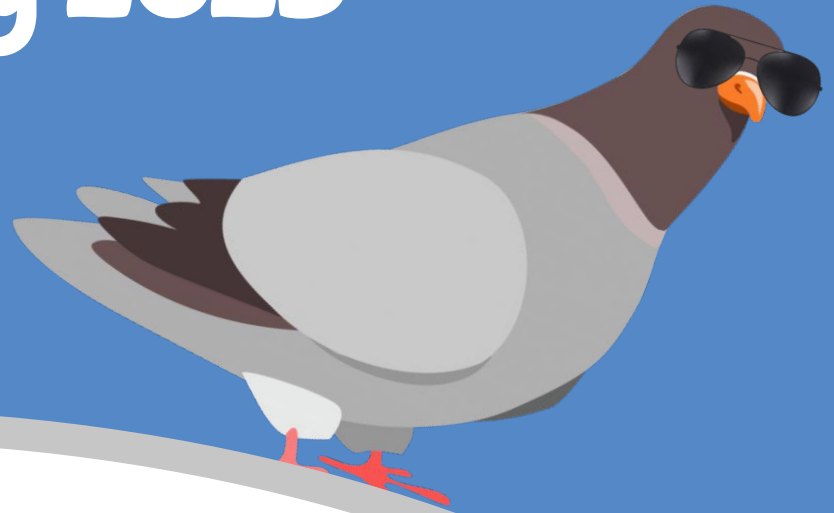


Parrs Wood Pigeon

July 2023



Welcome!

Wow! I can't quite believe another school year is over, and what a year it's been! I'd like to start by saying a huge WELL DONE to our Y7s after a magnificent first year at Parrs Wood! You have embraced our school values of community, creativity and achievement and fully immersed yourselves in every aspect of Personal Development! I would also love to say a massive THANK YOU to our Y11 Senior Student Leadership Team who have been the most wonderful ambassadors for our fantastic school. To our incredible Form Captains, Charity Champions and Junior Leaders, thank you for your commitment and dedication! You have blown me away with your passion and tenacity to make things even better for our staff and students! Next year, there will be lots more opportunities to get involved in student leadership, whether that be in one of the aforementioned roles or perhaps you want to try your hand as a Peer Mentor, Eco Champion or Faculty Leader, there really is something for everyone! To our dedicated staff who, day in day out, go above and beyond for our students to ensure they have an abundance of opportunities to shine both in and outside the classroom, thank you! To Mr Lau and Ms Crispin, thank you for the brilliant vision, dedication and hard work throughout the year to ensure our enrichment programme is the best around! And finally to our wonderful parents and carers, thank you for your continued support! I hope you enjoy reading our summer Personal Development newsletter and have the most amazing summer with your friends and family! See you in September!

If you have any feedback in regards to trips and extra-curricular activities, we would like to hear from you:

Scan this QR code:



Mrs Catterall
Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development

Art, Design and Technology

Factory International Kusama X Project

In Art this week Year 9 students took part in the Factory International Kusama X project. This involved first visiting the Kusama exhibition at the Aviva building in Manchester followed by three in-school workshops with artists and an MMU fashion student creating Kusama clothes from recycled materials. The completed clothes will then be paraded at Festival Square outside the Aviva building at Factory International on Saturday 15th June.



Students have enjoyed creating work to exhibit alongside a worldwide artist, collaborating with two other schools, exploring materials in a fun way and just enjoying the pleasure of being creative. Two comments I heard this week by participating students were "This is the best thing I have ever done apart from with my family," and "Sir, I don't want to go back, I just want to do this every day." This really has been a very special project for the participating students and we look forward to more of the same next year with our year long collaboration with Factory International.



Mr Davison

Didsbury Art Festival

Students across all year groups participated in Didsbury Arts Festival 2023 over the dates Saturday 24th June to Sunday 2nd July. The project "Art over the Counter" saw 20 shops across Didsbury exhibiting work by Parrs Wood students. Some work that was made specifically for shops included work by Zofia Ford in year 9 in the window of the Cheese Hamlet and Mia Monaghan's painting of the three little pigs which was exhibited by the butchers of the same name, who then bought the painting from Mia for £40. A highlight of the show was Emma Holmes' photography images of flowers within ice. This was another successful festival by students and it's great to see it back on the calendar again. Well done to all participating students!

Mr Davison



Art, Design and Technology

High School Musical Set Design

Over the past month, the following year 7 students have been working hard to create the school production set for "High School Musical." Students helped to paint a Parrs Wood inspired visual of the featured East High school. Four banners measuring 4m x 1.25m is no easy task for students, let alone getting them to match up and work together. Well done to the following students for their efforts and ability with the brush:

Martha Fanning, Reuben Campbell Brown, Martha Grundy, Eleanor Linton, Mia Monaghan, Mahnoor Khan and Rufaida Hossain

Mr Davison



International Women in Engineering Day

Friday 23rd June was International Women in Engineering Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate the amazing work that women engineers are carrying out across the world. The day is also an opportunity to encourage women into engineering-based careers. To find out more about International Women in Engineering Day please look at www.inwed.org.uk.

Mr Lad

D and T Workshop

On Monday 3rd July, we welcomed some of our new Year 7s to the Design and Technology workshops. The students were set a challenge to make the tallest free-standing structure from Spaghetti and Play-Doh.

The students were introduced to specific key terms related to structures and shown some examples of different shapes that they might want to consider before modelling their designs. It was a great opportunity for the students to work in small groups with students from other primary schools and to make some new friends before they start in September.

The team with the tallest structures received a small trophy and participation medals were awarded to all of our young structural engineers for their amazing builds!

For most of the students, it was the first time working in a specialist Design and Technology workshop. The students were introduced to some of the equipment in the school's workshop, and we discussed health and safety within a workshop environment. Hopefully this will give our new Year 7's an insight into their new learning environment from September 2023.

Mr Lad

Business, Law and Economics

Y13 BTEC Business Events Day

Towards the end of this academic year, as part of their BTEC Business course, our Y13 students organised a number of fantastic events. The purpose of the events was to raise money for charity, but each event had its own specific aims and goals. The students carried out feasibility studies and risk assessments, produced detailed budgets, created promotional material, and put in place contingency plans in case anything went wrong before the big day. The students then had to reflect on their performance and offer any suggestions that could have made things run more smoothly.

The events all took place in different venues in and around the school and were enjoyed by both organisers and participants, especially when the prizes were awarded! It was wonderful to see the students taking on different management roles and applying the skills they have learnt throughout the course.

Music quizzes, team building challenges, art competitions and a World Cup Soccer Challenge are just some of the events that took place. Take a look below at some of the promotional material and pictures of the events taking place.



Guest Speaker - Sumayyah Eldin - The Creative Society

Sumayyah Eldin, of the Creative Society Manchester, gave students insights into the world of event management highlighting the challenges of working in a fast-paced industry and also giving students an overview of the rewarding experiences she has had organising for a diverse range of people of all ages. Sumayyah answered questions regarding the skills needed to be a successful organiser.

The Creative Society Manchester was set up by Sumayyah Eldin one year ago. She is a Manchester resident and holds all her events in local venues and works with local talent to put on fun, immersive and creative events of all kinds! Her events business plans unique, friendly art sessions for a diverse range of people of all ages. Some of the events she has organised include:

- The Mad Hatter Paint Party
- Bookbinding workshop
- Well-being art event
- Arabic Calligraphy painting night
- Product Launches



Computing and ICT

Bletchley Park Workshop

Our school had a very special visitor in April, from Bletchley Park, the famous British codebreaking centre from World War II. The visitor hosted a series of workshops for our students, and it was a fantastic learning opportunity for all who attended.

A total of 90 students had the privilege to participate in the workshops throughout the day. For our year 8 students, the focus was on the importance of personal cybersecurity and securing our devices from hackers. The session was very interactive and hands-on, allowing students to learn through experimentation.

During the workshop, students were able to test how quickly a computer could crack their passwords and how vulnerable their personal information is on social media. The workshop helped students to understand the importance of creating strong and unique passwords and the risks associated with sharing personal information online.

Additionally, 60 of our year 10 Computer Science students also had the opportunity to learn about encryption and how it works to prevent hackers from accessing our data. The workshop included an engaging activity that taught students about private keys and how they are used in encryption.

Students learned about how WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption to keep our messages private and secure. This was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about how encryption technology can be applied in real-world situations.

Overall, the workshop provided our students with an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding of cybersecurity and encryption. We would like to thank the Bletchley Park team for sharing their expertise and knowledge with our students.

Mr Clark

Women in Tech in Business

We took a group of 12 girls to the Women in Business and Tech day at Connell College in Manchester. This event consisted of inspirational talks and workshops held by successful women in this industry. The students found it very interesting, and it gave them a great insight into which career path they might follow in the future. They also found out how much money could be made by working at the Co-op!

Mrs Moloney



English

Didsbury Arts Festival

During the first week of July we had visits from a range of writers as part of our connection with Didsbury Arts Festival. First up was Lindy Newns who ran a brilliant session with some of our Year 7 students focusing on self-worth and confidence. The students engaged really well with the session, and were confidently writing and talking about themselves and their star qualities by the end of the morning.

David Gaffney, author of a number of novels and celebrated writer of flash fiction, visited to hold a workshop with our Year 12 English Language students. During the session students explored the different ways writers can create and manipulate meaning in just a few words, before having a go at creating some flash fiction of their own focusing on the theme of Artificial Intelligence. It was great to see the students showcasing their creative skills, with some incredibly dystopian visions of a future controlled by AI. Fingers crossed they remain works of fiction and not visions of a Parrs Wood community of the future.

Finally, world-renowned poet Mike Garry visited school for a day to work with a number of students across Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Having recently been commissioned to write the poem for the opening sequence of the BBCs FA Cup Final coverage, Mike spoke to students about his own upbringing in a working class family in Manchester, giving them the inspirational message that no matter your background you can go on to achieve your dreams. During the workshop, Mike performed a number of his own poems for the students, before getting them to develop their own writing to showcase their own voices, views and opinions.



It was amazing to see such a wide range of students engaging with all three writers, and a fantastic opportunity for the Parrs Wood community to be part of the wider Arts Festival.

Mr Smith

Reading Mentor Training

On Wednesday 12th July, a group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to work with their peers from across the Trust at Manchester Central Library to develop their skills as reading mentors and leaders in school. During the day they explored the role of a mentor, considered their own leadership qualities and had the chance to practise a range of strategies that can be used to support other students to improve their reading. In September, the group will become reading leaders in school, and will work with students in our new Year 7 cohort who require some support with developing their reading skills. Their community spirit and desire to support other pupils to achieve their full potential is a credit to them and I look forward to seeing them flourish as leaders next year.

Mr Smith

English

Mindfulness Club

It has been absolutely fantastic to see students from different year groups coming together in Mindfulness club this year.

We have practised guided meditations, mindful colouring, gratitude activities and much more. The room has also acted as a calm, peaceful space for students to read, draw and work on their own creative projects.

Over the last few weeks, the students have worked hard on creating this amazing poster to celebrate and promote Mindfulness across the school.



Ms Crispin



People's History Museum Trip

On Thursday 13th July, 27 of our year 7 students visited People's History Museum in relation to the conflict novels they have been studying in English. They visited the exhibitions and were invited to one of the museum's new banner making workshops for schools. Students made an impressive banner using traditional banner symbols and images that represented issues they were passionate about.

Ms Crispin

Poetry Club

We have had a fantastic year in Poetry Club. Students from all different year groups have come together to write, perform and learn about poets, as well as lyricists. It has been a fantastic opportunity for them to gain confidence in their creative writing and performance skills.

Ms Ford

Eco Club

This half-term, we held a competition for students to create a poster to encourage more students to use our recycling bins around the school. We are looking forward to seeing the entries!

Ms Svobodova

Film Club

We are currently producing a cross between 'The Breakfast Club' and 'Home Alone'. We have just finished the script and are looking to start filming next year. Watch out, Hollywood!

Mr Gledhill

Humanities

Iceland Trip

On the 27th March, the Geography department took 49 Y10 students to Iceland for 4 days. This gave the students an opportunity to see first-hand tectonic activity in the form of exploding geysers, lava tunnels and the rift valley caused by the spreading of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. On day 1 we visited Reykjanes Peninsula where we went to the bridge between the 2 continents, walked through hot springs spewing out steam, watched the mud puddles bubble, and visited the new lava flow from 2022 which was still steaming, rounding up the day by walking through a lava tunnel! Needless to say, students and staff were looking forward to getting to the hotel for tea and a sit down.

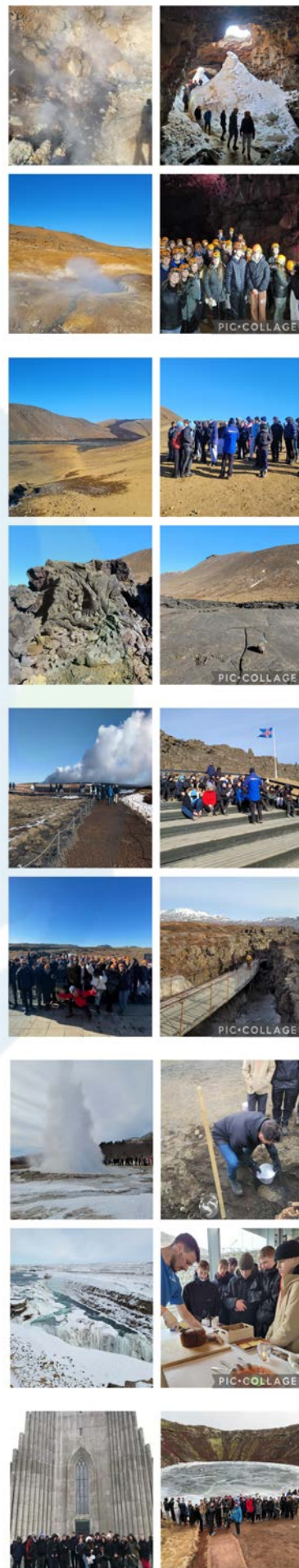
Day 2 saw another action-packed day as we visited the Golden Circle. Here we went to Thingvellir National park and saw the rift valley where the North American plate and the Eurasian plate are splitting apart, whilst also visiting the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall. In the afternoon, we visited one of Iceland's well known geysers, Strokkur, which erupts every 8-10 minutes and it didn't disappoint. We headed to Laugarvatn to do a spot of bread making the students buried bread in the bubbling hot sand on the shores of the lake and then dug up already cooked bread which was served with freshly made butter and smoked salmon! Delicious! I even won some street cred when they realised I'd booked us into the same place Zac Efron had visited and he'd made bread there too! We finished up the day with a walk around Reykjavik.

Our final day took a different direction from planned due to bad weather and the police shutting the roads. We managed a visit to the interactive Lava centre demonstrating to the students the importance of Iceland's location with the separating tectonic plates, and linked this to the geothermal energy that makes Iceland a great advocate of green energy as we visited one of Iceland's largest Geothermal energy plants, where the heat from within the earth generates electricity to power homes and businesses and hot water systems. An impromptu visit to a frozen crater lake and ice cream farm (yes, it's never too cold for ice cream!) concluded our final day.

Staff and students both had a fantastic time, completely in awe of the power of our planet. We made lots of once in a lifetime memories.

The students behaved so well throughout the trip and were a credit to the school and their parents.

Mrs Foster



Humanities

Year 12 Geography Trip

Year 12 Geographers have been taking part in 4 days of human and physical fieldwork to support their A level studies. As part of their A level course, students design and complete their own geographical investigation on an area of geography that interests them. This year the students have chosen to visit Salford Quays and Stockport to examine the impacts of urban regeneration, Ainsdale sand dunes to identify physical changes and management of psammoseres, Levenshulme to evaluate the new 'Active Travel Scheme' (formerly a Low Traffic neighbourhood scheme) and Runway Visitor Park at Manchester Airport to explore the economic, social and environmental impacts of the airport on the surrounding areas. We were delighted that some of our Year 11 also joined us for a taster experience of fieldwork at A level.

Mrs Hardman



Year 8 London Trip

Year 8 had a 'Wicked' time in London last week! They explored themes around sustainable cities studying the Thames Flood Barrier and regeneration of the Olympic Park. They also visited the volcano galleries in the Natural History room, cruised down the Thames and saw a West End show! The skipper of our boat told us he had been working in his job for 41 years and had never met such a polite bunch of students! Well done Year 8!

Mrs Hardman



Humanities Debating Club

This summer has seen some thrilling and eloquent debates in G35 during Tuesday lunchtimes. The students have worked hard on their persuasion techniques combined with the art of rebuttal to build on their oratory skills. Debates have included 'Does an existential being exist?', 'Is veganism the answer to climate change?', 'Is war ever necessary?'. It has been great to see a growing number of Year 7s joining the club and showing up the older years! We look forward to entering more competitions next year.

Mr Carr and Miss O'Sullivan



Languages

University of Manchester Languages Programme



A group of our Y10 talented linguists went to the University of Manchester in June as part of a Languages Programme that covers all three languages offered at our school: French, Spanish and German. The pupils had a great day and got a real taste of what being a university student means: they had a Chinese taster session, experienced a subtitling task and learnt about all the many benefits of language learning. Our pupils were a credit to our school and showed how much we valued languages at Parris Wood!



Languages Ambassadors Club

A group of Y9 keen linguists and leaders have been meeting every Thursday at lunch time to support the Languages Faculty at Parris Wood. We have learnt about exam marking skills, played enjoyable games and, most importantly, we have mentored and tutored the Y7s in their language learning to help them perform better in lessons and help them to progress further. This has been a brilliant opportunity for Y9s to build communication and teamwork skills. The Y7s also now know that they can ask us for any extra help if they wish to. This has been a fabulous opportunity for all of the Y9s and the Y7s!



KS3 Trip to Madrid - June 2023

We recently took 40 students from Year 8 and Year 9 on the Spanish trip to Madrid. We visited lots of the most popular tourist attractions, including:

- Museo Nacional de Reina Sofía, where we marvelled at the beautiful paintings, particularly Pablo Picasso's "Guernica"
- Retiro Park which used to be owned by the Spanish monarchy
- El Rastro flea market where students could really practise their spoken Spanish with the natives, and buy souvenirs and gifts. We also gave a prize to the student who could find and purchase the most interesting item for 5 euros or less!
- Casa de Campo urban park, the largest park in Madrid
- The home of Real Madrid football club, the Santiago Bernabeu stadium
- Plaza de Espana, Plaza Mayor and the Royal Palace
- Mercado de San Miguel where students were again challenged to use their Spanish to order and try out different types of food.
- Chocolatería San Ginés where we enjoyed freshly made churros and hot chocolate dip!



Languages

Normandy Trip

We are excited to share with you the incredible experiences and adventures that unfolded during our recent language trip to the picturesque region of Normandy. With a group of 39 enthusiastic students, we embarked on a journey filled with cultural immersion, historical discoveries, and unforgettable memories.

On our first day, we had the privilege of visiting the world-renowned Bayeux Tapestry. As we walked through the museum, the intricately woven scenes from the 11th century came to life before our eyes, transporting us back in time. We also had the opportunity to explore the charming town of Bayeux, immersing ourselves in the local culture and admiring its architectural beauty.

The following day, our destination was Arromanches, a place of great historical significance. We had the extraordinary opportunity to visit a 360-degree cinema, where we were captivated by the immersive experience that brought the events of the D-Day landings to life. It was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought for freedom.



In the afternoon, we visited the solemn and awe-inspiring American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. As we walked among the rows of white crosses, each representing a brave soldier who gave their life for our freedom, we were filled with a profound sense of gratitude and respect. It was a poignant moment of reflection for all of us.



On the last day of our trip, we visited the charming town of Honfleur. The students had the opportunity to explore the local architecture, marvelling at the unique beauty of the buildings and streets. It was a chance to appreciate the rich history and culture of the region in a more relaxed setting.

In the afternoon, our students had a truly hands-on experience as they learned the art of baking bread. Under the guidance of skilled bakers, they kneaded, shaped, and baked their very own baguettes. The delicious aroma filled the air, and each student proudly brought back a baguette to eat for dinner.



One memorable evening, our students had the chance to participate in a friendly basketball match with another French school. The game was refereed by our very own Miss Cosseron, one of our dedicated teachers. It was an exciting and spirited competition, bringing together students from different cultures through the universal language of sports.

As we returned home, we couldn't help but reflect on the profound impact this language trip had on our students. Not only did they enhance their language skills, but they also gained a deeper understanding of history, culture, and the importance of international experiences. We are grateful to have been a part of this journey with them.

Mr Clark

Languages

Cologne and the Rheinland Trip

What an experience for our young people, packed full of new things to see and enjoy, our visit to Germany was action packed and loads of fun.

We unexpectedly stumbled across Christopher Street Day on our first day and night in the area where we were staying, which gave the city a real buzz which lasted for the first few days of our stay.

Our first full day involved an early morning walk to the centre of the city, where we experienced a guided tour through the old town, around the stunning Gothic cathedral and into the old town where we had lunch followed by a trip around the Chocolate Museum and Bowling in the evening.



Our second day was slightly slower paced and involved a trip along the river Rhine on a boat to St Goarshausen and then onwards by coach to Rudesheim, where we had a little retail therapy before moving on to Siegfried's Mechanisches Musikkabinett (<https://www.smmk.de/en/home.html>) - a museum that contains an amazing mix of mechanical orchestra machines - really has to be seen to be believed.



Our third and final day before we left was at Phantasieland, where Mr Cray indulged his love of Rollercoasters 😊. This visit was a huge hit with the children, many of them commenting that Phantasieland was better than Disneyland. Many of them went on roller coasters for the first time - a fair few for the last.

The behaviour on this trip was impeccable and the young people we took were great, trying out their German and experiencing new and different things. The weather was unbelievably hot during our stay. Well done to all of you - it was great to get to know you all outside of school and find out more about you all.

Well done everyone - here is to the next trip!!

Mrs White

Mathematics

Dr Frost on Tour

We have been lucky this term to be chosen to host Dr Frost on Tour. The legendary Dr Jamie Frost came to Parrs Wood and delivered assemblies to our year 9 students and some of our year 7 students. He shared with us his journey from school to creating the DrFrost website that all our students use so well and presented us with some mathematical problems. We were all quite surprised by the number of students who wanted his autograph after the session. He also delivered a workshop which maths teachers from over 20 other schools attended for some training on the DrFrost platform.



Mrs Anderson

Year 10 Maths Feast

8 Year 10 students took part in the Maths Feast event at the University of Manchester. Students competed against other Manchester Schools in a range of different team activities challenging their application of maths knowledge. Despite the event not being overall graded, Parrs Wood were celebrated after numerous rounds of the event for their exceptional performance. The students had a great day visiting the University campus and competing against like-minded students.

Mrs Anderson

Junior UKMT Maths Challenge

It was Year 7 and 8's turn to undertake the prestigious maths challenge. The questions, like the one below, are designed to encourage mathematical problem solving, a pivotal skill in an ever-progressing technological society. Over 120 students participated, with almost two thirds achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold. Special mention must go to Noah Bowpitt, Josh Hebden and Ching Kit Lam who qualified for the Junior Kangaroo Round, with Noah securing a merit.

Mr Lau

14. In the addition shown, x and y represent different single digits.

What is the value of $x + y$?

A 10

B 11

C 12

D 13

E 14

$$\begin{array}{r} 77x \\ 6yx \\ +y yx \\ \hline 1xx7 \end{array}$$

Music

Summer Medley

We started the summer term with our concert tour to Paris! This was a fantastic trip with our Y7-11 Music students, including two concerts, Disneyland, sightseeing, exploring, games, quizzes, shopping etc. and we are incredibly proud of the students we took. We packed an awful lot into our four day trip, and we are incredibly proud of all the dedication from our staff and students. Jazz Band, Choir, Orchestra and our soloists all outdid themselves in terms of the level of their performances, and the audiences loved them. Roll on next year!



Our year 10-13 GCSE and A Level Music students stunned our audience at the end of April in our Recital Evening concert. We were genuinely bowled over by the talent, support and professionalism that the students showed on the night, and we cannot wait to see them perform again!



A group of our year 10 GCSE Music and Music Tech students have been working in a series of sessions with the dBs Institute in Manchester this term. This is a brand new university in the centre of our city with amazing, state of the art recording facilities. They've been working on their own EP record, which we are incredibly impressed by, and the students have had a brilliant introduction to university life studying music, production and sound engineering.

Two groups of year 8 students visited the Beatles Story in Liverpool, to discover more about the fab four that we study as part of their year 8 curriculum. They walked through the history of the band and their music, as well as their cultural and social influences. The exhibit finishes with a fascinating new section about the band's time in India. A brilliant opportunity for the student to explore such prominent British music!



Some of our musical superstars in year 7 worked with Brass Bands England in a fabulous workshop playing trumpets, cornets, baritones and trombones. As a group, the vast majority had never played a brass instrument before, but by the end of the session, they'd played eight whole pieces! So proud of everyone's progress!

Music

Choir performed as one of six schools at the joint One Education Secondary Schools Vocal Showcase, in the fabulous Victoria Baths in Fallowfield. It was amazing to hear such beautiful singing in such an incredible acoustic! They performed songs from Princess and the Frog and Moana, as well as leading on the joint pieces with the other schools, which were Lean on Me and Revolting Children. It was wonderful to hear hundreds of voices from across the city joined together to celebrate music!



We finished the term with an INCREDIBLE production of Disney's High School Musical, to over 1000 audience members. We can honestly say that we've never been so proud of our Music family at Parrs Wood. Words don't really do justice to how much dedication, practice and talent were on display for the production, but needless to say, we are completely blown away by all the students, both onstage and backstage, and across all year groups in the school. We can't wait to stage another production in 2025! Keep an eye out for the announcement on what it will be next year!

Miss Gocher



Parrs Wood Sports Day July 6th 2023

A huge sporting event in which we have seen nearly 900 pupils compete as athletes for the day! Running, Jumping and Throwing their way to achieve points for their form and to win the ultimate bronze, silver, and gold medals! We were extremely proud of all the competitors who really showed high levels of enthusiasm and determination to achieve their personal bests. A very exciting day highlighting Parrs Wood Students at their finest! A big thank you goes to all our student leaders from Year 10, 12 and 13 who supported the running of the events and helped improve the performance of their younger peers!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1st: 7RJC	1st: 8KZC	1st: 9RXG
2nd: 7ESC	2nd: AAC	2nd: 9CCY
3rd: 7ZXH	3rd: 8SWO	3rd: 9MAW
HOUSE WINNERS: RASHFORD	HOUSE WINNERS: TURING	HOUSE WINNERS: TURING



Watersports trip to Italy

Last week we took year 7-10 on the school watersports trip to Bella Italia Village, Lignano Sabbiadoro Italy. Students had an amazing time undertaking a wide range of water sports including: sailing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, surfing and a day in Caribe Bay Water Park. It was great to see every student flourishing in areas outside of the classroom and develop new skills such as team work, communication and resilience. All students who attended the trip were amazing and were a true credit to the Parrs Wood School Community.



Science

STEAM Club

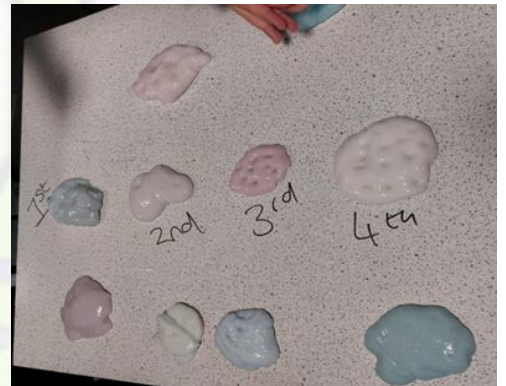
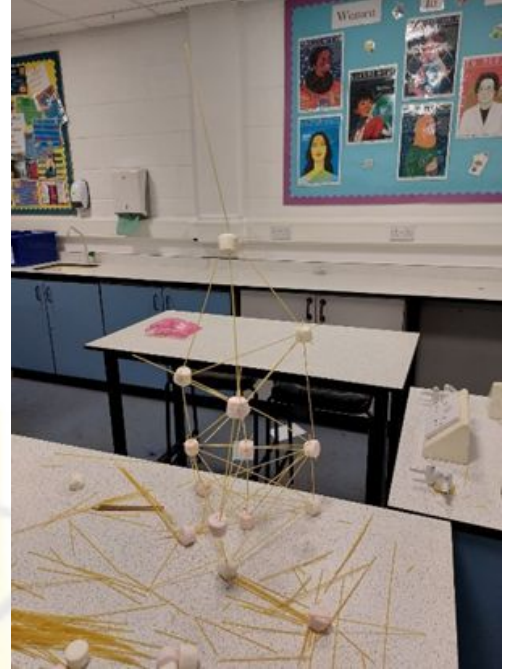
STEAM Club this year had been attended by a group of year 7, 8 and 9 students. It was a great way for the students to have fun, be creative and expand their subject knowledge. It also helped to develop students' practical, teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills. The club consisted of many activities such as:

- Making slime
- Building marshmallow towers
- Making paper
- Cell biscuits
- Making egg parachutes
- Mummifying oranges
- Making sparklers
- Hydrogel
- Making bath bombs just to name a few!

In addition to the activities, we had a showstopper after every session which included:

- Whoosh bottle
- Screaming jelly babies
- Cannon fire
- Elephants' toothpaste
- Thermite
- Hydrogen bubbles and so much more!

Student feedback after attending Steam club this year were; 'This is the best club I've been to!'. Another student commented 'I can't wait for next week's session!' and 'It has been a lot of fun and I have made new friends'.



Social Science

Gang Prevention Programme

We were extremely excited to host James Riley, a former probation officer with a specialism in urban street crime, delivering his Gang prevention programme to some of our Year 8 students. His use of stories and real life examples of gang recruitment, exploitation, consequences and how to get out, had students gripped in each of the 3 sessions. Students said they learned 'the importance of telling others when they are worried something serious is happening' they thought it was 'sick the way he told us stories to make us understand' and 'changed the way I think about gangs'.

GANGS
GET AWAY N GET SAFE

Male Identity Workshop

Back in April the Social Science department, hosted a workshop for a pilot project around 'Male Identity & Healthy Relationships' with a small group of Year 9 students. . With the aim of celebrating maleness and masculinity and to empower our young people to be ambassadors who feel equipped to challenge prejudice and discrimination towards women. The facilitators commented on the confidence and engagement of our young people and felt they could take away so much from their experience to be used to inform the development of the workshop for other schools. The students really enjoyed the interactive nature of the sessions and a safe space to explore some of the comments of adult influencers. Student expressed 'I learnt a lot from the scenario, where we could guide the characters as to what they could do differently and rewrite the plot on a different way and it made me think I could act differently too', they also said 'We learnt that you can't mind read what people are thinking and just to be more open minded in general' finally 'I really enjoyed the debates and how we could discuss things that I would be too scared to say to other people'. All in all a very successful workshop to contribute to the personal development of some of our Year 9s.

Religious Studies

On Thursday 6th July we held a Spiritual Awareness day which allowed our year 12 pupils the opportunity to meet various members of the Manchester community from a variety of faith backgrounds. Pupils felt like we benefited hugely from meeting and listening to these dedicated individuals who were able to explain the main tenets of their faith in a practical lived way.

Pupils have spoken positively about what they learn and how they have reflected. We are grateful to our representatives who were able to give up your time. We felt that this was a valuable day and that it had, indeed, raised their spiritual awareness.

GCSE Citizenship

24 pupils who study GCSE Citizenship took part in a mock trial at Manchester Metropolitan University. Each pupil played a role in the court, including the judge, the barristers, solicitors and the jury. Each witness was questioned by the lawyers using questions that the pupils had thought of themselves with the help of law students from MMU. The pupils got to wear wigs and gowns when they acted out their part. It was a really useful way to see how we ensure that defendants get a fair trial and how juries are influenced in the decisions they make.

Social Science

Year 10 Citizenship to Parliament

On June 30th twenty pupils who study GCSE Citizenship went to London to have a tour of parliament. We started our visit in Trafalgar Square and walked past the guards at Horse Guards Parade, stopped at Downing Street to look at the Prime Minister's house, and heard Big Ben chime the hour. Once in parliament we had a private tour with a specialist guide where we learned about how parliament works and had the opportunity to watch the House of Lords in action. The group stood (you're not allowed to sit) in the House of Commons and saw where the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Speaker sit.

After the tour the group took part in a debate in a mock House of Commons. Each side had to think of arguments for or against the proposal to make public transport free for all people under 18. The law was passed after a lively debate.

We also visited Westminster Abbey where we saw the Coronation Chair recently used in the coronation of Charles III, as well as the tombs of Issac Newton, Charles Dickens and Elizabeth I.

The whole day was a great success and helped the pupils to understand how parliament works and how laws are passed. The group also got an understanding of the links between parliament, monarchy and religion in the UK. We even managed to get on and off the Northern Line without incident.



Chester Zoo

Psychology took a group of 50 year 10 students to Chester Zoo at the beginning of July. Students were able to get a taste for the topic they will be learning about next year, regarding animal communication and evolution. Students were able to see lots of different animals and then had a talk from a zoo keeper about how different species of animals have evolved over time to aid the survival of their species, as well as the different ways and reasons animals communicate with each other. The students also were able to create new animals which would be able to survive in a specific type of habitat they were provided with (e.g., the desert, mountain range, rainforest) the students had a lovely day despite the rain for most of the day, and some even got their faces painted!



Personal Development

Inspiring Women's Conference

In May, a group of female Y10 students attended the 'Inspiring Women's Conference' at the Alliance Manchester Business School, which is part of the University of Manchester.

The girls listened to inspiring stories from women who had overcome adversity and were encouraged to challenge stereotypes in order to fulfil their own potential.

Students attended workshops where they were given advice and guidance about how to keep themselves mentally and emotionally healthy as well as top tips about completing applications and interview preparation ahead of starting their college applications next year.

Students were confident, passionate, and articulate, and a credit to our Parrs Wood community.

Mrs Catterall

British Red Cross: First Aid Training

Our Y10 leaders recently asked for the opportunity to take part in a First Aid workshop in order to develop their skills should they ever be required to support in an emergency. On Monday 10th July, the brilliant British Red Cross came into school to make this happen! Students covered everything from CPR, to dealing with choking, they learnt how to treat burns and were shown what to do if they ever needed to use a defibrillator. The British Red Cross were so impressed with their knowledge and suggested they looked into completing more First Aid courses in the future!

Mrs Catterall

McVities Work Experience

Earlier this month, 24 of our Y10 students took part in a face-to-face work experience programme with McVities. The students all study a STEM subject (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths) and were encouraged to use their creativity when considering ideas for a new product, how they would market it and who their target audience would be. Students were thrilled when 300 mint and orange Clubs appeared as well as hundreds more Hobnobs, Jaffa Cakes and Jonuts! I think the taste-tasting was their favourite part! McVities spoke to students about the wide variety of careers available as well as their apprenticeship programme. It was, without a doubt, the tastiest workshop we've been part of!

Mrs Catterall



Inclusion

Transition and Support

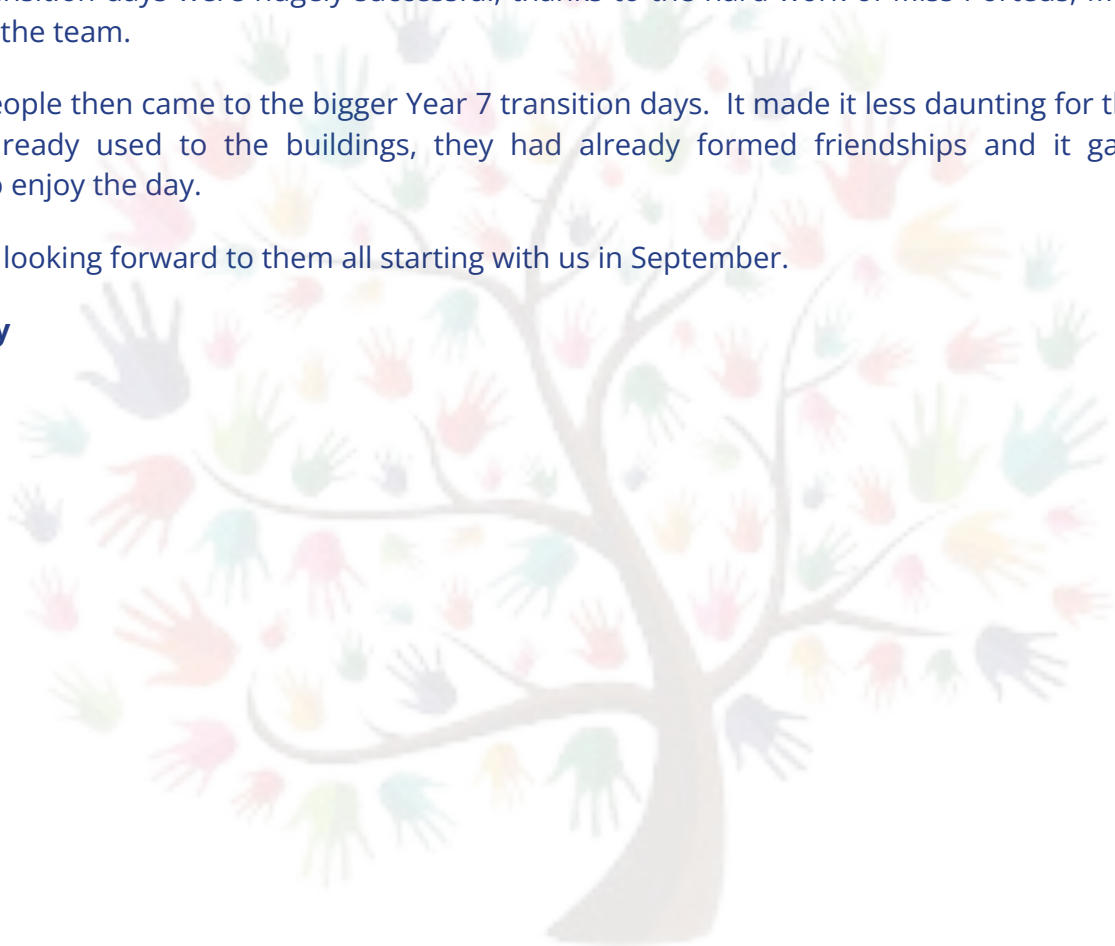
The Inclusion team have been busy supporting those Year 7 young people coming to Parrs Wood High School in September. Miss Porteus, our Assistant SENDCo, has been working closely with schools to gather lots of information about those young people who may need additional support. Our PDMC team also helped with transition regarding Physical Disabilities and Medical Needs, so that we are all prepared for September.

Some young people were then invited to attend a smaller transition day with the support of the Inclusion team. There were 2 days of the smaller transitions. Lots of fun activities were planned: for example, they discussed their hopes and fears of coming to high school, they navigated themselves around the buildings, made biscuits (there was chocolate involved!), had lunch from the canteen and even made friends. The additional transition days were hugely successful, thanks to the hard work of Miss Porteus, Mrs Heyes, Mrs Esposito and the team.

The young people then came to the bigger Year 7 transition days. It made it less daunting for them to come, they were already used to the buildings, they had already formed friendships and it gave them the confidence to enjoy the day.

We are really looking forward to them all starting with us in September.

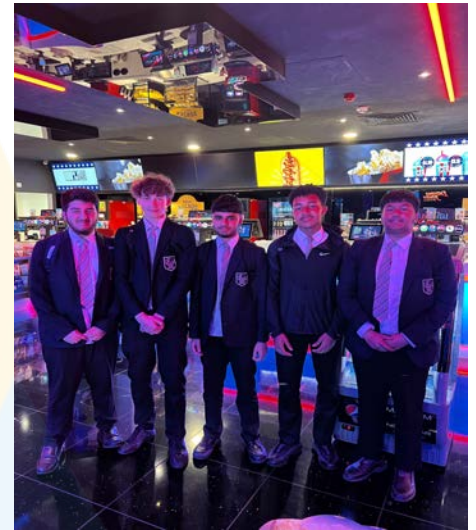
Miss Doherty



End of Year Rewards!

Cinema Reward Trip

On Thursday 20th July, 600 students were invited to Cineworld Didsbury as a reward for their excellent attendance to school throughout the year! Students who had achieved a minimum of 93% attendance since September made the short stroll to the Parris Wood complex to watch a movie of their choice. Students selected from: The Little Mermaid, The Flash, Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse and Indiana Jones. Over 40 staff supported (we didn't even need to bribe them!) and the students had a brilliant time! We will be rewarding more students with excellent attendance throughout the year next year so please support us in ensuring your child is in school every day so that they don't miss out. As we all know, there is a direct correlation between attendance and attainment. Evidence shows that the higher a student's attendance, the better their GCSE and A Level results are likely to be.



ICE ICE BABY!

On the last day of term, 250 students were invited down to the main hall for a zero degree treat to match their zero behaviour points! This is an incredible achievement and a fitting end to what has been a brilliant year at Parris Wood High School.

