



17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another successful year at Park High draws to a close. In this, my last letter to you before my retirement, I thank you for all the support you have given to the school. Our students thrive and succeed when they see parents and school working in partnership to help them be the best they can be.

It has been a privilege to serve the Park High Community for twenty-five years, the last seven as Headteacher. The school will continue to go from strength to strength under the leadership of our new Headteacher Mr Neil Darby and I look forward to reading and hearing of its ongoing successes.

Sporting Events

It has been another exciting year in the world of sport at Park High, with tremendous amounts of hard work, an extensive range of opportunities and a glittering record of success. Once again, we are proud to report that we have entered teams or individuals into every sport on offer at the borough level. Our students have also enjoyed fantastic experiences in many county or national competitions, including in football, basketball, netball, cricket, athletics, table tennis and badminton. The boys are winning by a margin which cannot be closed as of yet, but I am confident of their determination to succeed, and the girls are just 2 points behind their opponents, however due to weather postponements, the competitive season will not be concluded until early September. We will bring news of our final tally of borough trophies for 2025-26 (which currently sits at 16) and news of our final standings in the Harrow Schools Sports Championship, as we go for titles for the third successive year. Well done to all the students involved!

Careers

Year 10 students successfully completed their work experience placement, where they gained invaluable first-hand insight into the world of work. Placements ranged from working alongside the team constructing HS2, supporting staff at Queens Park Rangers Football Club and undertaking a wide variety of roles within retail, mechanics, architecture, education and a range of other sectors. We received excellent feedback from employers, who praised our students for their professionalism, enthusiasm and eagerness to learn.

During the Sixth Form Futures Week, Year 12 students benefited from a programme of careers and higher education activities designed to support their next steps. We welcomed 18 guest speakers from a diverse range of industries, who shared valuable insights into their career journeys, offered

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1PL Tel: [020 8952 2803](tel:02089522803) www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk

Twitter: [@ParkHighNews](https://twitter.com/ParkHighNews)

Facebook: [@ParkHighStanmoreOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/ParkHighStanmoreOfficial)

Email: info@parkhighstanmore.org.uk

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practical advice on applying to university, apprenticeships or work, and provided guidance on successful interview techniques. Students also took part in the online “I’m a...” live text chats, where they had the opportunity to ask questions directly to professional working in Computer Science, Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Geography, helping them to explore potential career pathways and make informed decisions about their futures.

Events this Half Term

Our new House System has truly begun to flourish this half term, beginning on a high as the Sixth Form Student Leadership Teams ran our first ever House Assemblies. I was greatly moved seeing students from all year groups joining together to build a deeper sense of belonging and community throughout the school. There has been a growing culture of friendly competition, as students have started competing in Sports Days for their House as well as their tutor group, which has definitely heightened the excitement of the day. A huge well done to the team from Regent’s Park, who won our inaugural Chess House Competition.

While we contended with the heatwave, students from Years 7 and 8 stayed cool under giant canopies during their residential trips to Boughton Woods. Over three days, they built their own tents, learnt new survival skills and created lifelong memories with friends.

The Music department put on an inspiring Summer Concert, and have continued to find performance opportunities for students, whether in assemblies, open evenings or informal lunchtime recitals. Three students completed their diploma piano exam and had the opportunity to rehearse on a grand piano at a local school prior to their exam. Auditions have been completed for next year’s musical, High School Musical, and we continue to have a strong number of students learning an instrument in school, which is a testament to the talented team of instrumental teachers at Park High.

I would like to congratulate our latest Jack Petchey winners, Tia in 7BG, Leon in 9SK and Riyan in 11PW. They represent the best of our school as responsible, supportive and dedicated members of the community.

Our congratulations goes to the nine Year 12 students who won Park High’s first DVS Awards. The DVS Awards aim to recognise students making significant contribution to their schools and communities and is particularly advantageous for Year 12 students, as it marks a pivotal transition into adulthood. The Awards celebrate students who embody the values represented in the following award categories:

Kindness • Resilience • Ambition • Leadership • Community Impact • Integrity & Respect • Environmental Stewardship • Teamwork & Collaboration • Innovative Thinking • Personal Growth

I was greatly impressed by the confident performances and inspiring topics presented in the Year 7, 8 and 9 Ignite public speaking competitions. It takes bravery to use your voice and speak from the heart in front of your peers, and once again our students have proven their maturity and professionalism in how they address the important topics of our time.

We opened our doors to over 270, Year 6 students for their Transition Day before they join the school in September as our new Year 7 cohort. They already show promise for their Park High career, arriving with enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and demonstrating our school virtues. Similarly, we recently welcomed 120, Year 5 students from Priestmead Primary School, who took part in Science and Design and Technology activities where they got a taste of secondary school life.



Students always enjoy careers events and opportunities to broaden their horizons and see classroom learning translate into real life. This is what inspired one of our WildHearts Micro-Tyco teams, who came third in the national entrepreneurship competition to pitch social action projects to leading business professionals. Later, Year 7 and 8 students attended an empowering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Business) workshop at Imperial College London, where one of our students won a JPMorgan Chase competition to design a new application.

The end of this school year sees us say farewell to both teaching and support staff colleagues. Mrs Donna Foster our Careers Employability Co-ordinator retires after 10 years of service as does our Office Administrator, Mrs Sue Kent who has dedicated 25 years of service to our community. Mr Simon Lordan, Head of Art leaves us to work closer to home after 10 years at Park, two of which he served as an Associate Assistant Headteacher on the Senior Leadership Team.

We wish them well as they begin the next chapter in their lives and thank them for all they have done to support our students.

Student Wellbeing during the Summer Holiday

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.

Policies

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

- **A Level results day is Thursday 13th August.**
- **GCSE results day is Thursday 20th 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

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equipment and the timings of your child's first day back in September. Please [click here](#) to read the letter in full.

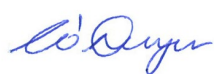
A quick reminder, school reopens to students on Wednesday 2nd September as follows:

Key Dates for Next Term:

Students return to school <i>(Please note, year groups will have staggered return, this will affect their arrival and departure times.)</i>	Wednesday 2nd September 2026 • Year 7: 8.40am – 2.20pm • Year 8: 1.30pm – 3.10pm • Year 9: 1.30pm – 3.10pm • Year 10: 11.00am – 12.40pm • Year 11: 11.00am – 12.40pm • Year 12: 8.40am – 12.40pm • Year 13: 1.30pm – 3.10pm
Year 12 Parent Welcome & Information Evening	Wednesday 23 rd September 2026
Year 11 Curriculum Evening	Monday 7 th September 2026
Open Evening for prospective students	Thursday 17 th September 2026, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

I wish all our families a safe and restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher