



18 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another successful year for the students of Park High draws to a close. Thank you for your ongoing partnership work with us helping your children be the very best they can be. It has been lovely to see so many of you able to attend the celebration assemblies in these last few weeks of the year. Review Day was also well attended and many of you took the time to tell us how much you appreciated this opportunity to review the year with your child, and be clear on what they need to do to improve, even more, in their learning next year. This partnership helps your children feel safe knowing that school and home want the very best for them.

The school was assessed on Friday 11th July for the Careers award for Careers Education from Investors in Careers. We are delighted to announce that Park High has once again been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard, the national quality award for excellence in careers education, information, advice, and guidance. This award recognises our commitment to preparing all students for life beyond school – equipping them with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to make informed decisions about their future education, training, and employment.

Careers

Split over the course of two weeks, our Year 10 students embraced the opportunity to gain real-world experience through their work placements. As a key component of the Year 10 careers program, this initiative provides students with a valuable insight into the professional world and helps them explore potential career pathways. We've received wonderful feedback from employers, highlighting the maturity and enthusiasm of our students during their placements. We hope the experience was both inspiring and enriching, giving them a clearer sense of the possibilities that lie ahead!

Performing Arts

In Music, students excelled themselves in the summer concert presenting a range of music from a range of styles. Students had further opportunities to attend workshops with the Mozartists and concerts by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Performing Arts Department is so proud of the achievements throughout the year, with the highlights of 'Grease – The Musical' and receiving Arts Mark Gold in the Spring Term. We have continued to thrive and be busy throughout the summer term. We have held trips to Shakespeare's Globe, Regents Park Open Air Theatre, The West End and The Lyric Theatre, plus completing an exciting performance at the professional theatre in Roehampton University. We have also held auditions for our next musical 'Matilda' and started intense rehearsals. We look forward to what the next academic year after such a busy, exciting and artistic year!

Trips

It has been a vibrant and enriching term for school trips across departments. Year 12 Politics students explored the iconic landmarks of New York City and Washington DC, while Duke of Edinburgh participants completed their Bronze expedition around Chesham. Year 12 Sociology and Debate Club students visited the Royal Courts of Justice, deepening their understanding of Crime and Deviance. Year 10 Art students found inspiration at The

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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Wallace Collection's *Delusions of Grandeur* exhibition. Performing Arts students experienced a professional rehearsal at the University of Roehampton, collaborating with peers from other schools. Psychology students observed a range of animals during their visit to London Zoo, and Year 10 Geographers applied classroom knowledge during a residential fieldwork trip to the Dorset coast. Meanwhile, our most enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 Science Club members explored Fitzwilliam College and the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge.

Sports News

We had a fantastic week celebrating Sports Days for each year group. Students gave it their all in the 100m, relay, high jump, shot put, javelin, netball, basketball, volleyball & rounders. A brilliant display of effort, teamwork, and school spirit!

It is another record-breaking year for Sport at Park High and it has been a pleasure to see the hard work our students have put in with our coaches, to allow them to achieve such success. Our upward trajectory since COVID continues, with a haul of no less than 17 borough championships this year. We achieved 15 in 2023-24, 13 in 2022-23 and 6 in the year competition returned after COVID (2021-22). We look set to top the state schools league table for sport once again, in both the boys and girls categories, finishing 1st out of 12 schools who enter girls competitions and 1st out for 11 for the boys. We are again the most decorated school, with 32 first or second placed finishes in borough competitions, while we proudly boast a participation rate of 97%. Well done to the Netball, Athletics and Cricket teams who added trophies this term to take us over the line!

Home Learning

Our approach to home-learning continues to evolve to better support student progress and independence. Grounded in educational research, tasks will be meaningful, manageable, and closely aligned with curriculum goals. This is part of our ongoing commitment to developing students' lifelong learning skills. Your continued support at home—through encouraging routines and taking an interest in your child's learning—plays a vital role in their success. A copy of the home-learning model is included at the end of this letter.

[Home Learning Model](#)

Charity

Our charitable endeavours this half term were focussed on The Big PARK HIGH Help Out, a volunteering project focussed on giving time. Students participated in a range of events including a food collection for our charity partner, *Feast With Us*, writing birthday cards for local old age home residents, volunteering at home and at school. Overall, this year we have raised almost £3000 for various charities – thank you to everyone for your ongoing support

Student Wellbeing during the Summer Term Break

We understand that young people may need to access some support for their wellbeing and there are a number of organisations signposted on our school website here. In particular we would like to draw your attention to Kooth, which is a free, safe, and anonymous online mental health service commissioned across the UK by the NHS, Local Authorities and Charities to provide free online mental health support. If you are worried about your child and would like further support, please contact your Pastoral Team when we return to school.

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Summer School Enrichment Opportunity

We are delighted to offer a wide range of engaging activities for our students to explore during the summer holidays. We have put together a list of free days out and places to visit, from museums and workshops to animal farms. In addition, there are a variety of puzzles, competitions and enrichment activities which are



designed to enhance our student’s educational experience. These resources can be accessed on the school website and through the link provided here: [Summer School](#).

Policies

A quick reference to our school policies which can be found on our website here: [Policies](#).

Finally, we were very pleased to host our new year 7 students and meet their parents on the 2nd July, we look forward to welcoming them to the Park High community in September.

- **A level results day is Thursday 14th August.**
- **GCSE results day is Thursday 21st August.**

Students will have already been informed of the procedures for collecting their results. We look forward to celebrating their success with them.

I draw your attention to the letter you will have received from Mrs Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher setting out our expectations for students in September including information on uniform and equipment and the timings of your child’s first day back in September. A quick reminder here, school reopens to students on Tuesday 2nd September as follows:

Key Dates for Next Term:

<p>Students return to school</p> <p><i>(please note year groups will have a staggered return, this will affect their arrival and departure times)</i></p>	<p>Tuesday 2nd September 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7: 8.40am - 2.20pm • Year 8: 1.30pm - 3.10pm • Year 9: 1.30pm - 3.10pm • Year 10: 11am - 12.40pm • Year 11: 11am - 12.40pm • Year 12: 8.40am - 12.40pm • Year 13: 1.30pm - 3.10pm
<p>Year 12 Parent Welcome & Information Evening</p>	<p>Tuesday 9th September 2025 from 5.30 - 6pm</p>
<p>Year 11 Curriculum Evening</p>	<p>Thursday 11th September 2025 from 6.30 – 7.30pm</p>
<p>Open Evening for prospective students</p>	<p>Thursday 18th September 2025 between 6-8pm</p>

I wish all of our families a safe and restful summer break and look forward to seeing our students return enthusiastic for their learning in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colette O’Dwyer
Headteacher

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