

2013 Chorley Cross Country

Our annual District Cross Country race proved a hit this year with both students and staff. Every year one is held at Albany High School and one held here at Parklands. This year however was a little different. All pupils who entered and finished the race were awarded house points for their respective houses. To add to this there were house points up for grabs for the amount of staff who participated in the race. All in all we had 132 pupils take part (the most I have ever known) and 13 staff. Our Parklands pupils did us proud with Ben Hughes winning the Albany year 7 race as well as the Parklands year 7 race with Robin Shepley coming a close second.

Overall Europe had the most pupil runners and also had the most staff runners from their house. Well done.

A special mention goes to Mr Betney who ran in all 3 races at Parklands and Mrs Reynolds-Hawkins who looked especially dashing in her unique running gear.



Mrs Reynolds Hawkins in this season's latest style!

Thank you very much to Katy Hempson and Aaron Deacon who taught two Geography lessons to their own Year 8 classes. This was a very brave thing to do and the lessons were very successful, with students benefiting from all their effort and planning. They planned activities based around the new 4D Learning Space that we have in school and 'living games' in the LRC.

Mrs Eastham

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Autumn 2013 Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

The Autumn Term has been extremely busy with two of our main events; prospective parents' evening and presentation evening taking place. Both of these were very successful and I would like to thank all those who provided feedback to us which will help us in our planning. As you will see when you read this newsletter there have been some exciting new teaching and learning developments; the 4D room has been used extensively as has the TV studio and over 30 student teachers attended our Teaching & Learning Conference led by Parklands staff. In addition to this we are investing significantly in new technologies to support learning. We will continue to ensure that we are the forefront of providing our students with the highest quality, diverse and enjoyable learning experiences.

Our new year 7 have settled in well and we are delighted to welcome them into the Parklands family and to see them flourish.

I wish you all a relaxing, happy and peaceful Christmas break and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Hollister

Bugsy Malone - read more inside ...



Cookery news ...

Let's Get Cooking Year 7

Year 7 pupils have really got involved joining the first Let's Get Cooking Club in the school year. They've become really confident and independent in the kitchen cooking a variety of healthy dishes to take home and enjoy with their families. Mums, Dads and grandparents also joined us for a cooking session making home-made pizzas and Pudsey Bear cakes!



Year 7 Design-A-Sandwich

Year 7 Food pupils undertook the challenge to design and make 'an unusual, healthy and colourful sandwich that couldn't be bought at the shops!' which resulted in some really creative sandwiches.



Year 8 Perfect Pasta Challenge!

Year 8 Food pupils enjoyed the challenge of making fresh pasta and designing a unique pasta shape that doesn't already exist! Lots of fun and great ideas – some fantastic pasta-making!

One-To-One Literacy Reading

As well as peer mentoring, we have also continued our one-to-one reading sessions with some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils this term. This scheme involves staff from across the curriculum sitting down for half an hour at a time to listen to pupils read.

I can see the impact of this in my own class. At the start of the year, some pupils in my Year 7 class were very reluctant to read aloud...now they moan when they can't! I can't win! This enthusiasm and increased confidence echoes throughout the curriculum and is fantastic to see. I can only believe that we are setting our pupils up for future success with schemes like this.

A big thank you to all staff and pupils involved. You are all doing a fantastic job!

Mr Banks

New Staff at Parklands

Since joining Parklands back in September, the time has flown! I can't believe I am nearing the end of my first term as an NQT. This term has been intense but I have fully appreciated the help, support and guidance I have received from everyone in school. I have come into teaching from an engineering background and it is this fascination with 'how stuff works' that I enjoy seeing the pupils being inspired by, through science. Outside of school, I enjoy keeping fit and get down to the gym when I can. I also look forward to getting back into my other passion, Jujitsu. I trained and coached this martial art for a number of years and it's something I will definitely be committing some time to, once I have some!



M. Halsall
Science Department

I'm Mrs Radcliffe and I teach German and French. Before becoming a teacher, I worked as a journalist and a musician in the UK and abroad. When I'm not working, I like playing and listening to music, fell walking and being beaten at football by my little boy. I have enjoyed my time at Parklands so far and look forward to meeting more of you during the year.



Hi, I'm Mrs Elliott, your friendly and hardworking Data Manager. I have enjoyed the last 12 years working in various school administration roles. When I'm not at work, I love supporting my sporty family, Strictly Come Dancing, music concerts, especially Muse and Linkin Park and enjoying great food!

The Big School Bake Off

On Thursday 24th October, Unilever once again came to Parklands to promote 'back to basics' cooking skills. This involved cooks from various schools across the county and Parklands' very own cookery club.

Andy Lagor, who was our guest chef for the day, is involved in designing school menus and regularly sits with the Government Health Minister to discuss, plan and promote healthy eating in schools. We were very lucky to have Andy come to our school during a hectic work schedule and demonstrate to a class of pupils how to make a scone in 15 minutes using very basic skills, whilst passing on some very useful hints. As part of the demo, Andy showed our visitors how quickly you can use simple techniques and basic ingredients to make scones, muffins, cakes and shortbread. Everyone enjoyed a sampling session as well - with such unusual choices as beetroot and chocolate muffins - not everyone's favourite, but a new and interesting taste experience!

Did you know that the word 'biscuit' comes from a Latin word, meaning 'bread cooked twice'.



Andy Lagor, hard at work, ably assisted by Aaron, a budding chef, who helps with Cookery Club



The word 'cake' has been used in Britain since the 13th century and derives from an old Norse word 'kaka'.

Sweet pastry was brought to Europe from the Middle East by soldiers returning from the Crusades.

The first cakes ever to be made were similar to bread. The Romans added egg or butter and sweetened the dough with honey.

*Tina Pedley
Catering Manager*

I love to travel and experience new things. In the past I worked and travelled throughout Africa for 7 months. I went Gorilla trekking in Uganda, diving with great white sharks in South Africa and went skiving in Namibia. I ran the London marathon a few years ago and my next goal is to hike to Everest base camp in Nepal. I have a deerhound called Bernard and would love to see Coldplay live!

Mr Wood, Head of Art



Brockholes Nature Reserve



Many of you will have driven past it near the Preston Junction 31 on the M6 – but I wonder how many of you have actually followed the little winding road that leads into Brockholes? If you haven't, I fully recommend a visit and look around this semi-hidden little gem! If you can call a site of about 500 acres little...

Since September this year groups of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been visiting this huge 4000 ton raft housing the central visitor centre. It is basically a floating wildlife nature reserve. On dry land we have taken part in Animal Handling, Den and Shelter Building, Fire Lighting and Outdoor Cooking (Marshmallows always taste better toasted outside!) Tree Lopping, Fence Building and attempted the full scale Orienteering Course!

By the end of the school year every single one of our Year 8 and 9 students and a good number of our Year 7's will have had the opportunity to visit Brockholes and should all know much more about the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and its work.

If you would like to find out more yourself then visit <http://www.brockholes.org>

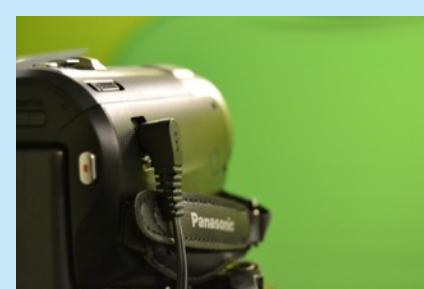
Mr Trezise

Exciting Learning at Parklands ...

New Learning Spaces

As reported in the summer term's newsletter, the school has invested in new technology to enhance the learning experiences of our students this year.

Our new **4D Immersive Learning Space** is an inflatable space designed to immerse students in the experience of learning. Using a combination of lights, sound and vision themed together we can create our own resources that will transport students into the solar system, inside the human body or into a past historical event. Teachers are booking classes into the space on designated days each term, and our learning ambassadors have been trained to co-ordinate resources that will optimise learning. The key idea is that this immersion in learning experiences heightens the senses and deepens the learning for students: they can show greater empathy and understanding by evoking mood. Students across Years 7 to 11 have experienced the new space, and have been impressed with the new approach that it places on learning. Year 7 also spent a session in the room as part of their Super Learning Day in September, where students from Years 8, 9 and 10 acted as teachers for the day to activate the experience for them.



Our new **Television Studio** can be booked by any teacher at any time. Using greenscreen technology combined with video equipment and editing software, students can record a news report from the Eiffel Tower, from the moon or from a historical event. Again, this enhances learning and promotes enjoyment and immersion in learning.

Developing outstanding teaching

It's not just our students who learn every day here at Parklands. Our teachers take their own professional development extremely seriously as well. All of our teachers are currently undertaking a new, more focused approach to ensuring that every lesson here at Parklands is as interactive and engaging as it can be. We believe that outstanding lessons contain four key ingredients ("Feedback"; "Challenge"; "Engagement" and "Autonomy") and we are working towards enhancing all four of these areas in our training within school to ensure that our students are consistently optimising learning in their lessons.

Our training day in September also focused on the importance of developing skills in our students, so that they are ready for the 21st Century workplace. Just some of the ways that we currently develop our students for the wider working world are:



- ▷ Our leadership academy - incorporating prefects, learning and digital ambassadors - is developing day-by-day, and we are activating our students as leaders in their own learning. Learning at Parklands is always a two-way process between students and teachers.
- ▷ Our innovative "Aspire" programme builds cross-curricular skills within our students
- ▷ Our "Respect" programme provides our students with specific days focused on key topics outside of the traditional curriculum ... E-safety; personal, social and health issues; drugs; emotional wellbeing; careers and enterprise education. These sessions are often delivered by external providers to provide our students with direct access to the specialists
- ▷ Our Learning Challenge week in July has this year been supplemented by an additional two days in December
- ▷ Some of our students have recently been involved in creating a "Groundforce" raised beds area within the school grounds, where food can be planted and grown and used for our Food Technology lessons.

We believe that the quality of teaching at Parklands is outstanding. That's why we recently hosted a Teaching & Learning Conference for trainee teachers currently training in north west schools. We hosted the conference here at Parklands on 22nd November, and our own teachers delivered all of the sessions to the young entrants to the teaching profession.



Preparing the "more able, gifted and talented"

All of the data within school shows that students at Parklands make excellent progress, regardless of their ability when it comes to achieving the examination success that they deserve. However, we believe that we could provide even more support to our more able students in enriching their experiences and deepening their learning.

As a result of this, we are implementing an exciting, new enrichment programme for our most able students after Christmas, where they will be able to access a range of opportunities to test themselves, and deepen their learning using new skills outside of the traditional curriculum. Look out for more information on this in the next newsletter!

Guiding in Business Studies

On Thursday 17th October Parklands Year 10 Business Studies group were very privileged to have 2 guest speakers from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Alan Hughes, an ex-teacher who is now registered blind and his daughter Naomi Bamford came into my class to talk to students about how a charity operates.

We have been looking at types of business organisations as part of our programme of study and when Alan approached school to see whether we would be interested in a guest speaker I made contact to ask him to talk to my group.

It certainly helps to bring the curriculum alive for students to have the opportunity to hear from people outside school about the real life application of the concepts that we study in lessons.

The students were very interested in what Alan and Naomi had to tell them as they talked about Alan's story, the impact that his sudden blindness had on Naomi and their family, their experience of having guide dogs and the work that they now do for the charity.

My students had lots of questions for Alan and Naomi and in turn they were very generous with their time.

A couple of them had this to say:-

"It was a more effective learning experience that brought the topic we were learning about to life. It was great to hear from someone who was constantly involved with the business" –

Conor Hughes, Year 10

"It was a great experience that furthers my understanding of business. Listening to somebody who has been so successful in business has definitely given me a new view of how it all works and I now feel more confident in my knowledge"

Tim Pearse, Year 10

Ms C Titterington
Business & Enterprise
Subject Leader

*Alan Hughes
And
Naomi Bamford*



"We have been preparing and entering GCSE Drama students for graded examinations certified by LAMDA to support those pupils who are looking to continue their studies of Drama and are interested in a career in the Performing Arts industry. The examinations in Acting are graded and we are delighted by the achievement of our pupils. Our most recent group of students entered achieved an impressive set of Distinctions and Merits for their performances. LAMDA exams are a tiered entry and as pupils progress through the grades their results count towards UCAS points."

Miss Fowler



"LAMDA stands for London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and is one of the most recognised drama schools in the country. They hold examinations throughout the year for aspiring actors to perform for a qualification. Like music grades, LAMDA results in either a fail, pass, merit or distinction. Most people have to pay for tuition in preparation for the exam from private LAMDA teachers. But luckily at Parklands, Head of Drama, Miss Fowler is qualified in LAMDA tuition and gives up her time to help us for free! (Thank you!)

Recently I underwent my second LAMDA exam for Grade 1; Level 2. I had to perform two monologues of my choice (A monologue is a single character speaking to the audience, as if reading a diary out loud, they usually reveal inner thoughts and feelings of the character) and answer questions linked to both pieces. Usually, the questions aren't too tricky and ask your personal interpretation of the characters that you show through your pieces. The reason I enjoy LAMDA so much is that not only is acting something I love, but through doing something I love, I can help amount towards something that could ultimately reward me in the future.

Unsurprisingly, the process of preparing for LAMDA takes commitment and hard work, but what achievement doesn't? The hard work definitely pays off and LAMDA is something I would highly recommend; especially if acting and drama is something that you enjoy and take seriously."

Ellis Hawkins Year 10

¡Hola! My name is Miss McGeoghan and I am a French and Spanish teacher here at Parklands. As a languages teacher you might expect that my favourite hobby would be travelling abroad and you definitely would be correct! A holiday in the French alps or on the Spanish coast with a good book is my idea of HEAVEN.



THE LUKE WATKINSON APPEAL

Sometimes teenagers don't always get the best of press, so it was fantastic when earlier this term three of our Year 11 young ladies, Jessica Haddon, Becky Walsh and Latasha Glanville came to see me to ask if they could help with fundraising for a young boy, Luke Watkinson, who didn't even come to Parklands but who was in fact in year 10 at Holy Cross. Luke, a friend of theirs, had been diagnosed, out of the blue, with an aggressive form of liver cancer and was about to enter into a fight for his life!

These girls assisted by Jess Pilkington and Chelsy Dearman have been collecting tirelessly around school, selling wristbands, cakes and drinks, wearing strange clothing on Children In Need day and organising a full Fun Day culminating in a Football Tournament on the all-weather surface at Holy Cross.

Overall, Jessica and friends have raised over £250 for the Cancer Research UK Appeal which was delivered to our local centre last week and on top of that another £750 from the rest of their activities. We held a massive raffle in the school Hall on Children in Need Day and we are particularly grateful to all those local businesses who donated prizes to Jessica in support of our appeal. Big prizes included Gym Membership at the Chorley Fitness Centre and a £100 voucher to spend at Chorley Homestore.

It was particularly good to see our two schools working together in support of this cause. We now send our heartfelt best wishes to Luke and his family and wait for news of continued good progress with fingers crossed.

Mr Trezise

PS. Luke had his first day back at school last week – what an unexpected surprise for his friends!



Literacy at Parklands

At Parklands we are committed to helping all of our students achieve their full potential in everything they do. With this in mind, one of our fundamental aims is to ensure all of our students are competent readers. Reading is an extremely important skill in *all* subjects...*and in life* outside of school! It's also lots of fun!

After a successful trial last year with two of our fantastic Year 10 students (now Year 11!) it was decided that the literacy peer mentoring scheme would continue, and indeed expand, this year.

The literacy peer mentoring scheme involves a group of pupils from Year 7 coming down to the English rooms on Thursday lunchtimes to work with some of our Year 10 pupils on a book called 'Toe-by-Toe'. This book has two sides to it...literally! On one side there is an explanation of the activity for the Year 10 coach. On the other side is the activity itself, which the Year 7 pupil completes. The activities are then marked by the Year 10 pupils and they work together to progress through the book.

The response to this scheme from all pupils has been overwhelmingly positive. The Year 7 pupils are gaining skills and confidence in reading, as well as having the opportunity to interact with some of our fantastic older pupils.

Our Year 10 pupils are learning how it feels to be a teacher! They are learning how to express their ideas in different ways, how to interact with younger people and how it feels to genuinely help someone else with something they struggle with.

I am so proud of the efforts put in by all involved in this scheme this term and cannot wait to measure the impact that this is undoubtedly having on the progress of the Year 7 pupils.

To all of those involved, thank you for your commitment, responsibility and resilience.

Mr Banks

New staff at Parklands

Hi I'm Miss Bland and I teach Maths. I enjoy watching musical theater and singing and I have even been on a choir tour round Italy. I have also been skiing in Austria which was a lot of fun!

Hi, I'm Miss Barker, a new teaching assistant here at Parklands. I love sports and am a volunteer football coach. In my spare time I like to watch football and rugby league (Blackburn Rovers and Wigan Warriors!!) as well as go to the gym, socialise with friends, watch television and go shopping.

Hi my name is Mr Hollowell; as some of you will already be aware, I am the newest member of the ICT & Computing department here at Parklands. I like all things technical from apps to Raspberry Pi's and hoping to start a Coding Club here at Parklands... So if anybody is interested keep your eyes out for the posters soon to be appearing around School!

Mr H



Parklands High School in conjunction with Unilever helped to support World Hunger Awareness Week twice this year (20th- 24th May and 14th - 18th October)

Each week started with a themed assembly by representatives from Unilever, with a video showing the plight of children in Malaysia and how Unilever can help provide a meal for as many starving children as possible. As part of the fundraising campaign, a special menu was offered to pupils throughout the week, in the hope that pupils would buy a meal and broaden their tastebuds! For every meal purchased, 20p was donated to World Hunger Awareness week. To date, Parklands has raised £634.00, which, when converted, becomes 3170 meals! A well deserved pat on the back to all the pupils who helped to raise much needed funds to provide a meal for less fortunate children.

Tina Pedley
Catering Manager

Aspire

If there is one thing these students have learned in their Aspire classes, it is to get advice from the experts. Chorley Council communications manager Andrew Daniels and head of design Phil Collins joined students to talk about their experiences of branding the town as part of Year 8's "Re-branding Chorley" project.



Mrs K Radcliffe

Languages News ...

French Nativity

Year 7 vous souhaitent un "Joyeux Noël". Year 7 performed a French-language nativity play, created especially for them, in front of children from local primary schools. They also performed the songs from the play as part of the Christmas concert.

Spelling Bee

French is as easy as ABC for Year 7 students – and to prove it they are taking part in the national Foreign Languages Spelling Bee. Students were given a list of words to learn how to spell using the French alphabet for a class competition in December. The winners from each class will compete next term for a chance to represent Parklands at the regional schools competition in Manchester next March.



German baking

Learning a language can be food for thought at Parklands. These year 8 students learned about German Christmas baking last term. They then used a traditional recipe, written in German, to make Lebkuchen, a type of spiced gingerbread. Lecker!



Barcelona Bound?

Parklands' Year 9 and 10 Spanish classes have established first communications with our Spanish partner school Institut de Argentona in Barcelona. We are eagerly awaiting replies from the Spanish pupils and hope that next time our communication will be face to face via Skype! Over the next year the aim is to get to know our Spanish counterparts before hopefully meeting in person on a trip to the magnificent Barcelona!

Girls' Football

Since I began coaching the girls football team in September, I have been extremely pleased and proud of the girls who have been involved. Training is held every Monday for all year groups 3.15 - 4.15pm.

Our Under 13's (Year 7 & 8) team have been involved in the Npower Football League Tournament. The first round of this competition was held on the 7th November at Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre. The Parklands team were excellent and won 4 out of 5 games finishing second in the group and qualifying for the next round of the competition.

The second round was the regional finals held on 28th November in which the top 10 teams from the first round competed for a place to represent Blackburn Rovers FC in the National Finals. Unfortunately, the girls just missed out on a place in the semi-finals after drawing the majority of our games finishing third in the group, however proved themselves worthy competitors and did themselves proud against good opposition.

New players welcome from all year groups.

N Barker



Year 7 Skills Tournament Winners 2013

I was really pleased to take two teams of enthusiastic girls to the annual netball skills competition held at St Michael's. The girls had been working really hard in training and it was tough to pick the girls for the two teams on the day. Both teams worked extremely hard winning many of their events and working extremely well as a team, cheering on their friends and other competitors.



I was completely overwhelmed when it came to the announcement of the results and 2nd place was being announced to which the girls all jumped up ecstatically. It is a huge achievement for our school to win it and I am excited to get Parklands name back on the trophy!

We look forward to next year's new Parklands pupils to hopefully keep hold of the title!

PGL Netball and Football 2013

On 8th November 2013, I took around 40 pupils to PGL Liddington for a joint football and netball weekend. The football weekend is run by Manchester United Soccer Schools and involves coaching workshops with PGL activities. Our school Netballers were entered into a tournament against other teams from all around the country.

Both sides of the trip were incredible, our pupils' behaviour and enthusiasm for all the different activities were a real credit to them. Our footballers were commended on their effort and even won the place to play at United's home ground Old Trafford - something that I know the boys will be really excited about!

Our year 9 girls last year won the competition but unfortunately this year missed out with some tough games against other competitors. Our year 8's however followed in the year 9's footsteps and remained undefeated for the entire weekend, winning their final in a real nail biter of a game.

All the pupils had a fantastic time and this trip is running again next year, if you would like a letter please see Miss Greaves in PE.



Year 9 team! Wet from the terrible weather during game play!

International Languages Day

On Thursday 26th September Parklands celebrated International Languages Day with initiatives across a broad spectrum. The Language classes used the school's new 4D Space, housed that day in the LRC, as Miss McGeoghan had produced two Spanish Experiences, one on Bull-running and one on Human Castles, which the pupils were able to enjoy. The Art department chose to focus on Spanish artists, whilst the P.E. department practised international dance. Not to be forgotten too was the particularly large selection of international food which was on offer that day in the school canteen.

Prior to that day but in the same week, also to celebrate International Languages, we were able to send a small select group of year 10 pupils studying French and German to Runshaw for the day, where they joined in with other pupils from local schools in a 'total immersion' language experience.

D.Poole / K.Ogden / C. Batson



Black Forest trip 2013



The annual Black Forest trip was again a great success with pupils enjoying tobogganning, gateaux making and tasting, ten pin bowling, cable car rides and boat trips on the river!

Keep an eye on the bulletin for news of future trips abroad.



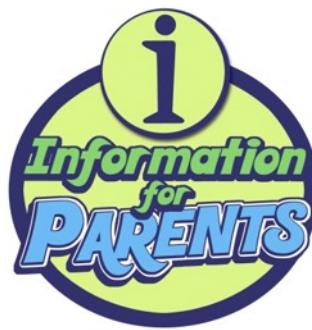
Choosing to take part in Bugsy has been by far the best decision of my school life and I can't believe this is the first and last show I'll be a part of at Parklands. Bugsy has given me the chance to meet and work with some brilliant people, who all share a similar passion for performance. I have absolutely no regrets and I would willingly do it all again. Hearing the audience's responses was by far my favourite aspect of the show, because it made all of the hard work, put in by everyone involved, worthwhile.

Kieran Smith Year 11



Being in the show Bugsy Malone has been one of my best high school experiences. It's been such a memorable experience and - cheesy as it is - I've grown to love every one of the cast and it was really sad to say goodbye on the last night of the show. The whole thing was incredibly overwhelming and it's hard to put into words just how amazing it really was. I look forward to taking part in the next show.

Emily Halstead Year 10



Parents / Carers Ofsted Parent View Questionnaire

Thank you so much to all of our parents/carers who have been able to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey. To date, these are the results:

1. My child is happy at this school

98% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

2. My child feels safe at this school

98% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

3. My child makes good progress at this school

91% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

4. My child is well looked after at this school

96% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

5. My child is taught well at this school

92% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age

85% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree*

7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

91% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

8. This school deals effectively with bullying

70% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree (25% 'don't know')

9. This school is well led and managed

87% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree

10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise

81% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree (11% 'don't know')

11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

84% of parents/carers strongly agree or agree**

12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?

95% said yes



Action

*School is presently evaluating a web based system of recording and reporting homework. This evaluation will take into the account the needs of both pupils and parents/carers as well as the needs of the school, providing a more open and accountable dialogue between school and parents/carers.

** All parents currently receive three tracker documents (one per term) to highlight pupil attitude to learning and their progress in each subject that they take. All parents also have one parent consultation evening throughout the year. Individual subjects also email parents/carers of pupils in Key Stage four about progress. If any parent/carer would like further information about their child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. You may provide your feedback by visiting <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Parent Drop-In

We understand it is very important that you are involved and engaged with your child's education and school life. We understand that you may need to speak with a member of staff to gain information or to discuss an aspect of school. With this in mind we will be holding two parent drop-in opportunities.

School parent drop in will take place every Friday between 8.30am – 9.30am.

Our external parent drop-in will now be held fortnightly at Coffee Club, 57-59 Market Street, Chorley from 11.30am - 12.30pm. All parents/carers will receive a complimentary drink at the cafe. The dates are below:

- ▷ 14th January 2014
- ▷ 28th January 2014
- ▷ 11th February 2014
- ▷ 4th March 2014
- ▷ 18th March 2014
- ▷ 1st April 2014
- ▷ 29th April 2014
- ▷ 13th May 2014
- ▷ 10th June 2014
- ▷ 24th June 2014
- ▷ 8th July 2014



*No appointment is necessary at any drop-ins.
You can discuss all aspects of school with the
member(s) of staff in attendance.
We look forward to meeting you.*

PHS TeachMeet

Parklands High School is pleased to launch its first ever local Teach Meet in Spring 2014. What is it?

A Teach Meet is an informal gathering of educators who are taking their professional development into their own hands and want to listen to inspiring teachers who do amazing things in their classrooms every day. Learn something new, be amazed and amused! Anyone can share interesting, useful or innovative ideas in a 5 minute presentation. Presentations can be on any educational topic and about subjects across the curriculum.

Parklands High School is committed to sharing excellent practice and encouraging collaboration and as such is extremely proud and excited to be hosting this event. We hope that it will help provide teachers throughout the north-west with a genuinely positive and empowering experience.

Art at Blackpool Zoo

On Monday 23rd September I had the pleasure to take 49 GCSE Art students on a visit to Blackpool Zoo. Mr Flynn, Miss Berry, Miss Sullivan and Miss Murphy (our department's trainee teacher) assisted with the visit.

All started off well as we had fine weather predicted for the day. Students were given an itinerary for the structure for the day; this included a talk by Zoo staff and the chance to handle some of the small animals. Then plenty of time to go and take photographs and do sketches of the animal exhibits. (The whole purpose of the visit was to do research work for their art studies based on the theme of Wildlife). Our students were a credit to us, as we walked around the Zoo, they were observed engaged in taking photos and we also saw students producing sketches.

Time literally flew and we had to head back to the coach for the return journey. Our students were impeccably behaved throughout both journeys. It was great to hear our driver comment positively about their conduct.

I want to say a big thank you to the students for making my first visit a pleasurable experience. I have a few more grey hairs from the planning but I can say that it was all worth it!

Mrs Bala-Carnes



Respect Days - Autumn 2013

The Autumn term has got the year off to a great start with each pupil in every year group attending a 'Respect Day' following this successful approach to our PSCHE curriculum last year. Most of these days involve visitors from external agencies taking an alternative approach to delivering sessions which will equip our pupils to make important life choices. The feedback from pupils has been really positive!



Year 7 Super Learning Day - at the start of their second week at high school all Year 7s experienced a Super Learning Day. Attending sessions such as Confidence Building, Food for Thought, Meet Your Brain, Types of Learning in our 4D Classroom and Teamwork – all delivered by our pupil Learning Ambassadors!

Year 8 - our year group was divided in half - some pupils attended a Conservation Day at Brockholes Visitor Centre – experiencing some great outdoor activities, whilst others remained in school and ran their own businesses for a day supported by volunteers from RBS Natwest in Manchester delivering their Moneysense Enterprise Challenge Day. All to be repeated in the New Year so pupils can experience both events!

Year 9 - our Year 9 pupils also visited Brockholes Visitor Centre for their outdoor Conservation Day whilst remaining pupils attended an E-Safety Day. This was delivered by visiting agencies covering the latest E-Safety issues so our pupils are well informed and keep themselves safe online! Year 9 pupils delivered some fantastic performances at the end of the day emphasising E-Safety messages.

Year 10 - Respect Day had a theme of 'Choices' that affect life and health – equipping our pupils to make the right decisions. Sessions covered drugs and alcohol awareness, under age pregnancy and sexual health, along with a powerful and moving session from the charity Every Action Has Consequences.

Year 11 - Respect Day had a number of sessions equipping our pupils with the knowledge they need to make responsible decisions in the next few years of their lives – sessions included financial awareness, body confidence and self-esteem, consequences of behaviour, homelessness and a powerful session 'Wasted Lives - Young Driver Education' on the issue of drink driving delivered by Lancashire Safer Travel Team.



What is Parklands really like?

We asked the new Year 7s what they thought...

ANZ

Sarah - The teachers are nice and you can always talk to them

Kaya - As soon as you walk in everyone is really welcoming

Joel - I like how you don't just sit there - you get up and do stuff in class

Charlie - It's a happy environment and the teachers only raise their voice when they have to

Sarah - I like how there are lots of after school clubs and you can get involved

Charlotte - I like how it's different from primary school but also still the same

AFR

Mellisa – I think the best thing about Parklands is making new friends and the HALs because they can always help you

Jack – The best thing about Parklands is Art with Mr Flynn because he always has the patience to let us finish and he never shouts.

Jessica – I really like the wide range of lessons such as Music, Maths and Science.

Cade – I like Mr Willsher in Music because he has patience for all kinds of learners slow and quick.

Daniel – The best thing is PE because we do all sorts of sports and it is ok if we are not that good because they teach us how to play.

Connor – I like Parklands because the staff are helpful and friendly especially Mrs Haslam. Everyone treats me as an equal and no one bullies me. Being here has helped me improve my social skills and intelligence and I have made lots of friends.

SAM

Grace : The school is really easy to get around and year 11's are very helpful.

Yazan : I've enjoyed my time here so far and think the technology the school has is amazing.

Natalie : I've made lots of new friends and find the teachers really supportive.

Harry : I'm enjoying school a lot especially my Food Technology lessons.

Holly : Art's my favourite subject and I like working as a team in my lessons.

ASIA

Luke – I like the teachers and how fun the lessons are.

Katie – It is really good because there are lots of fun lessons like Aspire.

Leah – I like Parklands because all the lessons are fun especially Music.

James – There is lots to do like extra-curricular activities such as Football which are great.

Dean – I really like changing lesson every hour because you are really active in lessons and get to do fun stuff.

EUROPE

Amelia - Hungary

I have really enjoyed my time in Parklands. I have enjoyed doing all the lessons and meeting and making loads of new friends. The best thing I have enjoyed about Parklands is meeting my new teachers and making friends, but most of all I love after school activities! My time in Parklands has been brilliant! I am happy I chose this school as my High School.

Sam - Italy

Parklands gives you lots of fun opportunities to go out on educational trips like Brockholes; which was fun. In lessons I'm not rushed, and I'm allowed to go at my own speed, so if I'm struggling the teacher will stop and help me. There are lots of after school clubs to join, I play football and want to start badminton.

Patrick - Sweden

When you're in year 7 you make lots of new friends quickly. There are lots of sports to do after school. Parklands has brilliant teachers in every lesson, we don't have any bad teachers. When you are good at school we have reward trips to go on. You do make lots of friends to help you right up until you finish in year 11. There are loads of activities to do in Parklands all the time.

Aitor - Portugal

Parklands is a brilliant school, because it give me many chances, and I feel like I can be myself. I enjoy many subjects in this school and I have stopped worrying about all my troubles, thanks to Parklands.

Jade - Sweden

Parklands has helped me to settle in very quickly, but even better there are many after school clubs to help me gain more friends. I enjoy coming to school every day. The school gives you so many opportunities from Drama to German

Christmas Light Switch-On

After the success of last year's carnival performance, Parkland's dance pupils were asked to perform on stage with Rock FM at this year's Chorley Light Switch On event. A group of pupils warmed up the crowd with a high energy routine that was enjoyed by all!

The dancers have also performed at the Lancashire Sports Partnership annual awards evening at The De Vere Hotel, Blackpool, Chorley Pumpkin and Scarecrow Fair and along with some of Fusion cheerleaders are performing in the town centre for Chorley Local Business Day in December. If you'd like us to perform at one of your events then get in touch with Miss Sullivan or Miss Marr.



Achievement Points are awarded throughout the day by any member of staff that wants to reward a pupil. Over the year these points are turned into prizes every half term.

This new school rewards system allows pupils to earn a variety of different things. 74 pupils have earned a free hot drink at breakfast and a prize draw will happen at the end of term which will see a few lucky (and hard working) pupils earn some high street vouchers as well as a variety of other prizes provided by local businesses.

Pupils can find out how many points they have by asking their form tutor!

Mr Betney

The Jiving Lindy Hoppers

In November we had The Jiving Lindy Hoppers visit Parklands to run a dance workshop for our Year 10 & 11 BTEC dancers. Russell Sargent from the Lindy Hoppers is an ex pupil of Parklands and it was the first time in 28 years that he'd been back to school.



Russell has been dancing since the age of 3, starting with Ballet and Tap at his mother's dance school, The Mar Jan Stage School in his home town of Chorley, followed by Ballroom and Latin, in which he competed until the age of 15. After completing his secondary school education at Parklands High School, Russell accepted a place at the Italia Conti Academy of Performing Arts in London and it was during this time that he crossed paths with an old friend, Warren Heyes (also from Chorley) who had co-founded the Jiving Lindy Hoppers. It was a brief rehearsal and 24 hours later he had performed his first show with the JLH. As a full time dancer with the JLH Russell travelled to perform, teach and choreograph throughout the world and was very privileged to meet many jazz greats of the Authentic Jazz Dance tradition who were a major inspiration then and now. Last year Russell performed and assisted the choreography of the NHS section of the Olympic opening ceremony.

Russell ran the workshop with his dance partner and wife Carolene Hinds. In between touring with the Jiving Lindy Hoppers, Carolene has worked as a choreographer on the theatre circuit on shows such as 'Taming of the Shrew', Nottingham Playhouse, 'Carmen Jones' at The Old Vic and 'Ain't Misbehavin' at The Crucible in Sheffield. She has been fortunate enough to work with many of the original jazz dancers who shared their secrets of the Authentic Jazz Dance technique.

The Year 10 and 11 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop where they learnt to Charleston and Jive. They will be using their new found skills as part of their BTEC dance assessment next year when performing in the school dance showcase "Dancing through the Decades"

"It was wonderful having Russell and Carolene in school to work with the pupils. They were very inspiring and their performance at the end was fantastic"

Miss Sullivan BTEC Dance Teacher



My weekend at PGL Dance was amazing. I would recommend it to anyone.

We went on Friday the 1st of November and returned on the Sunday the 3rd. We did some really good teamwork activities, lots of dancing, went on a giant swing and a trapeze.

We all had a fantastic time. We made a full dance up as a school and we won the competition!

I recommend you go on this experience. I really wish I had taken the opportunity sooner as I wish I could go again:(It's one of the best trips to go on and a good time to make some new friends which I did and have fun with others! Hope you take the opportunity next year and go!

Leah Jefferies Year 11



A reminder about standards ..

Pupils who are able to keep a clean standards card for a full half term have their standards card entered into a prize draw. 5 pupils won a £10 high street voucher for their excellent standards last half term. Well done to all those that had their card entered into the draw!

In order to get their standards card into the draw pupils must:

Bring all the correct equipment to every lesson.

Wear the correct uniform every day.

Look smart and presentable in their uniform.

Have no piercings or nail varnish.

There will be another prize draw at Christmas.



Parklands is very proud of its strong remembrance tradition. This year for the 5th year, we held a full school assembly of remembrance, which focused on the upcoming centenary of the start of the First World War. Mrs Brown, Miss Partington and Y11s who had gone on the 2013 Battlefields trip all spoke. We also had the last post played by Mr Willsher, Adam Heaton and Helen Nelson.

Our cadets marched as an act of remembrance just before the Last Post.

At 11am on 11th November, teachers and pupils held a small ceremony at the School's Remembrance Garden. This has recently been spruced up by the Eco prefects. A wreath was laid in honour of the 'Old Boys' of Chorley Grammar and those who have lost their lives since such as David Markland and Jonathan Holland.

On Sunday 10th November, Mrs Brown accompanied Head Boy and Head Girl, Alex Middleton and Georgia Birchall to the Mayoral Procession, followed by a church service at St Lawrence's Church and finally to place a wreath at the Cenotaph. It was wonderful to see so many pupils and ex-pupils there.

Lest we forget.



PARKLANDS STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Learn Respect Aspire Achieve

In our rapidly changing and increasingly complex global community, we need strong and diverse leaders. At Parklands, we believe that leadership experience and education for our students has become essential to help young people tackle and transform the challenges of today's "real" world: the responsibilities and needs of life beyond the realms of home and classroom.

What is Leadership?

We believe leadership is a relationship between autonomy, serving and empowering others and collaboration to make a difference in our world. It is not about power, control, authority or even the leaders themselves; it is a shared process of building a stronger community, improving the way things are done, developing better relationships, showing compassion for others and making our world a better place.



At Parklands, we believe leaders are developed, not born. Leadership is not an innate trait or gift in an individual reserved for only for the most "accomplished"; all people, all students can be leaders. Our new Leadership Academy Programme seeks to nurture and develop this potential through a student-centred and student-led experiential model, guided through mentorship, education and lots of experience.

Leadership opportunities throughout our school

Our new Student Leadership Academy Programme is a formal recognition of the commitment and dedication our students demonstrate either in one area of school and academic life or across many.

Between Years 7-9 students have the opportunity to hone and demonstrate their leadership skills across a range of areas. Once skills sets have been demonstrated students have the opportunity to begin to follow one of our Leadership Pathways towards membership of our Student Senior Leadership team.



Leadership Passport

Key Stage 3 students gain accreditation of their leadership through our Student Leadership Passport facilitating their leadership journey and highlighting milestones that they can reach within our school virtual learning environment (VLE) - RealSmart and Google Docs.

Milestones are achieved for Leadership skills demonstrated in curriculum areas and in participation of wider school life activities.

The leadership skills are achieved within six key areas:

Student Voice

Planning

Mentoring

Community

Learning

Enterprise



Students work towards a Leadership Diploma. They achieve a BRONZE award for achieving all of the milestones in 3 of the leadership areas; a SILVER award for the milestones in 4 or more of the areas and a GOLD award if all of the milestones on the passport are achieved. In achieving the Leadership Diploma, students are then eligible to apply for leadership opportunities in the Leadership Pathways.

In measuring the skills demonstrated and providing opportunities to do so, we encapsulate our Vertical Tutoring philosophy that age does not equate to expertise. It is anticipated that a number of students will achieve the Leadership Diploma by the end of Year 8.

We recognise though that it can take time for students to develop their understanding of their own leadership potential and to recognise opportunities to do so which is why students have the first three academic years of their career with us to work towards the leadership qualification.

Once students have achieved the diploma, they can then follow the Leadership Pathways:

**Teaching and Learning Support
Wider School Life**

Students may follow a single pathway or move between all three. Once students have completed the Leadership Diploma, they can apply to be part of any of the leadership opportunities from any pathway.

Facebook's Newest Feature - How Safe are You! For further details, go to:
www.facebook.com/about/graphsearch/privacy

And look out for Safer Internet Day in February.

C Slater, Network Manager - EPICT eSafety Officer



We entered our STEM club pupils into a competition led by Loughborough University and the Royal Society of Chemistry. Their challenge was split up into two areas. The first was to create a cartoon concept of the electrochemical principle. James Webster, Rozie Brindle, Kira Unsworth and Kayleigh Webster were awarded £15 each as winners of this category.

The second challenge was to design a household device for the production of energy in the event of a power cut. Pupils could only use materials and food products that could be found in the home. Robert Fish, Joe Barker, Richard Nelson, Steven Reynolds, James Leonard and Dylan Bearman were awarded £15 as our school also won this category.

Everton Williams - Learning Mentor - has continued to work and support our young people in helping them with their learning skills in and out of the classroom. Our pupils have improved in their organisation, confidence and their ability to learn through working through simple tasks with Everton. We are fortunate for him being able to continue to work with our pupils on Mondays and Tuesdays enabling our pupils to gain in self belief and confidence in the classroom and progress in their studies.

N Fairhurst

SCHOOL GAMES COMPETITIONS at Parklands

On Wednesday 20th November Parklands hosted heat 3 of the School Games Level 2 Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics competitions with 8 schools and over 150 primary children taking part. The competition was run by Chorley SSP with the help of a fantastic group of Year 9 young leaders from Parklands. After two hours of close competition the overall winners came out as Chorley St Joseph's R.C. Primary School who will now automatically qualify for the grand finals at Clayton Green Sports Centre on 14th January 2014.

The following week, Wednesday 27th November Parklands again hosted another School Games competition. This time it was heat 1 of the Y3/4 Sports Hall Athletics with another 8 schools and over 150 children taking part. Once again, a very competent mix of year 9 and year 11 young leaders from Parklands assisted Chorley SSP with the running of the event. The eventual winners were Charnock Richard Primary School who will join Chorley St Joseph's at the grand finals on 14th January.

Macmillan coffee morning

We held a coffee and cake morning at break on October 10th in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

Pupils, parents and staff baked cakes which were sold in the hall at break along with scones, cream and jam.

A massive £257.09 was raised in just 20 minutes!

Thank you to all who were involved in raising money for this VERY worthy cause.

Mrs L Eastham



Apple TV in the P.E. Department

We have gained a number of intuitive pieces of technology within PE recently, one such being 'Apple T.V'. Apple T.V. can be used within P.E. lessons to enhance teaching and learning and create a fun and engaging environment, especially when used in conjunction with ipads. Pupils can view a model demonstration, receive instant feedback on performance and it can help trigger a deeper knowledge and understanding of a certain skill. Any images or videos that have been captured on iphones or ipads can simply be mirrored onto the large projector in the sports hall for all of the class to see!

For more in depth analysis of performance pupils can use the 'coaches eye' application on the Ipads to compare and contrast their level of ability against a peer and/or professional athlete. We have found Apple T.V an invaluable learning resource.



iPad Update

We now have around 60 iPads in school, and these are increasingly being used in lessons to make learning more engaging and challenging. Look around school during most lessons and you will see students out and about taking part in all kinds of new and exciting learning experiences, all thanks to the iPads. Just a few examples of the kind of things you might see are students making videos, taking photographs, collaborating on documents, creating animations, taking interactive tours of world landmarks and making Skype calls to international destinations. This is just the beginning - the possibilities are almost endless!

Teachers have also been attending training sessions to try to get to grips with how they can use this new technology to help the students to learn in all subject areas. The students are helping out, of course, as they are often the experts with technology and new devices!

Introducing our brand new team of Digital Leaders



This term has seen the creation of a brand new team of student technology experts - the Digital Leaders. Their aim is to help to promote the use of technology in school, both by teachers and pupils. They are especially looking at ways to use iPads to help to make learning more interesting, as we now have around 60 iPads in school. Though they have only been in place for a few weeks, they have already been involved in a wide range of activities.

Their first job was to design a logo; they created a really fantastic design which has been used for their badges -look out for the logo to spot a Digital Leader!

The Genius Bar, under the management of Lucas Burns in year 9, is a weekly 'pop up' helpdesk providing technological assistance to both staff and pupils. The bar is staffed by members of the Digital Leader team, and lots of staff and pupils have already visited for help and advice. Lucas, along with Maria Kiddell and Arron Deacon also staffed an additional Genius Lunchtime session for year 7 pupils who needed help with a video blogging project for English.

The Digital Leaders have also created an exciting new blog which contains details and updates of many of their activities; why not visit them at <http://phsdigitalleaders.blogspot.co.uk/> and see what else they have been up to? The team are creating some helpful 'How to...' videos which they will post on the blog soon to help everyone with some technology basics!

The Digital Leaders have also been busy helping out teachers with technology - Arron Deacon and Katy Hempson planned and delivered a lesson for Mrs Eastham in our new 4D Learning Space. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and Mrs Eastham said that she "couldn't thank them enough for their hard work." A success all round!

The team are currently working on a range of new projects to bring even more exciting technology into lessons and life at Parklands. They are also delivering an assembly to the whole school soon, to keep everyone updated on their latest projects and ideas.

If you have a suggestion for our Digital Leaders, or a problem that you would like help with, then get in touch! You can visit them at the Genius Bar, or contact them through the blog or by email at digitalleaders@parklandsacademy.co.uk They look forward to hearing from you!

Miss L Pilkington





Learning Challenge Event

Following the success of our Learning Challenge summer event we have decided to introduce a special Christmas Learning Challenge. This is intended to act as a finale to the Autumn term and has a slightly different approach with a bigger emphasis on teamwork and collaboration. Pupils will take on 5 different challenges in their form groups and House points will be awarded for contribution and effort. The challenges are in:

- Digital
- Arts
- Physical
- Environmental
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)

We are sure it will be as big a success as our July event, watch this space!



Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair is being held on Friday 7th February 2014, from 9am - 3pm in our Sports Hall.

We aim to offer as much choice to our pupils as possible, with a wide range of colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and employers attending.

However, if any parent/carer would like to come along and man a stand to talk about their particular business/employment, please contact Miss Berry as soon as possible. It is not a recruitment event - just a chance to show the pupils what they could do in the real world of work!

A brief word from ... Mark Holt, Parklands Careers Advisor

Prior to becoming a dedicated careers advisor/mentor, I completed 20+ years as an A level Lecturer in Government and Politics / History Lecturer and was Head of Faculty and Senior Pastoral Tutor in local FE and 6th Forms Colleges. I currently undertake extensive Advice and Guidance work with a number of local schools as a Mentor and Careers Advisor.

Mark Holt, BA Hons MA PGCE

Mark is available every Thursday in school and can be contacted via email at careers@parklandsacademy.co.uk. Year 11s are currently having one to one interviews, but Mark holds a drop in session at break/lunch or after school should any pupil wish to see him.

Careers Information at Parklands

As part of our commitment to provide our pupils with up to date Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG), from January we will be hosting a number of 'aspiration' assemblies that will provide pupils with information regarding pathways into employment. The assemblies will have a particular focus, for example, apprenticeships, or physiotherapy, etc., and will be led by people currently working in those fields. The assemblies will be available to all pupils in years 7-11.

Please also visit the careers section of our website for further information.

Super Learning Day

On Monday 9th September the Learning Ambassadors undertook their greatest learning challenge so far. The team were tasked with planning, resourcing and delivering Year 7 Super Learning Day, and they did so brilliantly to rave reviews. The day was a true test of their leadership skills as staff were only on hand to supervise.

On the day all Year 7 pupils experienced a carousel of activities, focusing on how to maximise their learning experiences across the curriculum and in wider school life. As well as being taught their own preferred learning style, pupils experienced their first visit to the 4D Learning Space and developed their group and team work skills. The Ambassadors demonstrated their understanding of how to make engaging and informative sessions and although they thoroughly enjoyed the day they were exhausted by the end of it.

"The greatest learning experience I have encountered at Parklands is the Super Learning Day. During the course of the day we were taught a manner of different brain facts, by pupils from the Learning Ambassadors team. This gave us the opportunity to co-operate with different pupils, not necessarily in our year group, and see things from different perspectives about the way we were taught. We were shown how to develop our confidence and give things a try to help others, to communicate and to work as a team successfully."

Natalie Barlow Year 7

"It was very interesting to have the opportunity to step into the role of the teacher for the day and experience the demands of meeting everyone's needs. We really enjoyed preparing for the day but I think we definitely underestimated how hard the actual teaching would be. It was also really interesting how different each group was. Even though we were delivering the same content on a carousel, every group was different because of the different attitudes within the classes. I think it was a really good way to introduce the Learning Ambassadors to the Year 7s and they were very respectful of the work we were doing. We all really enjoyed working with them and showing them how they can take responsibility for their learning and work with their teachers. It is why we are Learning Ambassadors - to make sure that everyone is able to achieve the best that they are capable of!"

Emily McKenzie Year 10



"Over the past 18 months we have been working hard to support and enhance Teaching and Learning here in school. During Learning Challenge week, we worked to create a new, fun idea for Respect Day for our new Year 7s in their first few weeks with us. We designed workshops that we then delivered on Super Learning Day in September. Also, we've welcomed the arrival of the new 4D Learning Space. As Ambassadors we have been trained how to use it and have been supporting teachers in creating and delivering content for interactive and immersive lessons. We're still working to help you get the most out of your school experience by meeting with teachers and creating resources for you to use. We're currently working on a series of PSHE lessons to be delivered in registration time through our vertical tutoring."

Isobel Dimmer - Head Ambassador - Year 11

Don't miss this - tickets available from school

A promotional poster for a Christmas event. The background is a light blue gradient with white snowflakes and silhouettes of evergreen trees. At the bottom left is a cartoon snowman wearing a Santa hat and a green and red patterned scarf. The main text reads "Christmas at Parklands" in large yellow letters, followed by "Thursday 19th December from 7.30pm" in purple. Below that, in smaller purple text, is "featuring Parklands Orchestra plus Special Guests, Parklands Jazz Band, 'Funk & Soul', Junior & Senior Vocal Ensembles and Year 8 Rock, plus some of your favourite Christmas carols".

Number Day

Activity 1

Our first subject of our maths day was based around STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. This was a great start to the day as it got our brains going and also our teamwork/relationship skills prepared for the rest of the day. One of the group tasks that we were required to do was build the largest structure that you possibly could, using nothing but spaghetti and sellotape, and to just make the task that little bit more difficult we had to balance a marshmallow on the top of our structures. Many people went for the tripod-like structure, while my team attempted a tower with a large base, which rose to an apex. Unfortunately this didn't work out and group 3 won, with their impressive tripod which towered above any other teams' structures, whilst also keeping its strong balance.

Activity 2

Our second activity was a Christmassy and cheerful one with Miss Topping and Mr Flynn. As individuals we all decided which pictures we wanted to design and decorate. I decided to settle on a star, and decorated the outline with silver and gold card, purple on the inside and black and white glitter to decorate the inside. The purpose of these was to sell them at break and raise money for the inspirational and fantastic charity, the NSPCC, which helps abused, neglected and underprivileged children.



Activity 3

After break we didn't have to move far as we had a very unique activity which involved building brilliant 3D shapes using wooden dowels and elastic bands. As individuals we received 6 dowels and 4 elastic bands. Our guest leader was brilliant and fully explained to us how to build our shapes. Step by step we completed each instruction, and finally completed our mystery shape which was a triangle based pyramid (tetrahedron). Finally we managed to get ourselves into groups of 5 and joined our tetrahedrons together to make a much larger structure. After this all of us as a class joined our groups together to build a huge tetrahedron which could fit 4 children underneath it!



mystery shape which was a triangle based pyramid (tetrahedron). Finally we managed to get ourselves into groups of 5 and joined our tetrahedrons together to make a much larger structure. After this all of us as a class joined our groups together to build a huge tetrahedron which could fit 4 children underneath it!

Activity 4

In our activity prior to lunch, we all took part in a game named egg splat! I'm quite sure you all have a vague idea of the rules already, but just in case... you and your team have to build a container using a cup, cotton wool, string, sellotape (you can't use this to keep the egg attached to the cup in), glue, paper and scissors. Our team decided to build an arc like parachute, which should catch the air underneath it, thus allowing the cup and egg falling speed to lower. We also padded the outside of the cup to reduce the amount of impact on the cup and floor if the parachute failed. One of my teammates recommended making a rollercoaster seat out of paper, which would secure the egg into its previously made holder. Finally testing time arrived and only one member of your group stayed on the upper flight of school, all the others made their way outside to see the outcome of our eggsperiment. Our egg was the first to fall and all of our hard work was shattered, literally. 3 other groups' eggs survived, although one was dropped on the way back up the stairs to S29. This was my favorite activity so far!

Activity 5

In our fifth and final activity, last but not least, we were in one of my favorite surroundings, the LRC. In here we met a student named Fran who worked/studied at Cambridge University, one of the best in Europe or even the world. Our tasks weren't class objectives but about 30 mini but very difficult games. Fran allowed us to get into pairs of whoever as long as we could be trusted, and as far as I know we didn't let Fran down. Me and Yazan paired up and took part in many games, one of which was a game named teacups. You couldn't have the same coloured cup or saucers in any row vertically or horizontally and couldn't have any two of the same combination on the entire mat. We then got a game called soma bricks. We were 1 block off completing and we all had a fantastic day!



Luke Titterington

Year 7

Mitchell Clayton Free-Kick King

Set piece king Mitchell Clayton says the hard work in training is paying off on match days.

The defender's corners and free-kicks have caused havoc in the North West Youth Alliance so far this season - most recently a free-kick at Walsall which found the top corner.

And the second year scholar is pleased to see the end results after hours of practise on the training pitch.

"We work a lot on set pieces, so it feels good to put it into the games, particularly the one against Walsall," said Clayton.

"Hopefully the work we put in on the training ground will allow us to continue to score goals from set pieces in games."

The youth team have kept four clean sheets from their opening five league fixtures, and Clayton has been a big part of that.

"We've been doing a lot of hard work defensively in training," he said. "It's allowed us to pick up clean sheets."

And after no competitive action in the Youth Alliance last weekend, the young Seasiders took part in an indoor training session with the under 16s.

"We wanted to play a proper fixture although we managed to arrange training in the end. It's allowed us to keep our fitness levels up.

"Everyone's been working hard for each other, and those who are on the subs bench keep trying hard to come back into the team."

This appeared in the Blackpool FC programme, in September 2013.

Mitchell is an ex pupil, currently playing for Blackpool Youth Team

Campbell Fryer, another ex pupil, is pictured here in his Royal Artillery uniform, after winning the Best Royal Artillery recruit for intake 29 at AFC Harrogate.

Well done Campbell!



If any other ex-pupils would like to let us know what they are doing now, please email pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk, for inclusion in a future newsletter.

A Green solution to the winter blues...

Spending more time outdoors in green spaces has been shown to improve mood and reduce depression, so this is a great reason to get out there and walk, dig or plant! Join in! Everyone is welcome to help, not just the eco-prefects! We are keen to teach the younger years how to manage habitats. Your help is required. You don't need any prior training, just a willingness to learn new skills and a desire to change your world.

The eco-prefects are a group of about 30 pupils who strive to change, and make a difference to the school environment. Directed and guided by 4 members of staff, the pupils identify problems, raise the solutions and do something about it. Over the years the eco prefect team has been hugely successful and has massively changed the school's attitude to ecology and being environmentally friendly.

The eco team frequently organise 'Eco Action Days' in which the pupils participate in activities such as: Pond clearing, bulb planting, moving trees, re-tidying planters that surround the school grounds, candle making, recycling materials, etc. They are great fun!

Our plans for the future are the following: we want to replace the masks on the wall for something more eco orientated - with that in mind, we also will be holding a competition to see who can create the best idea to replace them. We will be updating the bulletin regularly, so you don't miss any upcoming Eco Action Days.

In addition to this, we also plan to help Primary schools to become more Eco Friendly, we would like as many of you to get involved in collecting Morrisons' Let's Grow Vouchers. If you have any please take them down to the bottom office.

First one being the 'design your own mini tree house', the competition starts from now so get designing your mini tree house out of recycled materials and hand them into either Miss Vause or any of the Eco-prefects by Tuesday 10th December. It is open to all of KS3 (years 7-9) Keep a lookout in the bulletin for more competitions and details. Winners will receive a surprise and we hope to receive your competition entries soon.

One of our plans is to open a lunchtime Nature Club for KS3. This will take place on a Wednesday lunch-time in intervention. It will give more opportunity for year 7, 8 and 9 to get more involved in eco activities. If you are interested in this please talk to us or Mrs Haslam.

The Eco Prefects





Y9 Ground Force create a garden

On 6th and 7th of November, the Ground Force group took two days off timetable to create their new area of raised beds for growing plants in the future.

It was a huge task, building the frames, recycling the old beds and installing them near the remembrance garden. All the beds were then lined ready for the topsoil to arrive.

The pupils worked tirelessly to get this done in two days and we all had a great deal of fun doing it.

Mr Walsh, Miss Topping, Mrs Vause and Mrs Eastham were delighted with the result.
Well done.



Paris 2013

In July, right at the start of the school holidays, a group of Year 6 gifted and talented pupils made the long journey to Paris, on our annual summer school visit.

We spent a full day at the fabulous Parc Astérix theme park, enjoying the many water rides and scary roller coasters, before making our weary way to the hotel!

The following day, the pupils were all ready and raring to go after a good breakfast and a liberal application of sun cream - we could see bright red 'suns' all over the French weather map on the TV! We spent a day touring the city, visiting the Eiffel Tower and Sacre Coeur, before cooling off slightly on a boat trip along the beautiful River Seine.

As always, the pupils, from many different primary schools, were all firm friends by the end of the trip and looking forward to being at Parklands together in September.

