



PARRS WOOD PIGEON

Parrs Wood High School's Personal Development and Enrichment Newsletter | No'4 Autumn Term 2023



Welcome to issue number 4 of the Parrs Wood Pigeon. It has been a jam-packed first term in school with so many brilliant things going on; it's hard to cram it all into a few pages! I'd like to start by saying a huge well done to our Year 7 students. Transition to high school is never easy, but you've settled in fantastically well and have become part of the furniture! We hope you have loved all the incredible opportunities that have been on offer to you. Personal Development sits at the heart of our school; our Student Council, led by our wonderful Y11 Senior Student Leadership Team have worked tirelessly over the past 13 weeks to ensure their peers' voices are heard! They've been raising money for charity, supporting students who are new to Parrs Wood and in some cases, new to the UK and brainstorming, planning and implementing ideas that they believe will make our school community even better! We're all excited to see what 2024 has in store! Attendance to Extra Curricular clubs is increasing all the time and with over 70 clubs each week on offer to our students, there really is something for everyone! Students have had the opportunity to represent the school in Sport, Music and Art to name but a few and have been an excellent audience for guest speakers and wonderfully active and thoughtful participants on trips and visits. We have ended the term, rewarding students for their excellent attitude to learning, effort and behaviour, with 25 pupils, selected at random, winning gift vouchers and selection boxes! Finally, we are always keen to make our Personal Development offer even better, so if you're a business, who might be able to support with trips, visits or work experience or perhaps are keen to support our students in another way, I would love to hear from you! I hope you all have a wonderful break with your family and friends and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Mrs Catterall
Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development
k.catterall@pwhs.co.uk

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AUTHOR VISITS FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Read about the author Josh Silver's visit.

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PARRS WOOD CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Read about our fantastic night of festive music by our talented music students at St James Church, Didsbury.



TEESIDE UNIVERSITY ART TALK TO YEAR 12 AND 13 ART STUDENTS.

In November Angela Lawrence from Teeside University came in to talk to year 12 and 13 students about creative courses and career directions. Angela talked about interesting career directions, how to create a portfolio and gave advice on applying for creative courses.

MMU FORMER STUDENTS TALK TO YEAR 12 AND 13 STUDENTS.

Former students Gaby Ankers and Cameron Burke came in to talk to year 12 and 13 art students on Friday 8th December about studying Art foundation at MMU.

ART CLUB

Key stage 3 art club students have been creating collage beetles and bugs using textured paper over this term.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Key stage 3 art club students have taken part in the annual christmas card competition with the winning student Avril Cheng having the pride of seeing her design being sent out as the official christmas card.

WHITWORTH GALLERY ALBRECHT DURER WORKSHOPS

On December 13th 44 year 10 Art and Photography students participated in the first of four workshops concentrating on the artist Albrecht Durer. Students worked with a photography and printmaking artist.



CODING CLUB

Our club has been open at lunchtimes every Tuesday for Year 7. We have learnt how to make websites and designed one each to host all our coding projects in the coming year.

VEX ROBOTICS CLUB

This term the Computing department has launched the inaugural VEX Robotics Club at Parrs Wood High School. Four industrious Year 9 students have worked together to build a VEX IQ robot from scratch and have begun learning how to use the programming concepts of sequence, selection and iteration that they have learned during Computing lessons to create programs that will control the robot. With a wide array of sensors and motors available the sky's the limit and in the future we hope to compete in robotics competitions!



“READ MANCHESTER #TAKE10” JOSH SILVER VISIT FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2023

On Tuesday 10th October Josh Silver author of Dystopian novel “HappyHead” and registered mental health nurse worked with our year 9 students as part of the “read Manchester” #take10 campaign for World Mental Health Day. Students discussed the importance of talking about mental health and were

given the opportunity to draw an imagine of what happiness looked like to them. Josh shared snippets from his brand new novel and answered questions about the book and his life.

Mrs Blake

‘LIFE OF PI’ THEATRE TRIP AT THE LOWRY

On Thursday 14th December, we took 44 year 7 students to see ‘Life of Pi’ at The Lowry theatre. The show was sensational and they had a fantastic time!

Ms Crispin

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR COMPETITION

Well done to Akshara Wagh and Salma Hakmi for creating amazing social media style book reviews for our book review competition. Both won vouchers to spend at the book fair!

Ms Crispin

SPANISH 6TH FORM TRIP TO HOME CINEMA

Our A-Level Spanish students attended a film study day at Home Cinema on Tuesday 28th led by Carmen Guerrero, Principal Lecturer in Spanish Studies and Subject Lead for Languages at Manchester Metropolitan University. They watched a Spanish film called 'La Novia', a film adaptation of Federico García Lorca's 'Blood Wedding'. It was a truly enjoyable day, with a lot of Spanish talking. Our students had a 'día fantástico' and were a real credit to our college!

R López



PEN-PAL ACTIVITY

Our pen pal exchange with our partner schools in France, Spain and Germany has already kicked off and we have received our very first letters of the year, fresh from Europe!

R López

PARRS WOOD HOST STUDENTS FROM GERMAN SCHOOL

Parrs Wood Students played host last week to a group of German pupils from our partner exchange school, Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium Herne. What a fantastic experience for everyone concerned with memories that will last forever. Well done to all the participants, including the German visitors who all wore the school uniform.



UKMT

Congratulations to Sedic Chan, who participated in the British Mathematical Olympiads, a gruelling 3.5hr mathematics competition. It is no mean feat as only the highest scorers in the Senior Maths Challenge qualify for the Mathematical Olympiads.

It will be the turn of the Junior and Intermediate UKMT in the next few months, so there will undoubtedly be many more achievements to celebrate soon.

Mr Lau

SPANISH 6TH FORM TRIP TO HOME CINEMA

We started the year in Music by being awarded Music Mark status as a school! This is a nationally recognised award for the importance that the school places on Music, in the curriculum and as part of our enrichment programme, as part of a broad and balanced education for our students. We are incredibly proud to receive this award again this year, and look forward to the further opportunities it will bring our Parrs Wood students.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024

We also launched two new extra-curricular activities this term; a new brass group on Mondays and a DJ/Production club on Mondays and Wednesdays. Our students have been loving their new experiences, and we can't wait to showcase their skills to you all in our performances over the year. These clubs join our existing programme of choir, keyboard club, ukulele group, jazz bands, steel pan groups etc. that are open to everyone.

Students across all key stages celebrated Black History Month in October, in their curriculum lessons and in our enrichment activities. John Legend, Courtney Pine, John Coltrane, Marvin Gaye, Tammi Terrell, Quincy Jones, Nina Simone and many more were explored in lessons, and through performances by choir and senior jazz band. It was amazing to hear the department come alive with the rich and varied contributions these amazing black artists have given to the world of music.



50 of our GCSE and A Level students went to the beautiful Bridgewater Hall in October to see the Hallé Orchestra perform their 'Orchestra Through The Ages' concert, featuring their exam set works. We are so lucky to live in such a musical city with wonderful venues and ensembles on our doorstep, and we really try to make the most of these amazing opportunities as possible for our students!

Congratulations to Ka To in year 7 who recorded the Last Post for us for Remembrance this year. This is the first time we have had a year 7 perform this beautiful piece, and we are very proud of his achievements.

Throughout the term, our year 8 and 9 students have been working with the brand new Manchester venue, Factory International, as part of their inaugural schools' programme. They went to the 'Free Your Mind' performance at the newly-opened Aviva studios, which was completely amazing and unlike anything we've experienced before. The students are working with Factory all year, building to their own performance at Aviva Studios in June 2024.



15 of our year 9 students have been working all term with two incredible musicians from Band on the Wall in the Northern Quarter. They were part of their 'Heroes of Manchester' project. They were inspired to write and perform their own music at Band on the Wall, working on their pieces in workshops after school with the musicians. We were completely blown away by their performances in the venue; their professionalism, talent and enthusiasm were a joy to behold, and we're so proud of the fact they were the first ever Parrs Wood students to perform there. We'll make sure they won't be the last!



Our piano students performed a beautiful Christmas Recital at the Christie Hospital in Withington, on a wonderful grand piano from Forsyths in Manchester. They brought some festive cheer to the staff, patients and visitors at the hospital, and we're very proud of them bringing their talents to our wider community.



Choir and senior jazz band performed as part of our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, to raise the roof and help bring the Christmas spirit to some of our wider school community. The audience were certainly rocking around the Christmas tree!



We finished the term with our biggest and best Christmas Carol Concert ever! Over 120 students from year 7 to year 13 performed a wonderful range of Christmas music to our biggest ever audience; it was literally standing room only at the back of St. James' church!



Keep up to date with all of our activities and performances...

@PWHS_Music
 @parrs_wood_music

YEAR 7 BONDING DAY



At the end of November, the Year 7's took part in our annual bonding day activity. The aim of the day was to broaden the Year 7 friendship groups by allowing them to work with other children who they didn't yet know. The activities encompassed a wide range of practical problem solving challenges which required team work, perseverance and leadership. The Year 7's, supervised by Year 12 and 13 helpers, showed all of these qualities and more. Even though it was very cold, the students didn't let that dampen their enthusiasm and they all rose to the challenges of the day.



Unifrog has arrived at Parrs Wood. This is a careers platform that will benefit all our students and parents. Allowing them to learn more about different pathways and careers and record their activities and achievements. The platform is being rolled out throughout this term.

Our key focus, this term, has been on the next steps for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. They are looking at college, sixth-form and apprenticeships and university, apprenticeships and gap years respectively.

Ms Patrick, our independent careers advisor has been working one-to-one with our Year 11 students. While Mrs Brotherton has been working with Year 13.

Year 11 had a Sixth-Form/FE Taster Day in November which included an input on Future Pathways and careers.

Year 13 Activities have included sessions on 'what should I be doing to make a successful application', EY work experience to support apprenticeship applications, university application support – admission tutor drop-ins, personal statement recap.

In Year 12 parents and student had the opportunity to learn more about next steps after Sixth-Form as part of the Year 12 Future Choices evening. Year 12 have also been introduced to university widening participation programmes including the Manchester Access Programme and MMU First generation scheme. As well as given the opportunity to apply for some fantastic work experience opportunities with EY foundation. While one of our Year 13 medical students explained the benefits of applying for the Social Mobility Foundation programme.

In addition, the curriculum areas have also been promoting Future Choices (careers) through their subject activities e.g. Art workshop at the Whitworth Gallery for Year 10, Employer talks organised by Business and law, Teeside University Arts Talk, MMU talk about the Art Foundation Course, Drama workshop for Year 11 and 13 with the cast from Romeo and Juliet at The Royal Exchange, Year 9 music students music workshops with Band on the Wall.

View our current
enrichment timetable here:



**Parrs Wood High School
& Sixth Form College**

Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2TF
www.pwhs.co.uk
www.pwsfc.org.uk

Autumn 2023

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