NEWSLETTER

24 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent months, we have been carefully seeking the views of our whole school community regarding our uniform and possible changes to our current policy. We have listened closely to feedback from parents, students and staff, and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts.

Following this wide consultation, we have now reached a set of clear proposals which we believe strike the right balance between ensuring our students look smart and professional, while also feeling confident, comfortable and able to express some individuality. Our aim has always been to support students to feel proud of belonging at Park and their appearance, while being ready to learn. We are also being mindful of comfort and cost for families. The cost of any changes has been considered, and we will share a range of shops and suppliers that will provide non branded items at a low cost.

As a result, we will shortly be updating our school uniform policy. The key changes and clarifications are outlined below.

What Will Remain the Same

- The school blazer, tie and shirt will remain part of our core uniform expectations.
- House colours
- PE kit

Clear Guidance on Fit and Presentation

- Students wearing trousers lower than the waist (known by students as “sagging”) will not be permitted. Trousers must be always worn properly at the waist and in a smart manner.

Changes to Skirts (from September)

From **September,** female students will be required to wear one of the following:

- **Black trousers** (tailored or flared styles only – no leggings or trousers made from legging material) or **tailored knee-length shorts**

OR

- **Black skirts**, worn **below the knee**
    - Skirts must be made from a **tailored black fabric**
    - No stretch fabrics or Lycra
    - Skirts may be **pleated or straight**
    - Skirts should fall below the knee
    - Any split must be **at the back of the skirt only**
    - **No skirts above the knee** will be allowed

These expectations are intended to ensure consistency and a smart appearance for all students.

Allowing Personal Expression

We also recognise the importance of individuality and self-expression, and we are therefore pleased to share the following changes:

- The requirement for **only natural hair colours** will be removed
- Students may wear nail varnish (but not on days when they have food technology)
- Students may wear **white, black, blue or grey socks**
    - Socks may include a logo, provided it is **not offensive**

Summer Term Adjustments (After May Half Term)

To support student comfort during warmer weather, and to help keep costs to a minimum for families we will be using the students current PE kit as the summer half term uniform:

- After **May half term**, students will be allowed to choose to:
    - Wear the **full school PE kit to school** *or*
    - Continue wearing the **usual school uniform**
- Please note: if students choose to wear PE kit, it must be full **school PE kit**. Non-school PE clothing will not be permitted, and students will be asked to change into uniform if needed.
- Blazers will be optional after May half term, until the end of the summer term. Shirts must be always tucked in if full uniform is worn.

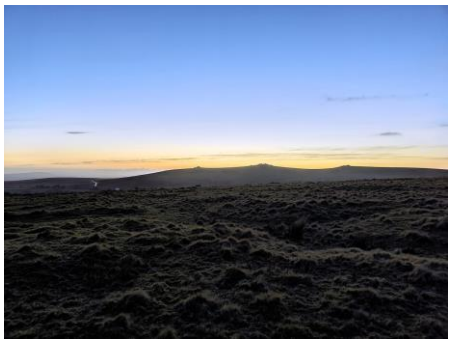
We believe these changes reflect the feedback we received and will support students in feeling confident, comfortable and well-prepared for learning; while maintaining the high standards and business-like attire we expect as a school. Full updated guidance will be shared shortly so families have plenty of time to prepare ahead of September.

Before finalising the updated uniform policy, we would welcome any final thoughts or feedback from parents and carers. If you have any additional views you would like to share, please do so by the end of next week. We have spent months consulting stakeholders but would encourage you to share any final views.

To make this as simple as possible, we have created a short survey, which can be accessed via **this link.** Your feedback is important to us and will help ensure the policy best meets the needs of our school community.

Spring Monitoring Reports have been emailed to parents this week.

The final **Ten Tors training walk** took place last weekend, with 40 miles walked in the sun, rain and darkness! Well done all that took part and good luck for making the final cut for the Ten Tors Team in May.



Wishing you and your family a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards
Ms V Owen
Headteacher

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - SEND

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

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

Buy your tickets on MCAS or click here

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/REMINDERS

Parent Calendar | Website | Facebook Page | Instagram

Term Dates

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
1st May	All Years	**PSHEE topic next week**	Year 7 – Self-Confidence/Esteem Year 8 – Loss and Bereavement Year 9 – Prefects Year 10 – Petroc Taster Day 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*

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
22nd, 27th, 28th and 29th April	Year 11	**MFL Speaking Exam**	
28th April	Year 10	**Year 10 Parents' Evening**	Letters have been sent home.
30th April and 1st May	All years	**Dance Show - IGNITE**	Buy your tickets on MCAS, or click here
4th May	All years	**Bank Holiday**	Bank Holiday
5th to 8th May	All years	**Chichester House Charity Week**	Fundraising for charity
7th May to 16th June	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
2nd and 3rd June	TBC	**Year Group Sports Day**	
9th and 10th June	TBC	**Year Group Sports Day**	
18th June	All years	**Whole School Sports Day**	
18th to 2nd June	Year 10	**Year 10 Mocks**	
22nd June	Year 7	**Year 7 Parents' Evening**	
3rd July and 7th July	Year 10	**Art, Photography & Textile Mock**	
July	Year 7	**Awards Week Event**	By invitation, more information to follow
3rd July	Year 11	**Prom**	
14th to 17th July	Year 10	**Work Experience**	
16th to 17th July	Year 7, 8 and 9	**Enrichment Days**	
22nd July	All years	**Last day of term**	Non uniform day, finishing at 12:30pm

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please find a link to the Attendance Policy.

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

FREE webinar on Emotionally Based School Avoidance: FREE WEBINAR School Avoidance.

Useful resource on EBSA: [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
- If your child is experiencing difficulties that are impacting their attendance, please 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 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:

- Cleaner

FOOD AT PARK AND FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT INFORMATION

Information about our **food service at Park** - Food - The Park Community School.

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.

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.

IZZY CARR'S VIRTUAL RAFFLE

Hi! I'm going to Kira farm in Uganda. Kira Farm is a local community which teaches young Ugandans skills to help them start a business or get a job. Donate to my cause to help transform more young lives!

£1 for 1 entry, £5 for 7 entries or £10 for 15 entries
To purchase tickets please use the QR code below:

HTTPS://WWW.CROWDFUNDER.CO.UK/P/QR/7NPRA3QL?UTM_CAMPAIGN=SHAREMODAL&UTM_MEDIUM=REFERRAL&UTM_SOURCE=SHORTLINK

Prizes to win:

Venn valley vineyard wine tour for two
Pure and Skin and beauty manicure voucher
Combe martin wildlife park voucher
Velator quay cafe family pass x2
Banbury makeover
M&S gin
£15 Boho beauty voucher
Quince honey farm voucher for two
Air Extreme voucher for two
Hockings voucher
Sarah Bentley Footcare Voucher
Homemade salted caramel choclate cake

LINK FOR LIVE FACEBOOK DRAW ON FRIDAY 15TH MAY AT 7PM
HTTPS://FB.ME/27JVS01EJVVPY9L

CAR TREASURE HUNT

GOOD FAMILY FUN ....

THE PARK SCHOOL
PARK AND RIDE BARNSTAPLE

DATE
MONDAY 4TH MAY

TIME
11AM

CASH ONLY

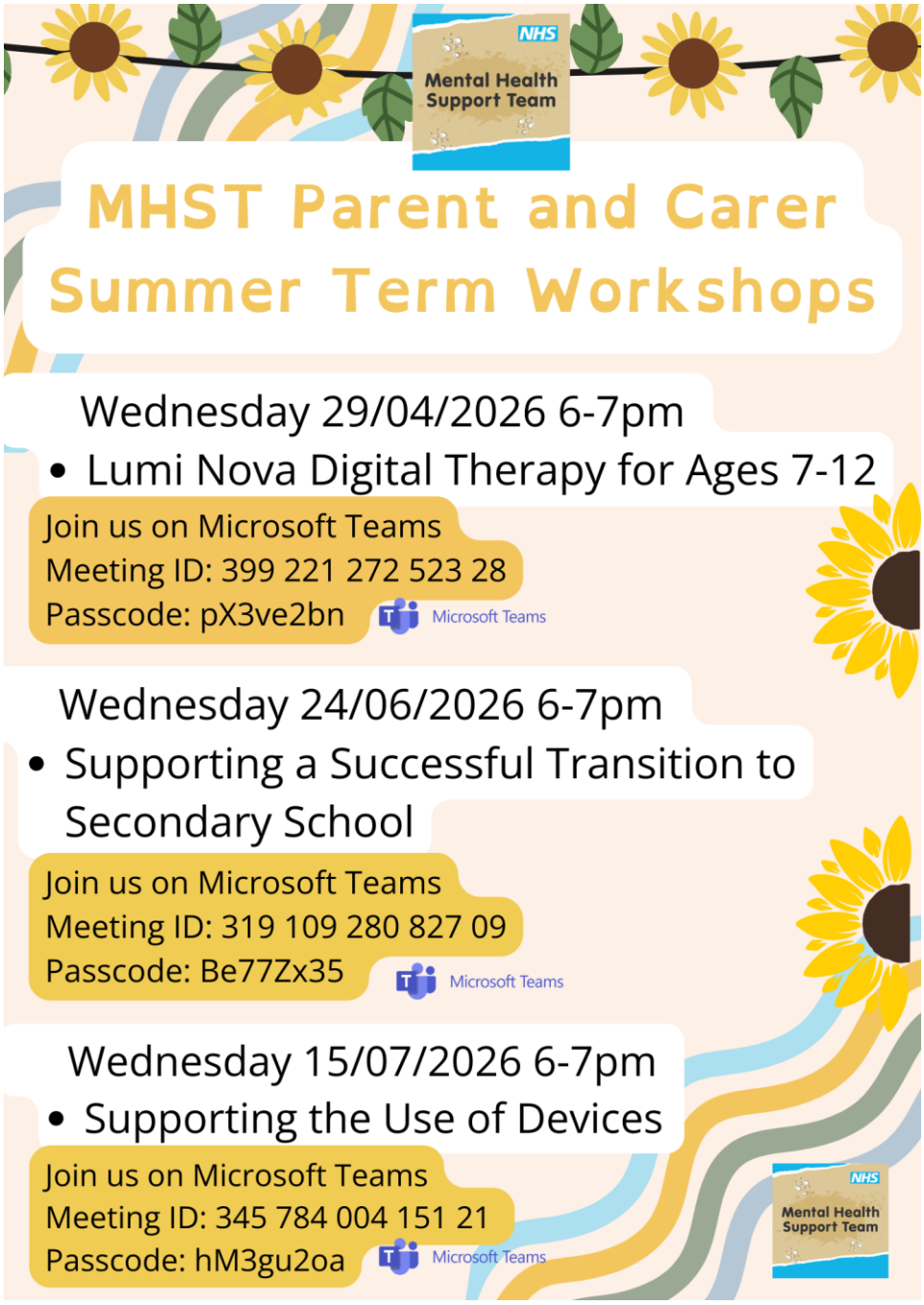
IN AID OF
LILLY MAI'S
UGANDA SCHOOL TRIP

£5 PER CAR

PRIZE FOR WINNERS

CAKES FOR SALE ON RETURN

COMMUNITY NOTICES


NHS
Mental Health Support Team
MHST Parent and Carer Summer Term Workshops
Wednesday 29/04/2026 6-7pm
• Lumi Nova Digital Therapy for Ages 7-12
Join us on Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 399 221 272 523 28
Passcode: pX3ve2bn
Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 24/06/2026 6-7pm
• Supporting a Successful Transition to Secondary School
Join us on Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 319 109 280 827 09
Passcode: Be77Zx35
Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 15/07/2026 6-7pm
• Supporting the Use of Devices
Join us on Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 345 784 004 151 21
Passcode: hM3gu2oa
Microsoft Teams
NHS
Mental Health Support Team