

Parklife

Autumn 2016 / 17
The Journal of Park Hall Academy

PARK HALL
ACADEMY





From Strength to Strength

Dear Parent/Carer

This year begins on a fantastic note as we achieve our highest GCSE pass rate with a rise of 11%. This is well-deserved as Year 11 worked tirelessly alongside our staff to ensure they could fulfil their potential and leave with the highest examination results possible – securing their future.

A sample of the exciting things that have happened so far this year include the Media Studies educational visit to New York, Lower Sixth students taking over the Council House to shadow key staff including the Chief Executive of the council, the Year 9 football team winning both the Solihull and Birmingham Cup finals, six new students being co-opted onto Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council, local junior schools taking part in a range of sports at Park Hall, year 10 and year 11 students completing a wide range of work placements in the local community, the Academy Student Leadership Team visiting The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Mike Robinson and it is true to say that we are extremely proud that Mike has also been a committed Park Hall Academy Governor for many years.

This year it is crucial we work together to maximise your child's progress. The harsh truth is that obtaining good qualifications is becoming increasingly harder – as examinations are getting even more rigorous – this is combined with the Government phasing out coursework.

In essence, we need to prepare our children for a new tough examination culture. They will be tested on information at the end of a two year course. There is no longer a way we can record evidence of students work or give them the opportunity to earn marks before entering the exam.

To ensure your child has the best chance in this increasingly tough world, it is essential we work together. Lots of Headteachers' write this in lots of documents – today – it has never been so true. We can prepare the children with content, facts and skills, but our children need to practice these skills and revise at home for tests/exams. School simply doesn't have enough hours in the day to help our students memorise everything.

Memorising for tests is an essential skill they need to learn from year 7 – and most students will need parent support – encouragement or policing and testing regularly!!! Please support your child's future by ensuring they revise hard and complete homework. Without the skills to revise and the regular practice in examination conditions your child's future will be potentially damaged. The competition for jobs is intensive and

we want your child to walk into any job/course with confidence and that stems from having good qualifications – please do not ever think that preparation for GCSEs starts in Year 10 – it starts from the second they walk in at Year 7. Every test – every piece of classwork and homework is a building block for their future job. Each year they make more progress the chance they have to earn a better income and to have a better life increases dramatically.

This term will see all rewards focused on your child making rapid progress. The reward system will be explained in a letter from Mr Roper (Director of Progress). Please take a keen interest in your Child's progress and how much progress they are making. For the first time we are going to involve parents in target setting – your confidence and enthusiasm for progress are essential. Again, we will write to you to explain the new procedures.

This term I am delighted to see the excellent uniform of our students and I can already report that conduct around school is exemplary. We will continue our policy of strong discipline to underpin our values of care, reward and our core purpose of learning.

Thank you for your on-going support, it is, has been and continues to be essential in making Park Hall a centre for progress and excellence.

Mr D K Burgess - Headteacher



Careers Mark Award



In May 2016 Park Hall was awarded the Career Mark Award in recognition of its outstanding Careers, Information and Guidance Programme which is offered to students from year 7 all the way to year 13.

The national recognised award is a method used to verify that students are getting good guidance to make the best choices for them at different stages of their school career and in moving on to further education or employment at 16 and 18 years of age.

'Park Hall Academy places considerable emphasis on preparing its students for their career choices and ensuring that they can achieve the academic and personal requirements needed to succeed in life'.

Following a day of assessment in school and the production of a multiple folder portfolio the award was given without reservation from the organisation which reported very positively about the current careers advice and skills development that our students receive throughout their time here.

'The whole school approach of dedicated time, subject focus, extra curricular activities and the employment of a part-time qualified, impartial careers advisor are all testimony to the resources devoted to careers education, information, advice and guidance'.

Alongside identifying the school's specific careers programme, the award celebrated the overall ethos of the school in building career ready students who will be able to adapt to new roles as they are faced.

'The ethos to build self-esteem and ensure strong independent learning provides the foundation for self-awareness, learning about careers and the world of work, and ultimately, career management and employability skills'.

This award continues to demonstrate our absolute dedication to ensuring we give our youngsters the best possible chances in life and we would like to thank parents and carers for continuing to support the school and its ethos.

Some of the Careers education students receive across their school life includes:

Year 7:

- Career Immersion lessons looking at skill development
- Use of the careers database JED
- Assemblies identify how they will use their developing skills in future careers.

Year 8:

- Careers Immersion lesson looking at skill development
- Group meetings to discuss career ideas and skills needed with Mr Brady (Careers Advisor)
- Year 8 Career Fair held at school

Year 9:

- Careers Immersion lessons looking at management skills
- GCSE Options Support Programme
- Assemblies to support their understanding of finances and careers

Year 10:

- Career Immersion lessons looking at interview skills / C.V / applications
- Work Experience Placement
- Health and Safety at Work Training
- Individual Careers Meetings with Mr Brady (Careers Advisor)

Year 11:

- Skills Show Visit (NEC)
- Apprenticeships Morning (Internal)
- Individual careers meeting and bespoke follow up support to ensure applications and next stage organisation.

Sixth Form:

- Students complete a work experience placement.
- Students have career links to subjects they take.
- Students are given support sessions on their next stage of careers and individual support to ensure successful applications to their desired future location.







Curriculum Developments affecting Park Hall Academy and all schools nationally

Rough Guide to the Reforms to GCSE (2015-2019) for Parents and Students

Introduction

New courses at GCSE are being introduced between September 2015 and September 2017. There will also be changes to the way in which the examinations are graded. The introduction of these new courses is being staggered in three stages from September 2015 to September 2017. During this transition phase, which affects Park Hall students in the current Yr8, 9, 10, students will possibly be taking a mixture of new and old courses and, in the case of GCSEs between 2017 and 2019, they will be receiving results, some of which are graded in letters (old courses) and some in numbers (new courses).

What these changes are and when will they happen:

GCSE – new courses taught from September 2015 and first examined in June 2017. These began in September 2015 for the current Year 10 cohort. They will also affect your child

- Maths, English language and English literature (no single English)
- More content, more demanding, more extended writing
- Exam at the end of the course in June 2017, November resit for sixth-formers only

GCSE – further new courses to be taught from September 2016 and first examined in June 2018. Your child will be the first to study these courses

- Science (double and triple), French, History, Geography, Computer Science, Art and Design (Art and Photography), Food Preparation and Nutrition, Drama, Dance, Physical Education, Citizenship, Music,
- Internal teacher assessment/coursework only where essential
- More content, more emphasis on literacy and numeracy
- Exam at the end of the course in June 2018, no resits except for English and Maths for sixth-formers

GCSE – final group of new courses to be taught from September 2017 and first examined in June 2019. This affects the current Year 8 students

- All remaining subjects (e.g Sociology, Media Studies)
- Similar approach in terms of teacher assessment, content and emphasis on literacy and numeracy
- Exam at the end of the course in June 2019, no resits except for English and Maths for sixth-formers

Grading of new GCSEs

- 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest) will replace current grades A* to G in the new courses only between 2017 and 2019
- Top 20% of those awarded a 7 or above will be awarded a 9.
- 4 roughly equivalent to a C but 5 will be defined as a 'Good Pass'
- 7 and above roughly equivalent to an A and above

Senior Students and Leadership Team 2016

We are delighted to announce the Senior Pupil and Leadership teams for 2016-2017. We have some superb students who are exceptional ambassadors to represent Park Hall Academy. As in previous years, the students were put through their paces in a rigorous and thorough interview process. The calibre of student this year was of an exceptional standard. All of the students who took part in the nomination process should feel extremely proud of their achievements. There will be much work to do this year by the teams, and this has already started with representing the school in a meeting with the mayor of Solihull at the Council House.

Aimee Crisp

My name is Aimee. I am in Year 11 and I am Head Girl. I am also part of the Performing Arts department, with acting being my preferred aspect as it is something I thrive upon. I feel privileged to be part of the Senior Team and I am grateful to have secured the role of Head Girl as I believe it will offer many great and interesting opportunities as embark on my studies in Year 11. There are many things I would like to achieve from being Head Girl during the next year. I would like to help the community, meeting with local residents etc... but mainly I would like to be able to work together with my fellow students of Park Hall and address any issues they feel there are and move forward with resolving them.

Hannah Carthew

My name is Hannah Carthew and I am one of the Deputy Head Girls at Park Hall Academy. I love being on the Senior Team and really enjoy working with the other members. I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities my role on the Senior Leadership Team has and will continue to offer me. When I first started at Park Hall I struggled to fit in and had a lot of confidence issues. In this role I want to show myself and others just how much I have grown over my time at Park Hall and want to put my new gained skills into helping the school progress.

Alysha Maddocks-Spooner

My name is Alysha Maddocks-Spooner and I am Deputy Head Girl. One of my main commitments besides my role on the Senior Team, is the role I have in the Performing Arts department. Being a part of the team is great and really gives me an opportunity to help the people within the school and in the local area. One of my main targets I wish to achieve is to be a good role model to the younger students in the school.

Riddhi Patel

My name is Riddhi Patel and I am Deputy Head Girl for Park Hall Academy. As part of this role, I feel honoured to be involved in a range of tasks such as speaking in assemblies, introducing new year 7's and participating in after school events. I have improved my confidence, made new friends and got chances to represent the school. One of my many targets in this role is to help improve the school by bringing my ideas into meetings. Once again, I am very grateful for this role and can't wait to join in upcoming events!

Lewis Earp

My name is Lewis and I am delighted to have been selected by my peers and staff at Park Hall Academy as Head Boy for 2016-17. It is a privilege to take on this role and to be able to represent the Academy. As the previous Member of the Youth Parliament for Solihull I am particularly looking forwards to being the voice of the student body once again and working closely with the Leadership Team this year.

Harry Johnson

My name is Harry and I am a Deputy Head Boy on the Senior Team. I am delighted to be part of this team as it offers new experiences, as well as providing opportunities to help improve the Academy for students. Being in this role, my main aim is to bridge the gap between the pupils and staff, allowing all students to communicate their opinions and ideas on how we can adapt the school to better support them.

Uriah Griffiths

I am Uriah Griffiths and I am Deputy Head Boy on the Senior Team and I feel honoured to be part of a diverse group of incredible people. My hobbies include playing Badminton and



Athletics for my school team. In my role, I'd like to address and interact with all the students at Park Hall with their problems and ideology on how they would like to improve the school. I am looking forward to working closely with a brilliant team throughout the year!

Josh Hands

My name is Josh Hands and I am Deputy Head Boy for the Senior Team. My aim whilst in this role is to put ideas forward in order to improve school for the students. I am looking forward to working with the senior and leadership teams during the academic year.

Millie Hall

My name is Millie Hall and I am on the Leadership Team at Park Hall Academy. My role on the team is 'Head of Leadership'. This means that I liaise closely with the Head Boy and Head Girl to lead the rest of the Leadership Team. To be a part of the Leadership Team is a great honour and I feel very grateful as I know that so many other students could have been chosen for the team. I feel very proud as I am representing my school at different events. By being on the Leadership Team, I would like to make beneficial changes that will significantly help the students of all year groups. Also, I would like to be looked up to as a role model by other students.

Ben Brassington

My name is Ben and I enjoy playing football and Tennis. I am part of the Leadership Team at Park Hall Academy. Being a part of the Leadership Team, I want to be able to change the school for future pupils. I would also like to listen to what students have to say and make the changes necessary. Being a part of the Leadership Team has opened new opportunities for me and I am looking forward to working as part of the team during the year.

Jamie Hunt

My name is Jamie Hunt and I enjoy playing football and play guitar in my spare time. I feel proud and honoured to be a member of the Park Hall Academy Leadership Team. In my role I want to improve learner's attitudes to learning and help to ensure pupils opinions are being voiced in our regular meetings.

Ellis Witten

Hi my name is Ellis Witter and I have been chosen to be part of the Leadership Team for Year 11 2016/17. As part of the Leadership Team I have to be responsible and to represent Park Hall Academy. Currently, I am in Year 11 which means, apart from the Sixth Form, my year is the oldest in the school and are the role models for the younger years. Outside of school, I enjoy going out with friends, walking my dogs and face timing friends whilst doing homework. One of my main targets of being in the Leadership Team was to gain confidence through presenting in assemblies and having to speak to represent the school.

Layla Chiha

My name is Layla Chiha and I am currently a Year 11 student on the Senior Leadership Team. Being a senior student for the school is a very proud achievement for me, as not only will it benefit my CV, it will also enable me to experience new challenges and allow me to come out of my comfort zone. I hope to achieve many things as a Senior Student, however my main aim is to help the school as a whole make progress.

Faye Turberville

My name is Faye Truberville. My role is being part of the Senior Leadership Team. As part of the team, I have many responsibilities and represent the school in many different ways. Currently I am in Year 11. I am a role model for younger years and my peers. Outside of school I enjoy creative tasks such as Art. In my role I have many desires of what I want to achieve including gaining confidence.

Emma Hoare

My name is Emma Hoare. I am part of the Leadership Team. I feel happy about being part of the Leadership Team because I now have the opportunities to help improve the school and make a difference. I am excited about the different roles and jobs I will be able to do over the next year as it is something new. As a member of the Leadership Team I am looking forward to working with the Senior Staff members so that younger pupils have the best journey through school.



A visit to the Mayor

On Friday 8th September Park Hall Academy and Arden Academy Senior Students and Leadership Team were invited to visit The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Mike Robinson at Solihull Council House. This was a wonderful opportunity for both schools to enjoy a prestigious meeting with the Mayor of Solihull who made the students feel extremely welcome from the moment they arrived. Park Hall Students were delighted to have the opportunity to meet the Mayor Councillor Mike Robinson as he is a long standing Governor of Park Hall Academy which made the day extra special for everyone involved.

Mr Burgess, Park Hall Academy Headteacher and Mr D Warwood Vice-Principal accompanied the students to the Council House where the Mayor extended a warm welcome to students from both Arden and Park Hall Academy. Light refreshment were served in the function room and the Mayor explained the mornings itinerary which included a tour of the Council House, a visit to the Mayors Parlour, an informative talk about the role of the Mayor of Solihull and a rally interesting meeting in the Council Chamber where the students had the opportunity to ask the Mayor a number of extremely interesting and well thought-out questions.

It was lovely to see students from Arden and Park Hall Academy discussing their roles as Senior Students and members of their respective Leadership Teams. The visit provided a useful opportunity to share ideas and get to know each other better, it will be the first of many meeting where both groups of students can work together and help to develop their leadership roles through training and further opportunities which will be made available to both groups of students.

After the initial welcome the students were taken on a tour of the Council House by the Mayor. The students were treated to a rare visit to the Mayor's Parlour which is reserved for visiting dignitaries, leaders of industry and visitors from all walks of life, from all parts of the borough and countryside. The Mayor and his Assistant Mr John Watson explained the significance of a number of items including the Civic Plate, paintings from the

Mayoral art collection and that the Mayors Parlour is for the exclusive use of the Mayor and his guests. Interestingly entry to the Parlour is by invitation only, and guests are announced by a member of the Civic Suite staff. The students and staff found the Mayor's Parlour really interesting and were particularly interested in the décor which reflects a 1950 setting and provided an insight into the Mayors role and office.

The students then had the honour of taking part in a question and answer session in the Council Chamber itself. The Mayor Mike Robinson started the proceedings by explaining the role of the Mayor of Solihull. He explained that The Mayor of the Solihull Council is elected annually by the council from among the elected councillors. By statute, the election of the Mayor must be the first business transacted at the annual meeting.

The Mayor, Councillor Robinson explained that the primary role of a Mayor is to preside over meetings of the council. The Mayor's decision on the interpretation of standing orders and on any questions not provided for is final. He explained that the mace is an emblem of authority and its appearance indicates that the Mayor is acting in their official capacity: likewise its absence shows that the proceedings are not fully official. The mace is carried by the macebearer, usually on the right shoulder and immediately precedes the Mayor. The mace is reversed in the presence of the Sovereign. It is a symbol of the Royal authority delegated by the Sovereign to the Mayor and is thus redundant in the Monarch's presence.



The Mayor explained that Solihull's mace was presented to the borough in 1954 by Captain Oliver Bird. It weighs approximately 2.5 kilos (5lbs. 10oz.), is made of silver heavily gilded and contains approximately 300 pieces. The top is affixed with the Royal Crown signifying that Mayoral office is held under the authority of the Crown. The knob is divided into 4 panels showing:

1. the arms of Solihull
2. the Bear and Staff of Warwick
3. Parish Church of St Alphege
4. an inscription: "Presented by Captain Oliver Bird, MC JP to the Borough of Solihull on the occasion of its incorporation on 24 May 1954"

The students were impressed by the Council Chamber which is used primarily for council meetings and thoroughly enjoyed the question and answer session with the Mayor. A number of interesting questions were asked and the Mayor explained how an individual is selected to be the Mayor of Solihull, that the Mayor's main aim is to promote Solihull, to highlight the positive aspects of the town and he also discussed how respected Solihull is as a city across the world. The Mayor explained that he was particularly proud of the fact that Solihull provides good education and that he would like to see more of the people of Solihull. The position enables the Mayor to entertain and promote Solihull at the same time. He spoke about some of his recent engagements such as an Invitation to China day, where he had the opportunity to meet a number of people from China, including those from business and industry, who are looking to invest in Solihull. The Mayor said that he is very proud and privileged to be able to perform the role of First Citizen of Solihull.

The Mayor concluded the session by saying that he is extremely proud to be a Governor at Park Hall Academy and of the important connection he and the school has with Arden Academy. He wished all of the students well before urging them to use their vote, the Mayor said that it is so important to vote as true universal suffrage didn't come about until 1928. The Mayor then spoke to individual students and photographs were taken as a memento of this prestigious visit.

Students attending the prestigious meeting with the Mayor at the Solihull Council House were:

From Arden Academy:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| • Jacob Arnold | • Max Nagra |
| • Josh Craven | • Kyle Watt |
| • Lucy Connors | • Lucy Bugg |
| • Mia Davies | • Hope Talbot |

From Park Hall Academy:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Lewis Earp | • Aimee Crisp |
| • Harry Johnson | • Joshua Hands |
| • Uriah Griffiths | • Hannah Carthew |
| • Riddhi Patel | • Alysha Maddocks Spooner |
| • Millie-Jay Hall | • Faye Turbeville |
| • Emma Hoare | • Layla Chiha |
| • Jamie Hunt | • Ellis Witten |
| • Isaac Toranzo | • Ben Brassington |



Academy Colours

Every year Park Hall many of our students are rewarded with academy colours in a ceremony involving students, staff parents and governors. Academy colours are for excellent progress and/or attitude in subjects, and other aspects of school life. Students proudly wear these colours on their blazer as recognition of their hard work and positive attitude. Below are the names of the students who received our colour awards. A huge well done to you all. We look forward to our next colours ceremony in 2017.

..... Year 7

Maths

Progress Colours

- Lily Wood
- Jack Hall
- Olivia Sassano
- Eavie Neal

Attitude to Learning Colours

- William Orme
- Ellie Whitmore
- Alex Green
- Taibah Hussain

History

Progress Colours

- Dakota Shurahi
- Keira Tarpey
- Mattie Prentice
- Danny Kitching

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Sam Hardy
- Chloe Nokes
- Cody Treen
- Lauren Fleming

French

Progress Colours

- Eavie Neal
- Tilly Byrne
- Mercedes Blake
- Alicia Roberts

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Lauren Flemming
- Jon Barber
- Alex Timmins
- Mollie Newman

English

Progress Colours

- Brandon Busby
- Lily Gadson
- Will Orme
- Sam Hardy

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jack Hall
- Katie Green
- Corey Haden
- Chloe Noakes

Performing Arts

Progress Colours

- Lauren Fleming
- Abigail Wilde
- Adele Greenway

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Ethan Fletcher
- Karis Shewell
- Zak Henry
- William Orme

Science

Progress Colours

- Brandon Banes
- Morgan Kilmister
- Taira Hussain
- Lewys Stears

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Katie Green
- Eleanore Shaw
- Ibrahim Hussain
- Shuaib Khan

ICT

Progress Colours

- Abigail Wilde
- Leonie Wilson
- Rachael Beven
- William Orme

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Emma Reeves
- Katie Green
- Jasmine Alder
- Ben Glendining

Art

Progress Colours

- Chloe Gaff
- Eleanor Shaw
- Tilly Byrne

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Kieran James
- Lauren Flemming
- Logan Palmer

Tech

Progress Colours

- Abigail Wilde
- Abbi Wood
- Zahra Naz
- Charlotte Salman

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Danny Kitching
- Cody Treen
- Madison Mitchell
- Mia Prentice

Citizenship

Progress Colours

- Daryl Grant
- Storm Powers
- Oliver Crisp
- Alfie Atkins

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Rio Thompson
- Jake Astley
- Cara Davies
- Isaah Aslan

PE

Progress Colours

- Ethan Fletcher
- Fagen McCarthy
- Rio Thompson
- Kaci Coward

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jake Astley
- Matt Fisher
- Karis Shewell
- Katie Green

Geography

Progress Colours

- Eleanor Shaw
- Rachael Bevan
- Thomas Lyton
- Lewys Tears

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Evan Leach
- Keira Tarpey
- Bradley Fish
- Adam Carpenter

Character Award

- Adam Carpenter
- Kyra Peters
- Jack McCrum
- Ella Feenan

Head of Year Award

- Maddison Mitchell
- Deacon Jones

Headteacher Award

- Tilly Byrne



Maths

- Progress Colours**
- Rohir Verma
 - Ida Barrow
 - Harriet Herbert
 - Nathan Parkinson

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Megan Johnson
- Azeem Aslam
- Sophie Dainty
- Courtney Hayden

French

Progress Colours

- Nancy Chance-Osman
- Lettisha Jarrett
- Marshall Birch
- Tayon Osborne

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Sophie Dainty
- Anaya Miles
- James Waldron-Lees
- Courtney Haden

Performing Arts

Progress Colours

- Alex Beddow
- Sophie Riley
- Marshall Birch
- Letisha Jarrett

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Nancy Chance-Osman
- Bethany Cond
- Kai Bacciochi
- Jayda Brown

ICT

Progress Colours

- Annabel Ward
- Clair Bowler
- Katie Cox
- Jamie Dark

Attitude to Learning Colours

- James Waldron-Lees
- Harriet Herbert
- Ella Rhodes
- Jai Brown

Tech

Progress Colours

- Lilly Coward
- Millie Barnes
- Nancy Chance-Osmon
- Isabel Mclean

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Scott Deverell-Lawrence
- Jamie Dark
- Emily Cartwright
- Ryan Bashir

PE

Progress Colours

- Luke Lawrence
- Huzaifa Afridi
- Anaya Miles
- Caemisha Dixon

Attitude to Learning Colours

- George Appleton
- Tom Barker
- Annabel Ward
- Monique Glen-toques

Geography

Progress Colours

- Lily Coward
- Renee Gardner
- Connor Wood
- Sophie Dainty

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Hevanna Mahmood
- Ella Butler
- Kyro Edwards
- Rohit Sudera

History

Progress Colours

- Lauren Cruise
- Scott Deverell-Lawrence
- Max Pym
- Hevana Morton-Mulholland

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Harmony Wheeldon
- Renae Gardiner
- Nathan Parkinson
- Katie Witten

English

Progress Colours

- Alex Beddow
- Clare Boaler
- Kari Lawler
- Nancy Chance-Osman

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Harriet Herbert
- Philip Francis
- Freya Brown
- Sophie Dainty

Science

Progress Colours

- Mia Winters
- Karla Shaw
- Callum Brady
- Louis Kader

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Max Pym
- Riyadh Kibria
- Hevana Morton-Mulholland
- Katie Cox

Art

Progress Colours

- Aisha Anjum
- Aisha Anjum
- Aisha Anjum

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jack Norton
- James McLaughlin
- Jack Norton

Citizenship

Progress Colours

- Jake Davies
- Jordan Powers
- Max Pym
- Farhaan

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Ella Rhodes
- Becky Cotton
- Nathan Parkinson
- Kate Bathurst

Character Award

- Liberty Richardson
- Tianna Rawlings
- Adam Farooq
- Anaya Miles

Citizen Award

- Callum Brady
- George Appleton
- Thomas Burbidge
- Emily Cartwright

Head of Year Award

- Sophie Dainty
- Katie Cox

Headteacher Award

- Nancy Chance-Osman



Maths

Progress Colours

- Izzie Henry
- Sophie Nash
- Charles Pitchford
- Darren Gover

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Kirsty Begnes
- Ryan Bashir
- KJames McKaughlin
- Luke Price

History

Progress Colours

- Leah Corrigan
- William Painter
- Megan Lomas
- Aaron Johnson

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Atif Akheel
- Aishah Anjum
- Rosa Davies
- Daniel Jackson

French

Progress Colours

- Aaron Johnson
- Serena Sketchley
- Shannon Eldred
- Amy Dyke

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Aishah Amjum
- Lewis Watts
- Reece Hobbs
- Katie Tooze

English

Progress Colours

- Shannon Eldred
- Toni Simmer
- Olivia Howard
- Ellie Morris

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jason Smyth
- Demileigh Atterbury
- Morgan Fealy
- Aisha Anjum

Performing Arts

Progress Colours

- Mia Gatehouse
- Carlie Wilson
- Callum Walsh
- Brogan Todd

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Hannah Phillipson
- Daniel Jackson
- Charley McMahon
- Sid Raii

ICT

Progress Colours

- Daniel Riley
- Adell Butler
- Zoe Lodge
- Olivia Howard

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Daniel Jadison
- Aishah Anjum
- Lewis Witts
- Tom Kitching

Tech

Progress Colours

- Carlie Wilson
- Eve Lowe
- Holly Palmer
- Holly Williams

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Vicki Rice
- Tom Blackwell
- Harry Millward
- Giorga Byrne

PE

Progress Colours

- Tom Rogers
- Tom Faux
- Sophie Blackwell
- Shannon Eldred

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Alex Knowles
- Billy Colbourne
- Mia Morris
- Eve Lowe

Geography

Progress Colours

- Tom Kitching
- Tia Philips
- Morgan Dodd
- Callum Teal

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Shannon Eldred
- Charley McMahon
- James Howell
- Lewis Witts

Science

Progress Colours

- Melissa Froggart
- Reece Hobbs
- Warren Sale
- Tom Blackwell

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Griffin Beech Webb
- Hannah Washborne
- Tia Commander
- Tom Rogers

Art

Progress Colours

- Aisha Anjum
- Katie Witten
- Katie Tooze

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jack Norton
- Charley McMahon
- James McLaughlin

Citizenship

Progress Colours

- Katie Tooze
- Hannah Steward
- Bahija Fearnhead
- Mikkell Boone

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Leah Corser
- Becky Cooke
- Simran Sandhu
- Joanne Richards

Character Award

- Kiah Bartosik
- Jason Smyth
- Dominic Peers
- Zena Allen

Citizen Award

- Tom Kitchen
- Alex Knowles
- Megan Lomas
- Charley McMahon

Head of Year Award

- Rebecca Li Reece Platt

Headteacher Award

- Morgan Dodd



Maths

Progress Colours

- Harry Johnson
- Niaz Kibrin
- Courtney McLaughlin
- Ellie Borland

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Megan Williams
- Ben Wright
- Riddhi Patel
- Katie Lund

French

Progress Colours

- Layla Chiha
- Aimee Crisp
- Ben Brassington
- Alysha Maddocks-Spooner

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Katie Lund
- Alicia Blackhall

Performing Arts

Progress Colours

- Megan Kennedy
- Katie Lund
- Bethany Smith
- Roxanne Burke

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Joshua Hands
- Aimee Crisp
- Kelly Underwood
- Nathan Shaw

ICT

Progress Colours

- Emma Hoare
- Niaz Kibria
- Riddhi Patel
- Harry Johnson

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Anthony Wilson
- Callum Aherne
- Liam Green
- Ryan Martin

Tech

Progress Colours

- Felicity Barnes
- Isaac Toranzo
- William Goodby
- Kamarra Pitters

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Jordan Martin
- Kyle Hibell
- Thomas Bostock
- Dyllon Williams

PE

Progress Colours

- Ben Wright
- Daniel Ameghino
- Ellie Borland
- Courtney McLaughlin

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Daniel Welby
- Callum Downes
- Millie Hall
- Natalie Kavu

Geography

Progress Colours

- Darla Caraher
- Nana Agyeman
- Layla Chiha
- Ellis Witton

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Lacey Rooke
- Jamie Hunt
- Riddhi Patel
- Dan Welby

History

Progress Colours

- Alexander Mann
- Paige Bayliss
- Jamie Hunt
- Darcy Sturdy

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Aimee Crisp
- Katie Schofield
- Harry Johnson
- Madison Evans

English

Progress Colours

- Nathalie Karu
- Kayce Bird
- Liam Green
- Ben Jones

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Rachael Lawrence
- Aliscia Blackhall
- Paige Bayliss
- Riddhi Patel

Science

Progress Colours

- Hannah Carthew
- Courtney Fardon
- Joshua Hands

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Harry Jones
- Riddhi Patel

Art

Progress Colours

- Faye Turbeville (Art)
- Jordan Martin (Photography)

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Kelly Underwood (Art)
- Lewis Lay (Photography)
- Hannah Dodwell (Photography)

Media

Progress Colours

- Chloe Reynolds
- Megan Kennedy
- Jack Griffin
- Paige Bayliss

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Kieran Merriman
- Ellie Harper-Reynolds
- Ben Jones
- Alysha Maddocks-Spooner

Citizenship

Progress Colours

- Lyndon Alexander
- Aimee Crisp
- Alycia McNamara
- William Reeves

Attitude to Learning Colours

- Tamia Jaffier
- Thomas Stanyard
- Lacey Rooke
- Chloe Reynolds

Character Award

- Melissa Jennings
- Connor Paling
- Hannah Carthew
- Darnell Hamilton

Citizen Award

- Paige Bayliss
- Leah Christopher
- Uriah Griffiths
- Inaya Phillips

Head of Year Award

- Shannon Kill
- Riddhi Patel

Headteacher Award

- Emma Hoare



Assessment

National 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.

From September 2016 new GCSE courses in Art and Design, Citizenship Studies, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, History, Music, French, Physical Education, Religious Studies and sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Double Science) will also use the new 1-9 grading system

Subjects including Business, Design and Technology, Engineering, Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology will move to the new system in September 2017.

BTEC courses however 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.

A new approach

With these changes in mind it is important that we move to a system that can be **understood** by **students** and **parents**, this

enables all of us to see progress that is being made. The Key Stage 3 system will now be based upon the following principles;

- It develops the key knowledge and skills required for success in Key Stage 4
- Formative feedback allows all students to succeed
- Incorporates periodic summative assessment to support this ongoing formative feedback
- Is simple and easy to understand – for staff, parents and students and establishes a common language for learning
- Has consistent principles, to be used across subjects, but the flexibility to be suitable for all subjects
- Allows all students to experience success

The new 1-9 grading system

Students' achievement from Year 7 to Year 11 will be assessed using the same grading scale of 1 to 9.

- The target grade will represent your son/daughters' expected rates of progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.
- Students will know that they are making progress when their learning progresses from 'knowing' to 'understanding' to 'applying'.
- Throughout key stage three, students will need to revisit knowledge and understanding gained throughout their studies. There will be opportunities for students to re-apply their learning, which we will call 'mastering'.





Will progress always be linear?

The rates of progress (through the grades) will differ for each subject and may be influenced by teaching hours and curriculum. Some subjects may need to teach 'knowledge' for longer than others and some subjects may have more topics to cover.

Pupils are unlikely to go backwards but formative assessment may show that they achieve different grades for different topics within the same subject.

From September 2016 all subject areas will publish (1 to 9) grade descriptions for you to access with your child on our school website.

How will grades be reported?

Subject teachers will report grades based upon a range of assessments. These will be reported each half term alongside the attitude to learning score for your child. Target grades will still be set from your child's Key Stage 2 standardised score.

Other sources of support and guidance

- Our school website will explain the curriculum content for every subject at Key Stage 3 and 4.
- Key Stage 4 (GCSE and BTEC) specifications can be viewed on the exam board websites.
- Progress leaders and Heads of Year may also be contacted to help with any queries you may have about your child's progress.

What will progress look like for my son or daughter?

Summative assessments will indicate your son/daughter's attainment using 'grades'. However, you will not see a fast escalation through the grades (as previously expected with National Curriculum levels). The 'bar has been raised' and all attainment will be equivalent to GCSE (1 to 9) measures.

2017 Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
GCSE Grades	G	F/E	D	C	B	B	A	A*	A*
NC Levels	4	5	6	7	8	EP			

Pupil Progress Flight Path

KS2 Sub Level	KS2 Score	Year 7			Year 8			Year 9			Year 10			Year 11			Grade
		Au	Sp	Su	Au	Sp	Su	Au	Sp	Su	Au	Sp	Su	Au	Sp	Su	
		9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	A*
		9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	9-	A*
		8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	A*
		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	A*
		8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	8-	A*
		7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	A
		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	A
		7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	A
		6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	B
		6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	B
		6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	B
		5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	B
		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	B/C
		5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	C
		4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	C
		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	C
		4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	C
6+	130	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	D
5a	123	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	D
5b	116.5	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	D
5c	110.5	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	E
4a	105	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	E
4b	100	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	E
4c	95.5	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	F
3a	91.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	F

Minimum Expected – 2 steps a year

Good Progress – 3 steps a year

Excellent progress – 4 steps a year



Spotlight on English

Park Hall Students Embrace the Bard

The 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death gave the English Department the perfect excuse to plan a variety of activities designed to get students enthused about our greatest playwright.

"Studying Shakespeare is important for life as well as for passing examinations," said Mr East, Deputy Head of English. "His plays and poetry teach us so much which is still relevant today. Whether it's love and jealousy or power and death, he tackles the great themes of literature and life. We were keen to give students the opportunity to have some fun with Shakespeare during the week in which the whole country was celebrating this important anniversary."

The library hosted activities which saw students making their own Shakespeare-inspired masks as well as writing witches spells and creating their own witches hats. The English Department also ran a competition to design a famous Shakespeare quotation poster. "We were delighted with the quality of the entries," said Mrs Kirkbride, English teacher. "Students made such an enormous effort to research famous quotations and present them in original and interesting ways." The competition winners were: Eleanor Shaw (Year 7), Tyreek Rodney (Year 8), Alexia Clifton (Year 9), Lucie Matthews (Year 9) and Monique Glenn Toques (Year 8).

Year 7 students also enjoyed 'experiencing' the Globe Theatre as groundlings in the 'Introduction to Shakespeare's unit. They produced freeze frame stills and thought and speech bubbles to empathise with how Shakespeare's audience may have felt standing in the rain several for hours watching Hamlet or enjoying the covered galleries as a wealthier member of society. Some boys even played Hamlet's mother, reflecting the fact that in Shakespeare's lifetime women were not allowed on stage.

Students will study Shakespeare at some point in every year of their school life at Park Hall with their understanding of 'Macbeth' being assessed for their GCSE English Literature qualification.



OTHELLO

Earlier this term, students in Year 12 English literature were given the opportunity of watching a Schools' Broadcast of "Othello". The Shakespeare text is a set play studied at A level and the broadcast was streamed live into the classroom. It was a fantastic way of giving some young people a first experience of Shakespeare in performance.

The students arrived armed with food and beverages and settled down to an excellent Royal Shakespeare Company performance. During the day, students were able to type questions which were posed to the original creative team including the director. At the end of the performance, the director, Iqbal Khan, answered schools' questions and we were all really excited that Park Hall's question was read out first!

"The day was invaluable in giving students a real insight into the way Shakespeare is tackled today for a contemporary audience. Watching the script come alive really gave the students a vision of the themes and characters in the play, especially the evil Iago." Mrs Davies commented.



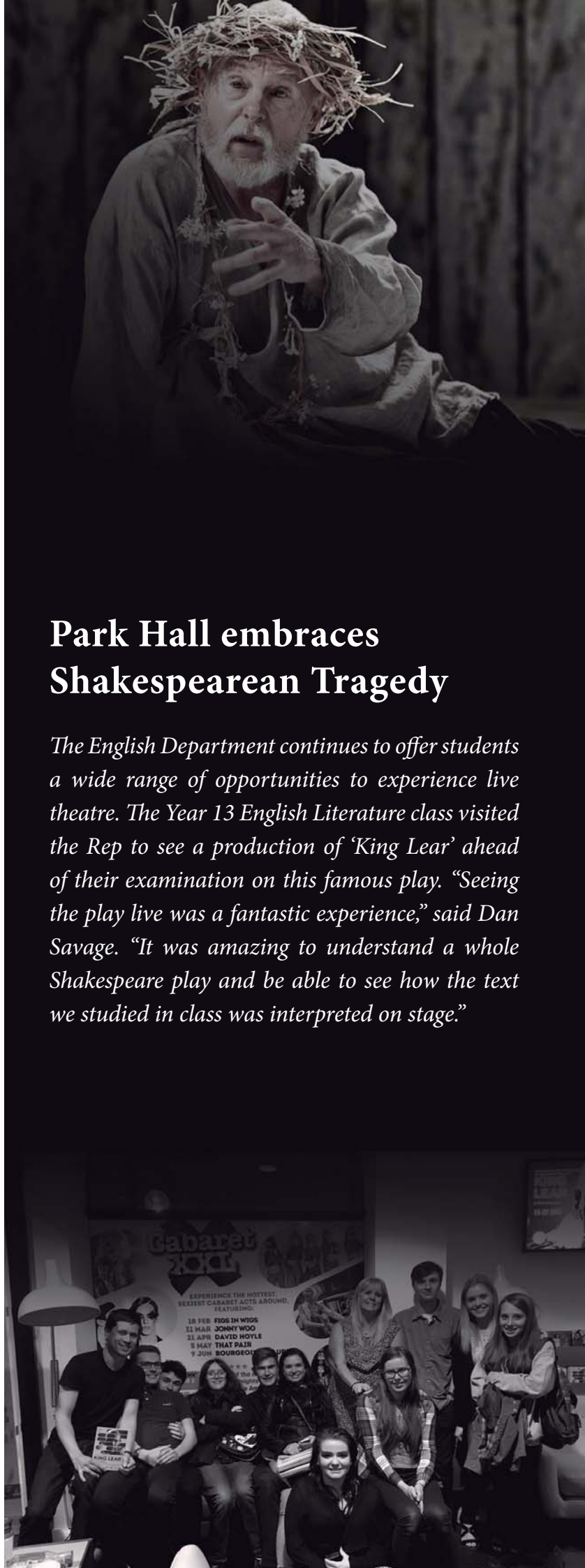
TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Following their incredible performance of Hamlet as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, a group of drama and literature students went to Stratford to see the play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. "I love Hamlet now, even more than I did before," said Rhys Davies. "It was so special to see the play performed in Shakespeare's home town."

Future theatre trips already planned include a visit to Shakespeare's Globe to see a performance of 'Othello' in February. Watch this space!

Park Hall embraces Shakespearean Tragedy

The English Department continues to offer students a wide range of opportunities to experience live theatre. The Year 13 English Literature class visited the Rep to see a production of 'King Lear' ahead of their examination on this famous play. "Seeing the play live was a fantastic experience," said Dan Savage. "It was amazing to understand a whole Shakespeare play and be able to see how the text we studied in class was interpreted on stage."





New York

On April 2nd, twenty-five Media Sixth Form students and four members of staff left Park Hall Academy and set off on a transatlantic flight to New York. It was a cold and wet morning, however this didn't dampen our spirits as we all looked forward to the sounds and sights of arguably one of the most interesting and exciting cities in the world.

We journeyed to London Heathrow Airport and began the (almost) 8hr flight to JFK Airport in the borough of Queens, New York State. We arrived in New York late Saturday evening. By the time we had made it through security it was getting late and the sky was turning dark. We boarded our coach and set off to our hotel in Midtown Manhattan. As we approached our destination, the darkening sky turned out to be a blessing. We could see the skyline of Manhattan lit up in all its glory, the Empire State building, Chrysler building and Freedom Tower beacons of light among the tall buildings. Tired and weary after our journey we ate at a traditional American diner and visited a bright and busy Times Square before returning to the hotel for some much needed sleep.

Sunday 3rd April

Our first planned activity of the trip was to the Rockefeller centre. We took the short walk from the hotel past the New York Public library to Grand Central Station where we took our first of many journeys on the New York Subway. The Rockefeller centre is the site of the Top of the Rock observation deck. Standing at 259m, the observation deck gives the most amazing panoramic views of Manhattan and it's surrounding boroughs. We were fortunate that the weather was clear and bright and this gave us fantastic views of Central Park, The Bronx, Queens. Looking towards Midtown and Downtown Manhattan we were able to see the Empire State building in all of its glory.

Our second activity of the day was a visit to the Museum of Moving Image. We took the subway train across the East River to Queens and made our way to the museum. The museum was a real experience. Students were able to make their own animations, record sound and look at many original film costumes, storyboards, scripts and props, including an actual set and character models from the recent Oscar nominated animated film 'Anomalisa'. The trip was an invaluable experience for the Media students who were part of the group as they were able to develop their understanding of the film industry.

We ended the day with an evening walk to Union Square, walking back to the hotel via Fifth Avenue, past the Flatiron building which was used as the location of the 'Daily Bugle' in the 2002 Spider-Man film.



New York, New York



Monday 4th April

On Monday morning we were faced with the news that our planned trip to a baseball game was postponed due to bad weather. Although we were initially disappointed this forced change in plans enabled us to visit the Natural History Museum. The museum is home to some amazing exhibits including Dinosaurs, Native American history, Animals of the African continent and a life size Blue Whale hanging from the ceiling of the Hall of Ocean Life. After leaving the museum we took a walk through Central Park to Fifth Avenue where some time was spent shopping. Here you can find some of the most desirable brands in the world such as Tiffany & Co, Louis Vitton, Jimmy Choo and Rolex.

We left Fifth Avenue and took the subway downtown to the World Trade centre for a visit to the 9/11 Memorial. In the footprints of the towers there are now two reflecting pools, which are the largest man-made waterfalls in North America. Around the top of the pools are bronze panels. The names of every person who died in the 2001 attacks (and also the 1993 World Trade centre bombing victims) are inscribed in the bronze edging as a permanent memorial. Students were also able to see 'The Survivor tree'. The tree was pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Centre; burnt and damaged it was carefully nursed back to health. The tree was returned to the site of the World Trade Centre in 2010 and is now a symbol of hope and rebirth. This visit was an important part of the trip as pupils were able to learn more about the events of September 11th 2001 and reflect on the consequences of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers.

Our evening meal was at Planet Hollywood in Times Square. Here we were able to see more film props that were on display around the restaurant. We finished the day exploring Times Square, which always seems to be busy.

Tuesday 5th April

Thankfully the weather improved on Tuesday and the postponed baseball game was rescheduled. We travelled to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx to watch the New York Yankees in their opening game of the season against the Houston Astros. Unfortunately the Yankees lost the game but we were lucky enough to see a birthday message for Esme, organised by her family, displayed on the big screen. This was a fantastic gift and memory for her 18th birthday. We left the game and travelled back to our hotel to prepare ourselves for our evening activity, which was a visit to a Broadway show. The students were all

dressed immaculately for our trip to Broadway, our last evening in New York. We ate at the Hard Rock Café in Times Square and then watched Disney's Aladdin at the New Amsterdam Theatre. Aladdin was a fantastic musical, including all the hit songs from the animated film with humour to entertain everyone. Our evening ended with a surprise visit for the students to the top of the Empire State building. Here we could say goodbye to New York. This was a completely different experience to the Top of the Rock as we viewed New York at night and marvelled at the millions of lights we could see for miles.

Wednesday 6th April

Wednesday was our last day in New York and no trip to New York would be complete without a visit to see Lady Liberty. We took the subway to Battery Park and took the ferry to Liberty Island, home of the Statue of Liberty. We took a walk around the Island and enjoyed the view of Manhattan and took photos of the Statue. This really was great way to end our time in New York. We spent the afternoon shopping and buying gifts before we left the hotel for JFK Airport in order to journey home through the night, arriving back at Park Hall on Thursday.

For most students it was the first time that they had been on holiday away from family, for some students it was their first time travelling out of England. Students showed great maturity in their attitude and ability to manage themselves without family support. Students were able to experience a different, yet familiar, culture and saw many famous sights. Everyone had a wonderful time during the week and it was a pleasure seeing how much fun everyone (staff and students) had during the week.



Attendance

Attendance rewards at Park Hall Academy

100% attendance leads to termly rewards



100% attendance at Christmas
= chocolate reward bar



100% attendance at Easter
= Easter Egg



100% attendance in the Summer
= Ice cream

Attend every day and gain rewards

Attending school every day can also increase your attainment in lessons and goes on a reference for sixth form and your future employment.

Stage system of attendance management

At Park Hall Academy we feel the best schools create a culture where pupils enjoy coming to school and feel that attendance is worthwhile. At Park Hall, lessons are a positive experience; pupils feel valued and make progress. Pupils returning from absences are welcomed and efforts are made to ensure that missed work is completed and understood.

“Parents value the school and comply with its attendance procedures willingly” - OFSTED

To enhance this we have created a stage system to attendance which is shown below.

..... 5-Stage system of attendance management

1

Stage 1 - School based intervention

In the initial stages an appropriate member of school staff is best placed to attempt to address any poor attendance of pupils. HOY to speak with parent and pupil and put action plan in place for 4 weeks to improve school attendance. This can either be telephone consultation with parent and one to one meeting with pupil or invite parent into school for meeting with pupil, target attendance group 90%-95%. An attendance concern letter will also be sent to parents

2

Stage 2 - School-based in conjunction with advice from Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

Where school based intervention is still considered the appropriate level, EWO expertise and advice may be sought.

3

Stage 3 - Formal referral to the EWO

Each pupil will be considered on an individual basis, and as such, it is impractical to set an attendance percentage level as a trigger for formal referral to the EWO. HOY will refer to EWO in fortnightly Persistent absence meeting who will consider a course of action. The EWO will make contact with parents and the pupil through home visit, telephone call or to arrange meeting at school with HOY to explore reasons to poor school attendance. The EWO will then formulate a plan and interventions to support, encourage and improve attendance. Pupils who are 90% and below are also at risk of becoming a persistent absentee.

4

Stage 4 - Alternative strategies – fixed penalty notice warning

Where there has been little or no improvement to the situation following EWO intervention at level 3 the case will be subject to an assessment/review in conjunction with the school via attendance panels. EWO to request letter from Solihull Local Authority should there be 10 or more unauthorised absences and sanction a fixed penalty warning.

5

Stage 5 - Statutory action – Fixed penalty notice

Where there is a need to implement statutory action the EWO will act within the following criteria: EWO will request issuing of Penalty due to further 5 unauthorised absences under: s.444 Education Act 1996 (Please see attendance policy for further details).

More Able MEDIA

Radio Club

This year has seen the return of Park Hall's 'Academy Radio' and students have worked hard all year to produce a series of amazing Radio Shows which were played during tutor time sessions. Our talented Radio Club members, all year 12 students, reported on issues such as bullying, study stress, and other important topics related to young people. As well, they had the opportunity to report on topical and tragic events including the terror attack in Paris and the death of David Bowie. Through this experience, the school seniors learned about researching, writing and presenting interesting and entertaining radio shows. At the same time, they were challenged to address sensitive issues – which they did with great empathy and maturity. What a great year for our talented media students! Next year we will be back with more radio shows, as well as a regular and fun schedule of music and news that we will broadcast across the community. Stay tuned!

Media Rep photography – Sam Lyttle

One student who has really shown exemplary dedication this year has been Sam Lyttle. Sam was appointed to the Sixth Form Student Council as Media Rep with responsibility for photography. He has spent the year documenting Park Hall Academy's charity and community projects. Some of the projects Sam has photographed include the year 12 driving practice day, the Christmas Fayre and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Sam has shown amazing flair and creativity in his photography. He produces high quality work and puts a lot of time and energy into getting the best shots possible. Most importantly, Sam has been constantly reliable and a trustworthy student. As well, Sam also completed a photography project for his A Level Art course – a touching photographic tribute to his family's ancestry. Congratulations on a great year's work Sam. Thank you for all your amazing work and effort.

Wolverhampton University Visit

BTEC Level 3 Media students had a taste of University life when lecturer Philip Nichols came to visit from the University of Wolverhampton. Students were writing TV drama scripts using original ideas and characters for a new soap opera or crime drama.

The workshop from University of Wolverhampton showed students an example of an award winning script and short film production to get their creative ideas flowing about how they can use dialogue to engage an audience in their own scripts.

"The Lecturer inspired me a lot - he helped me decide what I want to do with my future in the media industry. He showed us a short film which his former students had created, challenging us to consider how we could achieve the same quality and creativity in our own productions."

- Emma Ensor Year 12 Media student



New York – BTEC Assignment

Following the sixth form trip to New York in April, Year 13 BTEC students were set a print based assignment in which they were set the task of promoting New York as a tourist destination. Using photographs that they had taken during their trip, students produced a range of printed products including magazine covers, posters and postcards.



What is a 'More Able' student?

This year Park Hall has undergone a change in identifying what was historically 'Gifted and Talented'. One of those changes has involved individual departments identifying their own 'more able' students; who their teachers believe are strong enough to take their subject through into Years 10 and 11 as well as into post 16 studies. For students who have been identified as being more able this is a truly wonderful achievement. Throughout the year more able students have been invited to take part in a range of events such as French Club, who have planned lessons to teach year 6 students, performing arts day, Art workshops, Young Enterprise, Maths workshops, Dance workshops, a variety of sporting events, produce a radio show, Debate Mate, creative writing workshop, produce work for an art exhibition as well as a number of other wonderful enrichment opportunities. A number of students who have not been identified as more able have also participated in these workshops too this will hopefully inspire them to continue working hard and give them further insight into subjects in which they are interested in.

MATHS

'Was mathematics discovered or invented?' – More Able Mathematics Workshop

The more able KS3 mathematicians recently took part in an inspirational workshop focusing on the question, 'Was mathematics discovered or invented?' During the session students had the opportunity to debate a variety of different statements such as 'The number 13 is unlucky'. There were a number of excellent, high level arguments for and against each statement which really impressed Mr Goodridge and Miss Scott who led the session. Students also had the opportunity to look at a variety of key mathematical events in history as well as debate arguments for and against key mathematical topics being discovered or invented. The students who participated were a delight to be with and the quality of the conversations would not be out of place in an A-Level lesson.



UK Maths Challenge Success

Following the success of the Senior UK Maths challenge we are delighted to announce further success for our KS4 and KS3 more able maths students. The Junior Maths Challenge, a competition for years 7 and 8 students, was a huge success. Ibrahim Hussain, Abigail Wilde, Scott Deverell and Molly Evans achieved a bronze award whilst Thomas Lytton, Kari Lawler and Harrison Wilde achieved a silver award. Jamie Dark reached the gold award and also qualified to compete at the following round of the competition which is a huge achievement. Park Hall continued to have success with the Intermediate Maths Challenge which is generally aimed at years 10 and 11. Daniel Ameghino of year 10 achieved a silver award as well as year 9's Connor Curtis and Year 8's Scott Deverell and Jamie Dark. Abdul Al Athamneh of year 9 achieved a gold award, truly a fantastic achievement. We would like to congratulate all of the more able students who participated in the Maths Challenge as many of the students only just missed out on a bronze award.

THE WIZ

Building cross curricular links across the academy is extremely important, so this year the English Department paired up once again with Performing Arts Department, to put together a More Able creative writing workshop linked to the school production 'The Wiz'. The students were invited along to produce a piece of writing based around a particular colour of their choice. The students looked at how colour is used to create vivid imagery in The Wiz/The Wizard of Oz and even looked at extracts from the novel. They looked at using a range of higher order vocabulary and descriptive features. All of the students produced work to a high standard that went on to be displayed in the Reception during each of the performances. A special mention goes to: Leonie Wilson (Year 7), Liberty Richardson (Year 8), Scott Deverell-Lawrence (Year 8), Molly Evans (Year 8), Nathan Parkinson (Year 8), Katie Tooze (Year 9) and Annabel Lloyd (Year 9) whose attitude to learning was exceptional.

DEBATE MATE

For another successive year, Park Hall's Debate Mate team has gone from strength to strength. This year the schools team -Grace Dooley, Ethan Dixon and Joe Piper all Year 7 along with Mohammed Hussain, Tianna Rawlings and Jack Harrison from Year 8- have competed across the city in the Debate Mate League Cup. The students debated on a range of topics including sugar tax and the National Curriculum. The students faced difficult opposition but used all of their knowledge and skills to produce a wonderful debate.

The Debate Mate society also visited the school in the summer term to host a workshop with our More Able learners. The students completed a range of activities that helped develop their communication skills focusing particularly on public speaking and the art of debating. The students left the session full of new ideas and the urge to develop their understanding of current global issues.



Sport News

Year 9 Champions!

Monday 9th May 2016 saw the Park Hall Academy year 9 Football Team head to Villa Park for their **Birmingham Cup Final** against Langley School. The team had full access to Villa Park including the Changing rooms, tunnel, dugouts, and; of course the chance to play on the recently acclaimed 'best premier league pitch' of the 2015-16 season.

After the chance to warm up and have numerous photos taken, the game kicked off. Park Hall started slowly and allowed Langley a large share of possession. Langley twice found themselves clean through on goal but last ditch tackles from Talor Belgrave and Reece Platt ensured the score remained 0-0. After some neat build up play Kye Shewell received the ball, beat 2 defenders and fired across the goalkeeper into the top left corner. Park Hall soon found their stride and were passing the ball round comfortably and were creating chances. Park Hall's second goal came from a well worked set piece which captain Reece Platt volleyed in from close range. A 3rd goal quickly followed from Kaine Hayden with a neat finish. Park Hall continued to press with some high intensity football using the width of Callum Brown and Kye Shewell to make Langley work hard to retrieve the ball. Langley had a few opportunities with Alex Knowles making an exceptional one handed save from a close range header. A 4th goal came from neat interplay in the midfield between the tireless Matthew Parker and Will Simons before releasing the ball to Mikkel Boone who lashed a fierce 30 yard drive into the top corner. Park Hall had a few half chances before the half time whistle went. 4-0 at half-time.

The second half started after Mr Price bought Lucas Powell on for Lewis McNicholas and Remi Colbourne Boxhill on for Callum Brown. The substitution worked wonders as more neat passing interplay from the midfield allowed a defence splitting pass and Lucas to finish into the bottom corner. Park Hall continued to apply pressure and a 6th goal came shortly after from Kayne Hayden. More substitutions by Mr Price allowed Tom Kitching and Charlie Noakes to get onto the field and create good chances. Langley pulled a goal back from a well taken lob which Alex was unlucky not to keep out despite getting a hand on the ball. The final goal of the game came from Kye Shewell as he finished into the top corner at the Holte End after Tom Kitching had helped the ball on.

On the day Park Hall played some lovely football and outclassed the recent West Midlands Cup winners Langley. Notable performances came from Captain Reece Platt, Matty Parker and Will Simons in midfield.

The year 9 team have become the first team to win the both the Solihull Cup and Birmingham cup double in each of their 3 years at school. Well done boys, a fabulous achievement.



Y7 Ball Boys



Solihull Cup Winners!

On a warm Wednesday afternoon on a newly laid 3g pitch at CTC, Park Hall Academy year 9 footballers had their first of 2 cup finals in 5 days. The first final was against Arden. Park Hall started brightly with some free flowing football creating opportunities with Will Simons blazing over after neat passing interplay. The first goal came from good work out on the wing before Mikkel Boone neatly turned the ball into the net. It wasn't long before Park Hall grabbed their second goal with captain Reece Platt volleying home from close range after a goalmouth scramble from a corner. Will Simons made up for his earlier miss by striking the third goal before Kaine Hayden dribbled past 3 defenders before slotting into the bottom right corner. Park Hall continued with dominant football and the 5th goal was a lovely long range strike from Kye Shewell into the top corner. Half Time score 5-0.

Mr Turton made a variety of changes at half time and instantly the score became 6-0 with a tidy finish by Tom Kitching. The score could have increased further but from good saves from the Arden goalkeeper. Mikkel added another goal after beating most of the Arden defence before putting the ball past the keeper. Charlie Noakes capped a fine second half performance with a drilled shot across the goalkeeper into the bottom corner. The year 9 boys won the game comfortably and this has no doubt prepared them for their Birmingham Cup Final at Villa Park.

A special mention must go to Kaine Hayden in year 8 who not only played up an age group but was also given Man of the Match by the officials in charge for his outstanding performance during the game.



Year 11 Champions!

Park Hall produced a great first half performance at, Aston Villa's training ground, Bodymoor Heath to secure the prestigious U16 City of Birmingham Cup by 4 -2 against last year's All Birmingham Champions, Lode Heath. Park Hall raced into what would seem an unassailable lead of 4 -0 with a hat trick from Asa Crosling and a Kane Wilson penalty. Lode Heath pulled a goal back just before half time and to their credit Lode Heath forced their way back into the game with a second goal just after half time. However, Park Hall's determination and resolute defending saw Park Hall through to take the cup.





Sport News Continued...

RUGBY TAKEOVER

On Wednesday 15th June 2016, the PE department took 3 teams to a festival of Rugby in Manchester. Despite the torrential rain we managed to get away from school on time with a year 7 boys team, a year 9 boys team and a year 7/8 girls team. On arrival to the festival, pupils were greeted and took photos with Samoan International Rugby players!

All three teams performed well and really got stuck into the fixtures that were played in a round robin format.

The year 9 boys won 2 of their games, drew 1 and lost 1. A strong performance considering many had never played together in a team before. There was strong tackling from Tom Blackwell, Will Mitchell and Adam Dodwell with good ball carrying from Talor Belgrave and Reece Platt. I hope that these boys all continue to play and we see more Rugby fixtures next season.

The year 7 boys were placed in a really tough group with some very high standards of Rugby being played. The boys did extremely well and gave 100% right to the end of the last game. For all of the team, this was their first experience of playing any competitive rugby, so the year 7s should be extremely proud of themselves. The stand out performer throughout the fixtures was Alex Llewellyn with some demon tackling.

This was the very first rugby competition for the year 7/8 girls. They all performed exceptionally well and should be very proud of themselves. All girls gave 100% and even performed full contact with tackling- especially Leonie Wilson, Tianna Rawlings and Lettisha Jarrett performing some exceptional tackles! The girls all demonstrated excellent communication and teamwork together, well done! I look forward to seeing all the girls return to the season next year.

On completion of the festival, we headed over to Salford to watch the u20 stars of future rugby competition. Pupils got chances to experience the intensity and power of international rugby.



Pupils also experienced New Zealand performing the Haka. New Zealand won the game 18-17 with a kick in the last minute of the game. Overall, a fantastic day out and a great experience for some budding young rugby players. We look forward to seeing more pupils attending Rugby club in September.

Mr Turton, Miss Newlands and Mr Ward.



The Dixon Cup



Every form in year 7 have been competing against one another for the 'Year 7 Dixon Cup', both boys and girls have been involved and have taken part in a variety of competitive sports varying from football, badminton, bench ball and dodgeball, for their hope in order to win this great title!

Every member of their form that turns up and ready to participate gains 10 points for their form. Extra awards have been given out to sportsman/sportswoman of the match- so far, Lily wood in 7A1 and Chloe Molland in 7A2 have shown outstanding sportsmanship and leadership in their sports - well done!

The Dixon Cup will continue up until the summer break - anything can happen with the results up until then...

Miss Newlands and Mr Jones



ARMY VISIT

On the 5th July 2016 Park Hall Academy received a visit from the Army. GCSE PE and BTEC Sport students received personal development activities and workshops involving the students completing a variety of mentally and physically challenging activities (team tasks and physical fitness) and even took part in laser tag shooting! The aim was to develop leadership, teamwork, confidence, and communication skills– whilst giving pupils the opportunity to speak to soldiers and officers about particular career opportunities in the Army. Students' behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to themselves and Park Hall Academy.

Miss Newlands



Chloe Passant the UK Cadet National Kayaking Champion



Chloe Passant recently became the UK Cadet National Champion in Kayaking, beating other cadets from all over the country to win the title. This stands her in good stead for a future in the Sport, and we are delighted that Chloe is tipped as a possible Olympic hopeful.

This is just one of the many achievements, awards and titles Chloe has won. Yet Chloe remains a very grounded and hardworking student, putting her GCSE studies first and still maintaining the extra-curricular activities, and rarely mentions her prestigious awards.

Chloe is in Year 11 and attends the school's nearest Sea Cadet Unit, Training Ship Stirling SCC, in Shard End. This is for cadets aged 10 and upwards. Chloe has been a cadet for 5 years and she still meets twice a week and, during the summer when all the sailing and boating activities get started, the unit will be out on the water most weekends. Chloe has taken part in all kinds of competitions from power boating and sailing, to football, music and drill, plus learnt nautical skills as they complete their training. She has not only had fun, but gained new skills that will give her a further head start in life, on top of her GCSE qualifications and boosted her confidence.

Chloe has attended numerous training courses that are designed to stretch and develop young people and provide them with new life skills. They are carried out by highly qualified instructors who are either employees of the charity or volunteers.

So far Chloe has gained the following accreditations:

- First Aid – Heart start, Emergency Life Saving and First Aid at Work, and many more
- Kayaking & Canoeing – BCU 1 star, 2 Star - competed at national level
- Powerboating – numerous levels
- Sailing – Dinghy and Sail
- Cadet Awards god Conduct for 1 year, 2 years and 3 years
- Cadet of the Year 2016
- Rope work – Bends & Hitches etc
- Rigging – numerous levels
- Rifle – Safety, Drill 1,2,3,4 &5
- Communications/Radios
- Times, Watches and Bells
- Boatswains Call
- Duties of Quartermaster and Boatswains Mate
- Boatswains Call
- Teamwork and Leadership
- Drill - competed at national level
- D of E
- Meteorology/ Weather Instruments
- Practical Waterborne
- Piping – competed at national level
- Band – Snare drum

Chloe is hoping to continue in the Sea Cadets and is taking her instructor courses and the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, which she is cautious about with her impending GCSE exams. However she does wish to pursue a career in the Royal Navy after finishing college, as a result of her time at T.S Stirling.

We are all extremely proud of her and her achievements and look forward to seeing great things from her in the future!



On Monday 27th June 2016, Park Hall politics students went on their planned visit to the Houses of Parliament. We did not realise when planning the visit that this would turn out to be such a momentous day in terms of the Brexit vote that had taken place on Thursday 23rd June 2016. On Friday 24th June the Prime Minister David Cameron had announced his resignation following Britain's vote to leave the European Union. This was followed by Jonathan Hill, Britain's most senior diplomat in Brussels, resigning after Britain's vote to leave the European Union and numerous members of the Shadow Cabinet resigned their positions.

As we arrived at the Houses of Parliament unusually only pre-booked parties were allowed into Westminster. We were greeted by Caroline Spelman the Member of Parliament for Meriden who answered the students' questions on a wide range of issues. We asked Caroline if it would be possible get tickets for Strangers Gallery and she looked horrified as this was one of the

most momentous days in the history of Parliament and David Cameron was due to speak on his resignation and then to oversee an important debate on Britain leaving the EU. However Caroline was able to work a little bit of magic and initially managed to obtain 3 seats in the Strangers Gallery. We then had a fascinating tour of both Houses of Parliament before meeting up with our MP once again. We were amazed to hear that Caroline had managed to get everyone from Park Hall Academy into the debate which was absolutely fascinating. We also had the opportunity to witness the Speakers Procession which was beautiful and consists of a Commons' Doorkeeper, the Serjeant at Arms with the mace, the Speaker, the Trainbearer, Chaplain and Secretary. The procession moves from Speaker's House through the Library Corridor, the Lower Waiting Hall, Central and Members' Lobbies to the Chamber, with Black Rod using the Mace to gain entry into the Commons.

The debate proved to be extremely fascinating with the leaders of every party, with the exception of UKIP, in attendance. All of the contributors were extremely courteous and it was interesting to listen to the two and a half hour debate, before we had to make our way home. We heard a range of different viewpoints which informed our opinions and were the focus of much debate on the train home. We had not expected to be part of such a momentous day, but thoroughly enjoyed listening to history in the making!

Politics visit to the Houses of Parliament



ICELAND

An awe inspiring
adventure for
Park Hall students...



On Monday 15th February 2016 seventeen students, Mr Hughes and Dr Browne departed for a once in a lifetime geography educational visit to Iceland. Everyone was extremely excited at the prospect of seeing at first hand the amazing landscape, waterfalls, geysers, glaciers and volcanoes.

We arrived at the Reykjavik City Hotel which was an excellent choice and everyone settled into their accommodation beautifully. The staff at the hotel made us feel very welcome and educated us on the importance of recycling and the students even had a basket to put items from their packed lunch into if they did not intend to eat it, this allowed other students to have the items so the food did not go to waste.

Highlights of the week included the Golden Circle which enabled us to visit some of Iceland's most stunning sights, starting with the Geysir geothermal area where the Strokkur geyser shoots a column of water up to 30 metres (98 ft.) into the air every 4-8 minutes in a thrilling display of nature's forces. We also visited Gullfoss (Golden Falls) waterfall, created by the river Hvítá, which tumbles and plunges into a crevice some 32 m (105 ft.) deep. We all took lots of photographs to share with family and friends.

The South shore adventures were equally impressive and we visited the Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, glaciers and the black volcanic beaches and basalt columned cliffs and had the opportunity to see Solheimajokul.



The students also had the opportunity to visit Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital on the final day of our visit to Iceland with its colourful buildings, quirky, eye-popping design and to visit the Council house and the oldest Parliament in the world. They visited the Parliament in Reykjavik itself and the site of the original Parliament when we visited the North America/Europe split where the two continents are moving 1cm apart each year.

On the final evening we visited an entertainment area and the whole group went bowling. Everyone had a wonderful evening and were very supportive of each other, before returning to get ready for an early start to return home.

The visit was our geography students' ultimate playground and perfectly complimented the group of students GCSE course. Seeing the rare phenomena of volcanic lunar landscapes and spouting geysers, to diverging plates, glaciers and outwash plains provided an amazing experience and our students learned a great deal in a relaxed and enjoyable learning environment. Their behaviour was exemplary and it was quite simply a joy to experience Iceland with such a delightful, courteous and inquisitive group of young people with a thirst for learning.





Our Diary

Day 1

- 10:25: Check in at Birmingham Airport
- 12:25: Depart Birmingham for Keflavik Airport
- 15:10: Arrive at Keflavik Airport
- 17:30: Check into Reykjavik City Hostel.

Day 2

- 08:30: Meet the coach and guide for full day South Shore Excursion

Journey passed the mountain pass Hellisheioi offering magnificent views of the wide plains formed by glacial rivers, now fertile farmland in South-Iceland.

Visit to the spectacular Seljalandsfoss and Skogarfoss waterfalls.

Stop for lunch at the beautiful village of Vik before heading to the sea shore

- 18:30: Arrive back at hotel
- 19:00: Evening meal
- 21:00-01:00: Northern Lights Tour





Day 3

08:30: *Meet the coach and guide for full day Golden Circle Excursion*

Morning drive over Mosfellsheioi plateau to Pingvellir National Park.

Travel from Pingvellir continue the tour to the famous Great Geysir hot springs. Witness the most active geyser in the area, Strokkur sprout up to 30 meters high. A few minutes drive from Geysir will be the Golden Waterfall.

17:30: *Arrive back at hotel*

18:00: *Evening meal*

Swimming

Day 4

10:00 *Start our Coach Tour into Reykjavik and explore the surrounding areas.*

An educational visit to the Icelandic Parliament and council house.

Followed by some much needed retail therapy and bowling in the evening.

Day 5

04:50: *Meet your coach at the accommodation for journey to the airport.*

05:50: *Check in at the Iceland Air desks at Keflavik Airport*

07:50: *Depart Keflavik Airport for Birmingham Airport*

10:25: *Arrive at Birmingham Airport*



Performing Arts News

Key Stages working together in Performing Arts

In preparation for the Year 7 Stimulus scheme of work for Summer Term 1 Mrs Cullum-Kenyon created a hands on resource for teaching and learning using the students.

Three More Able Performing Arts students from Year 7 worked alongside three year 12 Performing Arts students to choreograph a section of dance based on Christopher Bruce's SWANSONG.

Katie Green, Kaci Coward, Mattie Prentice, Charlotte Ford, Sophie West and James Hunt spent one hour together learning and developing a motif taken from the professional repertoire.

This work was then recorded from different angles so that students in lessons could watch it, learn the phrase and then use different versions from opposite angles for an extra challenge to stretch their own ability.

“I loved working with the older students as it meant I could do more difficult dance moves which were challenging and exciting” - Kaci Coward

Beauty IS Beast

On Thursday 26th May, for the first time Park Hall Drama Company performed Beauty IS a Beast. The play has been an ongoing project for the company since October. It was decided as a group after Christmas that they wanted to shorten the two act play and make it a 30 minute action packed, emotional roller-coaster performance! Big cuts were made and it revamped the play, students were much more enthusiastic and the piece had lots more energy.

We started making the rehearsals longer, so that we could practise scene and costume changes. The company, also performed a short snippet of the play as part of Theatrical Thursdays at Park Hall and at lunchtime in the assembly hall they gathered lots of attention from fellow pupils who were intrigued at what they were doing.

I am very proud of how hard they have worked and the company and I would once again like, like to thank all of the family and friends that came to support the pupils in their first academy performance to a live audience! They were fantastic and they put on a thoroughly entertaining show.

The company will continue to rehearse every Tuesday 3-4- we always welcome new members and look forward to hopefully seeing some new faces this term.

Well done and thank you to the pupils for all their hard work!



Bouncers



Over the past few months our BTEC Level 2 in Performing Arts group has been working on a show that we are pleased to be able to present to you tonight. Bouncers is set in the 80s and takes on the euphoria of boys and girls getting ready to go on a wild night out. We have incorporated our own ideas and applied feedback in order to make this performance special and exciting. We have taken part in many workshops, to educate us and enlighten us on a wide variety of performance/ acting skills that we hope to apply and demonstrate to you, our audience. With adult humor and many laughs throughout, we welcome you to embark on our vision that is... Bouncers!

by Aimme Crisp

Year 12 Site Specific Project

Unit 32: Developing Physical Theatre



Cast:

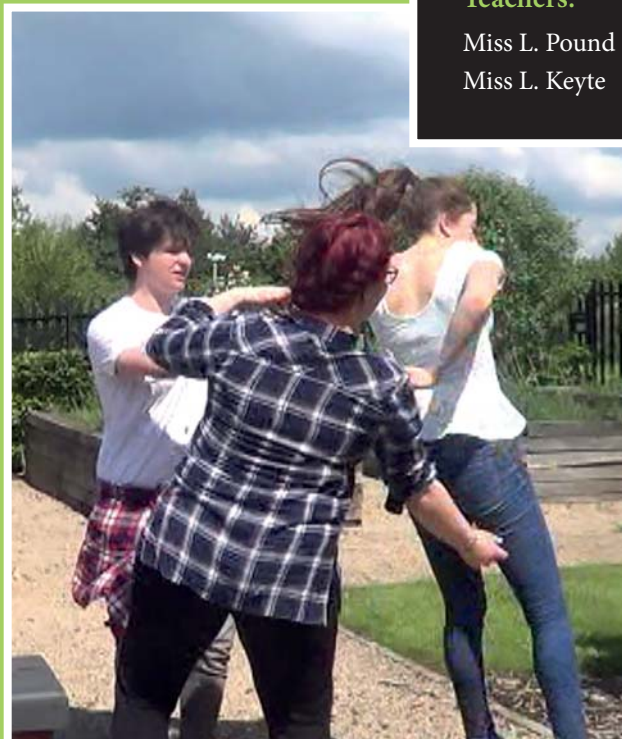
James Hunt
Charlotte Ford
Katie Payne
Rhys Davies
Chloe Hall
Sophie West

Teachers:

Miss L. Pound
Miss L. Keyte

Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts students have recently completed an exciting site specific project based on the work of the professional practitioner Jasmine Vardimon. The students took inspiration from the piece Park which examines the lives of typical British people and how their lives collide in one setting. The characters included: two young people in love, a protester, two youths and an innocent child. The students' focus was to show them taking risks, developing movement skills and create complex non-chronological structures to their work. These all being influences from other physical theatre practitioners.

The students have worked exceptionally hard on this project as this was a new experience for them all; the work is completely devised by the students and has resulted in a dance video being created which cuts to show the contrast in the characters' lives through movement sequences. The cast took this challenge head on and have produced fantastic results. We hope they will continue to explore more site specific locations in the future.



Park Hall In Brief

France & Belgium

In March 38 students, from years 7, 8, 9 and 10, visited Lille, France for three days alongside five members of staff; Miss Seazell, Mr Plackowski, Miss Hodson, Mr Dixon and Mr Meredith. The students were able to experience new things and visit various different sights, whilst on the trip.

During day one of the trip, we travelled to Dover by coach to catch a ferry into Dunkirk, France. The ferry ride was very enjoyable, although some students felt slightly sick! We arrived at our hotel at approximately 5.00pm, after over ten hours of travelling. By this time everybody was feeling quite hungry and after a long day of travelling we visited a French restaurant. Students then got the opportunity to taste the French delicacy of snails, which many people enjoyed. That night we also took in some of the beautiful sights of Lille.

On day two, we crossed the border into Belgium and visited two memorial sites in the morning. Firstly, we visited Tyne Cot cemetery, which was where the allies were buried after the First World War. This experience was extremely overwhelming and upsetting, as it put into perspective the amount of people that died during the war. We then went to Langemark German war cemetery so that we could compare it to the allied cemetery. We were able to identify many differences in the cemeteries, such as the size and overall appearance of them both. These differences connoted to what happened in the war and that people were not willing to treat the Germans with the same respect as they treated the allies, after the war.

The afternoon of day two was spent firstly, visiting a traditional Belgian Chocolate Factory where we bought and were gifted lots of delicious chocolates. We also visited a Belgian beach, various different shops and a hypermarket back in Lille. In the evening we travelled back into Belgium to attend a memorial service that took place at Ypres (The Menin Gate) Memorial, where we laid a wreath addressed from Park Hall Academy, commemorating and remembering the soldiers that gave their lives in the war. The atmosphere was overwhelming.

We started day three by visited the amazing Lille Zoo. While visiting the zoo we spent a lot of time looking at the animals (nous aimons les zoo) and admiring the amazing exhibits on show. After an amazing time at the zoo it was time to start travelling back to the UK. On the way back we had to go through Calais where we witnessed the eye-opening migrant camp that was located there. Before we knew it we were already back at school reflecting on the amazing things we had seen and done whilst on the trip.

Overall the trip was an amazing experience, that was both fun and informative. We shall take away from the trip lots of memories, which we shall cherish forever.

Merci pour lire.

Kari Lawler Year 8

The First Birthday of Aviary House!

Over the last few weeks Park Hall Academy has been working with other members of the Castle Bromwich community to support the first birthday party of Aviary House.

Aviary House has supported a number of Park Hall Academy students for their Work Experience placements and has also provided employment for our students upon completing their Health and Social Care courses. Aviary House is a jointly funded initiative involving Central Government; Solihull Council; and the private sector in the form of Home Group, who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the facility. Situated on the new Smiths Wood high street it provides supported living for members of the community with mental health issues.

This facility offers accommodation to around 32 residents, each being accommodated in their own self-contained apartment.

Many local dignitaries, including our local MP Caroline Spelman attended the event, Dr Lesley Browne and Patsy Hartland represented Park Hall Academy.

All residents and visitors had a good time, there was a generous buffet the food and drink being donated by local shops on the new Smiths Wood High Street together with Park Hall Academy.



BEST DIRECTOR AWARD



The Young Enterprise Team, Timeless, took part in a local competition on 12th May 2016. The competition was held at Arup Blythe Valley Business Park. Students were expected to set up their trade stand, write a business report and present a 4 minute presentation of their business. This was then judged and several awards were presented. Timeless did a fantastic presentation that the judges were very impressed with. These students were faced with tough competition as they were up against year 12 and 13 students from other local schools. Timeless walked away with The Best Director award. This was presented to **Kallum McEwan**, for his excellent presentation and questioning skills.

Year 10 students celebrate their success at Drayton Manor!

Over 50 year 10 students were invited to a rewards trip last half-term to enjoy a day out at Drayton Manor. To be eligible for the trip they had to attain their end of year 11 targets in at least five subjects, an impressive feat! Due to their positive attitude to learning, commitment to homework and sustained effort, they enjoyed a fantastic day out. The sun shone down as our students braved Shockwave, got soaked on Storm Force Ten, and explored the zoo. Other year groups can look forward to a similar rewards trip if they meet these requirements when they are in year 10. Our rewards programme will continue into next year. Students will be able to gain certificates in leadership, contribution to Academy life, character and of course, attitude to learning, progress and attendance. We also look forward to welcoming our parents and carers to our Academy colour celebration in 2017. Well done to all our students who received a reward this year.



Product Design for Birmingham Dogs Home

Park Hall Academy has a proud history of imaginative students, who have again made some outstanding pieces of work in Product Design. During Year 11 pupils had to complete coursework to promote awareness and make products to raise money for Birmingham Dogs Home, this included making chocolate, the packaging, point of sales and information cards using a variety of materials and techniques. We are pleased and proud to share just some of our successes in this addition of Parklife.



Sixth Form News

The perfect place to 'step up' to your sixth form studies.

The Sixth Form at Park Hall continues to go from strength to strength. As well as working hard on their studies Sixth Form students are encouraged to look beyond themselves and to seek ways of helping and supporting others within the school community and the wider world. Our newly formed Sixth Form Executive enables our students to take on responsibilities of leadership within the Sixth Form. So far, this has involved setting up a mentoring scheme for younger students, increasing opportunities for Sixth Form sport and raising money for good causes. In March the Sixth form will be organising a Sport Relief Fundraising event and will once again enter a team of runners for the Great Midlands Fun Run.

Our 2016 results were our best ever. The rates of progress made by students in Y13 and Y12 significantly exceeded the average for Solihull. At Advanced Level students once again excelled, and we were delighted to achieve the best A level 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 has made these improvements possible."

Everyone is really proud of all the hard work that made this possible. For example Matthew Hooper gained outstanding results at Advanced Level including Sociology at grade A*, English Literature at grade A, and History grade B. Another example of good results at Advanced Level include Anna Adkins who gained Psychology A, Sociology B and English Literature C. Other outstanding achievements at Park Hall Academy included Emma Cox, Charlotte Davies, Courtney Field, Fern Green, Tiffany Green, Georgia Patterson and Ellie Troman who each achieved the equivalent of 3 straight 'A*' grades in their BTEC Children's Care, Learning and Development course, along with Benjamin Hands D*, D, D and William Solloway D, D, D for Creative Media Production, the equivalent of 3 A grades in Creative Media Production and Dominic Blackwell and Zoe Purnell who achieved D*, D*, D in Sport and Exercise Science. In addition Gemma Jones achieved the equivalent of 2* A grades and Esme Hulme achieved in Creative Media Production. Public Services students Louis Beddoe, Sharney Hession, Elliot McCahon-Edwards, Callum Morris, Jodie Niblet, Russel Benjamin, Paul Schmid, Courtney Stokes, Daniel Weedon and William White all achieved the equivalent of A, A* at BTEC National Level and every Health and Social Care student achieved a Distinction for their BTEC along with every student entered for the OCR Cambridge Technicals achieving the equivalent of a grade A at Advanced Level. Overall 89% of students gained Distinctions and Distinction* at Park Hall Academy, in their BTEC courses. The highest ever recorded!

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.

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.

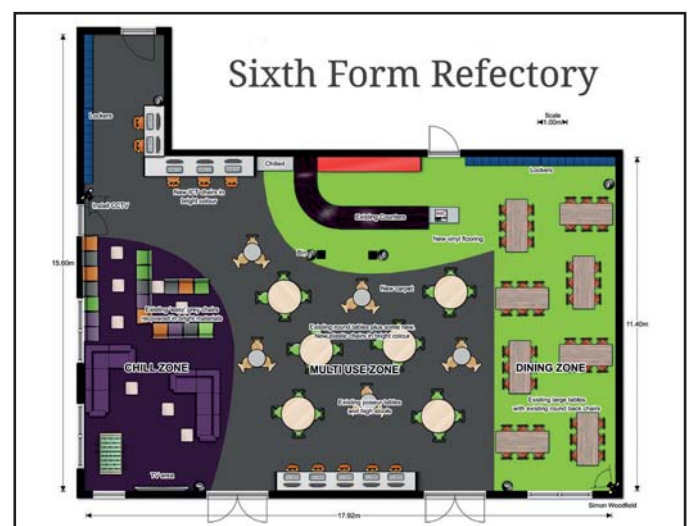
Sixth Former Kirsty Tuffin is the Member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament for Solihull (2015-16) and recently attended the Global Young Leaders Conference with Gazel Raii in Washington and New York, USA where they put a forward a motion to the United Nations.

Our A Level Physics students 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. Students are provided with in house training on university applications, apprenticeship applications and effective revision and exam preparation. In January all of our year 12 students attended a 'Safer Driving' event at the NEC. This included all students having a go at driving – many of them for the very first time.

Students completed the World Challenge expedition to Kerala, India last summer, trekking in 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 our students honour.

"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" said Mr Burgess. "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/sixthform





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:

- Art & Design
- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Performing Arts
- Public Services
- Sport and Exercise Science
- 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.

At A level, students achieved above the national average in:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Geography
- Maths
- Politics
- Our A level Dance students were so successful that they achieved, on average 2 grades above the national average (ie. Students predicted C's got A grades).
- In AS Sociology 83% of our students got a grade B or higher.

University success

Over 50% 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:

- 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.

Solihull Council Takeover Challenge

Park Hall Academy students had the opportunity to get involved in an exciting Takeover Challenge at Solihull Council House. The Takeover Challenge enabled 29 Lower Sixth students the chance to shadow members of Solihull Council. This is an exciting project which provided Park Hall Academy students with an opportunity to work with adults, takeover their business roles and get involved in organisational decision making.

The Challenge also enabled our students to have their views and ideas heard and allows adults to get a different perspective on their work as well as new and creative views on important issues.

Solihull Takeover Challenge enabled Park Hall Students to...

- Have their voices heard
- Get involved in making decisions about things that affect them
- Experience the world of work

The Takeover Challenges

The Takeover Challenge is a national event led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, and her team. As a result of an extremely positive collaboration between Solihull Councils Chief Executive Nick Page and Liz Moore from the Community Engagement Team, Park Hall students had the opportunity to work closely with a wide range of people at Solihull Council House. They were asked to prepare a number of tasks before starting the placement to ensure they fully benefitted from their individually tailored experiences working with Solihull Council. For example, George Chance-Osman took part in the Takeover Challenge with the Chief Executive and was asked to Chair Mr Page's weekly 8am meeting and to propose an item of interest to the young people of Solihull. George proposed the establishment of a Solihull Youth Parliament and suggested that this should meet on a bi-monthly basis in the Council Chamber itself. He felt that there are numerous groups of young people in the borough and that the Solihull Youth Parliament would be regarded as a prestigious group representing the voice of young people in Solihull. He suggested that all school, academies and colleges in Solihull should be asked to send a female and male student to represent their student bodies, that the Parliament should include representatives from the Young Peoples Health Forum, Solihull Police Youth Forum, The Bishops Youth Council, Youth Parish Councils and representatives from groups such as the Cadets, Boys Brigade, Girl Guides and other interested groups who represent the young people of Solihull. It was agreed to investigate the idea further and George was invited to preliminary discussions on the proposal for a Solihull Youth Parliament during the Summer holiday, so we can all watch developments of a Solihull Youth Parliament with interest over the coming months. This demonstrates how seriously Solihull Council takes providing a voice for young people in the Borough of Solihull and George was extremely impressed that his proposal had been discussed in such a positive way.

What our young people say...

"It's usually adults who are asked for their views, so I thought it was good that young people were asked what we thought about things. We are the next generation, so I think it's important."

What the professionals say...

"Children and young people bring with them fresh ideas, imagination and energy, and also challenge stereotypes about them that we hear too often."

Solihull Council Celebration event at Solihull Council House

Park Hall Academy students thoroughly enjoyed their Takeover Challenges and were thrilled to be invited to The Council House for light refreshments and a formal presentation ceremony in the prestigious Council Chamber. Many of the staff that had supported our Sixth Form students were also in attendance which made the event particularly special. The students were also pleased to have an opportunity to speak to Solihull's Chief Executive Nick Page and to catch up with Liz Moore who had made the Takeover Challenge a reality as a result of a lot of hard work and effort liaising between the Council House and Park Hall Academy.

The event started off with a delicious buffet being laid on for the young people and was followed by the Takeover Challenge Celebration Ceremony in the Council House. The Mayor of Solihull oversaw the proceeding which was particularly poignant as The Mayor of Solihull is Mike Robinson who is a long standing Governor of Park Hall Academy, everyone was delighted that he went out of his way to join us on this special occasion. The Chief Executive Nick Page welcomed The Mayor of Solihull, Park Hall Governors, Mr Burgess, Mr Murphy, Councillors and most importantly the students themselves. The Sixth Form President George Chance-Osman and Vice President Charlotte Jobson delivered a beautifully crafted speech thanking everyone who had supported the takeover challenge and delivered a quote from all of the 29 students briefly explaining how they had benefited from their individual experiences. They also presented flowers to The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Mike Robinson, Solihull Chief Executive Nick Page and Liz Moore from the the Community Engagement Team for all of their support and encouragement which enabled the Takeover Challenge to become a reality.

The students were presented with a certificate and had their photographs taken with The Mayor of Solihull and Park Hall Governor Councillor Mike Robinson as a memento of this prestigious event. Park Hall Academy and staff would like to thank everyone involved in ensuring the students had a really worthwhile experience which has had a massive impact on their confidence and self-esteem and provided them with a valuable insight in to their future career choices. THANK YOU!

The Takeover Challenge roles Park Hall Academy Sixth Form students took on...

Challenge	Location	Young person
Takeover the Fairtrade Campaign	Council House	Chelsey Ann Kyriacau
Takeover the Fairtrade Campaign	Council House	Amanda Tooze
Engage Local businesses	Council House	Emma Ensor
Neighbourhood Rangers	Moat Lane Reception	Reece Chalmers
Campaign to encourage yp to recycle	Moat Lane Depot	Jessica Ward
Shadow the Chief Executive	Council House	George Chance Osman
Support the Eco Schools Award	Shirley Library + Haslucks Green School	Simra Hussain
Neighbourhood Management	Council House	Amelia Heale
Neighbourhood Activity Programme	Council House	Kirk Woakes / Callum Brennan
Urban Design & Planning	Council House	Katie Millward
Conservation & Enforcement	Council House	Chloe Wenlock
Be a Landscape Architect	Council House	William Taylor
Ecology & Biodiversity	Council House to work at LNR, Jobs Close, Knowle	Ben Millard
Prevent Fraud in Solihull	Council House	Ed Stapleton
Leisure Centre Management	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Isabel Scott
Shadow Head of Service for LAC	Jenson House	Victoria Fletcher
Manage the Public Protection Service	Moat Lane Depot	Charlotte Jobson
Urban Traffic Control	UTC Centre, Ground Floor Lode Lane Car Park, Solihull, B91 3RX	Joseph Jones
Work in Strategic Land & Property	Council House	Lewis Bevan
Eat well, move more	Council House	Poppy Smith
Take the Media Challenge 1 - writing	Council House	Jade Avery Smith
Take the Media Challenge 2 - photographic	Council House	Sam Lyttle
Be a Finance Director for the day	Council House	James Dixon
Help facilitate the Apprentice Show	Renewal Centre	Ashleigh Dorgan / Emma Ellis
On the Move' Safe & Active Travel	Council House	Katie Payne / James Hunt
Household Planning Applications	Council House	Charlotte Ford
Be a Public Protection & Enforcement Officer	Licencing Office, Moat Lane	Brooke Cope
Help develop the Shirley Economic Plan	Council House	Rhys Davies





New Business Dress Code

Our new Year 12 students joined our existing Sixth Form students in launching our new Sixth Form Business Dress code for the new school year.

Our students arrived for their first day back at school looking smart, proud and ready for work.

The new business dress code was developed in consultation with students as well as the Headteacher and the Governing Body. The final dress code strikes a balance between having a clearly smart and aspirational identity for the sixth form, while allowing the students themselves the flexibility to express themselves as young adults – committed to fulfilling their potential.

Mr Cornell, the Assistant Head responsible for the Sixth Form said that “The time was right to make the change to a smart Business dress code. Sustained improvements in results, excellent rates of progress and our Ofsted ‘good’ rating all indicated that we are ready to set our standards and expectations even higher.”

The students have been positive about the change from the start and have been keen to have their say. Our Sixth Form Student Executive organised a ‘fashion show’ for the launch of the Business Dress code last May – giving our potential new Sixth Formers their first chance to see how the dress code would look.

For all this preparation nothing prepared me for just how smart the students have looked this week. They look so grown up and self confident. Their demeanour represents the confidence and aspiration that we are keen to instil in all our students at Park Hall.

The Headteacher Mr Burgess said that “I am delighted to see our Sixth Form students looking so smart and ready for work. As an 11 to 18 school we want our year 7’s to be presented with smart, hard working role models that inspire them to achieve and do their best. We are thrilled to see that our Sixth Form is growing and more and more of our students are choosing to continue their studies here.”

World Challenge Expedition to Nepal

A team of 20 students from years 11 to 13 have booked their places on a World Challenge expedition to Nepal for July 2017.

Unlike most school trips – the biggest initial challenge for the students themselves is to raise the funds for the expedition. So far our team have been using all sorts of imaginative and challenging methods to raise the funds.

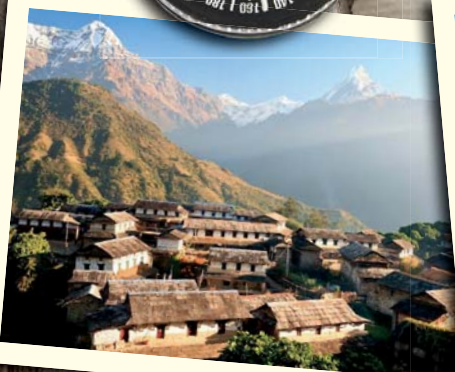
George Chance Osman and Lilley Davey organised a summer garden party and auction for their friends and family – up scaling old furniture to auction to raise funds. Brooke Cope took part in a mud run with her mum, Harrison Birch is turning wooden pallets into designer furniture and Kallum McEwan and Leah-Mai Richardson are organising a cake sale. Most of the group are also working part time in order to raise the funds required.

The students will aim to have most of their money raised by the New Year – by which time their attention will turn to preparing for the expedition itself.

The expedition will mainly centre around a demanding physical trek through the lower Himalaya culminating at Poon Hill at a height of around 3000 metres. Students will be trekking through remote Himalayan villages and camping out in front of some of the most dramatic views in the world. The expedition will also involve a significant cultural component, involving students living and volunteering as part of a Nepalese village community – carrying out building and educational work with villages still recovering from the devastating earthquakes of April 2015.

Having accompanied a Park Hall World Challenge Expedition to Kerala in India in 2014 Mr Cornell said “I have seen first hand what an expedition like this can do for both the communities being visited and the students themselves. As staff we really are just part of the team – our World Challenge expedition leader will insist that the students themselves take the lead, and take responsibility for decision making throughout the expedition. Where to stay, how to travel, where to eat will all be decisions that the students will have to make as a team – all while operating on a strict budget. Seeing the students grow in confidence, initiative and team spirit is a significant part of what makes such an expedition so special.

We look forward to updating you with our expedition preparations in the next edition of Park Life magazine.





Y13 LEAVERS PROM - 2016

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Y13 students celebrated their Leavers Prom at the Grimstock Hotel on Friday 27th May 2016. The evening began in the company of proud parents in recognition of their role in supporting their children through 13 years of education. Lots of students took the opportunity to have professional photographs taken with their families to mark this very special time at the end of their formal education.

It was a real pleasure to be able to speak to students and their parents about their experiences at Park Hall over the years and their hopes and aspirations for the future. Students looked exceptionally smart with most of our young men opting for suits and ties and our young ladies displaying the level of grace and sophistication normally reserved for the catwalks of Paris and Milan.

Once parents departed staff and students enjoyed a three course meal and a night of dancing, shared nostalgia and an endless parade of much valued group photographs by our official photographer.

Park Hall Sixth Formers do have something of a reputation on the dance floor – and this particular group of students did us proud – linking arms and singing their hearts out to the end.

Just over half of our year 13 leavers have now moved on to study at university with others opting for a move into employment or apprenticeships. We are certainly very proud of all that they have achieved and wish them the very best for the next, exciting phase of their lives.





Y13 LEAVERS PROM - 2016

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER









Park Hall is full of Book Worms

As we approached the end of a long but successful school year, many of our staff and students were hoping the sun would shine during the summer holiday. Not so we could enjoy wearing our sunglasses and shorts and have an excuse to eat ice-cream, but so we can get our heads stuck in a book. We are delighted to reveal that in total, years 7-9 have read over 100 million words, independent of in-class reading, in our accelerated reader programme. Every year group, on average, is reading above the expected levels for their age group and we have some students who have read over 50 books in their own time.

It is a fact that the more students read, the better they do in school. Literacy is a significant part of every subject, and good reading and writing support their success in examinations. Huge congratulations to Connor Bennett, Chloe Noakes and Lily Wood who have read over 2 million words this year. We look forward to a new school year full of reading.

We will continue our programme of intervention to support our readers and we look forward to inviting more authors in to inspire our students.



PARK HALL
ACADEMY



ARDEN

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