NEWSLETTER

20 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The annual Cross Country race took place today and was an amazing experience, with participation at an all-time within the school. Students supported and cheered each other as they crossed the finish line. Some of our most vulnerable students were supported by staff running with them. It was a wonderful occasion and showed the 'Park family' at its best.

Thank you to all the parents that contributed to the consultation regarding mobile phones. 89% of parents believe we should have a stricter policy on phones and 85% of parents support our new mobile phone policy. This policy will be introduced in the summer term and information will be shared with students and staff on our return to school. Can I thank all of you for continuing to support the school in keeping students safe and keeping our standards of behaviour high.

As we shared a few months ago, we going to be making some changes to some toilet areas during lesson time. I want to reassure parents that pupils have access to toilets throughout the entire school day and that this change will not impact that. No child is ever prevented from using the toilet when they genuinely need to, though we encourage students to go to the bathroom at social time and we monitor the use of toilets during lesson time. To help us maintain a calm, safe and focused learning environment, we will be closing some toilets during lesson times from after the Easter break, while keeping others open. This approach supports us in:

- Keeping pupils safe – With fewer areas to monitor during lessons, staff can ensure the toilets that are open remain safe, well-supervised spaces.
- Reducing disruption to learning – Encouraging pupils to use the toilets during break and lunch helps minimise frequent lesson interruptions.
- Maintaining cleanliness and hygiene – Concentrating usage allows our site team to keep open facilities clean, well-stocked and pleasant for everyone.
- Promoting positive behaviour and ensure students are always fully supervised – This reduces opportunities for pupils to use toilets as social spaces or to avoid learning.

Again, we want to emphasise that toilets remain available all day, and we will always respond sensitively when a child needs to go during lesson. As always, the school wanted to keep parents fully informed well in advance of any change being made.

A reminder that **Thursday 2nd April is the last day of the Spring Term** finishing at 12.30pm and is a non-uniform day. We will arrange for school specific bus services to collect students at this earlier time but students who use the Stagecoach buses will need to walk down to the bus station. If it is not possible for

your child to leave at this time, please get in contact with their Head of Year by Monday 30th March, so we can arrange supervision.

Children who receive **Free School Meals** can spend their allowance at break time on a wider choice of lunch items. The front office will close at 12.30pm. The new term starts on Monday 20th April on a timetable week 2.

Lost Property must be claimed before 15:45 on Wednesday 1st April 2026, after which, unclaimed items will be upcycled/donated. Small sized items of Lost Property, such as glasses, ties, jewellery, watches and pencil cases etc, are kept behind the counter of Student Reception. Students can enquire about or claim these smaller items during Student Reception opening hours (08:30-08:45, break times and lunch times). Please name all belongings, especially PE tops and blazers.

Instrumental Tuition from Easter, we have openings for students who would like to learn a musical instrument. Anyone interested in learning woodwind, piano, brass, guitar/bass guitar or drums should contact Ms Monk. If your child receives pupil premium funding, school can support with the cost of lessons subsidising them by 50%. If your child receives free school meals, there is also some funding available from the music hub which school can access on your behalf so please get in touch.

Support Our Forest School Project! We're delighted to share that The Park Community School – Forest School has been successfully shortlisted for the Tesco Stronger Starts Grant Programme. This means our project will be part of the customer vote in local Tesco stores. Voting runs from Tuesday 28th April 2026 until the end of July 2026. By voting for us, you'll be helping us continue to provide Forest School opportunities that support wellbeing, engagement, and personal development for our secondary students. We'll remind you before voting opens!

A group of determined boys are preparing to undertake a challenging speed march from Park School to Royal Marines Barracks Chivenor as part of a fundraiser for the Royal Marines Charity & individual growth. The group will start at the war memorial at approximately 0930hrs on Friday 27th March. Any encouragement would be much appreciated by the boys. **If you wish to donate, please use the following link. https://www.justgiving.com/team/parkschoolyomp.**

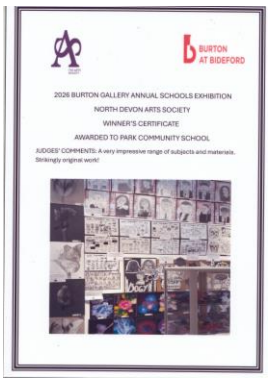
On Saturday 14th March, six of our students took part in the **North Devon School Gymnastics Competitio**n at Kingsley School. It was a fantastic event, and our students performed brilliantly.

- 🥉 Novice Team – 3rd place
- 🥇 Intermediate Team – 1st place

Molly won an awarded for Endeavour and Larisa was awarded third place in the individual standings for her amazing floor routine. A huge congratulations to all involved. Thank you to our parent helper Selina Platt for her dedication and support in preparing our students for the competition.

The Burton Art Gallery Annual Schools Exhibition - Award Winners! We are incredibly proud of our students who had work displayed in the Burton Art Gallery's annual Schools Exhibition this year (either physically or via the digital screens). The event showcased fantastic creativity from young people all across North Devon and highlighted the great work happening in local art departments.

We're also delighted to share that Park won an award from The Arts Society for the variety of materials and originality in students work. Year 9 artist Hannah attended the awards ceremony last week along with the Art Department to receive the £100 prize, which the department will invest in creative materials for students. Well done to everyone involved, your talent and hard work shone brightly!



Ten Tors Training Update A truly beautiful day out on Dartmoor, we left school at 0645 and returned at 2010. A long day that started with snow and ended with a stunning sunset with 19 miles hiked over very testing terrain. The students and staff were incredible.

Jasmine is part of a group within **Devon Youth Counci**l campaigning for cheaper and more accessible bus provision for young people in Devon. We are incredibly proud of her and the commitment she has shown in participating in this important group for change.

Wishing you and your family a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

Ms V Owen

Headteacher

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - SEND

SEND referrals form issue

We have recently identified an issue with our SEND referral form, which has prevented referrals from being successfully submitted to us. We are currently working to resolve this as a priority.

In the meantime, if you need to contact us regarding any SEND concerns, please email us directly at **park.send@thsp.org.uk**. If you have completed a referral form and haven't heard from us, please get in touch using our park.send@thsp.org.uk email.

We will notify you as soon as the referral form is fully operational again. Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience or worry this may have caused. Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Mills

Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo

Park SEND Team email: park.send@thsp.org.uk

Park SEND website page and newsletter link SEND - The Park Community School

Devon Information Service - https://devonias.org.uk/

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING AND ADVICE & SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Mental Health website page link [Mental Health and Wellbeing]

Advice and Support for Parents website page link [Advice and Support for Parents]

SAFEGUARDING AND ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Email: park.safeguarding@thsp.org.uk

Safeguarding website page link: [Safeguarding and Online Safety]

Safeguarding newsletter link: [Safeguarding newsletter]

You won't know 'til you ask (DSIT)

The UK government has launched the 'Kids Online Safety' campaign to help parents and carers support their children to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

The campaign brings together practical, trusted guidance on how to start meaningful conversations about online life, understand the types of content children may encounter, and build critical thinking skills so young people can question what they see and make safer choices.

It also offers advice on using tools such as parental controls, recognising potential risks, and knowing where to seek help or report concerns. The overall aim is to make online safety an ongoing, open dialogue within families rather than a one-off conversation, helping children feel supported as they explore apps, games and social media.

You can find the resources here:

Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/REMINDERS

[Parent Calendar] [Website] [Facebook Page] [Instagram]

[Term Dates]

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
27th March	All Years	**PSHEE topic next week**	Year 7 – Sex in the media Year 8 – Developing Relationships Year 9 – Sex myths Year 10 – Loneliness Year 11 – Revision *Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher, email: park.headteacher@thsp.org.uk*
24th and 25th March and 30th and 31st March	Year 11	**Art, Photography and Textiles Exam**	
31st March	Year 8 and Year 9, 10 & 11 catch ups	**HPV Vaccinations**	Letters have been sent to Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 parents. Please contact the Immunisation Team if you have any queries.

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
			Telephone: 01392 342678 Email:kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net
1st April	Year 11	**GCSE Drama Component 2 Practical Exam**	
2nd April	All years	**Last day of term**	Non-uniform day. Finish at 12.30pm
20th April	All years	**Summer Term starts**	Timetable week 2
27, 28, 29th April	Year 11	**MFL Speaking Exam**	
28th April	Year 10	**Year 10 Parents' Evening**	More information to follow
30th April and 1st May	All years	**Park Dance Show**	More information to follow
7th May	Year 11	**GCSE Exams**	
25th to 29th May	All years	**Half term**	
1st June	All years	**Return to school**	All years return on timetable week 1

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please find a link to the Attendance and Punctuality Policy.

Please report your child absent by emailing: park.attendance@thsp.org.uk

Any absence interrupts the continuity of a child's learning. Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence. Parents/carers are strongly urged not to take children out of school for holidays during term time. It is expected that a Request Form is submitted to the Academy/School Office **at least 4 weeks** in advance of the proposed absence.

Would you like to understand more about your teen and emotion-based school avoidance? Follow this link for access to a FREE Webinar on School Avoidance FREE WEBINAR School Avoidance. This resource is also useful EBSA: Essential Guide for Parents | School Anxiety Support

We understand that unexpected circumstances and illness can sometimes impact attendance. However, we would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

- Talk to your child about the importance of attendance and the impact it can have on the results.
- Discuss their options and courses for next year - emphasise how important it is to get a 4+ in English and Maths.
- If your child is experiencing difficulties that are impacting their attendance, please do not hesitate to **contact us.** We are here to support you and your child in overcoming any challenges.

PARK ONLINE LEARNING

Often it is difficult for a child to come back into school after a period of absence due to missing lessons. Although we wouldn't expect someone to be working while they are unwell, we often get asked "How can my child catch up?". Our English, Maths and Science teams have put together this Remote Catch Up Curriculum to support students if they are absent. There is a page for each subject which then splits into Year groups: the lessons follow the same units and topics as the students are being taught in lessons - not as good as a real lesson but a great way to catch back up if your child has been absent. We will continue to grow this over the year but hope you find it helpful.

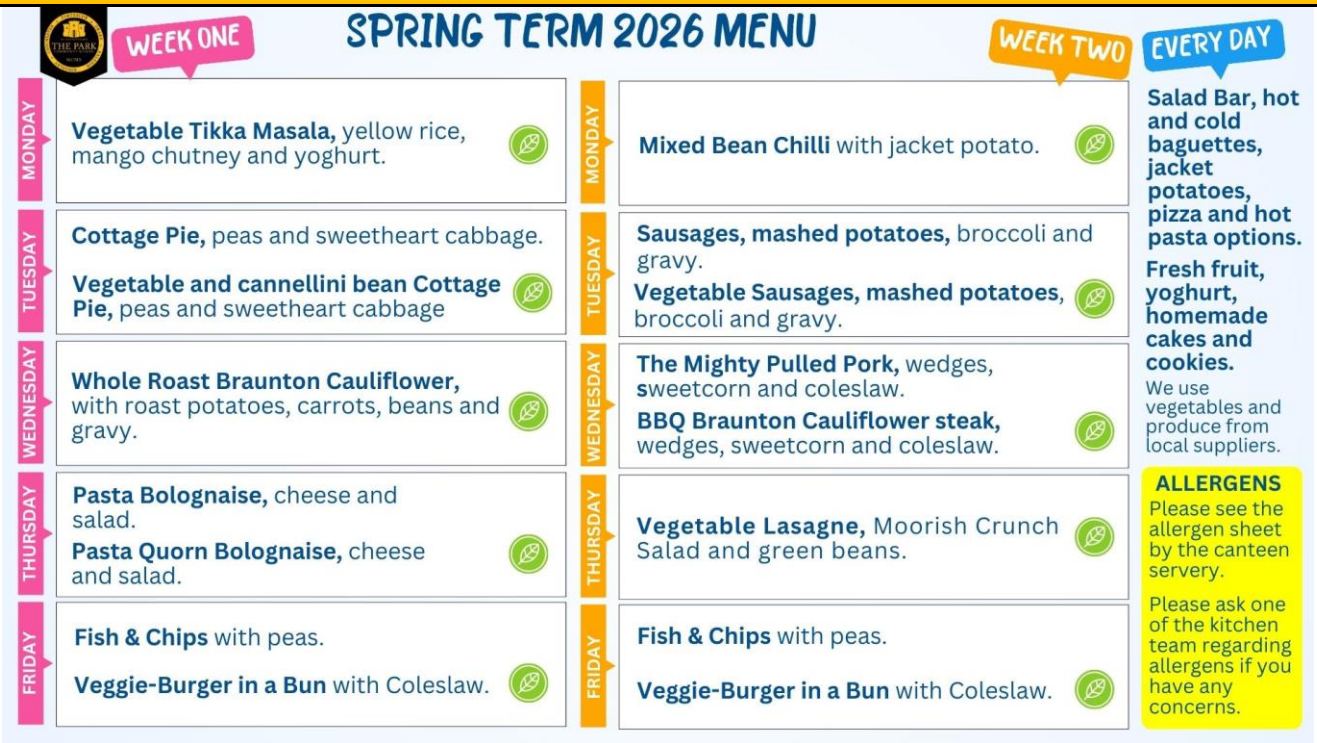
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PARK SCHOOL AND WITHIN THE TRUST

Please see our Trust website for current vacancies THSP website.

Our current vacancies include:

- Office Administrator
- Cleaner
- Exam Invigilators

FOOD AT PARK AND FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT INFORMATION



Please see the **Food** page on our website for a *current menu* and prices and information about our food service at Park - Food - The Park Community School. Contact the School Office, park@thsp.org.uk or call 01271 373131 if you have any questions about how to top up or limit/cap your child's spending on their dinner money account.

Apply for **Free School Meals** through the Devon Citizens Portal. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on: 0345 155 1019.

Visit our website for more information and support How to access support for Pupil Premium students

RAISING FUNDS FOR PARK – SCHOOL LOTTERY AND EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know we have a **School Lottery**? You can join our weekly lottery from £1 per week and it's an easy way to support our school and help raise funds - 40% of ticket sales come back to us. There is a guaranteed winner each week. It's so easy to sign up and start supporting our school today - just click here Support The Park Community School when you play Your School Lottery.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SWIFT Teacher Training

Classroom Experience and Information Events in North Devon

Event Information

This is an opportunity to gain classroom experience and find out more about SWIFT Teacher Training, our route into teaching, courses and PGCE.

These events are based in one of our partner schools where you will be looked after by an experienced Campus Lead, who will be your host for the session.

Activities could include:

- a guided training walk with the campus lead and school staff
- introduction to observing lessons and different styles of teaching
- seeing how specific subjects are taught
- engaging in learning conversations with colleagues
- learning more about the SWIFT Teacher Training programme
- questions and Next Steps

Who

Educated to degree level; recent graduates, career changers, returners to work; teaching assistants, anyone interested in teaching.

To book

Online booking form HERE
Or contact: Jo Turnbull
Email: jo.turnbull@sw-ift.org.uk
PLEASE BOOK BY **Thursday 2 April 2026**

Time and Venue

Phase | Primary/Secondary

Tuesday 21 April 2026|10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Pilton Community College
Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple, EX31 1RB

Monday 27 April 2026|10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Orchard Vale Community School
Westacott Road, Whiddon Valley, Barnstaple, EX32 8QY

Although Pilton Community College is a secondary school setting and Orchard Vale Community School is a primary school setting, we welcome anyone interested in either secondary or primary school teaching to either of the venues. The information sharing will also include applications for both primary and secondary school training, and the Campus Lead can discuss this further on the day.

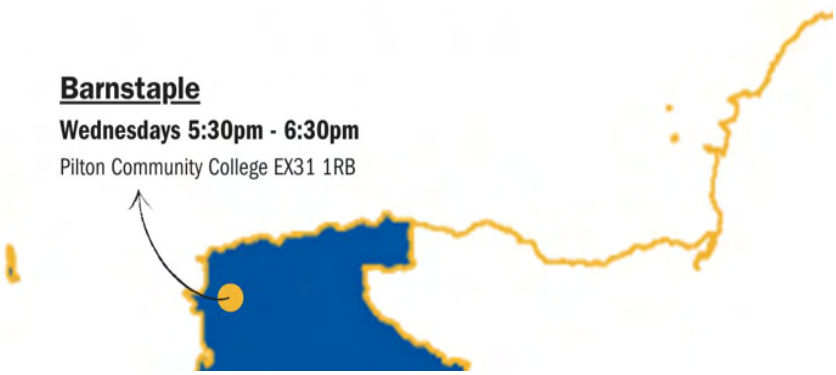
Further Information

You can find out more information about future classroom experience and information events HERE.

SWIFT Teacher Training

Primary & Secondary QTS / PGCE Courses

Applications to train to teach starting in September 2026 are open

To find out more and apply visit www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk

Super 1s Locations