boys and year 8 girls all being crowned North Solihull Champions – progressing to the Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire regional competition later in the year. The year 7 girls did extremely well and finished second, receiving the silver medal. There were stand out performances from Ethan Fletcher (y7), Kruize Williams (y7) and Kofi Bennett (y8). These teams will now compete at the Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire regional competition later in the year.



The Year 8 Boys rowing team at the County Games (January 2016) 5th place. From l – r George Appleton, Jamie Dark, Kyro Edwards, Tom Barker

# Netball

The year 10 girls have shown excellent commitment to training and were successful in their games against Lighthall and CTC. Captain Millie Hall says "Im really proud of this team, we are building on the success found last year where we were crowned North Solihull Champions, im hoping that if we keep working as we are we will be able to hold on to the title this year" The year 7 netball team have started well and won their first ever game beating CTC Kingshurst and have qualified for a regional tournament. Mercedes Blake has been an outstanding player – well done! We look forward to seeing how the girls get on throughout their time at Park Hall Academy.



# Badminton

Badminton club at Park Hall Academy has had a great turnout this year with students from Years 7- 11 attending on Tuesdays after school. Students have enjoyed playing and mixing with other students from different year groups - many gaining a lot of physical and social skills! Park Hall Academy has had a very successful start to the year with the U14s (boys and girls) becoming 'North Solihull Champions' and they will go through to play at the county championship. Next week, the U16's will compete in the North Solihull badminton tournament, looking for a chance to uphold our title of 'North Solihull Champions'.

Congratulations to all participants - whether they attend badminton club or compete in fixtures in 2015/2016!

**Miss Newlands**



# Trampolining

Park Hall Academy entered a group of 5 gymnasts into the West Midlands Schools Trampoline Championships this term. The students representing Park Hall Academy were Jai Cox, Katie Cox, Luke Lawrence, Rachel Lawrence and Tia Commander who competed in the West Midlands Championship at North Solihull Sports Centre on Sunday 6th December ready for the competition. The pupils competed in a range of age groups and the Novice and Intermediate categories. The girls were up first in the u19 Novice and U14 Novice. Both Rachel and Katie did very well, giving it everything they had, even though they were a little nervous. Rachel finished 28th out of 67 in the U14 Novice and Rachel Lawrence finished 17th out of 33 in the U19 Novice. We then turned to the intermediate section where Jai Cox, Luke Lawrence and Tai Commander competed. Tia Commander finished 21st out of 33 in the U14 Intermediate, Jai Cox came 12th out of 19 in the U19 Intermediate and Luke performed extremely well to finish 2nd in the U14 Intermediate Boys category, which meant that he qualified for the zonal final in Cardiff in January.

Luke had a very successful year last year to finish 2nd in the National Schools Final in the Novice category. Luke moved up to the more challenging intermediate event and qualified for the National Semi-Final in Cardiff which is a fantastic achievement in his first year at this level. In the Semi Finals, Luke performed two superb routines to finish 5th, just missing out on qualification to the Intermediate Final. Well done to all Park Hall Trampolinists. We wish them all the best of luck in future competitions.

**Miss S Tomlinson PE Teacher**





# Healthy Self Youth Conference Takeover

**On Friday 27th November 2015 students from every secondary school and college in Solihull descended on Park Hall Academy for the NHS student Healthy Self Youth Conference and Takeover Challenge. The conference was organised by Solihull Hospital in partnership with Solihull MBC's Youth Services and delivered by members of Solihull Youth Forum.**

The youth forum members are from local schools and colleges and had worked really hard to make the conference a success. Park Hall Academy Health & Social Care and Children's Play, Learning and Development students hosted the day and oversaw the general planning, organisation of the day and supporting visitors. Media Studies students took photos and videoed the whole event. An additional 15 Health & Social Care and Children's Play, Learning and Development students attended the conference to complement their academic studies.

The day was a tremendous success. Students welcomed our visitors and showed them around the Market Place. The conference started with a rousing welcome from Solihull Youth Forum which was followed with a powerful theatre performance looking at 'Teenagers who are in violent relationships' by

'Loudmouth Theatre Group'. The play was followed up with students hot seating the actors and challenging the characters; this was powerful stuff and really made an impact on everyone in the room. Students then had time to reflect followed by some beautiful singing, music and entertainment. The Round Table Discussions on anti-radicalisation delivered by Solihull Police, mental health, cyber bullying, sexting, grooming, young carers, bereavement and youth workshops were extremely useful, insightful and relevant. Everyone felt this had been a very successful and useful conference, with the words 'excellent', 'outstanding' and 'extremely relevant' being heard again and again throughout the day.

**Dr L Browne** Assistant Headteacher (Community)



# Young Drivers Workshop

**Year 12 students attended the NEC in January, to take part in a young driver's workshop. There were four different workshops taking place, the first of which was run by the West Midlands Fire Service.**

Fire Fighter Arron Lennon described his department's role following a traffic collision. He also told us that the 17 – 24 age group is the one most likely to be involved in an accident due to inexperience. A 'hard hitting' video was shown, featuring real life incidents and interviews with victims and victim's families.

Subsequently, hosts Jess and Nick talked about driving under the influence of alcohol and the limits for men and women. We were challenged to walk in a straight line and open a box with a key, whilst wearing 'beer goggles'. I managed to do it quite quickly without wobbling but a lot of people didn't and some even tripped. We then learned about the effects of driving under the influence of drugs.

Then came the chance to drive! I was quite scared about this workshop as I had never driven before so as we were paired up, I let Sam go first so I could see how he did. When it came to my turn, the instructor explained everything again for me and then I set off. I thought that I would not do as well as I did and I surprised myself! I am glad I actually rose to the challenge but I was not the only student who had to overcome nerves. Fellow student Ellie Batterham said, **"I was quite nervous, driving for the first time, but the instructor was calming and ensured we had a positive experience."**

Finally, Solihull Advanced Motoring, a road safety charity, discussed the importance of looking out for hazards and paying attention whilst driving. To illustrate this, they showed a cinema audience a video of a car driving down the road. Whilst the audience were watching the screen, they sent the audience a text and as everyone looked down at their phone, the video showed the car crashing. This reinforced how dangerous it is to use a phone whilst driving.

The event was an invaluable experience, offering not only a chance to drive, but also to learn more about the dangers of being on the road and alerting 17-24 year olds that they are in most danger of having an accident. I believe that this knowledge will help us be more road-aware and prepare us for driving lessons.

**Jade Avery-Smith**



**A 'hard hitting' video was shown, featuring real life incidents and interviews with victims and victim's families.**

# Hamlet



Performing Arts students performed a production of William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre in November, for the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival. For around 10 weeks, the cast rehearsed every lunchtime and often after school, attempting to condense the 3 hour play down to 30 minutes, also incorporating movement pieces into it. It was a great experience for everyone, allowing us to bond as a cast, integrating year groups and be able to be a part of a memorable experience.  
Katie Payne

**“Congratulations to all of the students involved in the production of Hamlet last night. I was stunned by the quality of the performances. The whole cast were incredible – professional, convincing and compelling. I expect to see a few familiar faces on the RSC stage in Stratford in the future! So excited to see what they can do with ‘The Tempest’ for next year!”** Mr East

**“Congratulations to the cast and crew of Park Hall Academy on their wonderful production of Hamlet at the Lichfield Garrick. This was an accomplished and original production; frantic, focused and powerful. I hope to see Park Hall Academy in the Festival again next year.”**

**Jason Parkes**  
Shakespeare Schools Festival Venue Director

It was lovely being at your performance and seeing the magic of the evening. What a night! We had a dramatic and bold King Lear, an eerie and bewitching Macbeth, a magical and hilarious Midsummer Night's Dream, and committed and physical Hamlet. We have loved working with you to make the 2015 Festival happen! Clare Meade - Shakespeare Schools Festival Coordinator

"It was such fun to go back to my old Primary School and show them our production. The students appeared to really enjoy the performance even though it is a complex play." Sophie West

"Hamlet has been a great experience as we had the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre and develop our understanding of working in a professional manner." Chloe Hall

"I loved playing Hamlet, it was by far the best thing I have ever done and it has helped me develop skills that I never thought I ever had. To have a personal mention at the end was emotional and now I definitely want to pursue acting as a career." James Hunt





# Park Hall's Elite Students Achieve in the Dance World Cup

**On June 26th 2015 Charley McMahon, Holly Palmer, Nathan Parkinson, Sophie West and Charlotte Ford travelled to Romania along with 30 other dancers from Spotlight Stage School to form part of the England team representing our country in the Dance World Cup championships.**

Holly Palmer and Nathan Parkinson were part of a Song and Dance quartet which won a gold medal and we were asked to perform in a special gala night in which we won another award in. Nathan Parkinson performed a modern solo and achieved a bronze medal and Holly Palmer was part of another quartet performing a tap routine, which was also awarded with a bronze medal. In our Hip Hop troupe we were against a lot of really good countries. We gained 94.6 marks giving us 2nd place and we were only 0.3 marks from winning gold!

In total Spotlight Stage School entered 8 dances as part of team England and we were awarded a medal in all sections gaining 2 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 2 bronze medals.

**Charley McMahon said "It was a brilliant week and we met some lovely people from other countries. We were given the opportunity to watch different styles of dancing from Germany, Russia and South Africa. We would stand up and sing the National Anthem every time team England won a medal. Overall, we had an amazing experience which we shall never forget."**

We have more exciting events coming up including: Performing



at Wembley Stadium with a famous celebrity and hoping to qualify for Team England Dance World Cup Championships 2016 in Jersey.

**Charley McMahon** Year 8

**Mrs Cullen Kenyon** Head of Performing Arts

## Drama Club



**Since the beginning of the year, Park Hall Drama Club has been working hard, rehearsing a play called Beauty IS a Beast. The play is an exciting combination of a pantomime mixed with a fairy tale moral!**

Beauty and her sister Honour are very different, one is beautiful on the outside and one is beautiful on the inside. Beauty thinks that everyone's life revolves around her, but when she is not voted Queen of the ball at a party that her sister has organised she is very upset! Not only that, but she claims that Honour has stolen her prince- however, Prince Andres would much rather have the kind and caring Honour over the selfish and spiteful

Beauty. To teach her a lesson the fairy godmother turns her Ugly so that she has to be nice to people... I wonder how she will get on!?

Drama club is on from 3-4 every Tuesday after school. It is not too late to get involved! Rehearsals now take place in the assembly hall where students can use the stage. There are still opportunities to get involved! We need stage managers, lighting and sound technicians, marketing and front of house. There will be 2 evening shows at Easter (dates TBC). Don't miss out and if you would like any more information - please see Miss Keyte in S29!

### **SO what does the drama club think!?**

Drama is a great way to socialise with people who have the same interests as you. I love acting and always enjoy coming! **Lauren Fleming 7S2**

I enjoy acting, I realised it was a talent of mine a while ago, I wished to be an actress in the future and I feel like this will help me. **Courtney Haden 8S2**

Drama club doesn't come with a set of instructions; you just express yourself and create your own. **Sophie Dainty 8J1**

I became more confident and made friends with other years! It's really fun here! **Chloe Lutumba 7S1**

I used to be really shy but I am getting more confident and I really enjoy it here and I have met people I would not have seen unless I came to drama! **Chloe Nokes 7A1**

Drama club helps you to become more confident there aren't any rules telling how to do everything; you can express yourself whilst having fun. **Eleanor Shaw 7S1**

A student is shown in profile, focused on two computer monitors. The left monitor displays a software interface with a grid and text, while the right monitor shows a more complex interface with multiple rows of data or code. The student's hand is on a keyboard. The background is dimly lit, suggesting a classroom or computer lab setting.

# GCSE Performing Arts

**The year 11 GCSE Performing Arts class have been exceptionally busy this half term. Students have been on two exciting trips, the first to see the Nutcracker by Birmingham Royal Ballet at Birmingham Hippodrome - a first experience for many of our students and the Grimm Tales at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, an experience they all thoroughly enjoyed and an opportunity from which they gained valuable insight into the role of a performer.**

Furthermore our lighting student; Alex Bartram recently went to Lichfield Garrick Theatre, he had the opportunity to be part of production meetings, meet professionals, programme the lights and operate during a live performance of Hamlet. Faraday Woodfield also created marketing materials for the same production of Hamlet including posters and took rehearsal photographs. The marketing team for GCSE Performing Arts is Maisie Davies, Faraday Woodfield and Poppy Matthews two of whom have added their own experiences of the course, this article is also part of their coursework evidence.

#### **Maisie Davies**

To add to the busy half term the dancers and actors took part in a full day off timetable to participate in a dance workshop

with a professional artist called Laura Millward. The reaction from the students has been great. Lauryn Boone said "It was an enjoyable experience and I really enjoyed it, I could see how I improved from the start to the end". Others such as Destiny Byrnes and Olivia Cox said it helped improve their technique and ability to show character in a dance.

#### **Faraday Woodfield**

All this work was to help us in our unit 2 brief from the exam board AQA. Everyone in the country is given the same brief; it is "We are such things as dreams are made on". This is a quote from Shakespeare's play, The Tempest. We have decided to base our performance on Chris Gardner who is the inspiration for the film The Pursuit of Happiness starring Will Smith. Our performance is the story of Chris Gardner's life, as if the audience are at a conference and being inspired by his journey. As a Park Hall Academy Company, our aim is to accomplish first-rate performances, such as those displayed by professional theatre companies.

**We will be performing our piece in late March and hope to see you there!**



# Abac Christmas Rewards

Sixty students from Years 7, 8 and 9 with the highest number of Abac rewards points were rewarded with a trip to the Christmas Fayre in the 6th form refectory. Sixth Form students worked tirelessly, setting up their stalls as part of their enrichment programme with their teachers Mrs Lewis and Mr Smeaton.

Students fantastic stalls offered not only delicious food and drink such as hot chocolate with marshmallows and gingerbread men but also a range of Christmas challenges and activities, including a Tombola, Christmas decoration making, Santa's photo booth, kick the football through the snowman's tummy, Santa's treasure map and much more.

Head of 6th Form, Mr Cornell commented:

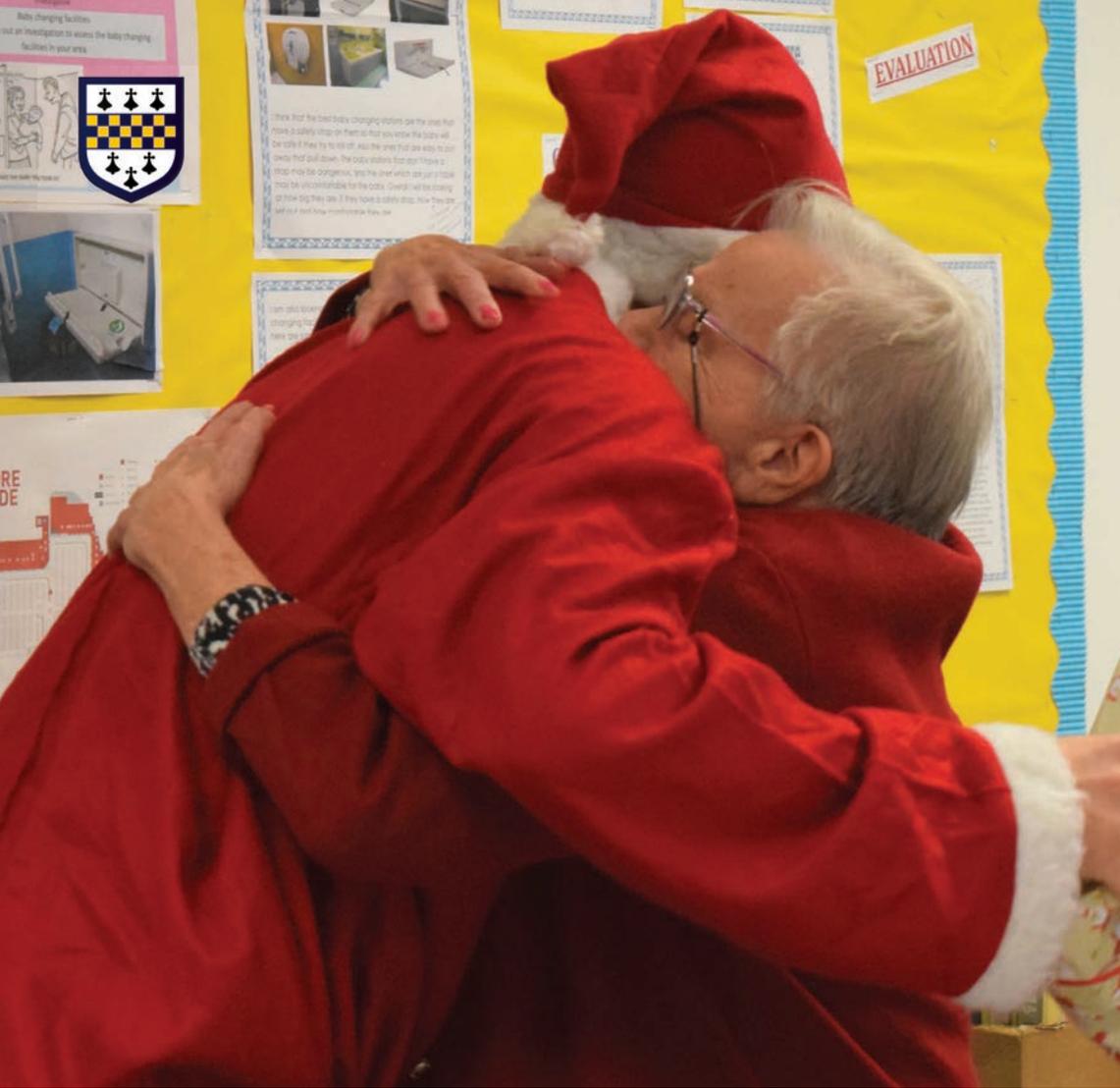
**"It is great to see our 6th form students putting so much effort into organising an event for the younger students. To see the different age groups enjoying these games and challenges together has really brought the Christmas spirit to Park Hall this week."**

All proceeds from the event have been donated to 'Miriam's Vision', a charity which works to bring 'sight saving' treatments and operations to adults and children in developing countries.

Mrs J Lewis Media Studies Teacher









# Senior Citizens Christmas Party

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the residents of St Catherine's Lodge to Park Hall Academy for a belated Christmas Party on Friday 22nd January 2016. Year 12 Health and Social Care students had been busy preparing for the party by making invitations, Christmas cards, decorations and wrapping presents.

Our special guests were warmly greeted by the students who assisted our visitors by escorting them to the attractively decorated party room. Fun and laughter was on the agenda for the afternoon, starting with the entertainment, provided by Performing Arts students, who sang beautifully for our guests. Special moments of the day were captured by the Park Hall Academy student executive media representative Sam Lyttle, who took some amazing photographs!

The ladies were excited at a visit from Santa bearing gifts for each one of them. Delicious party food and refreshments, served by the Sixth Form students was kindly provided by the Park Hall Academy catering staff. Each lady was allocated a personal student who catered for their every need at the Christmas party, assisting in the Christmas quiz (ensuring there was no cheating going on) and helping the ladies in case they missed any numbers in our bingo games.

The students displayed effective communication skills with our special guests, who certainly appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they wrote individual thank you cards to the students. Such feedback from the ladies was very much appreciated.

**A thank you message from Lady B. (St Catherine's Lodge)**  
***It's Christmas time at P.H.A.***

***We've all been waiting for this day.***

***The lovely girls and some boys too,***

***I only wish I was 22***

***The songs they sing are all the best,***

***There's food galore – it's quite a test!***

***Crackers, lots of quizzes too and there's more***

***A hug from Santa before he leaves through the door.***

***Everyone was so very kind***

***A great BIG thank you – You will live in my mind! xx***

Many thanks to Year 12 Health and Social students who were outstanding in their organisation and running of the Christmas party, making it a very special day for all involved. A special thanks to Mrs Todd, Dr Browne and Mrs Cullum-Kenyon for all their help and support!

**Mrs S Todd** Social Science & Child Development

## Christmas Card Competition

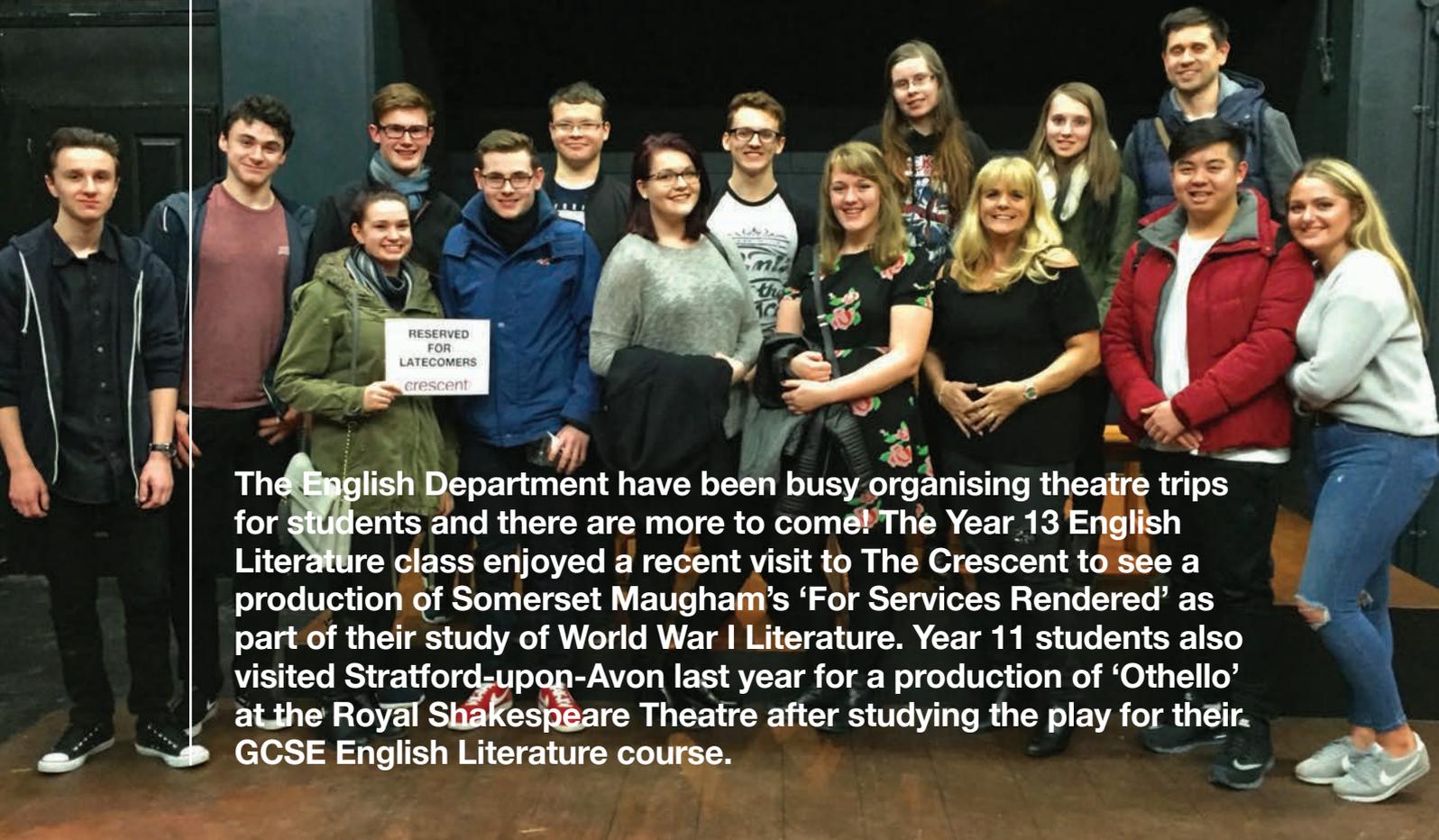
**With Christmas fast approaching, a competition was launched to create a Christmas card for the school.**

Designs could be created using any type of media including photographs, paint and digital media. The overall winner was Bonita Woralee in Year 8, who created a beautiful design of a reindeer in a snow covered forest. Bonita was thrilled to have been chosen as 2015's winner and scooped a prize that included a basket of sweets and a pack of her cards. It was a very tough decision, as all entries were of such a high standard, and used many imaginative and eye catching designs. Well done to all those of you who entered.





# Off to the Theatre



The English Department have been busy organising theatre trips for students and there are more to come! The Year 13 English Literature class enjoyed a recent visit to The Crescent to see a production of Somerset Maugham's 'For Services Rendered' as part of their study of World War I Literature. Year 11 students also visited Stratford-upon-Avon last year for a production of 'Othello' at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre after studying the play for their GCSE English Literature course.



"I want as many students as possible to have the opportunity to experience live theatre," said Mr East, Deputy Head of English.

"It's such an important part of developing an appreciation for drama and really helps with understanding of plays studied in the classroom. You can't beat the thrill of watching something live on stage and I'm delighted that so many students are taking advantage of these opportunities."

Future theatre trips planned include 'Death of a Salesman' for AS and A level English literature students, 'Of Mice and Men' for Year 11 and 'Macbeth' for Year 10.

# Literacy at Park Hall Academy

Mr J Roper Director of Progress

**Literacy is vital to a successful future. It is a broad term that covers a wide range of essential reading and writing skills. Literacy isn't just about English; it is about clearly communicating your ideas and understanding the ideas of others. Good literacy levels significantly impact exam outcomes. Our students have lots of opportunity to practise their skills in the academy.**

## Accelerated Reader

All students in KS3 take part in our accelerated reader programme. They complete reading tests to monitor their reading age and then read these in their English lessons. Students also read in form time every Friday. Students complete quizzes on each book to help test their understanding of it, before moving on to a new book. Each book in the library is colour coded to help students choose the book most suitable for their reading

ability. It is important to support this programme by encouraging your child to read at home, it is proven to be the most successful way to improve literacy skills.



## The library

We have thousands of books in our outstanding library. If students fancy escaping in a book, they are free to browse at lunch or break time and can then loan one out. Our librarians have expert knowledge and can request a book to suit any tastes. Students can also request a specific book, and if we don't have it in stock we'll do our best to order it in for you.

Grant from Dorridge and Knowle Round Table  
Many thanks to the generosity of Dorridge and Knowle who presented us with a cheque to support the literacy of our students. The money has allowed us to purchase books based on student requests and invite authors in to visit the school.



## Visiting Authors



Following on from our visiting author Dan Freedman in July, local author Bali Rai visited the Academy in December and treated the year groups to an insight into his writing process and inspirations. Bali's novels are funny but very relevant to teenagers growing up in the UK. After his assemblies, he ran writing workshops with a selection of Year 9 and 10 students to support their writing skills. Bali's books are still available in the library so any interested students should check them out.

# WHY English?

## Ten conclusive reasons for committing to your study of English

### 1. English provides you with access to knowledge

Having a good command of the English Language ensures that you are able access all of your subjects. If you acquire good skills in English, you won't just have access to inspiring works of Literature; you'll be able to educate yourself further by reading scientific books and papers.

### 2. English is an intellectual challenge

The diverse nature of English means that all students will find an aspect of the subject challenging. The English Language is full of unexpected pronunciations, odd rules and frustrating exceptions to rules. English requires dedication and perseverance.

### 3. English is the language of some of the world's greatest literature

The study of English includes reading works by some of the world's most famous writers. English Language and English Literature work hand in hand to develop creative English writing abilities and an understanding and critical appreciation for written prose and poetry, with an emphasis on the classic works of famous writers old and new.

### 4. English promotes a joy of the written word

Reading opens minds to world cultures and allows you to develop a full and active imagination. Reading for pleasure is an important and valid pastime and I would encourage you to support your child as much as possible to read regularly.

### 5. English allows you to gain more from popular culture

From theatre and dance to drama, literature, music and museums, English opens the door to appreciating an exciting world of culture and art.

### 6. English is essential to every aspect of living a full life and participating in society

We are surrounded by language everywhere we go. A sound knowledge of English buys opportunities. Opportunities to continue learning in life, opportunities to get the best jobs and opportunities to take advantage of all life has to offer.

### 7. English provides you with the opportunity to develop your communication skills

Students relish the opportunity to share an idea or offer an interpretation. Unlike other subjects, English requires you to formulate an argument and perfect your powers of persuasion.

### 8. English allows you to develop your writing skills

The ability to spell correctly and know how to punctuate are invaluable skills that will dictate how likely you are to secure a job. Many jobs require you to submit a CV before attending an interview so you must be able to present yourself well on the written page.

### 9. English gives you access to some of the world's best universities

English is a highly regarded qualification. Achieving good grades at GCSE and A Level will ensure that you are able to apply to the university of your choice.

### 10. English will make you more desirable to employers

English has been referred to as 'the language of business', the skills learnt in this subject prepare you for the workplace and will enable you to meet the demands of your future job whether it be in the boardroom or managing the shop floor.

Miss A Chorley Head of English

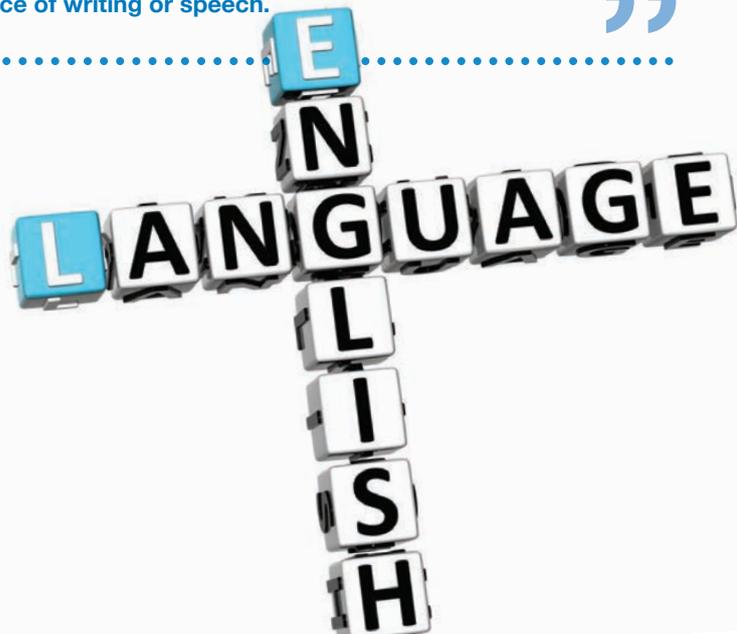
## What our students say

Milly Corbett 9J1

“ English is where you can forget about other things and focus on the deeper meaning of society and the history of poets and wonderful experiences that were before our time. It improves your vocabulary and allows you to express your emotions. ”

Sophie Nash 9B1

“ I believe English is important because when we are older and applying for jobs it will be necessary to use Standard English and use higher order lexis when completing an application form. It is also important because you have to be able to understand the intentions of a piece of writing or speech. ”



**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY



**ARDEN**

'ParkLife' magazine is published by Park Hall Academy:  
Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 9HF

Tel: 0121 748 0400 Email: [parkhallschool.org.uk](mailto:parkhallschool.org.uk)

[www.parkhallschool.org.uk](http://www.parkhallschool.org.uk)   ParkHallAcademy