



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing 14th January, 2019 - Week 1

SCHOOL CALENDAR

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| Mon 14th Jan | Year 11 Mock Exams - All week |
| Tues 15th Jan | Year 7 Netball Squad Match 3.30-5.30pm (Home) |
| Tues 15th Jan | Year 8-10 Netball Squad Match 3.30-5.30pm (Home) |
| Thurs 17th Jan | Year 7 Girls Football vs South Molton (Away) 3.30-6pm |

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.

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Welcome back! I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year break and are back into the routines of school and daily life. Can I start by thanking all our students for the way in which they have returned after the break. They are looking smart in the uniform and have returned with a positive attitude and are showing good attitudes to their studies and school work.

Year 11 Mocks

Our Year 11 cohort start their mock exams this week. As the School Hall is still out of action we are using the Sports Hall as a venue. This will create some disturbance for other students in PE; I thank them and the PE staff for their cooperation. We hope to have the School Hall in action at some point during March 2019.

School Funding

Many may have seen the press articles today about school funding. This is timely for all schools and whilst the attention of the public is focused upon Brexit, schools and education will continue regardless of what type of deal or no deal is agreed. The issue of funding for schools remains a significant challenge for many organisations across the country. Whilst the government states that more money is going into education than previous years the fact remains that more children are in education than previous years so the amount spent per student is falling in real terms. The BBC quotes the government statistics that show many schools carry a surplus. This is another potentially misleading statement as it is prudent to carry a surplus to cover for a 'rainy' day and pay for large one off items such as a school boiler replacement which could enforce a school closure if monies were not available to pay for immediate repair or replacement. Park and other Devon schools are funded significantly lower than the national average. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring fair funding for all students in Devon.

Gareth Roscoe - Headteacher

APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION PACK

Information about the changes that are happening with apprenticeships will be of particular interest to Parents/Carers with students in Years 11 and 9. Year 11 are making decisions on the next steps for September 2019 and Year 9 are making Option Choices after Christmas. Please click here for the [December Parents' Pack](#) with free apprenticeship information for parents.

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 |
|------|---|
| 9 | Emailed - Invitation to Options Evening |



Park Community School

Year 9 Options Evening

24th January, 2019 - 4.30pm to 6.30pm



[Click here to find out more information about Year 9 Options](#)

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

An email was sent on Friday 11th January to all Year 9 parents/carers inviting you to the Options Evening on Thursday 24th January from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. Could you kindly respond to the email to register your intention to attend.

There will be two scheduled talks about the options and the process by Mr Lewin and Mrs Mills at 4:45pm and 5:30pm in the Drama Studio.

All subjects will be represented and available to talk through the qualifications that they offer. The options booklet is available by clicking the above image. If you require a paper version please submit your request to Mrs Nicholson via email. knicholson@theparkschool.org.uk

PSHEE (PERSONAL SOCIAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION)

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education is an important part of the curriculum for all students. There is a structured programme of personal and social development, encouraging healthy approaches to life, taught during Tutor time. The following topics will be covered on 19th December.

| YEAR | TOPIC |
|---------|------------------------|
| Year 7 | Identity |
| Year 8 | The Law and You |
| Year 9 | Plastics and Pollution |
| Year 10 | Politics |
| Year 11 | Revision |

Anne Duthuit - PSHEE Coordinator

5 THINGS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SCREEN TIME

New research into screen time has just been published - but parents are still confused about how much is 'too much'. Parentzone have put together some sensible evidence-based ways to think about screen time limits. Click here to [Find Out More](#)

MATHS REQUEST FOR LEGO!

Are you having a clear out of Lego or Duplo?

If so, would you be kind enough to donate it to the Maths department, to be used during some lessons? Donations can be dropped into the School Office.

THE YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATION

The [Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable](#) is available on the website, under the 'Events' menu and linked here. Please note that students must bring their own equipment as we are unable to supply spare stationery in the exam room, especially calculators and Maths instruments. A full list of necessary equipment (page 4), along with other essential information, is provided in the student [Exam Guidance Booklet](#), which was issued to every student and also linked here, via our website.

YEAR 11 REVISION SESSION 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.



COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE

Reminder to Year 11 Parents/ Carers, applications for College courses close on 31st January 2019. However students really need to

apply this term as their mock exams are in January. If students need a careers interview or help with their application please contact Mrs Thomas (Careers Lead) at the school.

Additional College Open Events

Petroc Open Event - 22nd January 5-7.30pm
Exeter College Open Event - 16th January 5-8pm

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Students that have not heard back from the employer they wrote to need to follow up with a phone call or email to see if they have a placement.

If the response is that the employer is unable to offer a placement this year then the student needs to apply to a different employer. Students have a good version of their letter which they can adapt. Students can access the database of employers who have offered work experience in the past for contact details.

<http://devon.learnaboutwork.org>

Log In Details:

School Name: The Park Community School

User Name: Park Student

Password: 2121

Students can send their applications themselves by any method, however I have received complaints from employers about students contacting via facebook so I would not recommend social media for an application.

Just as in the competitive job market, if parents have any personal contacts then do use them.

CAREERS ADVICE

www.careerpilot.org.uk

Careerpilot 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 after Christmas.

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 BTES, A levels or Apprenticeship routes.

There is a Parent Zone section 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

PE KIT SUPPLIER UPDATE

Tony Pryce Intersport will be closing its Barnstaple store shortly so we have purchased their remaining stock of Park PE Kit. This is now only available from the school office along with school house colour blouses and ties.

Purchases can be made in person during school opening hours (using cash/cheque made payable to 'The Park Community School'), or pay by card through 'click and collect' using [Wisepay](#).

We are aware that some items are out of stock (particularly the smaller Raleigh polo shirts) and we have placed an order for more kit; however, this won't be available until June 2019. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Park Uniform Price List and Size Guide

| PE KIT | Sizes | Colour | Price * | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| SMALLER SIZES | | | | | | | | | |
| Polo Shirt | 3XS-S | House colours | £14.00 | | | | | | |
| Hoody | 3XS-S | House colours | £24.00 | | | | | | |
| Reversible Rugby Top | 3XS-S | House colours | £19.00 | | | | | | |
| Short | 3XS-S | Black | £6.50 | | | | | | |
| Skort | 3XS-S | Black | £13.00 | | | | | | |
| Socks | S&M | Black | £7.50 | | | | | | |
| MEDIUM & LARGER SIZES | | | | | | | | | |
| Leggings | M-2XL | Black | £16.00 | | | | | | |
| Polo Shirt | M-3XL | House colours | £18.00 | | | | | | |
| Hoody | M-3XL | House colours | £30.00 | | | | | | |
| Reversible Rugby Top | M-3XL | House colours | £24.00 | | | | | | |
| Short | M-3XL | Black | £8.00 | | | | | | |
| Skort | M-3XL | Black | £16.00 | | | | | | |
| Socks | L-XL | Black | £9.50 | | | | | | |
| Blouses | | | | | | | | | |
| Smaller Sizes | 28-34 | House Colours | £8.00 | | | | | | |
| Larger Sizes | 36"46 | House Colours | £11.00 | | | | | | |
| Ties | | | | | | | | | |
| One Size | n/a | House Colours | 3.50 | | | | | | |
| Size Guide | 3XS | 2XS | XS | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL |
| Footwear UK sizes | | | | 12-3 | 3-6 | 7-11 | 12+ | | |
| Chest (Inches) | 28-30 | 30-32 | 32-34 | 34-36 | 36-38 | 40-42 | 42-44 | 44-46 | 46-48 |
| Waist (Inches) | 22 | 23 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 36 |

*Prices reviewed annually and subject to change in the Summer Term

Blazer, trousers, skirts, Bermuda shorts and boys shirts are still available for purchase from Samuel Dawes, Cross Street, Barnstaple, Telephone 01271 342139, Email: sales@samdaw.co.uk.

SCHOOL TRIPS

TORQUAY RESIDENTIAL

A space has become available on the Torquay residential. Barton Hall is a Residential Centre in Torquay run by PGL Travel Ltd. which caters specifically for school groups.

Activities will range from, high ropes, climbing, abseiling, aeroball, canoeing and quad biking and many others. The cost of the experience will be £250. This includes return coach travel, all tuition, food, qualified instructor supervision, an evening entertainment programme and accommodation for two nights. If your child would like to attend, they should collect a letter from Pupil Reception.

BARCELONA TRIP

Could parents/carers please ensure you return the completed trip forms as soon as possible.

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 if interested. Spaces will be open for a limited time.

NEW YORK JULY 2020

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](#)

A non-refundable deposit is required by **14th January** for £200. If the trip is oversubscribed, students will be randomly selected to receive a place.

SKI 2019

All students going on the Ski Trip 2019 should return the Ski Trip forms as soon as possible. Any parent/carer who missed the Ski Trip Information meeting would have missed collecting several forms issued during the evening, we have sent forms to those parents directly by post.

LONDON EXPRESSIVE ARTS TRIP

Could parents/carers please ensure they pay the second instalment of £40 (due 3/12/18) as soon as possible.

Please see attached [copy of trip letter](#) for more information about payments.

Mrs Phillips - Head of Art and Photography

POLAND TRIP - YEAR 9 AND 10

On 14th February 2020, we plan to take a group of students from current Year 9 and Year 10 to Krakow, in Poland.

We will be visiting the Jewish Quarter, Kazimierz, to learn about and witness some of the devastation caused by the Holocaust. We will visit the Schindler Factory Museum that tells the story of Krakow between 1939-1945 and the life of Oskar Schindler who saved the lives of thousands during this time. We will also visit the Galicia Jewish Museum which commemorates victims of the Holocaust and celebrates Jewish culture. All of these excursions include a guide. The main reason, however, for choosing Krakow is for students to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi concentration and death camps, many parts of which are almost perfectly preserved along with incredibly moving displays of post-camp relics. Students will be given a 3.5 hour guided tour.

We still have places available for this trip. If interested, please print the attached [Poland letter](#) and return the completed form by **Friday 18th January**.

Mrs Flesher/Mr Griffiths

STUDENT ATTENDANCE - ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

For students to achieve their very best whilst at school, regular high levels of attendance are vital.

At The Park Community School, we are very proud of our levels of attendance which, of course, we monitor very closely. We are in the top 20% of high attending schools in Devon.

We expect all students to attend every day unless they are too ill to do so or other exceptional circumstances prevent attendance. These are normally agreed in advance with the school. As a rule, we class 95% as minimum acceptable attendance. Government guidelines categorise attendance below 90% as “Persistently Absent” – this is equivalent to missing one day a fortnight.

Parents /Carers must complete the Absence Request Form for any period of planned absence from school in advance - **the form is now available to download via our website**, under “Parents” menu, “Attendance”. If the circumstances relating to the request are considered exceptional the absence can be authorised. If the absence is unauthorised but still occurs, then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence which may result in the issuing of a Penalty Notice payable by each parent/carer.

While, at Park, we closely follow the guidelines laid down we always encourage dialogue with parents to discuss and resolve any issues relating to absence. Please contact the school to discuss any issues or concerns.