



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing 1st October, 2018 - Week 1

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Date	Event
Tues 2nd Oct	Additional Open Morning 9.10-11.10am
	Year 7 & 9 Football V Chulmleigh (Away) 3.30-5.30pm
	Year 8-11 North Devon Netball League @ Park 3.30-5.30pm
	Parent Partnership Session 4 7-8pm Room ICT3
	Bali Rai author visit KS3
Weds 3rd Oct	Round 1 Cross Country Cup - Kings College Taunton 12-6.30m
	School Council Meeting 12pm
Thurs 4th Oct	Year 11 Options at 16+ evening 5-7pm School Hall and Canteen
	Year 8 & 10 Football V Chulmleigh (Home) 3.30-5pm
Fri 5th Oct	Alex Wheatle author visit KS3
Sun 7th Oct	Ten Tors Practice From Park to Bideford 9am-4pm

FOOD AT PARK

The Autumn term menus have been added to our website on our [website food page](#). Main meals are £1.80, and 2 courses are £2.30. Breakfast club opens 8.15am-8.45am.

LETTERS ISSUED THIS WEEK - BY STUDENT POST

Check below to see if your child should have a letter. (Copy on website or click link)

Year	Topic
11	Options at 16+ Letter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Open Mornings

This week we have seen approximately 380 pupils and parents involved in school tours following our open evening. Over four days we toured the school calling into lessons and talking to students from year 7 to year 11. Every member of our school played their part in welcoming visitors and are a credit to themselves and the school.

We have added an extra open morning next Tuesday starting from 9.10am - 11.10am. If you are aware of any pupil in Year 5 or 6 who hasn't yet had the opportunity to visit us in action, please let them know about our additional open morning.

Health and Safety

I have written to parents/carers in the past about the effects of energy drinks in school. These drinks often contain high levels of caffeine and sugar which can impact on a young person's behaviour, concentration

and attitude, especially when the effects of the drink are wearing off. Thankfully, we do not see students consuming these - please remember these are banned from school. However, recently we have spotted an emerging trend. Several students have been found to be in possession of glucose tablets. These can have a similar effect to energy drinks. Alarming, they can also present a safeguarding issue as staff and students may not know the origins of these tablets. Please can I urge parents/carers to speak to their children about the issues and concerns with energy drinks and glucose tablets. If any child has a specific medical need, please contact our lead first aider, Mrs. Windsor, who can support your son/daughter in school.

Gareth Roscoe - Headteacher

FAIR FUNDING

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you will have seen in the press that today (Friday) hundreds of Headteachers from across the country will be in London for a mass event intended to gain support for improved funding for all schools. Whilst I am not attending the event I support its aims and explain some context.

You will be aware of the challenges that schools up and down the country are facing. A mixture of rising costs and stresses on other support services has meant that for many years we have been being asked "to do more with less".

Under a challenging period of austerity for the country we understand that there is not a bottomless pit of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that we serve.

It is clear to all Headteachers, however, that matters are unsustainable. Frequently, we do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on our schools. On the ground schools are left with little option other than reducing services and resourcing. Park's financial position is currently sound but living within our means, we also face difficult decisions, especially with a growing cohort.

Under the umbrella of the campaign group 'Worth Less?', Headteachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that we are facing. We

acknowledge that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced/funded and therefore our budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.

In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what we have been saying for a long time and confirmed that, in real terms, school budgets have been slashed by 8% since 2010. <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/13143> . It is simply not good enough for the Government to state that "more money is spent on schools than ever before", when independent evidence clearly states that in real terms, this is simply not the case.

Headteachers will gather at Downing Street to ask that the Chancellor, and his colleagues at the Department for Education, use the upcoming autumn statement to invest properly in our schools and your child's education. Many of the real terms cuts to our budgets should be reversed.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have supported this campaign. A better and fairer settlement would make a real difference to the support that schools are able to offer the children in their care.

Yours faithfully

Gareth Roscoe - Headteacher

ROAD CLOSURE - TRAFFIC LIGHTS MAY CAUSE DELAYS

ROAD CLOSURE - A361 RIVER TAW - BARNSTAPLE (RUMSAM BRIDGE REPAIRS)

Please be advised that circumstances and weather permitting, South West Highways will be undertaking essential highway maintenance works on behalf of Devon County Council for 1 night, on **Monday 1st October 2018**.

The works will involve essential **bridge repair works**. In order to carry out these works, a road closure and diversion will be in place.

Works will generally be undertaken between the hours of **19:00 and 07:00**, although these times may vary.

Additional repairs to the bridge will also continue throughout the week under temporary traffic lights, which may cause delays.

YEAR 11 CAREER EVENTS

Upcoming career events:-

- October 4th **Options at 16+ Evening** - for all Year 11 Students and Parents at Park.
- October 10th **Petroc Open Evening**
- October 18th **Apprenticeship Information Evening** - for any Year 11 Students and Parents who want to know more about apprenticeships at Park.

Year 11 Careers Interviews start again on Wednesday 12th September. If any parent feels their child would benefit from a Careers interview with Careers South West, please email Mrs Thomas sthomas@theparkschool.org.uk

18th-20th February 2019 - **Babcock International Routes into STEM Plymouth** - Click the attached [flyer link](#) for more information. There are only 30 spaces so don't delay if interested in applying.

OPTIONS AT 16+ EVENING

The Year 11 Options at 16+ Evening is being held on the 4th October. We will be issuing students with a letter regarding this event on Monday. We also provide a [link to the letter](#) here.

THREE DAY UNIVERSITY COURSE

Please view the attached poster (click to enlarge) about three Day University Courses on offer in Engineering and Science. These are available for girls in Year 11.

YEAR 11 CONTACT DETAILS

Year 11 students are being asked to provide contact details to external organisations as part of the Careers programme. It is apparent that some students do not have their own email address other than their school one or know a phone number where they can be contacted after they have left Park School.

Please can Parents/Carers make sure that Year 11 students have a personal email, with a suitable address for making applications, and a contact phone number.

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES KS4

Revision guides are available to purchase from school at a reduced price.

Option 1 - GCSE AQA - all three Science revision guides. Price at £8.75.

Option 2 - GCSE AQA Foundation Combined Science revision guides. Price at £6.00

Option 3 - GCSE AQA Higher Combined Science revision guides. Price at £6.00

Payment can be made via Wisepay or cheque made payable to "Devon County Council".

HISTORY REVISION TWILIGHTS

It would be great if parents/carers could encourage their sons/daughters in Year 11 who study history to attend the History Revision Twilights on Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm. We will cover knowledge, skills, and exam strategy in the sessions.

Also if any parents would like to support their children with history revision but do not know how, then please get in touch with their History teacher who will be happy to help.

There are also revision support books available for all 4 GCSE modules at pupil reception. They can be purchased for £10.50. They contain key content, questions to practice with and model answers. They are available for new Year 10 History students and any Year 11s who have not yet purchased them.

EDT Industrial Cadets

Are you a 15-16 year old girl?

Universities have told us they want YOU!

If you have a passion for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), then let us INSPIRE you for 3 days at a leading UK university. Each Inspire course is a mixture of exciting hands-on activities and personal development sessions.

What will I do?

- You will be introduced to several branches of engineering or science to give you a flavour of what to expect at first year undergraduate level!
- Take part in hands-on STEAM projects, lectures and workshops
- Learn how to manage a project, develop research techniques, or write reports
- Hear about university life from lecturers, admissions tutors and post-grad students
- Meet engineers, researchers and professionals who will explain their own achievements
- Be confident and enthusiastic about your next level of study to STEAM subjects

The 2019 Inspire Programme

- Brunel University
- University of Cambridge
- Coventry University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- Glasgow Kelvinside University
- Glasgow Caledonian University (Boys course)
- Lancaster University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Queen Mary, University of London
- University College London
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick

Partner organisations:

Courses take place straight after your GCSEs and run throughout June and July, so why not come along with a friend? If you attend an Inspire course we'll treat you as a priority applicant when you apply for a headstart course the following year.

Find out more and apply online from September 2018
www.edtrust.org.uk/inspirecourse

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Students received a letter outlining the Work Experience programme on Monday. The top half of the [Parent/Carer Permission form](#) needs to be returned to Pupil Reception by 9th November 2018. A copy is attached. Students are researching placements with their Tutors. However, there are two popular organisations with their own Application Procedures:

Work Experience Application Notes from Charter Vets

As in previous years we have scheduled 'A Career in Veterinary Practice' presentations for students who are considering such a career and would like to find out more and potentially apply for work experience here. The dates of this year's presentations will be on Tuesday 6th November 7.00pm at Mullacott Veterinary Hospital Ilfracombe EX34 8NZ and Wednesday 14th November 7.00pm at Charter Veterinary Hospital Roundswell Barnstaple EX31 3FG.

At these presentations students will have the opportunity to complete an application form to apply for work experience. If short-listed; students are then invited to attend an interview with Heather Wraith HR Manager. If any are interested in attending they should email Heather Wraith HR Manager at heatherwraith@chartervets.com as places will need to be reserved. Each student is welcome to bring one guest. I hope this will be of interest to you and they look forward to hearing from some of Park students in the near future.

A copy of the application needs to be handed in to Pupil Reception by 9 November 2018 and the original sent directly to Charter Vets.

Applications for Work Experience at the Hospital

The following information has been provided from the Hospital regarding work experience.

Please find attached the [2019 application form](#) for the year 10 work experience week at North Devon District Hospital. They have asked for a small photo to be attached, this does not have to be of professional quality, so they do not expect the students to incur any expense to get this.

In the past the number of applications from each school has varied enormously, so this year will be

trialling a different selection format. Each school that sends applications will guarantee a placement for a minimum of 1 student and maximum of 4 students. This will be determined by the quality of applications and the interview process. Interviews will be as usual in January/February and the successful students will be informed via their school when all interviews have been completed in all schools.

The week will run from Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July 2019. Due to the high volume of requests the hospital receives, this is the only clinical work experience offered and thus no other applications will be accepted for other weeks in the year.

Applications will need to be handed in to Pupil Reception by 9th November 2018. Do not send directly to the hospital.



School of Rock Rehearsals This Week!

(Week Commencing 1st Oct):

Tuesday Lunch: Scene 4 - Apartment, Ned, Patty and Dewey

Tuesday 3:30pm: Scene 5 - Dewey, Gabe, Rosalie, Summer, + Scene 6 All Classroom, You're in the Band.

Wednesday 3:30pm: Room Music 2: All Band members.

Thursday 3:30pm EVERYONE !

SCHOOL CHOIR COMPETITION

We would like to make sure parents know that unfortunately we can not enter the annual school choir competition this year because the final is on the same night as the School of Rock production in December!

TWO AWARD WINNING AUTHOR VISITS

We are delighted to be welcoming award winning

author Bali Rai back to Park on the 2nd October.

We are equally excited to be meeting Alex Wheatle who is also an award winning author for the first time, on 5th October.

Both authors will be working with Key Stage Three groups. We will be selling a limited number of Alex Wheatle's book "Home Boys" on October 5th at a price of £7.99, which will be signed by the author.

NEW PARENT/CARER WEEKLY SESSIONS

DON'T MISS THE FOURTH SESSION ON TUESDAY 2ND OCT 7PM - 8PM IN ROOM ICT3

At the start of the new school year, weekly sessions are arranged to offer our new parents/carers helpful information and advice on various topics - please see a copy of this year's flyer below for more information about the sessions.

When you arrive for a session, you can park your car in the staff car park and a member of staff will meet you at our old reception entrance at the North block and show you where to go. Look out for the signs!

We hope that all new parents have received a copy of this Flyer. The full printable version is available on our website on the Parent Partnership page under the "Parents" menu, or click the following link. [Parent Partnership Flyer 2018](#)

<p>5 STEPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS</p> <p>We really hope you can make all or some of these evenings. Previous attendees felt a lot more relaxed and more able to help their child with this important stage of their education.</p> <p>You'll come away feeling that you're not alone; that you are doing a great job as a parent/carer and remembering that knowledge is power!</p> <p>Please just turn up on the night, if you have any questions please contact the school on Tel: 01271 373131.</p>	<p>A Parent's Induction Into The Park Community School</p> <p>Tues 11th Sept, 6.45pm - 8.00pm in Room ICT3</p> <p>The session will begin with a tour of the school. We will then return to room ICT3 to discuss all of those everyday issues: communication, homework, merits, discipline, clubs, the house system, who is who and anything else you wish to find out about.</p> <p>Staff (including senior team members and governors) and members of the Parent Partnership will be available to chat and share their knowledge of the school with you.</p>	<p>Supporting Your Child's Learning at Park</p> <p>Tues 18th Sept, 7pm - 8pm in Room ICT3</p> <p>This is an opportunity to learn about the school systems which support your child's learning and progress, as well as the chance to find out what you can do to continue this learning at home. There will be information from the Progress Leaders, who track your child's academic progress, and from the SENDCO who co-ordinates a range of support for students at Park School.</p> <p>SENDCO = Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator.</p>
<p>My Child and the Internet - What do I need to know?</p> <p>Tues 25th Sept, 7pm - 8pm in Room ICT3</p> <p>This session is hosted by our Head of Computing - Mr Williams. Life is very different from when you were at school! Learn how computers can be your child's greatest friend and education aid, but also about the risks that the online world can pose.</p>	<p>Pastoral System & PSHEE</p> <p>Tues 2nd Oct, 7pm - 8pm in Room ICT3</p> <p>This session will explain the pastoral system and what it means to be part of the house system at Park. Members of the house teams will present information and take questions.</p> <p>Our PSHEE coordinator will explain the content of your child's PSHEE lessons and what they will learn in this subject.</p> <p>PSHEE = Personal, Social, Health & Emotional Education.</p>	<p>What's Happening To My Little Darling?</p> <p>Tues 9th Oct, 7pm - 8pm in Room ICT3</p> <p>This support session is one you really don't want to miss. As your child moves in to adolescence you will leave feeling empowered and, maybe have a bit more understanding of your child's behaviour and needs.</p>