NEWSLETTER

27 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our expectations regarding school uniform. All students are required to wear a blazer, and this remains a non-optional element of our uniform. If your child's blazer has become too small, we appreciate that a replacement may be necessary and would like to reassure you that this part of the uniform will **not** be changing for the next academic year. Please ensure that your child has a correctly fitted blazer and is wearing it to school when we return after Easter. As you know, Year 11 students have earned the privilege of wearing their leavers' hoodies, and this will continue. We have also been consulting with stakeholders on possible uniform changes, and after Easter we will share the decisions that have been 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.

This week is the last week of **KO homework** for Y7-10 before Easter (Y11 will continue as we are keeping the revision element going for them). New KOs will be distributed when we return from Easter, therefore the first week back of KO homework for Y7-10 will be Monday 27th April.

We are raising funds for our school's **GreenPower Car team** to race in Cornwall this year - and hopefully to buy some upgrades to the car to be even more competitive. If you would like to support the team Mr Klingenstein has created a gofundme page https://gofund.me/69a4286d0.

Albert in Year 9 is a weightlifting superhuman! Albert recently entered a competition where he achieved 105kg squat, 67.5kg bench, and 130kg deadlift. As a result he achieved an invite to the British championships at the Arnold Classic in Birmingham and subsequently qualified to represent Great Britain at the European Championships in Ireland. He has also qualified to attend the British Championships and World finals qualifier in Manchester. For context - did you know 130kg is the same as a fridge freezer, a small bear or 5 car tyres with alloys!!! Well done Albert

Last weekend **Jayden played in the Devon Tennis U18 County Cup** winning 2 out of 3 singles matches and 2 out of 3 doubles matches. He was phenomenal and the referee even named him player of the event for his attitude on and off the court and how well he performed in his matches. Well done Jayden!

Rotary Young Photographer Competition – Celebrating Our Talented Students! We are delighted to share the wonderful achievements of our students who recently took part in the Rotary Young Photographer Competition. This year's theme, **"Happiness in Nature,"** inspired a fantastic range of thoughtful, creative and beautifully composed entries. We were thrilled to welcome Peter and David from the Barnstaple Rotary Club into school last Friday for a special awards presentation in the Art department. Their support and kind words about the quality of our students' work made the occasion even more memorable.

Congratulations to our winners and runners-up:
Intermediate Category - Winner: Darcy, **Runner-Up:** Anna
Senior Category - Winner: Betsy, **Runner-Up:** Matilda

Both category winners will now have their photographs entered into the next district heat of the competition, an exciting prospect! Once again, congratulations to all students who entered. Your creativity truly captured the spirit of the theme, and we can't wait to see how far our winners go in the next round!

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.

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)

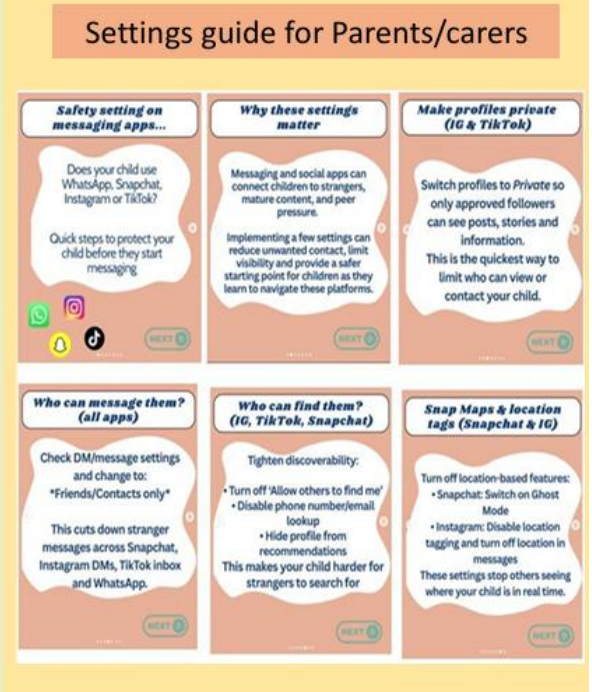
The UK government has launched the 'Kids Online Safety' campaign to help parents and carers support their children to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

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.

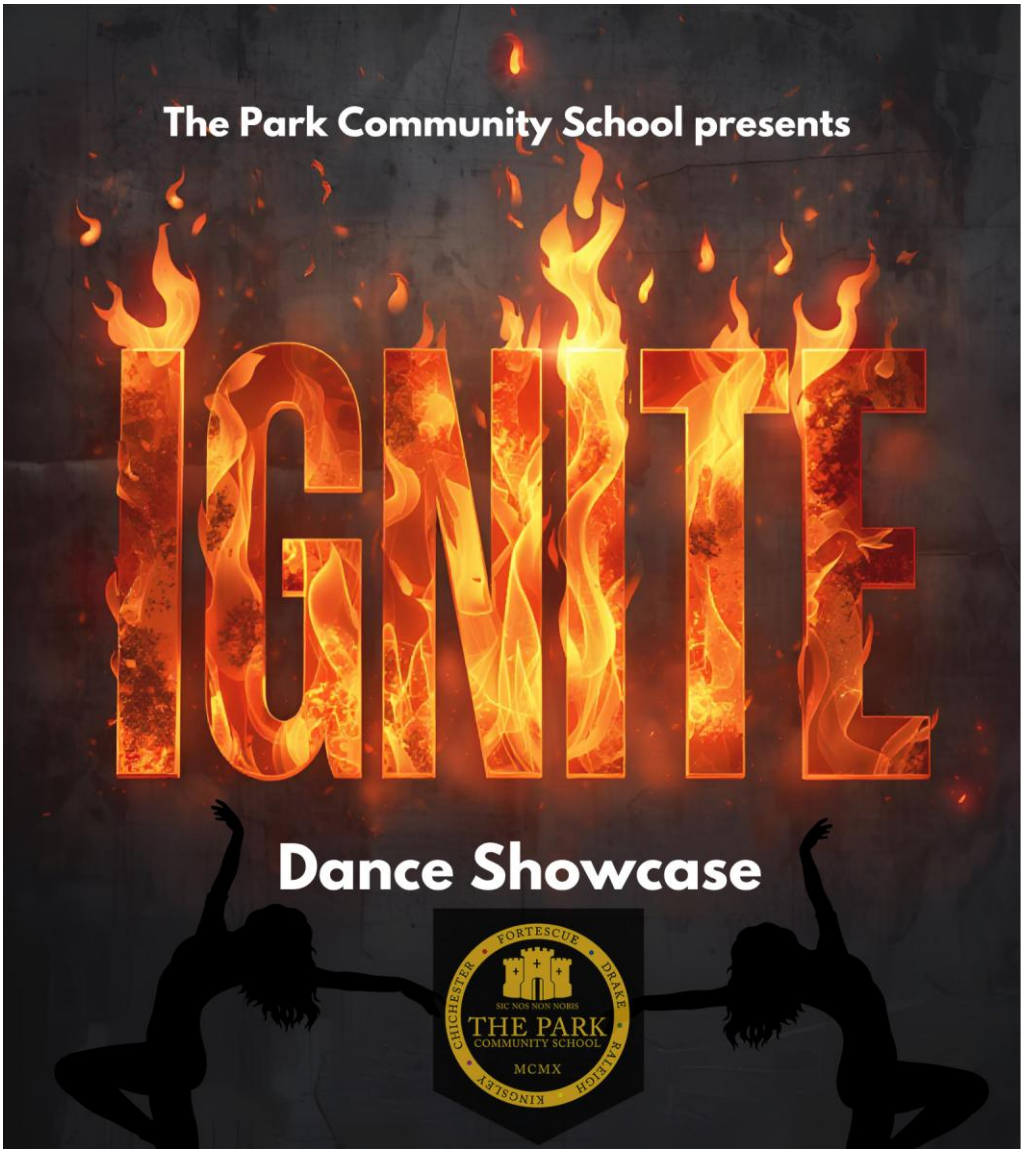
You can find the resources here:

Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety



Tickets are now on sale for our Dance Showcase on 30th April and 1st May 2026!

Buy your tickets on MCAS or click here



🎉 ✨ YEAR 11 REVISION RAFFLE – CELEBRATING OUR WINNERS! ✨ 🎉

Our Year 11 Revision Raffles are now in full swing, and what an exciting few weeks it's been! We've had some very lucky (and very deserving!) winners already, and we couldn't be more proud of the effort and commitment our students are showing in the lead-up to exams. 📄 💪

💙 A HUGE THANK YOU 💙

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the local businesses, companies, and parents who have generously contributed prizes to support this fantastic initiative. Your support truly makes a difference and helps motivate our students to stay focused and positive!

🌟 WEEK 2 WINNERS 🌟

🎟️ Jake – Prom Ticket

⛳ Oliver – 2 x 60 range balls from Woolacombe Driving range

🎳 Megan – Free bowling game for two from Let's Go

💇 Olivia – North Devon College, Hair & Beauty Voucher

🎯 Alex – Free laser tag game for two from Survival Combat Games

🧋 Oliver – 2 Free Bubble Teas from Boa Bubble Tea

🍽️ Reya – 2 Fast Track Lunch Passes

🌟 WEEK 3 WINNERS 🌟

🧋 Kemi – 2 Free Bubble Teas from Boa Bubble Tea

🎳 Oliver – Free bowling game for two two from Let's Go

💅 Lily – 50% off Nails from Nails Byy Tilly

💇 Isabelle – North Devon College, Hair & Beauty Voucher

🛍️ Molly – £20 Amazon Voucher

☕ Jasmine – Costa Coffee Voucher from Ms L Scott

👏 Special shoutout to Oliver for multiple wins – incredible luck! 🍀

We love seeing students rewarded for their dedication – keep up the hard work, Year 11! More prizes and winners to come... 👀🎁

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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/REMINDERS

[Parent Calendar]

[Website]

[Facebook Page]

[Instagram]

[Term Dates]

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
24th April	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*
30th and 31st March	Year 11	**Art, Photography and Textiles Exam**	
31st March	Year 8 and Year 9, 10 & 11 catch ups	**HPV Vaccinations**	The consent link is now closed. Please contact the Immunisation Team if you have any queries. 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.

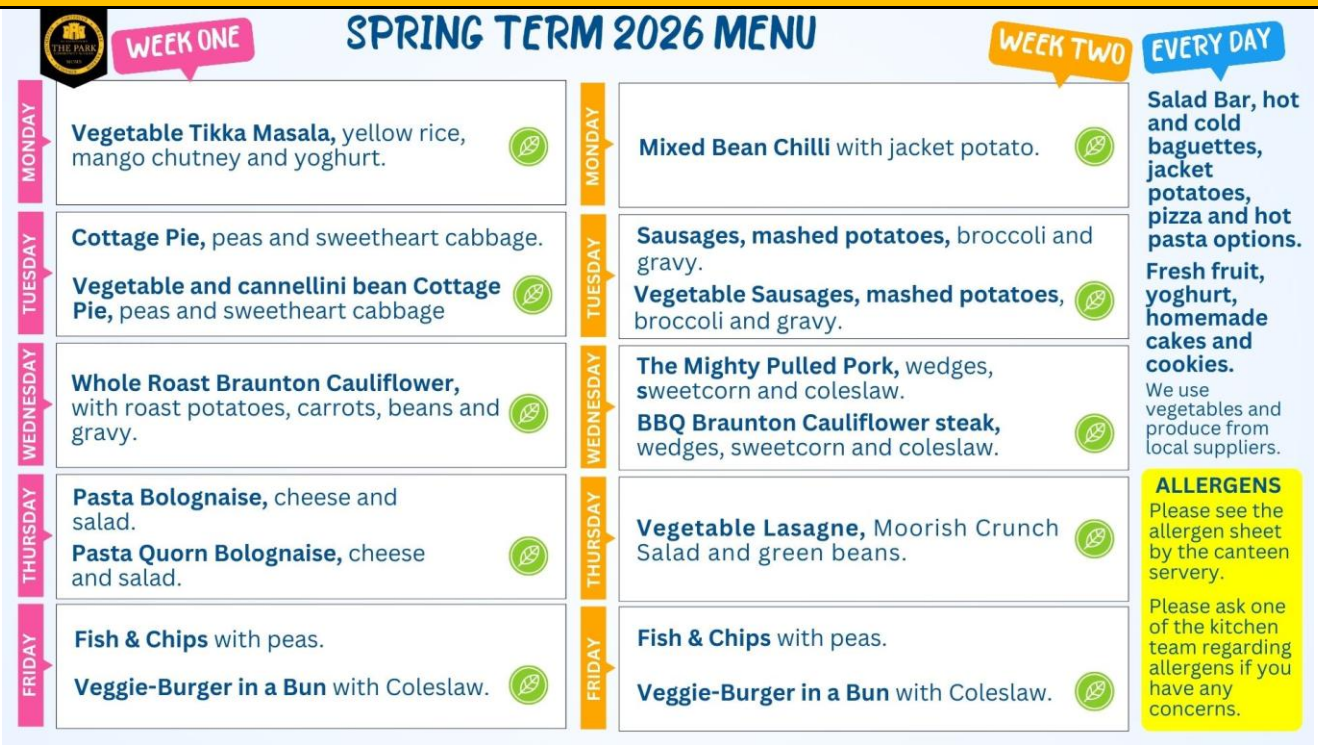
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PARK SCHOOL AND WITHIN THE TRUST

Please see our Trust website for current vacancies THSP website.

Our current vacancies include:

- Head of Key Stage 4
- Maths Teacher
- 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.

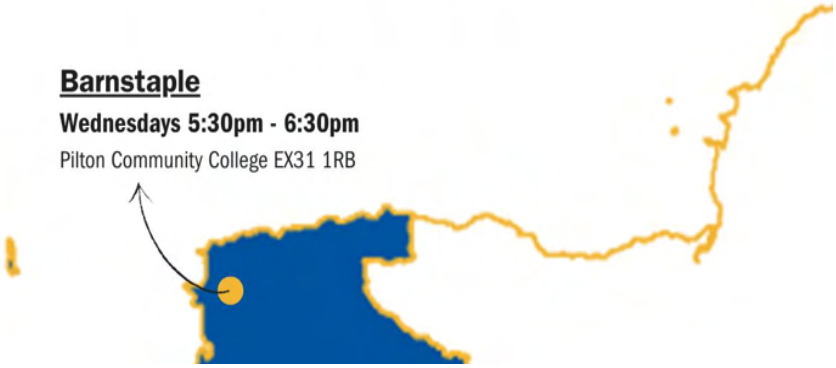
Further Information

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