



PARRS WOOD PIGEON

Parrs Wood High School's Personal Development and Enrichment Newsletter | No 5 Spring Term 2024



Artwork by a Parrs Wood Sixth Form College Student.

p. 4

ALL THINGS MUSIC

Catch up on the amazing things our Music department has been up to.

p. 6

RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY

Read about how our students raised money for Francis House Childrens' Hospice.

Dear Parents/Carers

What another bumper term last term was! From films to field trips, from careers to competitions, our Personal Development programme has been jam-packed with opportunities for our students to grow, thrive and succeed. At the end of this newsletter, you'll find a QR code which links to our current enrichment timetable. I would encourage you to have a look at this as there really are so many different clubs that your child can get involved with. We know that not every student finds the classroom easy, but at Parrs Wood we pride ourselves in ensuring that every child finds something they love at high school. Whether it's basketball, music or poetry, our enrichment programme is a brilliant way to de-stress, make new friends and develop new skills. Today, colleges and universities are far more interested in how you have developed personally than they have been in the past. This means they want to know what you've done at school to grow as a person, whether you've volunteered or raised money for charity and what you like to do in your spare time. As always, we would welcome your feedback, so please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Many thanks as always for your support.




Mrs Catterall

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



Keep up to date on the amazing things happening at Parrs Wood

FOLLOW US

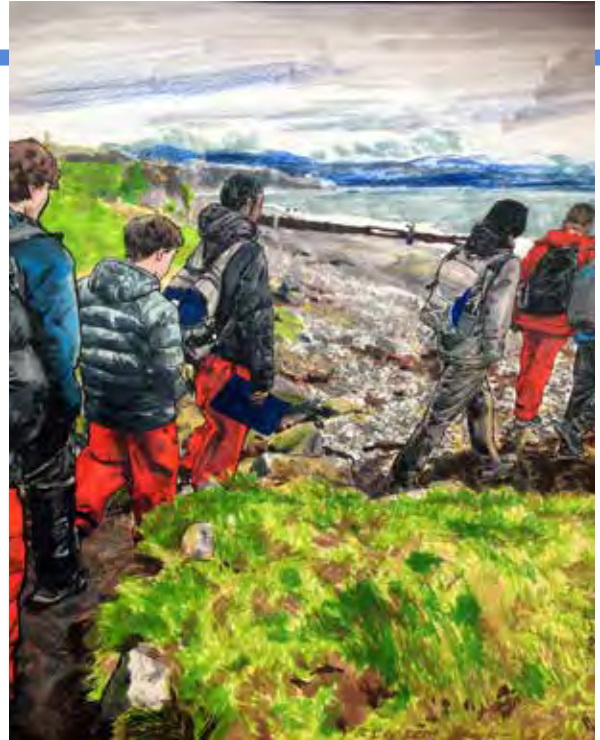
 @PWHS_OFFICIAL  @PARRSWOODSCHOOL  @OFFICIAL_PWHS

Humanities

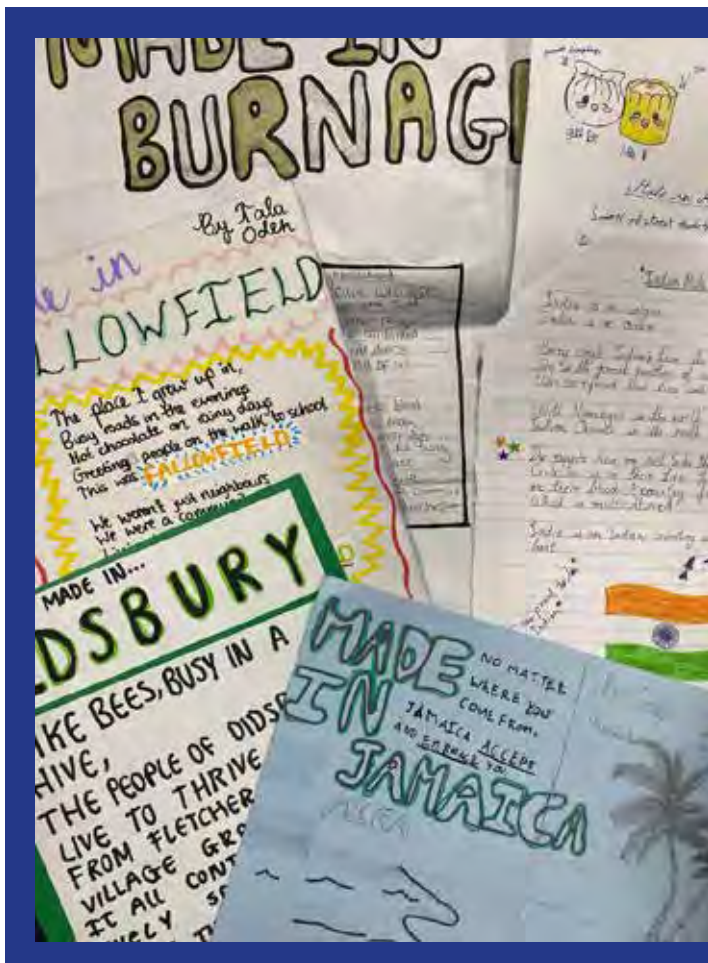
YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Year 12 Geographers enjoyed an intensive week of fieldwork skills in February when they took part in a residential course at the Rhyd-y-Creiau, FSC field centre in Snowdonia. When they arrived they donned waterproofs and wellies to launch straight into an investigation measuring the carbon capture potential of a nearby woodland. They learned how to measure beach profiles, pebble roundness and how to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal defence schemes at Criccieth. A day at Llandudno enabled the group to use a range of qualitative data collection methods to assess the changes in the quality of life across the town. The students were also taught how to use statistical tests to check the validity of their results. They are now using these skills to complete their own independent NEA (coursework). One of our students, Isra Mubasher is also an amazing artist and captured our field day at Criccieth perfectly! Well done all!

Mrs Hardman



English



‘MADE IN MANCHESTER’ COMPETITION

Year 7 were asked to write a poem celebrating where they are from, using the poem ‘Made in Manchester’ as inspiration. Entries so far have shown just how creative and diverse our community of students is!

Ms Crispin

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

Our Year 9 Language Ambassadors have done a great job at redesigning the displays on the Languages corridor, and have each taken on a small group of Year 7 students to mentor for the remainder of the year. Year 9, you are great role models for the younger students: we are lucky to have you!

K Turpin

CHEADLE HULME SCHOOL PLAY

A very talented group of Year 9 linguists went to watch a play at Cheadle Hulme School in target language practising the three languages taught at KS3 at Parrs Wood (French, Spanish and German). Some of our pupils didn't hesitate and got involved coming up on the stage practising the language- without any fear! ¡Impresionate, chicos!

R López

SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



In January, some of our Year 9 pupils studying Spanish went to the University of Manchester as part of a Languages Programme to promote Spanish for GCSE and beyond. It was a fun, motivational event to raise awareness of the value of languages and was therefore specifically aimed at students who had chosen a language as a GCSE option. Activities consisted of a 'Why Study Languages' talk, a taster session in a new language and a filmed role play activity, led by the university student ambassadors. The pupils had a great day and got a real taste for what being a university student meant. Our pupils were a credit to our school and showed how much we value languages at Parrs Wood!

R López

HOME CINEMA TRIP - SPANISH FILM 'LA NOVIA'

In November, our fantastic A-Level Spanish students attended a film study day at Home Cinema 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!

Our brilliant A-Level French students attended a similar event at Home Cinema led by Isabelle Vanderschelden, an Independent Film Scholar and lecturer from Manchester University. They watched a French film called 'Revoir Paris',



a film that discusses the consequences of the Paris attacks in 2015. It was a hard-hitting topic, but our pupils enjoyed analysing this important event and the associated social issues that exist in France. During the workshop they were able to show-off their critical and visual literacy skills that we practise in class when studying La Haine.

R. López and A. Burnham

LANGUAGE AND BUSINESS COMPETITION - LEEDS UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 20th March, 10 of our year 10 students went to Leeds University to take part in the final of the Language and Business competition, run by the university. Our students were in two teams, representing Parrs Wood and competing against 4 other schools. They designed and marketed a product to be sold in German-speaking countries to fill a current gap in the market. The teams had 3 minutes to present their business pitches in both English and German, followed by questions in German, in front of 4 judges and a packed auditorium!

We were so proud of their confidence and the hard work they had all put into preparing for the competition. Their 'Dragon's Den' style pitches and ability to answer questions in German afterwards was outstanding. So much so, one of our teams won! Congratulations to the 'Halalibros' team and a huge well done to team 'Lecker' too!

S. White

RAISING MONEY FOR FRANCIS HOUSE CHILDRENS' HOSPICE

Students have been raising money for our close neighbour Francis House Childrens' Hospice, ahead of a guided tour of their facilities next month. We had a delivery of 300 chicks and students tried out their marketing and sales skills, selling them to staff, students and visitors to the school. We have raised more than £600 thanks to the generosity of our school community.

Miss Woodward



YEAR 8 OUTLOUD PLAY AND WORKSHOPS

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!

Miss Woodward

YEAR 7 & 8 BRAVE WORKSHOPS

Connect Futures returned to the school to deliver their Building Resilience Against Violence and Extremism (BRAVE) workshop to all our Year 7 and Year 8 students. The facilitators drew upon their own experiences and shed light on the tactics used by exploitative gangs. They explained the realities and issues surrounding gang involvement, drugs, violence, extremism and radicalisation, and shared strategies to help avoid the risk of becoming involved in these activities. The students gained a greater understanding of this issue and and were shown how to build resilience in practical, real-world way.

Miss Woodward

YEAR 10 MANCHESTER HEALTHY SCHOOL'S VOICEBOX

Year 10 Leaders attended the 2nd Session of Manchester Healthy Schools voicebox network meeting. Students had been learning about Health Literacy and researching a range of health topics, including preventable injuries, mental health, healthy lifestyles and keeping safe, in preparation for the meeting. During the meeting and alongside schools across Manchester, they looked at a range possible strategies to use in their own Health Promotion Campaign, who their target audience might be and continued to decide on their area of focus. Watch this space for what they decide to do next!

Miss Woodward

INTERMEDIATE UKMT

Our Year 9 and 10 set 1 students participated in the Intermediate UKMT Challenge, with over a third achieving either a Bronze, Silver or Gold.

A Special mention must go to Jake Ramirez, Nishat Kashem, Fergus Overshott, Flossie Pritchard and Harold Lau who qualified for the Grey Kangaroo.

Here is an example of a tricky problem they had to solve.

Could you solve it?

Three sectors of a circle are removed from a regular hexagon to form the shaded shape shown. Each sector has perimeter 18 mm. What is the perimeter, in mm, of the shaded shape formed?



A 48

B 50

C 52

D 54

E 56

CAREERS WORKSHOP BY THE EY FOUNDATION

Year 10 Business students took part in a careers workshop hosted by the EY Foundation. EY Foundation is an independent charity dedicated to giving young people from all backgrounds a great start to their working lives. Held at the prestigious EY Head Office in Manchester City Centre, students spent the morning learning about how to be successful in the job application process and learn about a variety of future career pathways.

Sarah Batty (Programme Lead) delivered a workshop on preparing a CV and gave the students much to think about in terms of structure, the do's and don'ts of preparing a CV and some career advice.

The visit ended with a speed career networking event with several EY employees from departments including IT, risk

management and auditing sharing their career journeys with groups of students and engaging in Q & A about their job roles.



ALL THINGS MUSIC

Our extensive range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities continued last term, with everything from DJ club, to choir, from ukulele club to steel pan lessons. We have record numbers of students attending these, and we're so glad that so many members of our Parrs Wood community take part in them in their own time.

We started the term in Music with a trip for choir and musical theatre club to Levenshulme High School to see their production of Frozen. It was wonderful to see other musicians, dancers and actors across our Trust doing what we love too!

Our Y11 Music Tech students spent the day at Salford University using their studios to record mock versions of their radio plays, used for their unit WHAT assessment. It was brilliant for the students to be able to experience their fantastic facilities and experience where their studies can take them.

Music and Music Tech students at KS4 and 5 went to the Beatles Story in Liverpool to learn about the development of their influences in the recording industry, and the history and culture of British music. They also got to examine the influences from Indian music on their output, which helps their understanding in their Fusions Area of Study at GCSE and A Level Music.

50 of our year 8 and 9 instrumentalists went to see the Hallé orchestra perform their Cities of the World concert at the



Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. The concert celebrated music from around the world, and based on different places around the world, and it was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see where their hard work, creativity and practice will take them. We will always help and encourage our students to



experience the world-class music-making that's happening on our doorstep in Manchester.

Our KS4 and 5 musicians stunned their audience at our GCSE and A Level Music Recital Evening. They played a very wide



variety of pieces and styles of music on a huge range of instruments. Everything from Adele, to Bach, to the Cardigans, to Dello Joio, to Einaudi, to Finzi...the programme was marvellous! We are so proud of how hard they had worked on their exam pieces; it is a real privilege to see how far they have come on their musical journeys with us at Parrs Wood.

Two groups of year 9 students went to the British Music Experience in Liverpool to learn more about the history, culture and

development of British music since WW2. They took part in a pop culture workshop in the morning and spent the afternoon going round the interactive exhibition, and finished in the Gibson guitar workshop. A great day out to enrich their curriculum!

We finished the term with 50 of our year 9-11 students seeing the production of Sister Act at the Palace Theatre on Oxford Road. It is so important for our students to see not only how hard work and practice can pay off in a professional career in music, but also how much fun it can be! Students on the GCSE and A Level courses study vocal music and music for stage and screen as part of their listening and appraising exam, and we will always find ways to bring the curriculum to life.



X @PWHS_Music @parrs_wood_music

Computing

A VISIT FROM A UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER STUDENT

Last term, the Computing Faculty at Parrs Wood have had the privilege of hosting a third-year computer science student from the University of Manchester. Leading an engaging extracurricular club as part of his university project, focused on Java programming for KS4 and KS5 students. This included teaching the students some advanced programming concepts around object oriented programming.

Introducing Java as a secondary programming language has significantly broadened students' skill sets to align with industry demands and technological trends.

Secondly he has been working with the year 13 students to help them prepare for computer science at university and building their programming skills which has supported them with the practical programming projects.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the school year, many pupils have been dedicated to their training and competitions to represent the school. There have been many amazing sporting successes within Parris Wood so far this year.

The year 7 Girls football team have worked extremely hard and made it through to the Manchester cup final. They are now the runners up of the Manchester cup.

The Key Stage 3 Girls football team came 6th out of 14 teams in the Excel Girls Manchester Football League.

The Key Stage 4 Girls football team came 4th out of 8 teams in the Excel Girls Manchester Football League.

The year 8 boys football team are currently top of the league for the Manchester division 2 league. They are in pole position for winning the league.

The year 9 boys football team are in joint top position for the Inspire league with 1 game left to play to determine the top spot.

Year 7 netball came 1st in the Excel Manchester netball league

Year 8 netball came 2nd in the Excel Manchester netball league.

Year 9 netball came 4th in the Excel Manchester netball league.

Year 10 netball came 1st in the Inspire Manchester netball league

Year 11 netball came 1st in the Inspire Manchester netball league

The year 8 Boys basketball team is having an incredible season. They beat Trinity Boys with a final score of 51-11 and beat Chorlton High School South with a score of 56-6.

As part of the NBA Junior League, the year 8 Boys are representing the Charlotte Hornets and they have played 8 games. They dominated the court with the boys winning all 8 games. The team are now entered into the play offs where they aim to continue their winning streak.

Swimming at Parris Wood has been amazing this year. The Key Stage 4 Swimming team entered the Manchester Swimming Gala and entered 9 races. In total, the team won 6 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 1 bronze.

There have been many exciting Athletics events and competitions this year.

The year 7 athletics team entered the Manchester School Track and Field Championships for the first time in their school journey. The Girls athletics team came 3rd overall and the Boys athletics team came 4th.

The year 8 and 9 athletics team entered the Manchester School Track and Field Championships. Both the Girls team and the Boys team came 4th.

Well done to all our sporting stars.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

As part of International Women's Day, DHL and Manchester Airport invited 25 Year 10 girls to the Aerozone at Terminal 2. Throughout the day, the students explored a variety of careers opportunities available to them in the future at the airport, but also received a tour of the new Terminal 2 building and were given a rather tasty networking lunch! The students were absolutely fantastic and the staff at both DHL and



Manchester Airport commented that they were the best group they'd ever had in. They enjoyed it so much that they've invited us back next year! Great job, girls!

Mrs Catterall and Ms Woodward



ECO CLUB

In March, some of our Y7 and Y8 Eco Club students attended the GMET1 conference at Old Trafford. Pupils met with others from Whalley Range, Levenshulme and TEMA to work on our school's Climate Action Plan. The students delivered a presentation on their successes and challenges over the past 18 months and have begun setting out their goals to make Parrs Wood even greener! Well done everyone!

Mrs Catterall and Ms Tuffley



GARDENING THERAPY GROUP



Since September, I have been running a Gardening Therapy Group at the Parrs Wood Environment Centre with Kit Walker. It is the continuation of an Intervention Group previously run by Kit and Mrs Fletcher. We take 5 or 6 pupils from Year 7 for a two-hour session each week. The children access the wonderful rural surroundings, and we cover different aspects of wildlife, teach them how to grow their own fruit and vegetables and help them understand how to care for plants. Besides being a great opportunity to learn about a healthy lifestyle (i.e. exercise, diet and teamwork) the time the pupils spend together helps to build friendships. They are provided with a safe place to talk and encourage positive Mental Health and wellbeing. Furthermore, it helps develop their speech, language and communication needs. Through the patience, kindness and enthusiasm delivered by Kit, the children learn how to form and sustain positive relationships not just with their peers, but adults as well. There is definitely a great sense that we all work together as a team. After a specified period of time the pupils receive Certification from the John Muir Award Institution. They also reap the rewards of harvesting what they have grown over the seasons. I have seen bags of carrots and onions, beans and tomatoes and flowers and more all collected and taken home by the children. I am extremely pleased to be part of this group. I enjoy being in the delightful grounds that the 'Friends of Parrs Wood' nurture and maintain. It is a good link between themselves and the school. I love the peacefulness of the gardens, the lush trees and full orchards that appear. I know that the children really appreciate it all as well. I also love to tell people that I am part of a team that can cultivate pineapples, even in Manchester!

Mr Largon

STARTING THEIR JOURNEY – KEY STAGE 3

Key stage 3 started their Careers journey in PSHE. Year 7 discovered enterprise, Chris's story, jobs behind their favourite TV programme. Year 8 recognised the importance of skills alongside jobs creating computer games. While Year 9 took their first step on their career path by choosing their GCSEs. This involved lots of activities: Year 9 choices evening, subject assemblies all interwoven with careers information and an assembly about Future Pathways from Stockport College. They also had the opportunity to gain support from our independent careers advisor at the Choices Evening while the other year groups had the opportunity to ask our careers advisor questions as part of their PSHE programme.



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Everyone celebrated National Careers Week with some fantastic employers joining our pupils as part of their assembly programme. They met Remi and Femi from Factory International who enthused about the importance of imagination or original ideas in their creative careers as well as a wide range of other careers.



Holly, Tanisha and Charlotte from Ipsos, a global market research business inspired us with their very different career journeys and amazing job as research executives.

Aline, a Senior Project Engineer, from Wates, chatted about how she enjoyed problem solving and organisation in her job alongside managing a project team.



Ali from United Utilities spoke about his engineering apprenticeship which he started after school, the recruitment process and the opportunities ahead including a degree apprenticeship.

Rachel a regulatory lawyer explained about her working life and the importance of work experience and volunteering as part of a professional job application.

FUTURE CHOICES DAY

The Sixth-Form, experienced Future Choice Day, a one-shop stop to gather information on their Future Choices. There were talks from universities, apprenticeship providers and employers plus a visit to The Discovery fair in Manchester. Everybody took something different from the day – some got the most from learning about university life from current university students, others were inspired by the career journeys of the ladies from Ipsos, while others filled the gaps in their knowledge about their future career paths. The visit to the Discovery Fair in Manchester was universally informative and enjoyable by students, giving them the opportunity to ask questions of their chosen universities and meet apprenticeship providers.

There were also more apprenticeship inputs for Year 11 and 6th form from the apprenticeship academy who specialise in accountancy and finance, data analysis and business apprenticeships amongst other jobs with training, while our careers advisors were working with Year 11 and Year 12 through one to one careers appointments.



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

Spring 2024

 @PWHs_OFFICIAL
 @PARRSWOODSCHOOL
 @OFFICIAL_PWHs