



Park Hall Academy



Weekly News
27th February 2026

SENECA SUCCESS: A half term of excellence



Park Hall Academy
Birmingham, Solihull

461,526

This half term, our students have truly excelled themselves on Seneca. With outstanding commitment, focus, and determination they have completed more assignments, improved their scores and shown real pride in their own learning. It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm and resilience, with so many pupils going above and beyond to challenge themselves and achieve their very best. Park Hall students have collectively studied an **additional 2793 hours on SENECA** alone in the last half term!

ALL students are expected to achieve our **minimum standard of 80%** on each assignment.


Special mention to our SENECA STARS for this last half term. The students with the highest usage are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Chigozirim Ikechukwu-Obi	Oliver Willetts	Frankie Davis	Libby Rodway	D'Arcy Gardner
Tincuta Ciobanu	Mia Cockayne	Finn Rooney	Summer Giffin	Alicia Baker
Emily Skelcher	Mal	Lilly Clarke	Aston Martin	Charlotte Aherne
Zakiya Nazir	Mwedziwendira	Bernard Monks-Brown	David Wilkes	Neve Hartill
Ethan Hart	Zayaan Asim	Leila Zaidi	Jalayah Thorne	Ryan Bevan
Maria Alberici	Jackson Carter	Amara Slimper-Nisar	Dexter Wilkes	Poppy Miles
Kherys Bench	Poppy McGrath	Taylor Horton	Marvelous Andoh	Isabella James-Blake
Nisma Ali	Jacob James	Ella Evans	Sum Kiu Chan	Arturs Preijers
Martins Okungbeni	Shay Ward	Leigha Hussain	Kacey O'Neill	Kian Hawes
Kiana Odulate	Timothy Adeosun	Ayesha Nazir	Fern Tanser	Tyler Coulson
	Coryn Horne-Macdonald			




SPARX Maths Leaderboard



Well done to all our students who are engaging with SPARX maths and making real progress in their maths lessons. A huge well done to Paige, Ava and Olivia for making the top 3 for XP across the whole school this week. Keep it up!



Weekly Leaderboard
Monday to Sunday

	Paige Dragoonis (Paige the Optimist)	2,816 XP
	Ava Butler (Ava the Sage)	1,715 XP
	Olivia Williams (Olivia the Sunbeam)	1,710 XP

Our highest XP students from last week are...

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Paige Dragoonis 2,816 XP	Evie O'Callaghan 890 XP	Fraiser Cassidy 665 XP	Ava Butler 1,715 XP	Scarlett Kayola 1,190 XP
Emily Skelcher 1,134 XP	Lara Somerfield 595 XP	Amara Slimper- Nisar 620 XP	Olivia Williams 1,710 XP	Daisy Jenkins 755 XP
Nisma Ali 1,090 XP	Leo Allen-Perks 595 XP	Taylor Horton 595 XP	Fern Tanser 930 XP	Cyron Taylor 715 XP
Ahmad Khan 837 XP	Zack Sills 595 XP	Poppy-May Addison 595 XP	Sophie Davies 595 XP	Rachel Thompson 595 XP
Lucy Roberts 710 XP	Alicia Rogers 595 XP	Eva Hopton 595 XP	Kaiden Cartwright 595 XP	Arturs Preijers 595 XP



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS



BTEC MUSIC



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS



BTEC DANCE



GCSE TASTER SESSIONS

The week before half term, the Performing Arts Department was delighted to host three GCSE taster sessions for a selected group of Year 9 students who were sent a special invitation to attend, having either expressed an interest or demonstrated particular excellence in Dance, Drama and Music.

Throughout the workshops, students were enthusiastic, creative and highly engaged, impressing staff with their commitment and maturity. Each session leader praised the group for their focus, collaboration and willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

We hope that students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it both inspiring and informative. We also encourage them to reflect on their time in the sessions as they consider their GCSE options, and to think about pursuing one of these exciting and rewarding subjects next year.

The Performing Arts Team

DIVERSITY DANCE TRIP

On Thursday 12th February, a group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students had the exciting opportunity to attend the Soul tour by Diversity. The trip provided students with the chance to experience a live professional dance production performed by one of the UK's most innovative and influential dance companies.

The performance was a powerful and thought-provoking showcase of storytelling through movement. Blending a wide range of dance styles with dramatic narrative, striking lighting, digital effects and an impressive soundtrack, the production explored themes of identity, technology and human connection. The precision, creativity and energy of the performers captivated the audience throughout.

Students conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to the school. They left the theatre feeling inspired by the exceptional storytelling conveyed through movement and the high-quality production elements. The experience offered valuable insight into how dance can communicate complex ideas and emotions, and we hope it has motivated many of our students to continue developing their own performance skills and creative ambitions.

Miss Googan



Year 9 & 10 Netball Triumph at Grace Academy

Our Year 9 and 10 netball teams travelled to Grace Academy this week for a highly anticipated fixture, and they certainly rose to the occasion! The girls put on a tremendous performance, securing an impressive 18–5 victory.

From the first whistle, the team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and unwavering encouragement for one another. Their communication on court, combined with their determination to win every ball, made for a fantastic display of school sport at its best. It was an absolute delight to watch.

A special congratulations goes to Faith Johnson, who was awarded Player of the Match for her outstanding effort, skill, and leadership throughout the game.

Well done to all the girls involved!



Year 9 Football Progress to Trevor Francis Cup Round of 16

The Year 9 football team delivered a composed and confident performance in their home fixture against Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School, securing a 2–0 victory to progress into the Round of 16 of the Trevor Francis Cup.

Park Hall took control early in the match, with Mason opening the scoring in the 15th minute after a well-worked attacking move. The momentum continued as Noah doubled the lead in the 22nd minute, giving the team a strong platform heading into the second half.

While the goals were impressive, it was the team's disciplined defensive display that truly sealed the win. The back line remained organised throughout, limiting the visitors to very few clear chances and ensuring a well-deserved clean sheet.

A fantastic all-round performance from the squad, well done, Year 9! On to the next round!

Ski Trip to Andorra 2026!

Our annual school ski trip to Andorra was a tremendous success this year, with 40 pupils taking part in an unforgettable week at Pal Arinsal. We departed on Saturday 14th February, full of excitement, and returned on 21st February with many stories to tell and memories to cherish.

Throughout the week, pupils experienced a fantastic variety of weather conditions, from steady snowfall that created perfect powdery pistes to bright, sunny days that offered stunning mountain views and warmer temperatures. The changing conditions allowed students to develop their skiing skills in different environments, building both confidence and resilience on the slopes.

Our pupils showed excellent determination and enthusiasm, with beginners making impressive progress and more experienced skiers confidently tackling challenging runs. Beyond skiing, the group enjoyed spending time together, strengthening friendships and representing the school superbly at all times.

Staff were incredibly proud of the students' behaviour, teamwork and positive attitudes throughout the trip. It was a pleasure to see everyone supporting one another and embracing every opportunity.

The trip was a wonderful experience for all involved. We are delighted that every pupil had a great time and returned home tired but happy after a truly memorable week in the mountains.



Science Fair!

We are running a science fair to celebrate British science week. The Park Hall Science fair will be taking place on **Friday 13th March 2026, 3:30-5pm.**

Students can enter as teams or as individuals but must sign up with Mrs Cooper in L14

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

If students want to get involved but need support every Wednesday Lunchtime in L14 there will be support available to help them plan and create their entry.

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY

Feb 27 2026

COMING UP NEXT WEEK:

Library Lovers' Month is over and World Book Day is taking over. The Library has turned into our very own Harry Potter World and there will be lots to get stuck into, staff dressing up, butter beer and the competition below.



WORLD BOOK DAY
LIBRARY COMPETITION!

Share Your Favourite Book!

Submit a 30 Second TikTok/Video of yourself explaining your favourite book and why you like it!

BEST ENTRY WINS A FREE KINDLE!

& Surprise Prize for the Runner-Up!

SUBMIT BY
WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH

SEND TO:
pbakewell@parkhall.org

**REMEMBER:
DOUBLE PRIDE
POINTS THIS
WEEK IF YOU
CARRY A
READING
BOOK IN
YOUR BAG!!**

794
Books
Checked out

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we are now accepting applications for students who wish to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

The sign-up fee for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is £42.50 per participant. This fee covers registration with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award organisation and access to the online system used to record and monitor students' progress. Payment of this fee should be made via ParentPay.

Please note that there will be an additional cost for the expedition section of the award. At this stage, we are unable to confirm the exact cost, as this will depend on the number of students who sign up. Once participant numbers are confirmed and arrangements finalised, we will provide a full breakdown of expedition costs.

The Bronze Award offers students a valuable opportunity to develop confidence, independence, teamwork, and resilience, and we are pleased to be able to offer this programme.

Further information regarding key dates, requirements, and next steps will be shared once applications have been received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,




Mr L Page
Head of Year 8 / Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager



P.R.I.D.E Points

Our students have the opportunity to earn PRIDE points in a variety of ways here at Park Hall. Well done to these students for receiving the most PRIDE points in their year group this week.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Isla Hobbs Sophia Reeve	Codi Clarke	Imogen Hemmings	Toby-Jay Amphlett	Kye Mills



READING POWER
2nd –6th MARCH

P R I D E
O W E
R E A D I N G

A WEEK OF DOUBLE PARTICIPATION POINTS FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE SEEN WITH THEIR READING BOOK!

DON'T FORGET!

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

The banner features a cartoon bear wearing a graduation cap and gown, reading a book. The background is a rainbow with confetti, balloons, and musical notes. A megaphone icon points to a 'WORLD BOOK DAY' graphic showing a stack of books, a green dragon, and other school supplies.

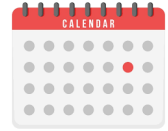
Get ready to power up your reading!

From Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March, we are celebrating Reading Power Week across the school.

Throughout the week, all students who are seen with their reading book - whether in tutor time, during break and lunch, or while moving between lessons - will earn double Participation Points. It's the perfect opportunity to show your commitment to earning P.R.I.D.E points, boost your score and develop great reading habits.

This special week also leads into World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, so make sure to have your reading book with you every day!

Let's fill the school with stories, imagination and the power of reading. Don't forget your book - double points are waiting! 📖 ✨



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday 4th March – Concertina Day – Students finish at 12.20pm
- Friday 13th March – Science Fair – 3.30-5pm
- Thursday 26th March – Yr 11 Parents Evening – 3.30-6.30pm
- Friday 27th March – Last day of term for students

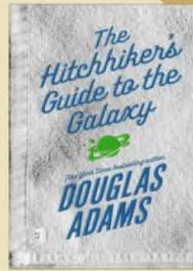
EASTER HOLIDAYS – Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

- Monday 13th April – Students return to school

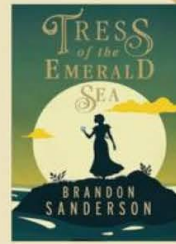
Reading Recommendations



Books I'd Hand to a 15-Year-Old Boy



A witty, British, sci-fi classic.



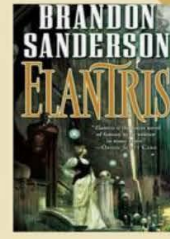
For Princess Bride vibes. Anytime I recommend this to a teen boy I get rave reviews.



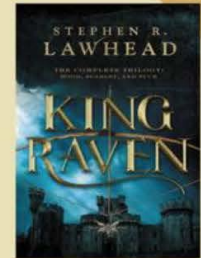
One of my all-time favorite reads from my teen years. Hand this to your teen and then watch the classic Sean Connery movie, First Knight.



Move over, Jurassic Park. Michael Crichton is so much bigger than dinosaurs. Get set for a spaceship under the ocean.



Brandon Sanderson's debut novel - a great stand-alone if you're not ready to dive into a series.



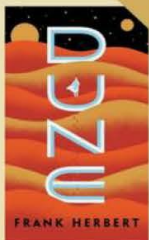
My nephew strongly recommends.



My 15-year-old was like, "MOM." That's the emphatic one-word response I'm looking for these days to know a rec was a hit! Content warnings. My daughter recommends it as a stand-alone.

Recommendations taken from Holly Mackle books

Please follow ParkHallEnglishdepartment on Instagram for more book recommendations!



A sweeping, epic, coming-of-age science fiction tale, according to a trusted recommender. First suggested to him by his 8th grade English teacher.

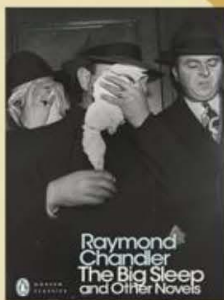


Just one more Brandon Sanderson.

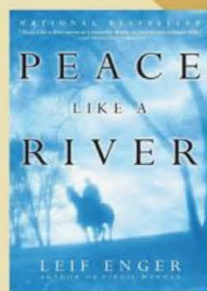
Guess what - the trusted gave so many great recs - this is just part 1 of 2! Stick around for that list, coming soon. What did I miss? Any more fiction you think would be great for a 15-year-old?



Same and same - read the book then watch the Matt Damon movie.



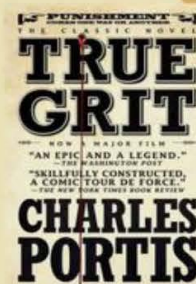
Double-crossing detective noir just perfect for your favorite wise guy.



I've read this book twice and would reread it again today. Would make for a great listen-along or read-aloud with teens on a road trip. Great for conversation.



Hunger Games plus one on the maturity scale - content warnings. Do your homework before handing over, but it comes to me highly recommended.



Vengeance and consequence - my friend said, "it's from the perspective of a young girl, but she's no delicate flower."



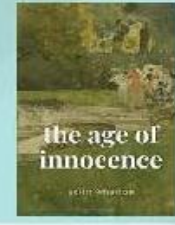
Books I'd Hand to a 15-Year-Old Girl



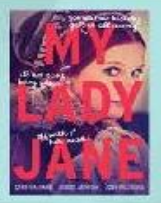
Sleeping Beauty all grown up.



I read this at 15 in English class and again at 43. Not sure which time I enjoyed it more.



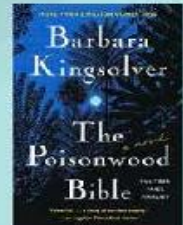
Many people have done Wharton to a 15-year-old—I do not!—but don't forget about Edith Wharton. From a completist's perspective, this one is a great place to start.



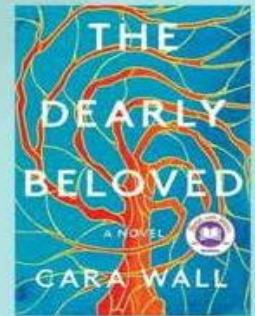
Clever and witty—by far the best in the series. If you could read this one and call it a day on the series.



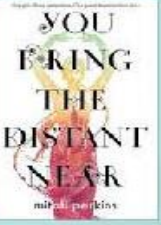
Totally brilliant and beyond complicated. Such a great one to talk through. Content warnings waving wildly.



Read it and then read it again—my favorite book of all time. A wonderful introduction to an author who never shies away from the hard, yet makes us see beauty all the same.



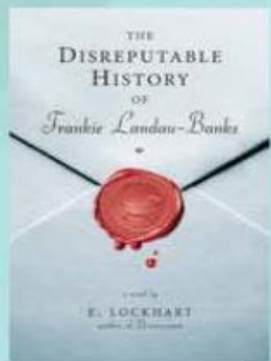
Gentle, complicated, layered—such conversational fodder, but your 15-year-old would have to be down for a super quiet read.



Miell Perkins depicts family in the most loving, thoughtful, yet complicated ways. Loved it, just loved it.

Recommendations taken from Holly Mackle books

Please follow ParkHallEnglishdepartment on Instagram for more book recommendations

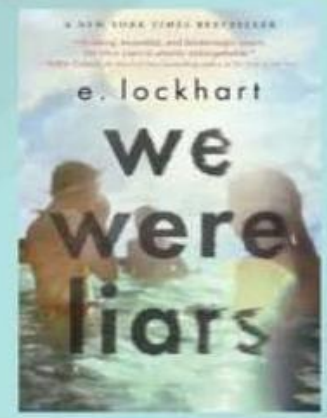


E. Lockhart shows up twice on this list...mostly because my 15-year-old said, "Mom, this one is hilarious. You HAVE to put it on there."



Geez we both loved this book.

What did I miss? Any more fiction you think would be great for a 15-year-old?



My 15-year-old asked me to read this and I'm so glad I did. Content warnings on this one and big time on the TV adaptation.



ART FOR WELLBEING

AT
THREE TREES COMMUNITY CENTRE

Starts 24th February · 9:30 - 15:00 · 5 weeks

A friendly, creative space for unemployed adults* who may be feeling stuck or disconnected. Art for Wellbeing uses simple art-making to support mental wellbeing, confidence, and a sense of progress—one session at a time. Enjoy a free lunch and weekly sessions every Tuesday for five weeks.

Email community.projects@solihull.ac.uk or scan the QR code to sign up



*Unemployed residents in Solihull only.

Attendance

How absence from school affects children long term

Attendance	Average earnings (aged 28)
99-100%	£32,200
90-98.9%	£29,800
50-89.9%	£19,500
Below 50%	£10,100

A recent study by the **Department for Education study**, investigated the long-term impact of absence on future earnings. It highlights how students who attend school more regularly tend to earn higher salaries by the age of 28.

- **Students with nearly perfect attendance (99-100%)** earn an average of **£32,200** per year.
- **Those with attendance at 90-98.9%** earn slightly less, at **£29,800** per year.
- **Students with lower attendance (50-89.9%)** see a significant drop in earnings, averaging **£19,500** per year.
- **Students who attend less than 50% of the time** earn the least, at only **£10,100** per year.

This **Department for Education study** emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance in shaping a child's future success. Encouraging consistent attendance can have a **long-term impact** on job opportunities and financial stability later in life.

Attendance Matters

As we all know, attendance plays a huge part in our children achieving their full potential. Research has shown that pupils who performed better at the end of secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. **Reporting a Student Absence:** On the occasions when children are too unwell to attend school, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to contact school as soon as possible, by **8.30am** at the latest, on **each morning of absence**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

*There are **190** teaching days in a school year. **10** days of absence = **95%** attendance; **15** days of absence = **92%** attendance. Children with **OVER 90%** attendance are more likely to achieve 5 or more Grade 4+ qualifications Children with **LESS than 85%** attendance are **unlikely** to gain 5 or more 9-5 GCSE's or equivalent qualifications.*

Student Medication

This is a gentle reminder that if your child requires an inhaler, especially now that the colder weather is here, please ensure it is in their bag or blazer so they can use it as and when required. If your child needs medication that must be kept in school, please complete a consent form – please contact school if you need one

Contact Details

Have you changed your contact details? If you have changed your home address, telephone number, email address or name, please ensure that you contact the main office to update your details so that you do not miss out on information from school. You can update your details via email: post@parkhall.org or by calling 0121 748 0400.



For Parents - How to Report Online Harm

There are so many apps with different reporting functions, organisations, helplines and more it can be really frustrating for parents to get help. Internet Matters have a useful page which details some of these organisations and what they can do, how to report specific issues, how to report on many of the social platforms and games and where to go for more help. You can see all the details [HERE](#).

