



17 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting half term at Park High, full of trips, guest speakers, inspirational opportunities and much more. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child's attendance at school as well as their learning. We continue to celebrate our students' achievements through the weekly bulletin, and I recommend it to you – it truly reflects our happy enthusiastic students!

Events this Half Term

We were all incredibly proud of the maturity and respect shown during our Remembrance Day commemorations. For the first time, the whole school came together in the playground for the two-minute silence, which was followed by Prefects and the Head Boy and Head Girl laying wreaths at our memorial to the fallen. Continuing to reflect on the World Wars, Year 11 History students had a three-day trip to Belgium and France to visit First World War battlefields. They visited trenches, memorials, war cemeteries, museums and Flanders Fields – the site of one of the most famous battles of the war.

There were many arts and cultural events this half term, including A-Level Drama and History classes combining for a visit to the theatre to watch Coven – a powerful piece of musical theatre exploring stories of women falsely accused of witchcraft. Year 8-10 students had a trip to listen to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and we welcomed back the Motzartists to run music workshops with Years 9 and 10. We have begun running monthly lunchtime music concerts as a fantastic showcase of our students' skills, where audience members have been treated to performances ranging from classical composers to Foo Fighters. Art and Photography students took a trip to Old Street in London to capture its sights and vibrant street art, giving them an opportunity to experiment with new styles for their own work.

We have also given our students many opportunities to explore new technology and future career paths. 16 of our students have made it to the first stage of the prestigious annual Bebras Computing Challenge, placing them among the top 10% of students in the country. The competition tests problem-solving and computational thinking skills, with participants from over 80 countries taking part. Year 10 Computer Science students took part in Digital BIMA Day, a one-of-a-kind experience where students tackled challenges set by HelloFresh and Aston Martin to develop innovative new digital strategies. Additionally, Year 12 students attended the 'Computer Science in Action' workshop, where they heard from leading figures, such as the inventor of the Raspberry Pi, with topics ranging from the future of AI to practical exam techniques.

Girls in Year 9 took part in an exciting workshop at SAP's (System Applications and Products in Data Processing) main office in Feltham to inspire more girls to take up careers in STEAM (Science,

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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Registered office: Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, HA7 1PL



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Artsmark
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Awarded by Arts
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CHALLENGE
PARTNERS



Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). The day included a tour of their high-tech offices, a demonstration of their robotic dog and creating a Machine Learning Model. Year 9 boys attended the annual 'Rocking Ur Teens' Boys Conference which celebrated International Men's Day. The inspirational day had talks from Olympic medallist Anthony Harding and social media influencers Josh and Moyo. The event encouraged our students to raise their aspirations, explore diverse opportunities and reflect on how they can make a positive impact.

Guest speaker Andrew Bernard talked to Year 10 about healthy relationships, coercive control and positive masculinity. He pushed students to challenge common stereotypes and inspired them to reflect on the many positive relationships and role models in their lives.

We are proud of our students, and we know there are many future leaders in our midst, and we encourage them to step up and make a difference to their community. Year 9 students attended the WildHearts Global Youth Summit, organised to coincide with the COP30 conference. The event brought together young people and leading corporations to discuss sustainability and ethical business practices. Representatives from Nestle, Siemens, Zurich Insurance and many more international companies engaged students in activities and taught them about their careers.

Year 12 Politics students visited the Palace of Westminster and toured the Houses of Parliament. They took part in workshops that tested their knowledge and challenged them to reflect on how the political theory they learn in the classroom becomes a daily reality.

We once again ran the Jack Petchey Speak Out speech writing and public speaking competition for Year 10, with semi-finalists delivered their speeches in a special assembly. Our winners, Mohammed Ababneh and Elena Yu will now progress to the Regional Finals in March. Three students, Darius Diaconu, Darius Vrajescu and Dylan Patel, have become our latest winners of the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards. These awards represent their dedication, hard work and consistent demonstration of our school's character virtues.

Sporting Events

As we approach Christmas, many of the sports we compete in, across the borough, are progressing towards the knock-out stages or finals. All of our Table Tennis, Badminton and Volleyball teams remain in the hunt for borough championships, and these teams are now training hard ahead of their various semi-finals or finals. The Park High U13 Table Tennis team have made it to the London finals in January 2026, a first for the school. We are delighted that our U13 football team face Alexandra Park in January in the quarterfinals of the Middlesex competition. All our basketball teams are building an impressive string of 'W's in borough group stages, with our U13s looking ahead to the Junior NBA which gets going in the new year. The U16 Netball team are eagerly awaiting their semifinal, date to be confirmed, while our other sporting teams have been enjoying specialist coaching in the build up to their seasons.

Latest Sporting News, Tuesday 16 December

The U16 Basketball team enjoyed a home win against Totteridge Academy in the national finals, a score of 50-45 in extra time. Well done to the team! Many thanks to the parents and extended families who came to cheer them on.

Charity

This term the school has raised money for MIND, Children in Need, MacMillan Cancer Support and Save the Children in a range of projects led by our Sixth Form, student charity committee and staff. Next term, we will raise money for Red Nose Day. Thank you, in particular, to everyone who helped raise over £800 for Children in Need with a week of fun activities, doughnut sales and raising awareness of this important charity.



Rewards

We are proud to recognise and celebrate student achievements across the school. Character Points are awarded to students who demonstrate our core virtues of Compassion, Resilience, Integrity, Teamwork, and Curiosity. To date, an impressive 35,825 Character Points have been awarded across all year groups, enabling students to earn bronze, silver, and gold badges in recognition of their efforts. As part of our ACE Walks (Achievement, Character, and Engagement), staff nominate students who excel in lessons and embody these values. Each week, two students are randomly selected from these nominations to receive an ACE Award, which includes a £10 Amazon voucher. It is inspiring to see so many students nominated weekly for their outstanding contributions.

We are also delighted to have continued welcoming parents to our Celebration Assemblies this term. A heartfelt thank you to the 163 parents who attended across all year groups. Your presence makes these occasions even more special, and our students truly value having their families share in their success – both within their curriculum areas and in their wider school life. Together, we look forward to building on this success and continuing to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students in the months ahead.

Careers

In November, Year 10 students had the opportunity to have a one-to-one mock interview with an industry professional and receive feedback on both their interview skills and CV. It was wonderful to hear students talking about their experience and be proud of the comments they had received. 225 students provided feedback that was overwhelmingly positive. 44 professionals from a broad range of industries attended the day. They were all extremely complimentary about how respectful the students were and how welcome the school made them feel. They were also impressed with how curious, yet confident students were.

Year 11 and 13 Practice Exams

Year 11 and Year 13 have completed the practice exams in time for a rest over Christmas before they apply themselves once again to their studies. Year 11 have had the opportunity to taste how life might be in Sixth Form or College, and most have now realised how close they are now to those final exams. The Pastoral team will have contacted you separately about booking your appointments for the upcoming Parent Teacher Consultation Meetings:

Year 11 Band A Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting is 15th January 2026

Year 11 Band B Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting is 21st January 2026

Student Production

Rehearsals for 'Matilda' are in full swing. We look forward to seeing you at one of the two performances in January, Wednesday 28 January and Thursday 29 January 2026. You will have seen separate communication regarding availability of tickets.

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Policies

A quick reference to our school policies can be found here: [Behaviour Policy](#), [Mobile Phone Policy](#), [Uniform Policy](#). These policies are available on our school website too.

Student Wellbeing During the Christmas Holidays

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 in January.

Start of Term

- **School reopens for all students on Monday 5th January 2026.**

In the event that we have severe weather conditions in the new year, please check the school website for all the details relevant to your child's year group.

I wish all our families a restful, peaceful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year. Stay safe and well.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher