



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing 9th September 2019 - Week 2

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Date	Event
Mon 9th Sept	Friends of Park Meeting 7pm - Conference Room
Tues 10th Sept	Parent Partnership Session 1 - A parent's induction to Park 6.30pm-7.45pm - Conference Room.
Thurs 12th Sept	Year 10 Transition Evening 6-7pm - School Hall (See details below)

Check below to see if you have been sent a letter/email this week

Year	Topic
All	Letter - Parental Consent Form
10	Email - Invite to Transition Evening with google form

Has your phone number, email address or home address changed recently?

Please ensure you keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details.
Tel: 01271 373131 or admin@theparkschool.org.uk

It is important we have your correct mobile number in case our first aiders needed to contact you.

FOOD AT PARK

To view the menus click 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

New Starters

A warm welcome to all our new students and parents. The Year 7 have made a great start to their new school and seem to be settling in and finding their way around the school. My thanks to parents who have supported their son/daughter with equipment and uniform the year group look extremely smart in their Park uniform.

From experience, over the next few weeks Year 7s will become tired. A new school, lots of walking, thinking and learning will take its toll. Please bear this in mind and try to establish good routines and reinforce the importance of a good nights sleep. It will help the youngsters and yourself!

Next week is timetable week 2, please check Contact Books and Knowledge Books to ensure the correct equipment, books and homework. We have our first Parent Partnership meeting on Tuesday 10th September, in the Conference Room. If you are interested in attending this informal group to find out more about the school, please arrive at our "old" reception, via our staff car park for 6.30pm and we will direct you to our meeting room.



The following has also been communicated to all parents/carers via email

A warm welcome back to the new academic year. As we return to school we are celebrating some fantastic GCSE results with attainment in Maths and English GCSE amongst the highest in Devon. Many other subjects supported students in progressing to their next steps with excellent results in Science, MFL, History, Geography and Computer Science; subjects that make up the EBacc suite. A really pleasing set of results that show improvement from previous years and that the school is making progress.

The school site team have been extremely busy enhancing the campus with several major developments. We are finishing our roofing project to the South Block. Lighting has been upgraded to an LED based system to reduce energy consumption and also enhance corridor and classroom conditions. We have also added additional security to the front of school. Corridors and classrooms have been enhanced and we have invested in new serving and seating areas for the canteen. Over the past academic year we have invested in the region of £750,000 in enhancing our campus to improve the culture and facilities in school.

As I previously communicated staff have been working hard to prepare for significant changes at the start of the new term. Students have attended several assemblies and had talks from Senior Staff, Tutors and Heads of House to explain these. We are raising our expectations for all and are confident that every student can meet these. We are aware that for a few students this may take a few weeks to adapt to our standards and expectations but we expect the best from all members of our school.

“Park Culture” aims to address issues in school which students see as unfair; consistency across the school is key to maintaining a positive and effective environment which allows all students to learn. Clear boundaries and expectations help to improve consistency and standards.

Each day at Park School, we expect all students to be dressed in-line with the school uniform policy, fully equipped for the day with the correct/required equipment and with their completed homework. We know that if students are ready to learn they will make the most from their time at school and make the best possible progress.

This week we have been reminding students of our expectations and the consequences. The new systems will start with effect on Monday after a final assembly with Year 10. Sanctions will be issued on the same day to avoid confusion and conflict. This means that every student can start the following day with a ‘clean slate’ and fresh opportunity to support our Park Culture.

Homework

We will continue to use Class Charts to log homework. All students have been provided with a ‘tough’ wallet folder, Knowledge Book and Knowledge Workbook for homework. Students must look after these and bring them to school every day along with the correct equipment. The replacement cost for these items is £3 so please encourage your son/daughter to look after these.

Remember full stationery equipment packs are available from Student Reception as are single items. Students must attend school every day with the correct equipment and kit.

The majority of homework will now consist of learning activities with all the resources provided by the school. This removes any barriers to completing homework. All students will be expected to complete the homework by the due date. The majority of homework will be based around learning key vocabulary and knowledge and so can be accessed and completed by all students. Homework will be checked on a daily basis by Tutors with a ‘same day’ after school sanction for those not meeting our expectations. Homework timetables are published in the knowledge organisers to help students plan their time effectively. Prep time has started to support homework and effective revision and preparation. In Years 10 and 11, students will also be expected to complete set homework from each subject; this will mostly be exam practice questions or linked to Non Examined Assessments in practical courses.

For more information on how to support your son/daughter with their homework please read the inside pages of the Knowledge Book or follow this [link to our helpful video guide](#).

Punctuality

Tutor time at the start of the day is an important session. It is important that students arrive on time to these sessions and are ready for the day ahead. Registration starts at 8:45 am and students must be in school before this. We appreciate that on a few occasions a bus may be late or an accident across Barnstaple may cause a delay; we will make reasonable allowances for these circumstances.

Chewing Gum/Energy drinks

Chewing gum and energy drinks are not allowed in school. These will be confiscated and not returned to students if they bring them into school.

The students have responded extremely well to the changes this week. The work we have seen completed in prep time and the use of Knowledge Books has been fantastic.

Thank you for your support and understanding. These expectations will help to further improve our school creating better opportunities for every member of our community whilst also addressing student concern over consistency and ‘fairness’.

Gareth Roscoe - Headteacher

[Parental Consent Form for offsite activities](#)

Every student was issued with a letter this week regarding the consent form required to enable students to attend trips and activities, please kindly ensure you complete and return the form to pupil reception by **Wednesday 18th September**.

NEW PARENT/CARER WEEKLY SESSIONS

DON'T MISS THE FIRST SESSION ON TUESDAY 10TH SEPT 6.30PM - 7.45PM CONFERENCE ROOM

At the start of the new school year, weekly sessions are arranged to offer our new parent's/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 2019](#)

5 STEPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We really hope you can make these evenings, previous attendees felt a lot more relaxed and able to help their child with this important stage of their education. 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!

To book your place on one, or all, of these FREE sessions please contact the school on Tel: 01271 373131.

Alternatively you are welcome to turn up on the night!

A Parent's Induction Into The Park Community School

Tues 10th Sept, 6.30pm - 7.45pm
Conference Room

The session will begin with a tour of the school. This will begin at 6.30pm. If you wish to join us after the tour please go to ICT 3 for 7pm.

We will then return 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.

Staff and members of the Parent Partnership will be available to chat and share their knowledge of the school with you.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Park

Tues 17th Sept, 7pm - 8pm Conference Room

Hosted by Mrs Hill.

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 staff who track your child's academic progress, and from the SENDCO who co-ordinates a range of support for students at Park School.

SENDCO = Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator.

My Child and the Internet - What do I need to know?

Tues 24th Sept, 7pm - 8pm Conference Room

This session is hosted by an external guest.

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.

Pastoral System & PSHEE

Tues 1st Oct, 7pm - 8pm Conference Room

Hosted by Miss Brierley - Head of Drake House and Mrs Duthuit - PSHEE Coordinator

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.

Our PSHEE coordinator will explain the content your child's PSHEE lessons and what he/she will be learn in this subject.

PSHEE = Personal, Social, Health & Emotional

What's Happening To My Little Darling?

Tues 8th Oct, 7pm - 8pm Conference Room

Hosted by Mr Borrington and Mrs Saintey.

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, a bit more understanding of your child's behaviour and needs.



DON'T FORGET!
YOU CAN HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR
SCHOOL WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE

- Go to the Park Community School website.
- Click the School Angel link and select your retailer.



By going through School Angel, the retailer will make a donation to our school every time you make a purchase.

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE REMIND FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR OPEN DAY EVENTS FOR YEAR 5/6 PUPILS



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

www.theparkschool.org.uk admin@theparkschool.org.uk
Tel: 01271 373131 @ParkBarnstaple

Generations of Success

Choosing your secondary school?

Built upon generations of success, Park School is ambitious with high standards, expectations and aspirations for every single student.

Visit our Open Events 19th-26th September to see Park in action.

Open Evening

Thursday 19th September at 5.45pm
A Park School Showcase for all the family – visit, tour, experience. Headteacher Talks at 6.00pm and 6.45pm.

Open Days

23rd - 26th September Daily 9.05am - 11.20am
Park School in Action – join Park lessons for a morning and meet students and staff.
For year 5 & 6 pupils and parents/carers.



Donations Needed For Thrift Uniform And PE kit

We would really appreciate any donations of good condition items e.g. blazers, jumpers, skirts, trousers, shirts and new style PE kit, to make available as Thrift.



Class Charts

Year 7 students will be issued with their log-in details on Monday 9th September. They can login via the internet on a computer, smart phone or tablet either using a web browser or through the app which can be downloaded.

During next week we will also email new parents/carers log-in details to view the Class Charts information.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Please note all cheques should now be made payable to 'The Park Community School' and not 'Devon County Council'. Please ensure that you keep up to date with paying the instalments for any trips that your child has signed up for.

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 £400.

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](#)

Ski Trip 2020

If your child is interested in reserving a place on the April 2020 Ski Trip, they should pick up a letter from pupil reception and return the reply slip. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience something new, either skiing or snowboarding, or improve technique if they are more experienced.

Videos of the Ski 2019 trip can be found by clicking below:

Full Film - https://youtu.be/757sL_PXyug

Ski Fails - <https://youtu.be/E8fp0VuSvQc>

YEAR 10 TRANSITION EVENING

Dear Parent/Carer

You are warmly invited to our year 10 Transition Evening on the 12th September from 6pm-7pm in the School Hall. The evening will give you key information regarding your child's GCSEs. There will be a number of presentations delivering tips and tricks for a successful GCSE transition.

Please look out for an email inviting you to the event, and complete the google form to RSVP; we hope to see you all there.

Regards,

Mrs Mills
Assistant Headteacher



Year 10 Parent Information Transition Evening

12th September 2019

6:00-7:00 pm in the School Hall

Year 10 pupils and their parents/carers are invited to an evening to support students in their transition into key stage 4.

We will be providing a wealth of information to help you support your child such as:

- Exam information and preparation
- Revision strategies and coping methods
- A parent's view
- Creating a positive home learning environment
- Tips and tricks for a successful GCSE

We hope you can join us. Any further information please contact Mrs. A Mills.

Assistant Head



Work Experience Year 11

The final date for completing and handing in their work experience diary and paperwork for certification is Friday 20th September.

Work Shadowing - Year 10

There is still time to return their Year 9 Work Shadowing Booklets to Pupil Reception for certification. Final date for handing this in is Friday 20th September. Thank you for all the booklets handed in last term.

FRIENDS OF PARK

Friends of Park Meeting - Monday 9th September at 7pm

We would like to invite parents/carers to our Friends of Park meeting next week. We will be planning fun events for the coming year, so would love to hear any ideas you may have. You don't need to commit a lot of time to the school, just attending meetings and giving your ideas is a great help

Everyone welcome - Biscuits are provided!

The Friends of Park share a common interest to do all that we can to support our school, the teachers and our children in a variety of ways that enhance the learning experience. This includes supporting events and providing valuable 'extras' and opportunities that otherwise may not be available.

There are a number of ways you may be able to help, from getting involved in school drama/music productions, supporting our fundraising events and the Summer Fayre, or donating raffle prizes or bottles of wine for the Christmas Concert.

Friends of Park Flyer

The flyer features the school logo at the top left. The main heading is "Think 'Friends of Park' is just for other parents?". Below this is a photo of a group of people and the text "We hope you will think again...". The central section is titled "10 Reasons To Join Friends Of Park" and lists ten benefits. At the bottom right is another school logo.

Think 'Friends of Park' is just for other parents?

We hope you will think again...

10 Reasons To Join Friends Of Park

Friends of Park is a recognized group of parents and teachers who work together for the benefit of our school.

Taking an active role in your children's school is critical to their success. We've compiled a list of 10 reasons why joining the Friends of Park will greatly improve your child's education experience.

1. **It's good for your child.** Research shows that children whose parents are involved in their school make better grades and have fewer disciplinary problems at school.
2. **It's important to the school.** The parent groups are responsible for almost all of the school's fundraising revenue.
3. **You'll get connected.** There's no better way to know what's going on in the school than to be on the school's parent teacher group.
4. **You'll be part of a network.** You will be connected with a group of parents who share a common goal of improving the school for the children.
5. **You'll make a difference.** Parent groups work to establish a supportive and encouraging community for the entire school. The goal is to create the most educational environment possible for our children.
6. **It's fun!** You will help plan fun events and socials, that the whole family can attend.
7. **You'll be a role model.** You'll show your children that not only are they important to you, but their education is as well.
8. **You'll help raise necessary funds.** Fundraisers remain important to improving the quality of the school overall, and parent groups make them possible.
9. **It's flexible.** There are a variety of small ways parents can help and be involved in the Friends of Park. Project responsibilities are flexible and can be adjusted to fit with your time constraints.
10. **It's for every parent.** Your voice and ideas can help improve the quality of education for your children and their peers.

Conclusion
You don't have to make the Friends of Park a full time job to make a difference. However, volunteering occasionally and attending school events really matters. Showing your children you value education will teach them to value it as well.

FRIENDS OF PARK
PARENT TEACHER GROUP