



17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great half term, we were delighted with both our GCSE and A Level results and extremely pleased that our Sixth Form is bursting at the seams with enthusiastic and hard working students. Year 7 have made a great start settling in well into high school, it was lovely to see so many Year 7 parents join us on Wednesday 8 October for the Information Evening.

Events this Half Term

We have been celebrating language and culture with the MFL department. On 26th September, they helped us mark the European Day of Languages with activities across the school, including Art students creating flags and a special lunch menu.

Students have been fortunate to take part in a number of exciting and interesting workshops. We welcomed educational psychologist Dr Martijn van der Spoel back to Park High to speak to the Sixth Form. He shared advice on improving their motivation and tips for increasing focus for their coming exams. On the same day, contemporary British artist, Jeanette Barnes, ran a two day workshop for Year 11 Art students where she helped them develop their creativity and explore new ways of creating images.

Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge on 30th September. Each student wrote and delivered a short speech, showcasing personal courage and growth. The top six students will compete against representatives from other schools later in the year.

In September, students in Years 7–11 took part in powerful assemblies led by the Breck Foundation, learning about online safety through the real-life story of Breck Bednar. The Foundation shares Breck's story to help young people recognise the signs of grooming and build safe online relationships. Yannika, who led the assemblies from Breck, commented "Park High was a marvellous school to work with – they were organised, and I felt so welcome whilst on site as an external speaker. The students were polite, engaged and respectful during the sessions which made my job effortless. Looking forward to returning in January for our next round of presentations!" Our student's thoughtful questions and attentiveness in the sessions reflected our school's strong values, and we're proud of how they represented Park High. We look forward to revisiting the key messages from the presentations in the future.

We are always thrilled to be able to offer our students trips and experiences beyond the school, and there have been several this half-term.

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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This school has an
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Year 12 students studying Economics, Business or Mathematics had the opportunity to attend a finance-based workshop at the EY office in Canary Wharf, learning key employability skills. A Level Business students also visited and toured the Wimbledon tennis club, learning about the iconic competition's branding, history, marketing, finances and management. Students from Years 8 to 11 attended an MFL conference, 'Human Voices in a Brave New World,' where they learnt about the importance of creativity in a world increasingly driven by artificial intelligence.

Years 8 and 9 students enjoyed their recent trips – with Year 8 going to Grippid in Hounslow, and Year 9 heading to Go Ape in Slough. These were two fantastic opportunities for students to challenge themselves, support others and strengthen bonds of friendship as they climbed the high ropes and swung from ziplines in the trees.

GCSE Music students attended a fascinating and empowering talk by classical musicians from the Kanneh-Mason family, 'To Be Young, Gifted and Black,' which explored their work in the music industry and how they had to overcome racism.

Sports News

It was a half term of both celebration and eager anticipation in sport at Park High. Over a hundred students and their families were rewarded for their achievements from 2024-25, at our annual Sports Awards Evening.

Many more set out on their journeys for this season, looking to emulate those successes. Training with our coaches got underway in earnest and the early stages of the volleyball, badminton, table tennis, football and netball competitions gave us an exciting glimpse of what is to come this season.

Our U16 basketball team, U14 Netball team and U13 and U15 football teams also began their campaigns in regional or national competitions after successful performances in the borough last year.

Policies

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

Student Wellbeing During the Half 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.

School reopens for all students on Monday 3rd November 2025. Mock Exams for Year 11 begin week commencing 17th November.

I wish you and your families a peaceful half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher