



# THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Weekly Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing 11th March, 2019 - Week 2

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

Date	Event
Mon 11th Mar	House Council week
	Interhouse Rugby and Hockey matches all week
Tues 12th Mar	Year 11 Post Mock Revision Evening 5-7pm Drama and MFL rooms
Thurs 14th Mar	Year 8 Netball tournament 1-4.30pm (Home)
Thurs 14th Mar	Governors' Tea 3.30-4.30pm Canteen
Sat 16th Mar	Ten Tors Practice (2 days)

### FOOD AT PARK

The Spring 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 EMAIL/POST

Check below to see if you have been sent a letter

Year	Topic
11	Post Mock Revision Event (Email 5/3)

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

#### World Book Day / Literacy

The school is working to develop literacy standards across all areas in both written and spoken form. World Book Day served as a timely reminder about the importance of this. It was pleasing to see so many staff and students support this event. The English department organised a variety of literacy themed activities and students were reminded about the need for care around spelling, punctuation and grammar. Reading is a key element of any education system and by working with you and students we hope to expand horizons along with vocabulary and aspirations. You can play your part by encouraging reading, taking an interest in the books that students are reading at school and ensuring the basics in any written work.

Congratulations to the winners of the KS3 Fancy Dress Competition who were Jake Dewberry (1st) Evie-May Phipps (2nd) and Ajay Walton (3rd).



#### Campus Update.

A 'turn' in the weather this week has coincided with the installation of our solar panels for the Sports Hall roof. This project, along with other energy efficient works has been paid for via a 0% interest loan which will be repaid by the savings made to energy use and a feed in tariff for electricity generated. Later in the school year we will be changing to LED lighting and adding other energy efficiency.

We have experienced a delay in the delivery of the flooring for the School Hall, however it has now arrived and will be laid in the next two weeks. Thank you to staff and students for their understanding whilst the School Hall has been out of action.

#### Year 11 Support

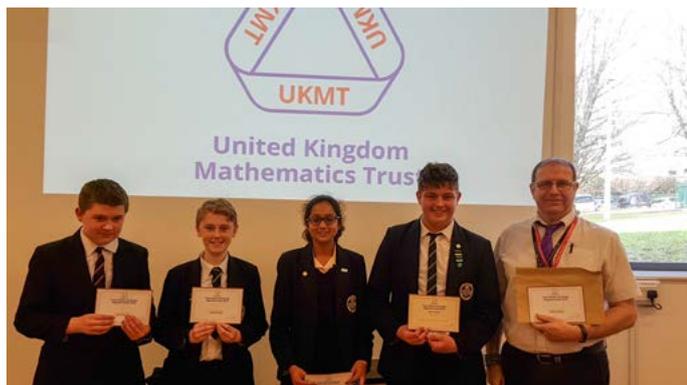
As we enter Spring the exam season looms for our Year 11 students. To help parents support their children we are running a Year 11 post mock examination evening on **Tuesday 12th March**. The evening will consist of stalls, informal talks, presentations and 1:1 sessions supported by a range of resources for you to take away. We hope to see as many Year 11 parents as possible. Please reply to the [google form](#) which was also emailed on 5th March, to book a place.

#### Parking - Bus Turning Circle

We were visited by representatives from Stagecoach this week as part of a 'no travel pass no travel' check. They spoke with staff and students and again the issues of parents dropping off students in the bus turning circle was highlighted. Can I ask that parents do not use this space for pick up and drop off, by doing so car drivers are putting our students at risk. The Park and Ride is the suitable place for drop off and adds very little distance to the journey. As an alternative a number of parents also drop off on Lady's Mile by the entrance to Rock Park.

**Gareth Roscoe - Headteacher**

## WINNER OF THE UKMT REGIONAL TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE



A huge congratulations to four students, Fin Carlyon (Year 9), Jacob Phillips (Year 8), Sethini Vanderbona (Year 8) and Harry Gammon (Year 9), who attended the UKMT Regional Team Maths Challenge at Coombe Dean School on Thursday 7th March. They competed against other schools from the region and won! An impressive achievement, we now hope to go on to challenge the other 87 winning teams in the June National Final in London.

## LOST PROPERTY SHOES

There are a number of lost property items, especially shoes and coats, currently being held in Pupil Reception. If your child have lost an item that was unnamed, please ask them to check to see if the item has been handed in.

## ACTIVITY DAYS - DEADLINE 15TH MARCH

An email was sent to parents/carers of children in Years 7-9 on 1st March. Please look out for the email and discuss with your child their activity day choices and complete the form by Friday 15th March. Those students attending the France, Barcelona or Torquay residential do not need to complete the form.

## SCHOOL TRIPS

Please note all cheques should now be made payable to 'The Park Community School' and not 'Devon County Council'.

## MADRID TRIP - YEAR 9 AND 10

There are spaces available for the GCSE Spanish trip to Madrid, 14th - 17th February 2020. The trip is a fantastic opportunity to practise listening and speaking in Spanish as well as experiencing the culture of this historic and interesting capital city.

The trip is open to any Year 10 students who currently study Spanish, or Year 9 students who are hoping to study GCSE Spanish. Please see Miss Harvey in MFL1, or email [aharvey@theparkschool.org.uk](mailto:aharvey@theparkschool.org.uk) if interested. Spaces will be open for a limited time.

## BARCELONA TRIP

Please ensure you return the completed trip forms as soon as possible, to pupil reception.

## FRENCH TRIP 2019

Could parents please ensure they complete and return the two forms to pupil reception as soon as possible.

## NEW YORK JULY 2020



There is still time to apply for a place on this trip. A non-refundable deposit is required as soon as possible for £200.

For those that missed the New York Information evening, please see link to the [New York 2020 Presentation](#)

Students who are interested in the trip can pick up a letter from

Miss Vidler or a link is provided here - [New York Letter](#)

## BUDE/TORQUAY RESIDENTIAL

Could parents/carers kindly ensure you keep up to date with the regular monthly instalments.

## FRIENDS OF PARK

## SCHOOL OF ROCK - DVD

A DVD has been created for our students amazing 'School of Rock' performance, in December.

On behalf of Friends of Park they will be available for sale at £5 per DVD in a clam shell case with graphic design on the DVD surface. (providing we receive orders for the minimum order quantity of 50)

We would like to establish how many copies are required, before we place an order - if you would like a DVD, please complete the google form, to reserve your copy.

[DVD ORDER FORM](#)

Please respond by Sunday 10th March.

DVDs will be produced in-house if the response is low (no design printed on the DVD surface).

When ready DVDs will be available for collection from the School Office.

## CHARITY NEWS

## GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND COLLECTION

If you have too much small change, please remember we are still collecting loose change eg 1p, 2p, 5p in the tutor Dog Kennels for Guide Dogs and the competition to name and meet the puppy is still running until the end of the year. Thank You.

**House totals so far since September 2018:**

Kingsley £464.80, Fortescue £359.40, Chichester £265.74, Drake £212.19 and Raleigh £59.98. A grand total £1362.11. Well done everyone!

*Mrs O'Callaghan*

## SCIENCE - LINKS TO A LIFE DAY



A group of Year 9 and Year 10 girls had a fantastic day of science enrichment activities provided by Links To A Life! Celebrating the life and times of Lise Meitner, a little known but significant physicist from the early 20th century. All students contributed wonderfully to the day.



## KS4 INFORMATION

### YEAR 10 DEADLINE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Last date for arranging Work Experience placements is **Friday 26th April 2019**. There has to be time for the Duty of Care checks to be completed. After that date no new employers can be used.

Students can access the database to look for placements used in the past: <http://devon.learnaboutwork.org> Log In Details: School Name: The Park Community School User Name: Park Student Password: 2121

### YEAR 10 WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

Calling all Year 10 students - are you interested in learning more about artificial intelligence? There is an opportunity for Year 10 students to attend a residential at Exeter University 8th-11th April for £165. It is aimed at Year 10 students whose parents have had no university experience.

Students will take part in projects where they will explore the world of artificial intelligence, a branch of science which deals with helping machines to find solutions to complex problems in a more human-like fashion. Please see or email Mrs Mills if you are interested and meet the criteria.

Email: [amills@theparkschool.org.uk](mailto:amills@theparkschool.org.uk)

## PETROC COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Petroc have their last open event on **Saturday 9th March**. This is a day of tailored sessions, and gives interested students an opportunity to explore one subject in depth, by means of a talk or a demonstration – a bit like a Taster Day.

It's a great opportunity for students who have not yet applied, or those that have applied but changed their mind/want a second look at the subject to be sure. Also good for A-level applications who may be thinking about swapping a subject. We also welcome Year 10 to come along to start looking at options for Taster Day/options next year.

Register online at [www.petroc.ac.uk/events](http://www.petroc.ac.uk/events)

Click here to view the [Petroc Open Day Flyer](#)

Click here to view the [Petroc Open Day Session Flyer](#)

## YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLE

Please see link to the current [Year 11 Revision Session Timetable](#). This timetable has started, any future amendments will be uploaded on our website under the "Events" menu. It would be great if parents/carers could encourage their sons/daughters in Year 11 to attend these revision sessions.

## CAREERS ADVICE

### CAREER PILOT

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

Career Pilot is an impartial website that will help parents/carers and students to explore further study and work options. There is helpful information when choosing options at 14 such as GCSE choices, exploring job sectors, identifying skills and creating a profile. All Year 9 students have used this website as part of the careers module leading up to their option choices.

Year 11 students have used this website to look at their options at 16, subjects and the jobs they may lead to. Information about Higher Education is helping students make choices between BTECs, A levels or Apprenticeship routes.

A Parent Zone section exists on the website to answer parents' questions about the choices available at 14, 16 and 18. Careerpilot has been developed by the University of Bath and is free to use.

[www.parentzone.careerpilot.org.uk/parent](http://www.parentzone.careerpilot.org.uk/parent)

## SPORT UPDATES

### PE KIT SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS

As our various teams have reached so many finals, some kits are starting to show wear and tear. As such, our sports teams would appreciate updated kits. We are looking for local businesses to sponsor a team kit so that our students can look smart and so feel good at every sporting event. We are looking for sponsorship for the Netball, Football and Rugby, for each year group.

If you would like to receive further information about sponsoring a kit, please email [jgreenaway@theparkschool.org.uk](mailto:jgreenaway@theparkschool.org.uk), or Tel: 01271 373131 and leave a message for P.E. Teacher Mr Greenaway, to return your call.

This letter is being shared by Headteachers across the country to highlight the issue of school funding.



Dear Parent / Carer

8th March 2019

#### Update - School Funding Issues

I wanted to contact you to provide an update on current issues relating to school funding.

Sadly, I have to confirm that despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, matters remain extremely challenging. In short, schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resource to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

#### Current Concerns

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8% and by 20% at post-16
- Class sizes are rising and the curricular offer is being restricted
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing. Frequently, we do not have adequate resource to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools - those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

These issues are not simply affecting a few schools. They are common features across our education system up and down the country. Levels of concern are so widespread amongst headteachers that we are all working together with a united voice.

As such, we have written to the Secretary of State for Education on three separate occasions since September 2018. We are dismayed that he has chosen to ignore our communications and repeated requests to meet. On 13 December 2018, we were informed by a junior civil servant that *"I am afraid that, on this occasion, the Secretary of State and the Minister of State must decline your offer to meet. I hope you will understand that their time is heavily pressured and their diaries need to be prioritised according to ministerial, Parliamentary and constituency business."*

Given the seriousness of the current school funding crisis and the impact upon schools, children and families, headteacher colleagues and I, believe that this approach is entirely ill-judged. On 14 January 2019, we wrote again to the Secretary of State for Education asking that he reconsider meeting with representative headteachers. Six weeks later, this request was declined once more: *"As I'm sure you will appreciate, both their diaries are very full and they are unable to accept your kind offer at this time."* Thousands of headteachers simply do not understand what issues could be seen as more important than the ones we are raising on behalf of schools, children and families.

In September 2018, over 2000 headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. This action was unprecedented.

The 'Worth Less?' campaign group now comprises 64 Local Authorities and Boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families. This gives a clear indication of the levels of concern felt by reasonable and moderate headteachers in England.

We continue to recognise that there is not a 'bottomless pit' of money and also acknowledge that many local MPs from across the political spectrum are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.

#### Why we need to meet

- Headteachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Headteachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels of resource and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Headteachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans - the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.
- Headteachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Headteacher colleagues and I, feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and carers as we campaign for a much improved level of funding for our schools and pupils. We urge you to continue to make representations to your local MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve.

We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. A positive starting point should come from the Secretary of State for Education in the form of an urgent meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Roscoe', is written over a white background.

Gareth Roscoe  
Headteacher



# QUIZ NIGHT

Are you Smarter than a Park Student?

**FRIDAY  
26TH APRIL**

Friends of Park are hosting an Adults Only Quiz Night.

If interested please email [jocallaghan@theparkschool.org.uk](mailto:jocallaghan@theparkschool.org.uk) to register your team and provide contact name, team name, number of people in your team and a contact number.

- 7pm at Park School
- Teams of up to 6 people (max)
- Capacity for 26 teams (max)
- £10 per team - pay at the door
- First prize £60 Amazon Voucher
- Bar available



## THE GO-KART SPRINT SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Students of The Park Community School are participating in a project run through the STEM guild which inspires young people to be the engineers of the future.

The Greenpower project comprises of: building a go-kart, working in a team and then racing it against schools/organisations.

Key elements to our success are teamwork, initiative and fundraising to enable the project to keep going. So far we have received sponsorship from John Fowler, Class Charts and Siemens totalling up to £850 to date, we, however, still have a long way to go with a target of £1400!

*Sponsor us to push our go-kart from Barnstaple to Instow on the Tarka Trail*

# THE GO-KART SPRINT

**EVEN SPARE CHANGE HELPS!**

**DATE SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2019**  
**START TIME 9 AM BARNSTAPLE TARKA TRAIL**



**THE PARK SCHOOL STEM GUILD**

On **9th March**, we are planning a sponsored push of the go-kart from Barnstaple to Instow along the Tarka Trail. We are doing this to showcase our car, along with raising funds to support the project.

So far we have assembled the chassis, attached the wheels, the steering mechanism and attached the wishbones; yet we still haven't faced the most difficult challenge, which still lays ahead: attaching the motor and making it drive with a press of a button.

We are really excited to be part of this project and look forward to racing the car in the summer!

Students involved will be asking staff and students to sponsor the Go-Kart Sprint from Monday 4th February. If parents/carers would like to sponsor the project directly, please get in touch with Mr Worsfold via email [rworsfold@theparkschool.org.uk](mailto:rworsfold@theparkschool.org.uk)

Many thanks,

Mr Worsfold - Technology Teacher

