



# PARKLANDS

Learn | Respect | Aspire | Achieve



## Spring 2015 Newsletter

### Message from the Head

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. We are delighted that our all weather pitch is now up and running and being enjoyed by our students both in and outside of lessons. This is a wonderful new facility from which all students will benefit. Building work on the pavilion is making good progress and we look forward to this resource being available in the Summer term which will enhance the students' experience of dance and drama. We are very proud of our student leadership programme, one of the highlights this term has been the live political debate which took place in the first week of March, those students involved are to be congratulated on their participation. Once again this is a bumper issue, please take time to read about the variety of activities our students enjoy at Parklands which enriches their secondary experience.

*Mrs C Hollister, Headteacher*

Our current Year 9's were fortunate to visit the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry during Science week as part of the school's Enrichment programme. The students were able to explore the museum which gave a fascinating insight into a multitude of both historic and current innovations. The main attractions included the 3D printing exhibition where students were able to discover how 3D printing is revolutionising the fields of medicine and engineering. Also the Sewers of Underground Manchester gave an insight in to how water has affected our lives over time. The interactive Experimental Zone and 4D Theatre were also very popular with everyone.

There was a quiz to complete while the students travelled around the different zones, the winners were Harry Livesey and Harry Martin who both received high street vouchers for their great efforts. The trip was a great success, with all students displaying exemplary behaviour.



**American Spirit - more photos inside!**

## Battlefields 2015

Our annual trip to the First World War battlefields departed in the last week of the Spring Term. The group spent six days getting to grips with the experience of the First World War in Belgium and Northern France. Along the way, we visited a number of significant sights including various British, French and German cemeteries; impressive memorials to the lost soldiers of the Battle of the Somme and the Battles of Ypres at Thiepval and Tyne Cot; preserved battlefields at Newfoundland Park and the vast crater at Lochnagar; in Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres and Passchendaele museum in Zonnebeke. In addition, this year pupils took part in the Coming World Remember Me art project, by creating their own personalised clay figures which will form part of a memorial that will be unveiled in 2018 to commemorate the 600 000 soldiers who lost their lives fighting in Belgium during the First World War. Pupils and staff were also able to let off some steam at the bowling alley where Alan Whalley emerged as king of the lanes, and Mr Gallagher showed Mr Parker a thing or two on the air hockey table - surprisingly no one got hurt!



Joe Barker adds the finishing touches to his clay model at the Coming World Remember Me project in Ypres. By 2018 the project hopes to have created 600 000 models like this, currently they have made around 60 000.

Hannah Reeves and Brad Wade did us proud by laying the school wreath at the Menin Gate. They met this man along the way - he was just fourteen when he joined the British Army in 1947.



The group rest their legs at Thiepval, memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Some 72 000 names adorn its walls.

One thing that impressed the staff, and many onlookers, was the maturity of our pupils, who behaved outstandingly throughout the trip, acting as perfect ambassadors for the school. It was clear from their reactions that the trip had a significant impact on them, illustrated by the very moving scenes during the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate on our final evening in Ypres.

On our final day we enjoyed the sights of Bruges, before hopping on the boat for what turned out to be a rather rocky crossing back to blighty. All in all, another fantastic year for PHS Battlefields. Until next year!

Visit our twitter page for more information and photographs from the trip @PHSHistory1



Thanks to the primary schools who created such wonderful 'poppy men'. Here they are being placed at various memorial sites



## Literacy Update

Well, it's been yet another great term for Literacy at Parklands!

Our Wednesday lunchtime book club has flourished, with the number of readers increasing week by week. The reading club is open to all Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. If you would be interested in attending the reading club, feel free to turn up or speak to Miss Duffell or Miss Power.

On the subject of reading, Thursday March 5th was World Book Day. Several pupils from Parklands attended a huge event at Preston North End's football stadium. Over 5000 pupils from all across the North West packed into a stand at Deepdale to be entertained by several authors, including Cressida Cowell ('How To Train Your Dragon') and Danny Wallace ('Are You Dave Gorman?'). Pupils who stayed in school also took part in a huge World Book Day quiz to gain some valuable points for the House competition!

This term has also been successful for our literacy peer mentoring system. The Year 7 and 10 pupils have worked really hard throughout the term and I am pleased to report that the Year 7 pupils involved are all showing some superb progress with both spelling and reading! A big thank you to all involved.

Keep reading!

*Mr Banks*



## Camps International

This term, the Camps International pupils have been, once again, working tirelessly (in between revision of course!) to raise money to help to send them on the expedition to Kenya in the summer. The expedition will involve working with local people on community projects and marine conservation.



From cakes, to crisps to golf clubs, the team have been selling everything to help to raise as much money as possible! Every Friday lunch time in the hall, the team are selling sweets, chocolate and drinks. All of the money raised will go to helping them reach their goal.

We have lots of exciting fundraising events planned for the month after Easter too!

Raffles, bag packing in a local supermarket and a sports tournament are all in the pipeline, so watch this space!

So far, the team have raised just short of £2000. This is an incredible figure between the seven pupils involved ... but they're not there yet! Every penny counts!



## Japanese club

Parklands has long been known for its strength in languages, but there was one that was never taught or pursued, even though its country of origin is now leading the world in innovation and technological developments. Following a taster day late last year, Mrs Radcliffe set up Parklands' first known club for Japanese. The club runs on Tuesday lunchtimes, where pupils have begun to speak, read, and write the language, as well as learning about Japanese culture and tradition.

When it first began, the club was more of an informal gathering where you could learn a few Japanese words and phrases with your friends, but it has grown from that. With only the serious students left, a budget has been granted for resources, and Mrs Radcliffe is focused on giving a basic education in Japanese language, with knowledge on how to speak, read and write the language to an adequate standard.

Japanese language is spilt up into 3 'alphabets' – hiragana (used for Japanese words), katakana (used for foreign words), and kanji (to represent entire words or names). Currently, attendees of the club have begun to learn and pronounce the characters of the hiragana alphabet, with the idea to progress onto katakana, while learning kanji all the while. Basic greetings and phrases have already been covered, and it is the hope that students will be able to structure sentences and hold a conversation in correct Japanese by the time they leave.

For anyone that is interested in joining you will need passion and a degree of proficiency for languages, as well as dedication to the subject. Learning any language is a challenge, and the fact that Japanese doesn't use a Latin alphabet makes it even harder, but if you stick to it, learning even a small amount could be incredibly beneficial for you in the future.

Please speak to Mrs Radcliffe if you are interested in this opportunity, or want to know any more information.



Following a collection in the school office, Mrs Crow and Miss Berry visited Living Waters to take a large amount of food items to be made into hampers for local people.

The picture shows the Christmas visit, but a collection is always ongoing - the storehouse food bank is always in need of supplies! Thanks to all who donated food items or money - your contribution is greatly appreciated.



In November 2014 the school remembered the fallen soldiers of the Great War in what is the centenary year of the beginning of the war in 1914. Special to the history of the school is throughout the Great War, 16 old boys of Parklands High School, otherwise known as Chorley Grammar School at the time, fought and fell in the war and are forever remembered in the memorial garden at school. However what is unknown by many from both the school and the wider community of Chorley is the significance of a row of trees along the Southport Road fence line.

Until now there has only ever been 15 large Lime trees decorating the fence line since 1934 when they were planted in remembrance of the fallen soldiers, each one



representing a single soldier from the school. On March 26th 2015 this was put to rights with the final tree being planted to commemorate all of the fallen from Chorley Grammar School. In order to repeat history David Horsfield (Secretary of Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group) who very kindly donated the final tree to the school was able to organise for Isobel Robinson and Les Sellers to be in attendance for the planting just as they were in 1934. Les and Isobel were joined also by the youngest members of Parklands so as to replicate the original planting. Both Jessica Appleton and Josh Wright in year 7 helped to plant the new sapling and in turn helped to make even more history at school.

I would personally like to thank David Horsfield for his time and effort in making this occasion successful and to Josh Wright and Jessica Appleton who represented the school with pride. Well done.

## Outstanding Attendance Achievement

At Parklands our pupils attend school an amazing 95% of the time, which is above the national average, but we feel it can be even better, and the pupils in this article demonstrate what can be done with dedication...

Some of our wonderful pupils have never had a day off school at Parklands, which is an incredible achievement. We have Liam and Charlotte in Year 9 who have both not missed one lesson in the past 3 years and in addition to that Charlotte never even had a day off in primary school....

Even more unbelievable is the fact that we have a Year 11 pupil who has not missed one lesson at Parklands in the last 5 years, and has never even had a day off at Primary School! When asked how he has done this, and what motivates him to come to school every single day since he was 4 years old, Nathan told teachers he owes a lot of it to his parents who always encourage him.

Nathan also stated that there is 'no point' in taking time off and because of his 100% attendance he has never had to catch up any work or stay behind to complete work. Nathan firmly believes that his attendance has made a big difference to the grades he is capable of achieving, and so far already has one A and one A\* in GCSE Computing and GCSE core Science.

Liam, Charlotte and Nathan are great role models for our pupils and I hope they can continue to achieve their potential and encourage others to achieve 100% attendance by the end of this year.

*Mr Metcalf & Miss Burrill, Achievement & Attendance Team*

## Asia House Spring Term Report

Once again we have had another successful half term in Asia House as our Year 7s have settled in wonderfully to our house. They have all done superbly to get involved in all aspects of Asia House life and I hold high hopes for their futures. Furthermore, I have been very impressed by our pupil leadership team of Prefects and House Captains who have performed superbly in their roles for the last two terms. As we move on through the academic year I hope their admirable commitment to their studies and wider school life continues and we have more successes to celebrate. We are now only weeks away from our Year 11 pupils starting their exams and they are all working hard and I wish them all the best. Well done Asia House, keep it up.

*Mr Metcalf*

## Eclipse 2015

On Friday 20 March 2015, the whole of the UK was treated to a partial eclipse of the Sun. These are quite rare, and this one was a major event. That morning, the Moon passed right in front of the Sun, blotting out up to 90% of its disc. The Sun looked like a crescent instead of a disc, the darkness fell and a chill spread around the globe.

To mark the event the Science department set up a viewing station on the Astro turf pitch which provided an ideal aspect on the Solar event. Pinhole cameras, specialist video recorders, telescopes, screens and filters were used to safely view the event. Pupils took time out of their normal lessons to join us on the pitch and there were in excess of 200 viewers!

*WHERE WERE YOU DURING ECLIPSE 2015?!*



## New Facilities at Parklands

IT'S HERE, the brand new All Weather Pitch! Work was completed just in time for Christmas, giving the school a full size football, hockey and multi sports area. The floodlit pitch is now in full use during term time and for many after school activities. The new space means activities can be outdoors whatever the weather.



Also near to completion is the refurbishment of the old Pavilion; work started in October with a finish date around June. The new space will be able to accommodate dance and drama and with the use of the sliding partition wall create two teaching spaces. There is also a breakout area with toilets and office space.

Keep an eye out for more exciting projects coming soon.....



All the new facilities are available to hire, contact [parklands@schoollettings.org](mailto:parklands@schoollettings.org)

## Science Week

Science week this year happened between 16th to 20th March. This year pupils marked the occasion by getting creative and constructing a paper roller coaster ready for the STEM challenge. The whole school was also invited to take part in a Science Week Quiz, which challenged pupils on their understanding of Scientists and how Science works.

Here are the winners:

### FORM

1st place: Chile (28 points)

2nd place: Belgium (25 points)

3rd place: Sweden (24 points)

### INDIVIDUAL

1st place: Jenny Paul (Brazil, 26 points)

Prizes were awarded to these fantastic winners.

What do you think has provided science with the greatest advancement in human history? Here's what some of our pupils think...

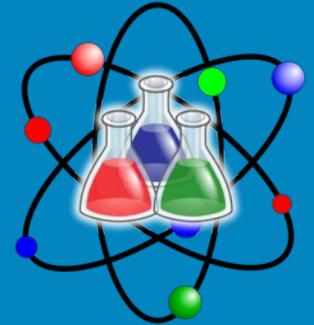
*Medical testing and exploring the human body*

*Rocket propulsion allowing us to visit space!*

*Nanotechnology which has enabled us to alter the properties of materials to make them more useful*

*Atomic structure knowledge, without which further discoveries about matter couldn't have happened*

*Discovery of fire which allows us to blend metals and make large strong structures*



As a school we are always looking at ways we can improve on how we can reward pupils for their dedication to school. A big thank you to all those pupils and parents that took the time to complete the questionnaire emailed out. The results provided a valuable insight into the views of school stakeholders and have allowed for a few small changes to the Achievement Points system. House Achievement Leaders have been speaking to pupils with the most Achievement Points and thanking them for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to those earning the most Achievement Points: Jake Oliver, Hallie Roberts, Holly Fairhurst, Rosemary Hillier, Kelly-Anne Ashworth and Kasim Miah.

## PNE COACH at Parklands

The girls in years 9-11 have been fortunate to have coaching sessions in football delivered by PNE coach Melissa Brown. Mel is delivering the sessions in the hope of increasing the amount of participation in the sport outside of school and so far has been a fantastic success. Parklands has been chosen to represent Preston in their festival where our girls will play in the Preston kit against other club teams. Look forward to the next issue of the newsletter for how that event goes.

*Miss Greaves*



## Hockey Club and GB Hockey Masterclass

We have been really fortunate to have Chorley and Leyland Hockey Club Coach Rob Alty come and deliver some sessions to pupils after school on a Tuesday. These sessions have been really successful and we hope to carry on with the positive relationship with the club and have more pupils try Hockey especially with the completion of the fantastic all weather pitch.

As a school we are also working with the Sky Sports Mentor programme and we were really lucky to have GB hockey player Charlotte Hartley come in and deliver a session with year 7 girls and the Gifted and Talented PE pupils. Pupils did a lot of stick work and really progressed within the one hour session.



The Eco-Ambassadors have had an excellent Spring term continuing with business as usual helping to increase the awareness of sustainable living to the rest of the school. This term the Eco-Ambassadors have had a visit from the Eco-Schools Green Flag representative who was here to assess the renewal of the school's Green Flag status. This day was very successful, so much so the assessor was more than complimentary of the pupils involved in the scheme and believes that there is real potential for the present and future ambassadors to achieve even greater eco-status looking towards potential international affiliations and awards.

The ambassadors have also recently led their own whole school assembly looking at time as a focal point. The assembly focused around the damage that has been done to the Earth in the short existence of mankind and what we need to do as a school and community to try to reduce the impact on the Earth as to preserve it for generations to come.

The Ambassadors should be proud of their work this term and look to integrate the new ambassadors in the next term to continue the success of the team.



## German Play

On 4th February the Onatti players again came into school and performed a very amusing play entirely in German to all our year 7 and year 9 pupils. Workbooks with extracts and vocabulary had been studied beforehand so pupils were aware of the vocabulary involved.

The play centred around a teenager meeting her potential step sister, who was the complete opposite of her! This caused great hilarity! Some pupils were also brought onto the stage and were invited to take part in various scenes with the actors. The pupils were engrossed and all enjoyed the experience.

*Miss D Poole*



## News from Australasia House!

Australasia House has continued to work hard in all aspects of school life. We have had a busy term with Y9 and Y8 students making their option decisions. Also thank you to all those students in Y9 and Y10 for taking the time to apply for a Prefect or Senior Student Leadership Role, it makes me very proud to know there are so many of you wanting to help both the House and the school as a whole to succeed.

We are competing well in the House Competition race, with Sarah Hoyle (NCL) taking 1st place for best picture in the very successful 'Get Caught Reading' competition. Attendance must be mentioned here as this is one aspect of the House Competition where Australasia as a collective are trailing behind everyone else!

This has not however stopped New Zealand from collecting a 'Reward Breakfast' this term for being one of the top 5 best attending forms in the school with a fabulous 96.8%. Incidentally Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia were very much hot on their heels. Time for the rest of you to catch up!

We also have many students who are succeeding out of school. A couple that I would like to mention are firstly, Caitlin Molloy (Y8) for her achievements in Wakeboarding (a sport she only started last summer) where she achieved 1st place in the North West for the ladies competition. Also Ben Weaver (Y7) who has been chosen to represent South Ribble and Preston District U13's cricket squad this season, so well done.

So Australasia, let's keep powering ahead together, there are many more successes to be made together and a final good luck to all our Y11's who I know will make us all proud come the summer.

*Mrs Dewhurst, Proud HAL Australasia*



*Well done to the Year 10 and 11 pupils who took part in the recent Runshaw Maths Challenge.*

## LEADERSHIP IN PE

This year I have set up the Primary Sports Team. These are pupils who have demonstrated themselves to be good leaders and show commitment to extra curricular PE and its development in young pupils. We have already run two courses for pupils to gain experience and qualifications in sport with many more in the pipelines. As well as this we have successfully run the Primary Sports Leagues in conjunction with the Chorley Sports Partnership; as a school we provided our facilities and leaders as officials and umpires so that primary schools could compete in leagues in Netball and Football with Rounders starting in the summer term. It has been great to see our leaders improve in confidence each week and hear the fantastic feedback from parents and primary staff.

We now have 21 pupils who qualified as Young Rounders Leaders and 8 pupils who completed the Junior Football Leader. We hope this will allow pupils to experience a range of roles within PE and the world of work.

*Miss Greaves*



## U14 Girls through to the Semi Final of the Lancashire Cup

Our U14 girls is a team of year 8 and 9 girls who compete regularly and train when they can, they have been very successful this year in getting through to the semi final cup where they came up against St Wilfrid's from Blackburn who have been reaching the final of this competition in previous years. The girls played a tremendous second half but unfortunately were unable to convert enough goals against a solid defence.



## Table Tennis

Parklands had great success in the district table tennis competition with Parklands Year 8 girls winning gold, the Year 7 girls achieving silver. The Year 7 boys also won gold. The girls will now go on to represent Chorley in the Lancashire School Games! Well done everyone!

*Miss Greaves*



## Gymnastics Competition



The Parklands Gymnastics Team were very successful at the district Gymnastic Competition winning a large number of medals overall. They were most successful in the pair routines and tumbling event where they triumphed by winning gold. Some stand out performances went to Sarah Gur and Ella Holding who performed to the Frozen hit 'Let it go' and won gold in the intermediate balance routine. Sarah Hoyle also triumphed in the tumbling competition.

## Swimming Gala

Parklands pupils had another successful evening at the Swimming Gala where races took place for club and competitive swimmers and another competition for fun swimmers. Parklands came 2nd overall and got Gold for the second year running in the fun competition. Some fantastic performances and we look forward to next year.

*Miss Greaves*

## Groundforce - Work in Astley Park

Year 9 pupils are continuing their work towards the Astley Park play area. They have been designing 'coats of arms' which will be converted into metal, painted, then screwed onto a large table that will go on the play area. They have also been helping to turf parts of the play area and improve the landscape by planting trees and plants.

*F Eastham*



*Pupils hard at work making Astley Park play area a great new feature for local children. Go along and check out the progress!*

## West End Trip review

On 17th February 16 pupils from years 8, 9 and 10 visited London for a school theatre trip. We took part in many exciting activities during our time there, one of which was visiting London Zoo. Following that, which I really enjoyed, we were taken to dinner. On the way we passed some of the popular attractions and famous shopping high streets. We walked through Trafalgar Square, where we saw all the street entertainers, along with Nelson's Column with the four lions guarding the base and the water fountains surrounding that.

After dinner we walked to the Prince Edward theatre and watched the West End production of Miss Saigon. I loved this show as the performers made it feel like we were watching a real life story happening in front of us. I also enjoyed the musical aspects of this performance as the singing was phenomenal and all the dancing was clean, in character and portrayed the story really well. The story behind this show was so upsetting that I ended up crying towards the end, because it was so realistic and believable that I felt involved in the characters' situations. I would definitely recommend that you go to watch this if you are looking for a more mature West End production.

On the morning of the 18th, we headed to Pineapple Studios after breakfast, where we would take part in a dance workshop with one of the cast members of Miss Saigon and learn a routine from the show. On the way, we drove around London and visited the main attractions: Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square again and more. We walked through Covent Garden to get to the studio. Inside, auditions were going on for a Disney production and it was extremely busy with hundreds of dancers all around. In our studio, we met Callum who delivered our workshop. First we took part in an intense warm up and stretching routine which the cast have to do before each show. I found learning the routine quite hard, as I wasn't used to the style of dance or the character we had to stay in whilst performing. I did enjoy the workshop though, as it gave us a little taster of what musical numbers are like. In addition, I liked the piece that we learnt as it didn't involve any technical or dance experience to be able to do and the way we had learnt it made it easier for me to pick up and execute. We finally performed in 2 groups and ended the session with us asking Callum questions about his job! Following lunch in Covent Garden, we were free to go shopping for a short while, before heading off to the Cambridge Theatre to watch Matilda the Musical. I thoroughly enjoyed this performance because it was very energetic and positive as well as being family friendly. In my view, I think the children in it made the play even better as I thought they were incredible performers and played the characters extremely well. What's more, there was a twist in the plot line, so it was unlike the story/film we know so well! I could go on but overall, I really enjoyed watching Matilda - if you are contemplating visiting London to watch a show, then this could be for you!

If you get the chance to go on this trip, I would definitely encourage you to do so.

On Thursday 26th March, a group of year 8 and 9 Gifted and Talented pupils went on a visit to Somerville College; one of 38 Oxford University colleges boasting notable alumni, such as Margaret Thatcher and Vera Brittain.

Pupils enjoyed a morning of talks on Higher Education and more specifically the Oxbridge admissions process, before taking part in an academic session on Biological Sciences with Dr Timothy Walker. Pupils impressed senior academics at Oxford with the way in which they engaged in academic discussion and debates.

After lunch in the college dining room, pupils were given a tour of the college by existing undergraduate students, and were shocked and surprised by the impressive facilities and grounds.

An afternoon in Oxford city allowed pupils the opportunity to explore and gain a taste of student life before dinner with Dr. Steve Rayner, Senior Tutor at Oxford University.



## Geography - Horizons Gifted & Talented/ More Able Event - Runshaw

Daanish Mahmood, Ellie Scott, Sam Moore and Josh Forward visited Runshaw College on Tuesday 3rd March. They got to experience lessons in the Geography Department on sustainability and responses to the Indonesian Tsunami. They found the visit to the college an 'eye opener' - no uniform, free between lessons, being taught in a small 'lecture theatre', etc.....

Our students were praised by one of the tutors for 'being on the ball'. Their involvement and answers were impressive! Well done!

*Mrs Eastham*



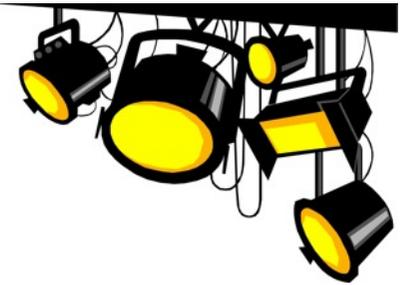
# SPOTLIGHT on MATHS



Miss Johnson and Miss Smyth with Jodine Tilley, who successfully completed an entire numeracy package to improve her maths skills. Well done for showing resilience over the 2 year programme.



Jordan North from Rock FM came in to Parklands to teach Miss Johnson's Year 8 class earlier this term as part of a school challenge!



'Mr North' being severely tested by fiendish maths questions, set by the pupils!



Miss Bland's Year 10s with visual images for circle theorems.



Daniel and Kian featured on the Rock FM Drivetime show that evening. Jordan was highly impressed with the Parklands' mathematicians!



Miss Johnson's Y8s with their excellent homework, producing teaching resources for algebra



Miss Johnson's Year 7s demonstrating teamwork and problem solving in maths lessons



On 26th February I took the Dance Team to compete in the second round of the Great Big Dance Off national schools dance competition.

We were one of 25 secondary schools picked from the DVD entry that we sent to compete in Leeds on this date. The dance we performed was a street routine to the song 'Let's Dance'. It was choreographed by Alice Sofield, an ex student who comes back to work with the team. They have completed many long and tiring rehearsals but their dedication and enthusiasm certainly paid off as they gave an excellent performance that left the stage to the audience cheering and clapping, and the compere only having 'WOW' to say. Their performance secured them second place and a ticket to the finals in Birmingham on the 22nd June. We will be working on a new routine for that performance and are hoping to have just as much success there.

Well done team!!! As always I am so proud of you all!!

*Miss Marr*



**Year 11s - don't forget to buy your Prom tickets! Tuesday 7th July at Rivington Barn. Fabulous three course meal and DJ - photobooth and favours included in the price of the ticket.**

**Look out in the next newsletter for photos of the event!**



On March 5th Year 7 visited Brockholes, a local nature reserve, and took part in a variety of outdoor and conservation activities including orienteering, bush craft, learning how to build a shelter and attending a session on animal conservation. The day was organised by Parklands with activities being delivered by Brockholes staff who have a huge amount of experience within conservation. The weather was very kind to us with only a cold breeze to complain about! A big thank you to everyone in year 7 for their maturity and positive attitudes... it was a real pleasure to see them all enjoy the day.



*Pupils involved in a series of activities. Take the time to visit Brockholes - it's a great day out!*



Over the months of February and March pupils from Parklands High School have benefited once again from a working partnership with Buckshaw Youth Association. The pupils were provided with the opportunity to gain a qualification in both Mountain Biking and Orienteering. These are two activities which pupils can not take part in during their usual school curriculum but by being allowed access to the expert instructors and fantastic facilities at the Anderton Centre the pupils could take part in these adventurous activities. The qualifications contributed towards the pupils' school studies but not only that, the pupils developed their resilience, problem solving and team working skills as they were exposed to the outdoor environment at the Anderton Centre and surrounding areas.



With a new standards system now being used pupils have continued to maintain high standards. Over the last term any standards concerns have been recorded with individual pupils being spoken to when needed.

One area that has been addressed with pupils is the importance of bringing the correct equipment to school. The school resources room sells a range of stationery for pupils that are in need of new equipment and I would like to encourage parents to check their child has all the equipment they need.

Thank you for the continued support from parents and carers.

*Mr L Betney*



GCSE Psychology went to Glasgow Science Centre to visit their exhibition on illusions and perception. The long journey to and from Glasgow was done on a Saturday with pupils getting involved in a number of hands-on exhibits as well as attending a planetarium show. The visit helps to support the GCSE Psychology curriculum as well as engage pupils with other areas of Science and Psychology.

We were also lucky enough to see Mr Parker attempt to run on a human-sized hamster wheel. A big thank you to all that attended for making it such an enjoyable trip!

*Mr L Betney*





We were visited by both our Mayor and Mayoress and Lindsay Hoyle MP. We are very grateful for their support.

**CAREERS FAIR  
2015  
Bigger and better  
than ever!**



With over 60 stalls, our Y9, 10 and 11 pupils had an informative and fun day, trying out new skills and talking to colleges, universities and employers. Can we top this next year???

## The 5Ps

At Parklands we are launching a new daily diet of 5Ps a day. This has got nothing to do with what we eat, but everything to do with our core values.

After the Easter break we will encourage every child to:

**Be Punctual**

**Be Polite**

**Be Prepared**

**Be Positive**

**Be Proud**



**Be Parklands**

We believe that these basic values and attitudes are fundamental to the success of all our community. To launch 'The 5Ps' all students recently worked on how we might promote it in school.

Some fantastic efforts were made and a range of the work can be seen on the **Parklands Students' website** - please spare a moment to look at the range of ideas and approaches.

To link with this, in our continued effort to promote excellent attitudes and behaviour we are keen to let parents and carers know about how their child/ren learn in school.

### 'Behaviour for Learning' Report

Starting in the Summer Term we will be reporting to you on your child's 'behaviour for learning'. This ties in with a national focus on behaviour and attitude to learning. You may well have seen recent headlines with the government and OFSTED reporting on 'low level disruption' and the impact that it has on learning. We are pleased to say that at Parklands we were judged to be 'Outstanding' on Behaviour and Safety in November 2014. However, we know that in order to maintain high standards and ensure that low level disruption does not affect learning we must continually review and remind our students of those standards. It is also vital that we keep you informed on how your child meets those standards. The 'Behaviour for Learning' report will simply let you know about your child's attitude and behaviour for learning- grading them red, amber or green. This report will not inform you of your child's academic progress ( the trackers will continue to do that), but we do believe that the approach your child takes to learning is the key to success in all other areas.

You will have received an email or letter giving detail about the introduction of the new report and you will also find information about on our website, but there are few key points below:

**Green** = **consistently** meets teacher expectations and **consistently** displays a positive attitude to learning and behaviour

**Amber** = **sometimes** meets teacher expectations and **sometimes** displays a positive attitude to learning and behaviour

**Red** = **rarely** meets teacher expectations and **rarely** displays a positive attitude to learning and behaviour

There will be action following the publication of each 'BfL' report. When it is consistently positive your child will be awarded Achievement Points and commended, where behaviour is inconsistent, monitoring will take place and targets set for improvement. When behaviour has rarely met our standards then serious action will be taken that may include removal from the classroom for a period of time and parents/carers will be expected to attend a meeting where behaviour contracts will be agreed.

We know that in setting high standards all our students can work in a positive environment, free from disruption and where learning comes first.

*Mrs G.Aspinall, Assistant Headteacher  
Student Support and Inclusion*

## A Visit To The Big Univer-City!

The Tuesday before Easter Break, March 24th, a group of Year 10s went on a very important trip to Manchester University. There, they experienced a taste of what life would be like for someone doing a Language degree.

First of all, they put their skills to the test by subtitling a short film in either French, German or Spanish. This short and fun activity not only gave an example of what the computer facilities at University looked like, but also let them see what they could do with the things they had learnt at school.



Then, after a lunch break in the canteen, they were taken on a tour round the university, where they saw the libraries, housing areas, study locations and more!

Finally, as an extra treat, they took part in a taster session in either Italian or Arabic. Since both of these languages aren't available at Parklands, it was a great opportunity to see what else they can do!

Overall, the day was fun, enlightening, and most importantly educational. It gave the Year 10s an essential look-in to what University life would be like, something some of them will be needing.



*Abigail Sallery Year 10*

## Africa House News!

As we approach another busy end of term, I am pleased to say that as a house we have continued to embrace the House Competition with our usual vigour! We are currently in first place, leading by a small margin of two points! Let's hope that our enthusiasm continues as we enter the Summer Term.

With only a few weeks left, our Year 11 pupils are busy preparing for the most important time of their lives up to now, it is with this in mind that I would like to thank them for the positive contribution they have made to Africa House over the last three years. I'd like to thank in particular, Jade McDonnell, Olivia Spencer and Maria Kiddell for the impact they have had as Senior Student Leaders, leaving a legacy of inspirational role models. Other pupils worthy of note are Millie Wright in Year 10, who has been doing a fantastic job as our House Captain. Unfortunately after an accident she has been unable to attend school but is making good progress, we wish her well.

Jacy Robinson Year 8, who made a fabulous contribution to the Vocab Express House Competition and Charli Smith Year 7, who made it through to the final of the German Spelling Bee last week. Well done girls!

Finally as a house, I feel that we have let our attendance and punctuality slip a little this term and I would like to impress upon pupils and parents just how important they both are. I believe that by working together we can ensure success for all our pupils.

*Mrs Haslam*

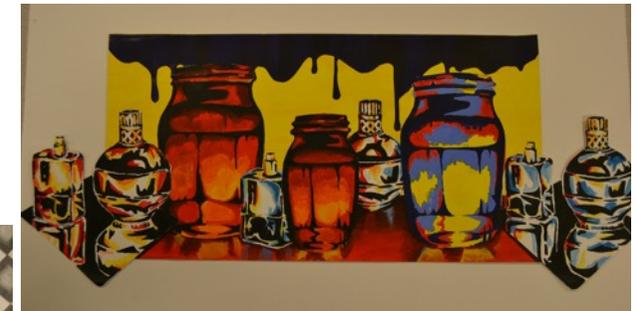


A number of G&T pupils recently attended a masterclass session at Runshaw College, aimed at trying out new subjects. The first session covered Geology. The pupils had to work together against other schools, introducing a competitive element!

Brad is shown here trying to snap a small plastic ruler - simulating the build up to an earthquake! Thanks to Dave Elliott at Runshaw for organising these sessions - more to follow!



***Some fabulous examples of GCSE artwork. Visit the department to see more!***



## Wigan Warriors V Brisbane Broncos

On Saturday 21st February over 50 Parklands High School pupils and staff traveled down to the DW Stadium to watch Super League team Wigan Warriors take on Australian side Brisbane Broncos as part of the World Club Series. The game was a fantastic spectacle of rugby league with many pupils watching their first ever game of rugby league live. Unfortunately the 'Parklands Barmy Army' couldn't quite cheer on the Warriors to victory. Let's hope that next time Wigan can achieve a victory.



Mr Higham

As part of the BTEC Sport course pupils in year 10 and 11 have had to design and implement their own 6 week personal training program. This has seen pupils tailor their program to meet their own specific demands. As part of this work pupils have been visiting Gymworks to help them achieve their goals.



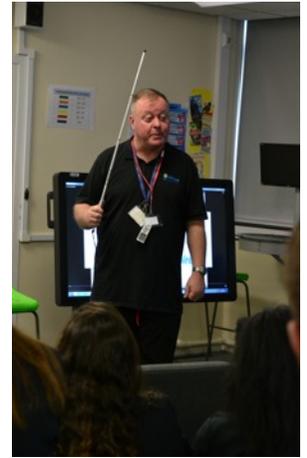
## Y9 Resilience Respect Day

In February our Year 9 pupils took part in a Resilience Respect Day working with The Amy Winehouse Foundation and Addaction. They participated in the Amy Winehouse Resilience Programme and Life Story Share workshops. Pupils also attended a Drug and Alcohol Awareness session with an emphasis on pupil resilience and making the right decisions about future life choices.



As part of the Respect Day LGBT Youth Northwest delivered an interactive workshop called Challenging Homophobia to raise awareness amongst Parklands Year 9 pupils and how important it is to respect difference within society.

Lancashire Police PREVENT Team also supported the day's events and ran a session on Stereotyping based on the assumptions we make about others. Pupils had the opportunity to explore the issues of Discrimination, Prejudice, Stereotyping and the topical issue of Terrorism – with a focus on keeping our communities safe from harm. This gave an insight into the role of the Lancashire Police PREVENT Team.



## Europe House News

It's a very busy term once again for Europe House. Each Form has been given the opportunity to hold a House assembly, and I have been very pleased to see so many students taking part and getting involved. Following on from Italy's assembly, keep an eye out for Europe's tree of friendship, coming to a notice board really soon.

All the year 9 students have made their GCSE option choices and for the first time all year 8 students have made their choices as well, so very exciting times ahead.

It's been a very close run for top attendance this term, Europe House are keeping Asia on their toes for top spot on the attendance ladder. This week saw 2 forms; Sweden and Hungary receiving a reward breakfast for best attendance. Congratulations to both. I am also very proud of 22 pupils in Europe House who have 100% attendance, this is a fantastic achievement, well done!

House competitions are still going strong, and even though we have faced each and every one head on, we are unfortunately still fighting for a higher position. Come on Europe!

I would like to say congratulations to all the year 9 & 10 students who have applied to be prefects, I was very impressed with your applications and look forward to supporting successful candidates in their new roles. I would also like to congratulate all the year 10 students who applied for SSLT, the calibre of students is extremely high, and the students conducted themselves fabulously at interview.

I would like to thank all my outgoing prefects for all their hard work and efforts over the last year, and a very special thank you to Molly and Conor for all their support and help over the year. I don't know what I would have done without you.

To all the rest of year 11, I would like to say now is the time to get yourself prepared for your exams, ensure you have a revision timetable and use your time effectively. Remember to ask for help if you need it. Good luck - I'm confident you will all receive the results you deserve.

*Mrs Fox*

## College Enrolments

Now that you have all applied for (and accepted) a college place or apprenticeship position, please remember that your place may be conditional upon the GCSE grades you get. It's not too late to apply for a back up place at certain colleges - see Miss Berry for more details. Keep an eye out for letters about enrolment details - if you are going to be on holiday on enrolment day, you must let the college know.

## Primary School Matinee Performance

Friday afternoon of the 20th March saw over 300 excited pupils from our feeder primary schools, watch a matinee performance of our fantastic American Spirit show. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and the reviews afterwards were exceptionally complimentary. Many of the children were thrilled to see former school friends amongst the cast.

Parklands pupils also took great delight in performing to the younger students. As I walked the children and their teachers to the awaiting buses, it was lovely to see their happy faces! Another professional Parklands production!

*Mrs Haslam*

Seven pupils from Parklands undertook an inter school challenge funded by the Ogden Trust in which they constructed a roller coaster.

Pupils learned about the physics behind speed and momentum as they were challenged to successfully navigate a marble through a series of twists and turns.

The year 7 and year 8 students had a fantastic time not only designing and building the roller coaster but making new friends from the other schools as they shared ideas about their team work and the final designs.

It is fantastic to see so many pupils engaging with physics and enjoying themselves. We are hoping the pupils who took part in the event take their experience back to school and continue to see physics as a vibrant subject with a rich variety of opportunities.

*Mrs L Parkin*



The Ogden Trust  
making physics matter

## New Year Ski Trip

During the Christmas holidays, 24 Parklands pupils and 4 members of staff travelled to Pila, Italy to undertake this year's Ski trip. The week was a fantastic success with pupils from all years showing the true Parklands spirit throughout.

The pupils spent 6 days skiing on the slopes. The ski conditions were fantastic with a rich downpour of snow just before we arrived and glorious sunshine throughout the week with all pupils making tremendous progress throughout. This year we had a number of pupils returning for their second and third ski trips whilst at Parklands, including a large number of pupils who were learning to ski for the first time.

In the evenings pupils spent their time bowling, at the disco, a pizza night, at the ice cream parlour, a games night and a shopping trip to Pila itself. All the pupils and staff had an amazing week with Ben Green (Year 10) being awarded skier of the week and Mr Betney even managed to "go down a red run" - whether he skied down is another matter!

A number of this year's traveling party have already signed up for next Easter's trip. If you are interested there are still a small number of places available. For more information contact Mr Higham.

## Pupil Diary

In January a group of pupils ranging from years 8 -11 went on the ski trip to Italy for 8 days. This was one of the most amazing and memorable experiences of my time at Parklands so far! Not only did it allow me to spend hours learning to ski and make so much progress in such a short amount of time which was so incredible as I went to Italy having little ski experience and came back with being able to ski on blue, red and black runs, this trip allowed me to meet new people from Parklands but also from other schools that were with Interski. There was never a dull moment throughout the whole week, we were always doing something whether that be going out for pizza night, bowling or just staying at the hotel with the teachers and taking part in team building activities.



I had such an amazing time that I'm going again next year. If you ever have a chance to go on the ski trip I'd highly recommend it! It was by far the best trip I have ever been on.

*Holly Roberts Year 10*



## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE MARCH

This term has seen our team of Digital Ambassadors busy (as usual) with a whole range of Digital events. The student website continues to grow, with new pages being added regularly. If you haven't seen the website yet, please have a look - it's full of interesting news and photos, and is created by our Digital team. The address is <http://parklandsacademy.blogspot.co.uk/> or you can click on the orange Blogger icon on the school webpage.

The Digital Ambassadors also staffed a 'drop-in' advice centre during Monday's special Secure event. Students were creating a digital resource to promote one of the newly launched Parklands Five Ps, and our team of Digital specialists were on hand to help. When they weren't giving advice to other students, the Digital Ambassadors visited forms, taking photos and videos and live blogging the event on the students website. You can see for yourself by visiting the Parklands Five Ps area on the students website; look out for the winning videos which will be published on there soon.

Digital Ambassadors have also continued to work hard to help the teachers develop their Digital skills. The teachers are working in Technology in Learning Teams (TILT) to research, develop and evaluate the use of a range of technology areas in school. The Digital Ambassadors have been working closely with the teachers to help them to develop resources and skills in areas such as Google hangouts, Green Screen recording, Apple TV and a range of iPad apps to support learning.

GCSE pod, the service that allows downloading of hundreds of 5 minute exam revision videos, is now being well used by our Year 11 students, with a total of 3816 podcasts downloaded so far. English and maths are the most downloaded, with science closely following. If you are the parent of a Year 11 pupil and they are not yet using GCSE pod, please ask them to see Miss Pilkington who will help them to get started.

Next term our Digital Ambassadors will be launching an exciting new House Competition, so hopefully we should be able to report back on that in the next newsletter - in the meantime keep a close eye on the student website for up to the minute news!



## Snow Board Lessons

This half term a number of Parklands pupils have been attending the Chilfactore in Manchester each week to undertake the level 1, 2 & 3 snowboarding course. All pupils made fantastic progress and impressed both Mr Higham and the Chilfactore staff. By the end of the course all of the pupils made it onto the main slope using the button lift. Let's hope that the different members of the group can continue to develop their snowboarding and who knows, maybe we might have a freestyle champion amongst us!



On Monday 2nd March, 20 of our year nine pupils tuned in to a Speakers for Schools live-streamed General Election panel debate, hosted by broadcaster Rick Edwards. Pupils had the opportunity to tweet questions to the panel, which included representatives from change.org and Facebook. The live debate was streamed to hundreds of schools nationally and focused on the question of who cares about politics?

Our pupils were selected as one of only two groups nationally to ask a question to the panel. Pupils asked 'how should politicians engage young people in order to increase election turnout in the future?' Pupils asked a range of outstanding questions, showing a real interest in the forthcoming General Election. Starting in the Summer Term, all Key Stage three pupils will take part in a Parklands Parliament project, where they will have the opportunity to explore political issues and get a greater insight into the political system operating in the UK.



## A Celebration of the Best in Youth Music featuring Parklands High School Musicians

On Saturday 21st March The Rotary Club of Preston presented 'A Celebration Of The Best in Youth Music' at The Guild Hall, Preston.

We were delighted to have been invited to perform at this year's concert by Mr Dale Grindrod, Head of Music at Broughton. After rehearsing the pieces separately in our schools from December we attended a joint rehearsal one evening at Broughton to meet their musicians and to rehearse the pieces for the concert.

Saturday 21st March began very early for one of our pupils - Pip Climpson, who joined a pupil from Broughton High School at Radio Lancashire at 8am to promote the event alongside Mr Grindrod and a representative from Preston Rotary Club.

We all met at the Guild Hall on Saturday afternoon where all the bands, choirs and dancers got together to run through the programme for the concert ready for the evening. Our pupils really enjoyed the rehearsals and playing at this amazing venue. The Guild Hall is impressive, with large lighting rigs and the acoustics are fantastic. Our Music Technology pupils that feature in the Concert and Jazz Band really appreciated the technology in the hall and the amazing sound from the various bands and choirs.

The Guild Hall has the capacity to seat over 2,000 people in the audience and the evening was a huge success. The Rotary Club thanked all the pupils and staff for taking time to rehearse and taking part in the event. The event has been running at The Guild Hall for 14 years. Last year's event raised money for 19 local charities and this year the Rotary Club are hoping to do the same. There was also a retiring collection raising funds for Derian House.



The event featured Parklands Concert Band and Jazz Band together with musicians from Archbishop Temple School, Broughton High School and Bishop Rawsthorpe C of E Academy. Also featuring at the event was the Laura Sandham School of Dance and Soloist Jess Allan, a vocalist who performs at schools and other venues around the Fylde area.

Parklands pupils joined Broughton High School to present:

Mission Impossible, Pirates of the Caribbean, Coldplay On Stage, The King of Pop, Gonna Fly Now, Feeling Good and Surfin' USA

Thank you to our pupils who were complimented for their professionalism throughout the day and evening and who performed to a very high standard. We look forward to joining in with local schools again for this event next year.

*Mr P Willsher  
Curriculum Leader for Music*



A national competition has been creating a buzz around Parklands this term.

And for one talented linguist her hard work and dedication has paid off when she beat 200 other students from all over the North West to win a place in the grand final this summer.

Charli Smith, 12, came fourth in the regional finals of the National Languages Spelling Bee in Manchester and will represent the region as well as Parklands in the national final.

Charli said: "It was a huge surprise. I have worked very hard for this, practising every night but there were lots of very good people there. When they called the first three names I really didn't think I had got through. I'm really looking forward to representing Parklands in the national final."

All our year 7 pupils took part in the early rounds of the Routes into Languages National Spelling Bee with every German group producing class winners.

Sixteen pupils competed in the school final in January to select the team for the regional finals. Our quick-fire quartet - Anthony Banks, Caitlin Maguire, Nicole Nightingale and Charli Smith - had to learn to spell 150 words using the German alphabet. In the finals they were challenged to spell as many words chosen at random as they could in one minute.

Mrs Radcliffe, who organised the school competition, said: "We are very proud of all our pupils who took part but especially Anthony, Caitlin, Nicole and Charli.

"For Charli to reach the national finals is an amazing achievement. She is a very talented linguist but has also worked extremely hard to get this far."



Since January, Gifted and Talented pupils have been busy working on a number of projects aimed at raising aspirations and stretching them to realise their full potential.

We started by introducing all G&T pupils to a new online platform known as IGGY (International Gateway for Gifted Youth) which allows pupils to engage with other pupils from the global community on a range of academic issues. The platform has been widely used by pupils, many of whom are actively engaging in debates and online activities, covering a range of issues.

A group of 10 pupils led and developed an application to Ranstad Education for £10,000 worth of funding towards a Polytunnel project, which would give our Eco team a permanent base as well as a further teaching space for departments. Pupils are awaiting a response from Ranstad Education about the outcome of the project.

As a school we have established links with Durham University, who are eager to accommodate a number of our G&T pupils as part of a two day residential visit to sample university life in the next academic year. We are also seeking to make links with Loughborough University, as well as a range of other academic institutions.

A number of students have taken part in Enrichment Days, hosted by Runshaw College, including Geology days, Sports days and a Sociological Dragons Den event. In addition to this pupils have taken part in a visit to Oxford University and have engaged in an election-special panel debate, both of which are reported elsewhere.

## Sol Saddoo - Year 8 - Trying out for Jamaican Ice Hockey Team

I was never good at football but I wanted to be involved in a team sport so I started ice hockey 3 years ago and I joined Blackburn Junior Hawks under 12s team for my first season. I found a love for the skills I was learning and really enjoyed being part of the team. This season I have played in the Hawks under 14s and have enjoyed playing matches with and learning from my more experienced team mates.

This summer I am going to travel to Toronto to take part in the Jamaican Olympic Ice Hockey Team (JOIHT) trials for their youth team. This is an amazing opportunity and I am looking forward to the experience and the chance to make new ice hockey

friends from America and Canada. Who knows, I might actually get to wear the hockey jersey I've always wanted!!



Sol Saddoo

## ***Konnichiwa from the students of Parkland's Japanese Society***

"In March some art students as well as the Japanese Society were invited to explore Manga art (animé) with some very gifted Manga artists - Chocolate Revel and Mewa Chu. We created our own characters and are putting our scenes into a storyboard to display. We'd like to say thank you to Mrs Radcliffe for organising this and Mr Flynn for helping us with our drawings because it was an amazing opportunity, especially for us year 7s."

*Amely Fernandez-Redwood and Eleanor O'Donoghue, Year 7 artists*

"Japanese has helped me develop extra linguistic skills required to learn any language and more about the English language. It has allowed me to understand a whole new different culture which is fascinating and exciting. The Manga art day was amazing as we were able to learn how to draw in the very popular style: Manga. It was a privilege to work alongside professional artists who have published their work in popular books. I particularly look forward to sharing my new gained knowledge to one of our feeder primary schools through a Japanese day. I hope they would enjoy it as much as I have. I look forward to continuing my study of Japanese and hope it would assist my study of GCSE German."

*Daanish Mahmood, Year 9, Japanese Society*

"I feel as though I have gained so much from Japanese this year, it has given me something to pursue that I have never done before and it has given me an extra curricular activity to take part in as I have never been able to find something I really want to do, something that I have never tried before. I have really enjoyed everything we have done and I have learned so much, Japanese is such an interesting language and even if I never become fluent in Japanese, I know that the lessons I have learned through trying to learn this language will help me in later life in an irreplaceable way.

I have loved Japanese and I am really excited to continue."

*Charlotte Hodgkinson, Year 8, Japanese Society*

## ***Japanese Art Club***

The Japanese club and some select Gifted and Talented art pupils were privileged to have Manga artists (known separately by Mewa-Chu and Chocolate Revel online; search for their work!) come in and help them not only better their manga skills but help them develop their own characters which will at a later point (with some help from Mr Flynn) be put onto a display board. The characters varied from Chibi to hybrids- there was a bit of everything going on. From there we will use them to present our Japanese vocab and what we are currently doing (in traditional manga format). Keep an eye out for it! *Benji Wilkins Y9*



South America have gone from strength to strength in the House competition and have seen unprecedented success in a number of events. There was a House competition first when South America appeared as joint leaders for a period of time, this has never happened in House competition history! South America have spent a great deal of time in second place overall for some time which in itself is fantastic, having never achieved above fourth place at all last year! A big thank you to all the House for their involvement and enthusiasm and a special mention goes to those taking part in the year 7 football competitions, the German Spelling Bee and 'The hardest quiz in the world' all of which saw us earn a great deal of points. South America will continue to fight on with the offer that if we reach the top spot on the leader board there will be treats in form time. One area we need to focus on is attendance and punctuality, while this is improving we must beat the other Houses!



## **Y10 Moneysense Respect Day**

In March we were fortunate to be able to work with a great team of volunteers from RBS Invoice Finance in Manchester who gave up a day at work to teach Y10 pupils some 'Moneysense'. All Y10 pupils actively participated in financial awareness workshops on: Managing Your Money, Planning Your Future, Credit & Debt and You're in Business. Many of the volunteers had enjoyed working with our pupils previously in Year 8 and had come back for a second visit! Lots of great feedback was received.

Parklands' pupils also benefited from the experience of working with Founders4Schools who arranged for 3 successful entrepreneurs to talk about their careers and business experience. Guest speakers were from the following successful organisations: Virtue Technologies Ltd, All About Success Ltd and Digienable.



This year we had our 4th annual dance production and the chosen theme was American Spirit. With over 220 of our pupils involved, we visited Oklahoma, New York, Las Vegas and Peru to mention just a few. We had Western styles, Street dance styles and even show girls. The dances were choreographed by teachers, pupils and outside guest choreographers and involved our BTEC Dance groups, dance clubs, PE Classes, Cheerleading teams and even students' own work that they successfully auditioned.

We also had a large number of singers audition and perform this year which was fantastic as the standard was better than ever. Thanks really must be paid to Mr Penketh who worked very closely with all of these on their arrangements and performances.

It never ceases to amaze us each year how many students want to be involved in the dance show and the dedication and hard work that they put into each and every rehearsal really must be praised. We are so proud of each and every performer.

We would also like to thank those students without whom the show would have been impossible. For months now Ashley Nightingale, Lydia Brooks and Aaliyah Baker have been working with year 7, 8 & 9 dance groups that we have just not had the time to work with, making it possible for those groups to still be able to enter the show. Ellen Dickinson and Lucy McManus also stepped in at the last minute to help with a few rehearsals too. All five of you have been huge assets to the show and we are extremely grateful, as are your dance groups, for the time and effort that you have put in.

With evening shows on the 18th, 19th and 20th March as well as a matinee to local primary schools on the 20th the performances were seen by many, and the positive feedback we received, as always, was overwhelming.

So thank you to all of you for being involved and to all who came to watch. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with and performing to you all.

*Gemma Marr and Lorraine Sullivan*



## **American Spirit!**

