

Sixth Form

End of Summer Term Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy but successful final term at Park High Sixth Form. Health and safety has been a constant priority and we have worked within these requirements to ensure that we could still offer students as many opportunities as possible. Please find below a selection of our key events and headlines regarding our latest news.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Sixth Form tutor team and teaching staff for their hard work supporting our students across this past year.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mr Goulding as a tutor at the end of this term – he has been a fantastic support for 12 HA and will be much missed but I am sure you join us in wishing him the best with his new Year 8 form. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Unadkat as the new tutor of what will become 13VU – she is very experienced with the Year 13 post-18 processes having been a longstanding Sixth Form tutor in addition to her role as Head of Social Sciences. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Kapur this term – she has been a fantastic tutor to 12NK and as a teacher of Economics and Maths. Huge thank you to Mrs Kapur for all her hard work supporting our Sixth Formers.

We are already looking ahead to plans for next term – please note that this begins for Key Stage Five students on Monday 6th September. Year 13 will be processing their post-18 applications and this summer break is an invaluable chance for students to continue their research on this.

Finally, I would also like to thank you all as parents and carers for your continued support of the Sixth Form. May we take this opportunity to wish you a restful summer break and our hope that you and your families stay safe and well. We are really looking forward to welcoming Year 12 back as our new Year 13 cohort in September.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Barker



Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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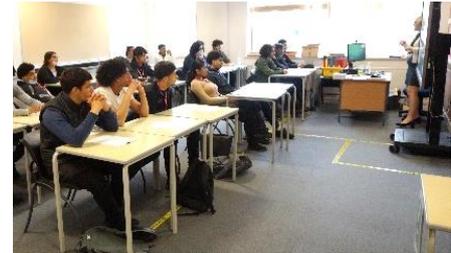
UCAS & Post-18 pathways week

From the 6th to the 9th July we had our Year 12 UCAS & Post-18 Pathways week. Virtually we hosted a range of speakers from around the country who delivered some fascinating talks to our Sixth Formers on higher education, jobs and apprenticeships. We also invited back two past Park High Sixth Formers to complete a Q&A, describing their experiences and advice following their first two years at university. Students were able to take part in two interactive electives with Park High staff which for a number included learning how to cook on a budget – there were some interesting pasta dishes produced at the end! Students also had time to complete structured research and preparation tasks designed to help with the decision-making process.

We were delighted that we were able to take students to visit De Montfort University. This trip allowed Year 12 to gain a sense of university living, meet academics and staff and hear some key advice and guidance on determining next steps post-18. I was really impressed by their engagement with the talks and activities.

Feedback from students has been very positive, with 100% of the evaluation forms stating that they found the Post-18 Pathways week useful. Comments included– *"It's given me lots of information and support and answered all of my questions and cleared up any confusion"* and *"I was able to obtain a lot of useful information that will help me make important decisions in my career and education"*.

Thank you so much to the Sixth Form tutor team and staff for their amazing work helping me set this week up.



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Lumina

A number of our students were successful in their application to the Harrow School 'Lumina' programme. Running in line with the Year 12 UCAS & Post-18 pathways week, our Year 12 attendees were able to access a variety of interactive live lectures and Q&A sessions from Oxford and Cambridge admissions tutors and lecturers, as well as webinars with current undergraduates to discuss the transition to university life. Well done to all those student who got involved!



Personal, Social, Health, Economics and Citizenship education (PSHCEe)

Our Year 12s been enjoying studying both wellbeing, exam preparation and democracy in PSHCEe across this term.

Brilliant club

We are delighted that a number of our student's graduated this term from The Brilliant Club Scholar's Programme. Students attended tutorial programmes with a PhD researcher and then used the skills and information learnt from these sessions to complete their own assignment. Graduating from this programme represents a huge achievement and all the Year 12s involved should be very proud of themselves.

Impressively, the participants involved who achieved either a 1st or a 2:1 in the Scholars Programme are now eligible for reduced offer from the University of Bath, a fantastic outcome, very well done!

Attendance and Punctuality

We have been incredibly impressed by Year 12's attendance across this year which currently stands at 96% which is excellent (12PI are right up at the top with 97%!) Over half the year group have 100% perfect attendance and punctuality. Given the challenges students have faced this is a remarkable figure and we would like to also thank parents and carers for their support at home. Mr Samuels, our pastoral support assistant at the Sixth Form sends this message to the students – *"I am very impressed with how you have carried on with the high expectations you have set yourself. Keep up the hard work!"*



The Brilliant Club

School Captains

We were delighted to appoint our new School Captains this term. The quality of applications was outstanding and both Mrs O'Dwyer and myself were incredibly impressed with the calibre of all candidates during their presentations and interviews. I am delighted to say that we now have an outstanding team of over forty and we are really looking forward to working with them from September. You can meet the leaders of this team here on our website:

<https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/sixthform/studentlife>

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Virtual Talks, Virtual Open Days and Work Experience

Students have been sent an array of offers during the last term and many have been proactive at applying for these. Just some of the events attended have included a range of summer schools with universities such as Southampton, York and UCL, live webinars with a selection of speakers including Michael Rosen, insight events including the NHS and work experience at a number of companies including technology and law firms. There have also been national writing and art competitions advertised and an array of summer programmes. All of these events are collated and available to be re-visited either here:

https://parkhighschool.sharepoint.com/sites/PHS-Careers_Employability or here:

<https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/sixthform/eventsandopportunities>

Students have been able to 'visit' a wealth of universities through virtual open days and tours through the comfort of their own homes! Thank you to Mrs Foster for also arranging independent career meetings for Year 12 during this period and the chance for Year 12s to have individual advice and feedback on their Curriculum Vitae's.

We were also fortunate to have a virtual Q&A by a sitting member of the House of Lords, Lord Kennedy of Southwark. Thank you to all the students who attended and asked some excellent questions!

Well done to all those students who have been making the most of the opportunities made available – we have really enjoyed hearing about your experiences and feedback on the events attended. On the next page are highlights shared by three students following their attendance at some of these events.



Open Days, Tours & Taster Days

28 June - 2 July Medicine Taster

6 July University of Cambridge Enhanced Open Day Webinar

9 July Cambridge Virtual Open Days

Talks, Webinars and Workshops

Oxford University access webinars

July

August

The University of Bradford webinars

Channel Talent is a live and interactive video conferencing / webinar service

Harrow Prospects

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Work experiences, Internships and Work Placements

15 - 17 June Farrans Construction Virtual Work Experience
23 June Mintra Limited Virtual Work Experience
23-24 June L'Oréal Digital Careers Virtual Work Experience
2 July Law Virtual Work Experience
5-7 July TechTheFuture Virtual Work Experience
13-14 July Escape Studios Virtual work experience
26 - 30 July WaterAid Work Experience Programme
2 August Construction & Civil Engineering Virtual Work Experience

Courses

Apply: Cambridge programme
Old Vic Theatre Makers five-month programme
Year 13 Leadership Academy 2021
Psychology Reading Group
LSE Politics Conference and Management Masterclass
Are you a leader or a follower? employability and confidence sessions
University of Cambridge Subject Masterclasses
Queen Mary Study Skills Course

Name	Mithurshaan
Opportunity attended	<i>NHS Insights – Meet a Physiotherapist</i>
What I enjoyed and learnt from the course	The talk was very informative, I went in with my mind fixed on Physiotherapy but as the talk went on I was introduced to nurses, midwives and many more. I found this helpful as it gave me an insight into more careers within the NHS I wouldn't have considered before. I was particularly interested in the varied responses they gave as to their "day in the life" and they pointed out skills they believed were essential to work in healthcare. The talk helped me choose a more refined career path for me and they also gave me tips on writing personal statements as well as possible examples of work experience (considering this year it was harder due to Covid).
Name	Vanshi
Opportunity attended	<i>University of Brighton online summer school – Biological Sciences</i>
What I enjoyed and learnt from the course	<p>I recently completed an online school run by the University of Brighton. The online school had many different subjects to choose from and I had chosen the sciences school as it includes Biology which I want to study further.</p> <p>The school was four days long and had different activities each day. Many of the tasks were independent so the activities could be completed at your own pace. There was also a teams meeting each day that allowed you to ask lecturers and students questions about either the project or course in general.</p> <p>The first day of the school involved watching lectures to experience the teaching style and the sort of content that may be covered. There were also talks from students describing their experience of student life.</p> <p>Day two included completing a project relating to the course you want to study further. The project included researching and reading studies on a topic. After completing the project and submitting it, student ambassadors read over your work and provide feedback within a week.</p>

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<p>There were tips on effective learning and studying which were helpful as Year 13 requires you to balance learning new content and going over previous content. There was also a social activity at the end of the day where the different subjects formed teams and competed in different competitions.</p> <p>The final day included some extremely helpful tips on personal statements and how to effectively structure a personal statement. There were also talks for subjects such as medicine that gave tips on how to prepare for interviews. At the end of the course, I received a digital certificate to say that I had finished the course and mentioning this course on my personal statement will aid me in providing evidence of interest in Biology beyond studying it at A-levels.</p>	<p>There were tips on effective learning and studying which were helpful as Year 13 requires you to balance learning new content and going over previous content. There was also a social activity at the end of the day where the different subjects formed teams and competed in different competitions.</p> <p>The final day included some extremely helpful tips on personal statements and how to effectively structure a personal statement. There were also talks for subjects such as medicine that gave tips on how to prepare for interviews. At the end of the course, I received a digital certificate to say that I had finished the course and mentioning this course on my personal statement will aid me in providing evidence of interest in Biology beyond studying it at A-levels.</p>
Name	Shaan
Opportunity attended	<i>UEL Your Future Summer School Challenge; Media, Film and Journalism</i>
What I enjoyed and learnt from the course	<p>The flashing lights of Hollywood. The art of cinema. And the magic of film.</p> <p>Last week I was immersed into the world of film, media and journalism hearing from professionals in the field and having the opportunity to get my own works of art assessed by these mentors. This summer school by the University of East London consisted of engaging lectures, group challenges, reflection tasks and creative briefs, providing me with a wealth of knowledge for the career that I wish to pursue. I was able to open my mind to views of others and experience the diversity in the world.</p> <p>A highlight for me was having the opportunity to create an abstract, poetic form of journalism through social media platforms such as tiktok and Instagram. In this task my group chose to write about 2 comparatively different journeys- one taken by the privileged who have the chance to explore space, and the other being the dangerous journey taken by refugee mothers across seas in hope for a better future for their children. Through film and spoken word, our group contrasted the two journeys to show the divide on Earth, and our ability to express emotion through film led us on to winning this final task.</p> <p>If you are someone who wants to open your mind to the excitement and vibrancy of your future career, take the opportunities given- whether it be a summer school, work experience or virtual talk. Opportunities like these will help you to grow and colour the way in which you view your future.</p>

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AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

I had the pleasure of sitting in on a number of our participating Year 12 EPQ student's presentations this term. Delivered on Teams to a non-specialist panel of teaching staff, I was hugely impressed by the professional, high quality presentation on an array of fascinating topics across the board. Our EPQ students have worked extremely hard on their projects across this academic year and have managed to complete and submit in line with the initial timeline, despite the difficult circumstances they have faced. A fantastic effort by all involved. Below are a couple of our student's topics to give you a sense of some of the impressive work that was undertaken by those involved.

Name	Shreya
EPQ title	How far is the law for juveniles in England and Wales, who commit major crimes, effective in terms of rehabilitation through prison sentences compared to treatment programmes?
What was I surprised about when researching my EPQ?	The fact that each case was treated individually rather than following a generic rule which was applicable to all juveniles.
What did I enjoy most about my EPQ?	Being able to explore a topic which interested me but I did not really know much about. It also helped me narrow my choices for a future career path.
Name	Jenna
EPQ title	Do GCSE grades determine our level of intelligence?
What was I surprised about when researching my EPQ?	I was surprised at the amount of independence we had. Everything from the title of your essay, it's structure and the deadlines you set are all down to you. This ultimately made completing the essay more enjoyable as I had more control.
What did I enjoy most about my EPQ?	I enjoyed researching more on what affects the grades we receive, as well as investigating the meaning of intelligence and the mental health aspect, such as the emphasis on being 'smart' on students.

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