

PARALLEL LEARNING TRUST


Termly newsletter of Trust wide updates!



Contents

A message from the CEO	Page 2
Central Trust Updates	Page 3-6
Kennington Park Academy	Page 7
Park Campus Academy	Page 8
Inspire Academy	Page 9
Wandle Valley Academy	Page 10
Ramsden Hall Academy	Page 11
Sutton House Academy	Page 12
Victory Park Academy	Page 13
Term Dates 2021 - 2022	Page 14

Follow our Twitters!

-  @ParallelLTrust
-  @CampusPark
-  @RamsdenHall
-  @_SuttonHouse_
-  @_VictoryPark_
-  @InspireAcademy9
-  @WandleValleyA
-  @KenningtonPark8



Merry
Christmas &
Happy New Year
From Parallel Learning Trust

A message from the CEO



MARK JORDAN
CEO

The autumn term has certainly proven to be a challenging one for many different reasons with no less than 5 Ofsted inspections taking place across the Trust not to mention the fluctuating situation with the pandemic. In addition to the external validation the executive team also conducted quality assurance reviews as well. The academies all performed consistently well throughout both processes with all academies either maintaining or improving their previous Ofsted grading.

I would like to extend my thanks and that of the Board to staff who have consistently gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic and still found the energy to ensure the academies they worked in were seen in the best light possible.

As you know from my previous updates a lot of work has gone on developing the central Trust Board and this has seen a change of all but 1 Trustees last year so 6 out of 7 changing with Trustees being added so that there were 9 including myself at the start of this academic year. The Trust Board has continued to grow with another 3 Trustees being added during this autumn term so the Trust Board is now operating with the optimum number of 12 Trustees. The biographies of all Trustees can be found on the main Trust website or by clicking on the following link: <https://www.plt.org.uk/governance/members-and-directors>. The organisation is now looking to add 2 additional Members to its ranks to grow the number of Members from 3 up to 5 and diversify the skills and experiences.

As you will be aware there are continuously new variants of Covid that continue to challenge how we educate and support our vulnerable learners. As an organisation we will continue to adhere to government advice and guidance in relation to these matters but the current stance from the government is that all specialist provisions will remain open. Headteachers are aware of this and the need to increase the frequency of testing once positive cases have been identified and this is helping to limit the further spread of infections. I can also confirm to staff that all sites will be professionally cleaned using the fogging system either when an outbreak has been detected and/or over the festive period.

Despite the bleak national picture for education, these remain exciting times for the Trust and the Trust is looking for ways to strengthen and diversify which is important given the additional costs of working through the pandemic. The new build development at Inspire Academy is gathering pace and the design stage part of the build proves is near completion. The Trust is currently in discussion with 3 Local Authorities to better understand how we can diversify to better meet the changing needs of the different areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work and efforts throughout these strange and challenging times and whilst I wish you all a Merry Christmas I hope that you are all considered and measured so you as well as your nearest and dearest remain safe and well, stay safe.

Central Trust Updates

Update from IT: Keith Richards, James Boampong, Matt Tilsley, Jordan Cjatterjee, Jemma Fallon

It has been a busy period for the IT Team as the year is coming to an end. We are proactively strategizing ways to improve network performance across all academies and reviewing all current contracts in order to get the best value for money Trust-wide. We have begun a process of identifying areas of potential money saving opportunities, starting with Microsoft Volume Licensing and RedStor cloud data backups. The new Inspire Academy Build planning phase is still in motion and IT are playing an integral part to ensure all aspects of IT is covered (no stone left unturned). The Department of Education have recently allocated the next batch of devices to academies, as a Trust we intend to order all iPads to facilitate applications such as Lexia. Matthew Tilsley has been setting up and working on a Trust-wide Apple School Manager Portal that will allow all Apple devices to be monitored and configured centrally. The IT Team continues to support Chromebooks alongside our native Windows environment which remains robust across all our academies.

Englantín Muca - Deputy Headteacher at Victory Park Academy & Teaching and Learning Lead

The weeks seem to be racing past and we are fast approaching Christmas.

Lexia - The literacy focus this term across trust is “sentence structures”, all lessons across the curriculum have embedded this into the teaching to help strengthen pupils’ ability to vary their sentences. Part of our literacy strategy was to launch the Lexia online learning programme. “Literacy is fully within reach of the vast majority of learners...Across all our solutions and services, Lexia's approach is focused on sound methodology, engaging experiences, and continued acknowledgement of the value of each individual learner.” Pupils have fully engaged in this programme after being assessed and placed where their needs are within the blocks. So far, all pupils whom have registered have made good progress in their literacy skills and have said they enjoy the online lessons.

Work Scrutiny - This term focus on WS has been pupil feedback and evidence that pupils are recalling information from previous lessons. This could be demonstrated through starter activities in books as well as verbal questioning observed through Learning Walks across Trust. In addition, this links to literacy and numeracy targets in pupils’ books. Pupils, once mastered a skill, need to be continuously showing that skill in use after the date the target has been met. Similarly, if a target has not been met, and pupils show this later in the term this can be noted and dated. This helps build on pupils’ memory and recall skills which are imperative tools for pupils to acquire in order to reach their full potential.

Teaching and Learning Steering Group across the Trust - At the last T and L meeting the PLT Minimum Service Standards were discussed so that all PLT academies are working in the same way to the same schedules and deadlines. This helps to share good practice and experience. This includes WS; LW's; Progress meetings; data drops; moderation both internally and externally; parent and pupil surveys. All dates and information are on one T and L calendar which all academies follow simultaneously.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Central Trust Updates

Anne Sturman - Executive Primary Lead

I took on my new role as the Executive Primary Lead in September 2021 and this has enabled me to work with colleagues from all the academies in a very different way. I have now visited all the sites and have got to know some of the staff and pupils very well. I am humbled by the incredible hard work and commitment towards the pupils that I have seen in all of our academies. It has been a busy start to the school year – with Ofsted inspections and Quality Assurance visits taking place and I am focused on supporting all Leaders in their ceaseless and tireless journeys towards each academy's improvement.

Reading is one of our identified shared areas for improvement across the Trust and I have been working alongside members of the Central Team to review our practice and our aim is to launch a new structured system of teaching reading across the Trust as soon as possible. This will be a challenge as some of our pupils have specific difficulties with reading – including a complete lack of confidence and long periods of disengagement before they joined our academies - but I have every faith that we will 'get there'.

I plan to review the primary curriculum also this academic year and support colleagues in our continuing quest to offer high quality provision to our KS1 and 2 pupils.

I am also responsible for safeguarding across the Trust and in February I will visit each academy and meet with Designated Safeguarding Leads to discuss the audits that have been completed and collated.

Mollie Warne - Marketing, Development and HR Officer

It has been a busy but exciting first term back! I have been working on a number of key HR areas, one of them being policy. I have been working closely with our HR providers, TSAT, to ensure compliancy across key HR policies.

Another key area of focus has been on induction and how we can develop our induction procedure to ensure the best induction possible for new starters across the Trust. We have decided to start doing PLT induction days where new starters from each half term will come to the central office to have a central induction which will give them the opportunity to: meet new starters from other Academies, meet the CEO, meet HR, see where the central office is, understand what PLT is and the culture but most of all... feel connected! These induction days will start from January 2022 and I will keep you posted on how we get on!

The Single Central Records are a constant area of focus for me but as we have had and are due Ofsted Inspections this academic year I have been doing additional checks to ensure compliancy ready for Ofsted.

Another key focus has been on how we can grow our Twitter profiles. I have been doing research into different things the Academies can do to help to get more exposure to their tweets and Twitter profile. One academy that is doing a really great job of this is Inspire Academy! Their Twitter is just growing and growing which is really great to see.

Lastly, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Central Trust Updates

Richard Ashkettle - Health and Safety Officer

With the year coming to an end, I would like to thank all our Site Staff for their hard work and dedication in a year that has posed a unique set of difficulties. Covid has brought with it an added workload and their flexibility in regards to this workload has been key to the continuous opening of our sites wherever possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their compliant nature in regards to the twice weekly Lateral flow testing, social distancing and wearing of face masks in communal areas when asked.

PAT has been undertaken at Park Campus and Kennington Park and is booked to be performed during the Christmas holidays at Victory Park and Sutton House. Works are still ongoing at Ramsden Hall. The Heritage building is having final touches to the ground floor lecture rooms, toilet block and residential bed rooms. This is scheduled to be completed before we break up for the Christmas holidays.

During this term we have interviewed for two positions within Parallel Learning Trust's site staff. I am happy to say that both positions have been filled with both the new Site Staff starting on our return in January.

I will finish this newsletter by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and yet again thank all our site staff for their hard work. Please keep safe, take care of your loved ones, and I look forward to seeing you on-site in the New Year.

Jack O'Connor - VOC lead & Deputy Headteacher at Sutton House Academy & Physical Intervention Lead

PLT and CPI safety Intervention continue to work together to create an environment and atmosphere based on Care, welfare, safety and security. PLT recognises that the philosophy, lessons and skills taught in the programme align with our values and therefore make it a priority to be embedded within staff practice.

Care: respect, dignity, empathy and person centred

Welfare: maintaining independence, choice and well-being.

Safety: protecting rights and minimising harm.

Security: Safe, effective, harmonious and collaborative relationships.

With Covid easing over the summer period and the educational system returning back to normality in the autumn term the trust had a responsibility in making sure that all academies and their staff were prepared and trained to the highest level. PLT recognise the traumatic affect that Covid may have had on pupils and therefore set an aim within Autumn term to make sure that all staff, old and new received CPI safety intervention training. CPI Safety Intervention training incorporates trauma-informed and person-centred approaches. With a focus on prevention, it also teaches staff de-escalation skills as well as non-restrictive and restrictive interventions. For more information please visit; www.crisisprevention.com/en-GB.

Moving into the Spring term the trust will continue to work with all staff across the academies making sure that they receive the highest possible support and training to create a positive, safe environment in which pupils can develop personally and academically. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and very Merry Christmas.

Central Trust Updates

Alan Wells - Deputy Headteacher at Ramsden Hall Academy & Strategic Behaviour Lead

During my first full term in post I am pleased to say that myself and the Behaviour Leads from each academy have managed to meet face to face for the first time in over 18 months. This meeting was invaluable in providing some strategic direction, sharing of good practice and enabled us to plan for the upcoming year.

The sharing of benchmarking data at this meeting has allowed us to compare averages from similar academies within the Trust and identify where support can be sought, from the good work we do within each academy across the Trust.

The sharing of alternative behaviour and attendance reports has allowed leads and academies to clearly identify changes and spikes in behaviour to better target and implement strategies and monitor its impact.

As part of an upcoming Joint Behaviour Steering Group between Behaviour Leads and Teaching and Learning Leads from each academy. We have been trialling a new behaviour walk system to identify the link between behaviour management and teaching and learning ready for focused work between these two groups (in February 2022). This work will hopefully enable us to better identify support and continuing professional development for staff to ensure best practice and the best outcomes for our pupils.

All new staff have been fully trained by Trust CPI instructors during the Inset days early in the Autumn term and a further date has been set early in the Spring Term to ensure any staff joining our academies after Christmas will have the opportunity to access the same high standard of behaviour training of all staff across the Trust.

The Trust Social Independence Scale (SIS) has been developed further to allow more consistent assessment and better analysis. The recording of SIS has now been placed within our academic assessment tool to allow academies to better identify progress and interventions for social development alongside academic progress.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to visit every academy this term supporting in both Quality Assurance Visits and Ofsted inspections. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff from every academy for making me feel welcome and sharing with me the good work they are doing supporting both their pupils and their families.

Corinne Gould - Personal Assistant to CEO, GDPR Lead, HR Officer, Company Secretary

This term I have continued to work on Governance recruitment across the Trust. We have appointed new Trustees for the Trust Board and Governors at Local Academies to strengthen our Governance. We have successfully expanded our Trust Board with Trustees that have a diverse range of expertise, which will strengthen the Trust. I have worked closely with the Trust's clerk on the Induction process for new Trustees and Academy Councillors.

There have been a lot of meetings to schedule this term, and having meetings virtually has really helped ensure more meetings can happen, as travel is eliminated. GDPR refresher training has been completed with all Data Protection Assistants and myself, to ensure we are up to date with the changes on the GDPR Sentry system which allows us to effectively record and manage any breaches, subject access requests, audits, etc.

Rockbourne Park

The children have been very lucky this term and have got to go BMXing every Tuesday. Some of the children have learnt to ride a bike for the first time. Those who could ride a bike already have had a great time developing their skills on the ramps and dirt track.



We have been on a fantastic sightseeing trip to central London. We have walked across Tower Bridge, past the Tower of London, over the suspension bridge, had lunch at the Tate Modern before walking past down the South Bank past the London eye.



We really like a bake off at Rockbourne Park. The children all made some delicious cookies which we hope you all enjoyed at home.



Oak Park Cooking

This term Oak Park students have been doing lots of cooking and baking, including pizza, saltfish fritters and yummy cakes!



KPA Football

Lorenzo was chosen as player of the month because of his fair play across the term. He was fully equipped for the lessons and demonstrated excellent attitude for learning. An excellent example for all the students.



Cycle Confident KPA

This term in Kennington Park Academy we have had a team of cycling teachers called Cycle Confident come to us to teach road safety and bicycle maintenance. The pupils very much enjoyed these sessions and all pupils were able to improve their skills and abilities during these sessions.



Fulham Football Club Player of the term award

The winners were chosen as players of the month because of their fair play, their excellent attitude, being fully equipped.

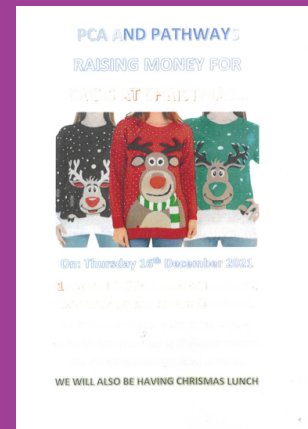


PCA's player of the term, Kevin



Pathways player of the term, Ahmed

Park Campus are supporting Crisis at Christmas again this year. Staff & students will be wearing festive outfits & raising money to buy places for the homeless at the Crisis for Christmas centres. Christmas lunch prepared by our kitchen team, Maureen & Terry, will be amazing as usual! Can't wait



The Taskforce Project

PCA is one of several school & academies across the country involved in a new DfE project called The Taskforce Project. This project allows additional funding over two years to support students with a range of additional services such as Speech & Language therapy, counselling, post 16 transition support, additional support for families. The hope is that with increased input, there will be better outcomes for these young people. We started on November 1st 2021, so watch this space for updates!

DECORATED BY
SEMI-PRO
DECORATOR, REGAN
EDWARDS

PCA'S SPECTACULAR
CHRISTMAS TREE



It's CHRISTMAAASSS!

They are rewarded
for most improved
attendance,
behaviour & attitude
to learning

Good Behaviour is not just a Reward in Itself!

Congratulations to:

The Academy cordially invites you to attend one of its exclusive Reward Events in the local area. Why me? Either your improved behaviour / academic progress / attendance during Term 1 has been noted. Well Done!

When? The date is Thursday 16th December 10:30am.

Students that have
made a significant
improvement are
invited on the end of
term trip

Message from the Headteacher

The Autumn term at Inspire Academy has certainly been busy, but very positive with several different events and activities taking place. We had the first week of year 11 work experience, with 100% attendance and some excellent feedback from the employers. We can proudly announce that one of our year 11 pupils made such a good impression, he has been offered an apprenticeship and a part-time job. Well done! The whole school have also taken part in our first relationship day, in which both staff and pupils engage in an alternative day, carrying out numerous activities that promote positive relationships, team building and positive engagement. These are always great fun and really do make a difference to the Academy. The new year 7 pupils have settled in well and have already had their first Parent Information Evening (PIE), in which all parent/carers got the opportunity to meet all of their teachers and discuss their child/wards progress. This was yet again a fantastic afternoon with 100% of our parent/carers attending. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year from everyone at Inspire Academy.

Academy Police Officer

Inspire Academy welcomed our very own Academy Police Officer, PC Finn. Kent Police have seen fantastic results since their initiative to have dedicated officers form a Kent Police School Team. So far PC Finn or 'Kaz' as she prefers the pupils to call her, has been building relationships and offering support and guidance to both staff and pupils on policing and behaviour issues.

School Visitors

We were delighted this term to be able to welcome various external visitors back into the building.



So far our pupils have had talks and education from Kent fire & Rescue, Kent Police, Rebekah of CXKLtd delivering information on Post 16 choices and James of Metro delivering informative Sexual Health lessons and 1:1 support sessions.

One Kind Word

This year, Anti-bullying week had the theme 'One Kind Word'. This message was consistently taught across all subjects and discussed during social times to encourage the mind-set that one small act of kindness can have a larger impact. Miss Buckberry delivered this message across her lessons to the whole school using a simple yet effective strategy: Pupils were encouraged to decorate a cookie and select a recipient within the school of their choice. They had to deliver the cookie with words of kindness.



Inspire Charity

This Term we have supported Young Mind Charity, Anti-Bullying Week, Children in Need and currently running a Christmas Campaign named 'Inspire Christmas Spirit' where both our Inspire families and staff are collecting items for local Homeless Charity, Medway Street Angels. Our pupils were inspired by a recent assembly about the charity and a visit to their headquarters as part of their PSHE lesson where they saw the real-life impact this service has.



Pupil JMAC and his family 'Inspire Christmas Spirit' Donations. Young Minds 'Wear Yellow' Campaign.

Investors in Careers Award

We are proud to announce that the students and staff of Inspire are committed to the assessment for Investor in Careers. This Quality in Careers Standard award is a kite mark for quality in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance and is recognised nationally across the country. It is awarded to schools who have demonstrated a commitment to provide impartial, independent CEIAG to young people, to improve students' awareness of opportunities, to raise their aspirations and to work with them to ensure they achieve their full potential.

Once again Covid has challenged our way of life at Wandle Valley Academy, but pupils, parent/carers and staff have all continued to pull together to make sure that we all stay safe and carry on as normal as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those, including the Executive Leads that have supported us during this term, to make improvements to our curriculum offer and continue to challenge us to do better for our pupils. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a positive New Year.

Personal Development Curriculum

As an SEMH academy we wanted to ensure that we were offering something unique and differentiated for our pupils. In September we introduced the Personal Development curriculum. After lunch each day the lessons are dedicated to five different programmes of study. The areas are SMSC, Wellbeing, Enrichment, SEMH and Golden Time. SMSC and Wellbeing are tutor led with resources that are differentiated across the whole academy. Enrichment is delivered by both support staff and teachers and is an opportunity for pupils to engage in extra curricular activities such as gardening, crafts and bike maintenance. The Thursday session is dedicated to SEMH; pupils are split into groups across the whole academy based on the needs identified by Boxall profiling and look at strategies to recognise and manage their needs. The final session on Friday is Golden Time, here pupils are able to select a fun activity they would like to engage with such as Lego League, gaming and trampoline.



Pupils must gain a certain number of achievement points throughout the week to take part in Golden Time and if they have been unable to then are required to engage in a reflective session. It is fantastic to see pupils from all key stages working together and supporting each other.

Diana Award Mentoring Programme

We are proud to be the pilot school for the Diana Award Mentoring Programme. The charity has never worked with an SEMH school previously and are currently engaging our Year 11 pupils.



in a 12 week programme which teaches pupils skills, self confidence, helps to support the transition to their post 16 destination and engages them in social action.

Staff Member of the Term

In her short time at Wandle Valley Academy Miss Martin, our early career music teacher has made such a huge impact on learning.



We were lucky enough to have had an opportunity to recently see The Wandle Valley Christmas Show where pupils sang and performed sketches in front of staff, pupils and visitors from the trust. We wanted to recognise her hard work across the whole school and say a big thank you from us all.

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a busy and productive term and it was lovely to welcome both new staff and students in September. The staff have also developed our new mission statement, and we've worked hard to make sure that everything we do reflects that. We've seen our positive incidents increase and negatives decrease since this time last year, and we're very pleased with the progress that a lot of our pupils are making. Part of our mission statement is to give our pupils the hope, compassion and experiences to enable them to take their place in the World. With this in mind we have participated in several national charity days, including Children in Need 2021 and Save the Children's Christmas Jumper day. We continue to celebrate when pupils are kind to each other, and many of our pupils have been on reward trips for meeting their targets in both behaviour and learning. Ofsted came to visit the Residential provision at the end of September, and we were very pleased that they recognised how hard the staff work to make the residential such a lovely place to be. We're looking forward to welcoming new staff so that we can increase the numbers of boys who can board as we know lots of our new students are interested. The pupils return from the holidays on Wednesday 5th January 2022, following Covid-19 Lateral Flow testing. Please make sure they're back in their sleep routines, and have dark trousers and school t-shirts or jumpers ready. Only Senior pupils who have met the criteria in Y10 and 11 are allowed to wear hoodies, so no hoodies for everyone else please. Thank you for all your support this year, and best wishes for a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

In September 2021, **Animal Care** adopted chickens from the charity 'Fresh Start for Hens'. Our Premises team reinforced the chicken coop roof with the help of Year 11 construction pupils. The chickens were missing a fair few feathers and were underweight but have since become a healthy weight. They explored outside for the first time ever in 18 months and have been busy eating lots of worms and natural greens. Pupils have had lessons on the egg and meat trade leading up to the rehoming of these chickens and have shown a lot of empathy towards the new hens.



Residential

Thank you to everyone in the residential and academy teams for their support during our recent Ofsted Inspection. I know how hard you all work to make the boys experience with us a wonderful one and it was lovely to see that reflected in the report too. This term we have welcomed Sian, our new Care Worker to our team, but will sadly also be saying goodbye to Sharon and Lorraine who are both retiring at Christmas. HO HO HO - Christmas has come to Ramsden Lodge. The tree is decorated, the decorations are up, the jukebox is playing Slade and the TVs are playing continual Christmas films. The last week of term we are visiting Spoons in Basildon for an all you can eat buffet extravaganza plus going to see some of the most amazing street lights, to put Oxford street to shame. Merry Christmas Everyone.

Football Fixtures

KS4 Football v St Nicholas School

KS4 pupils went to St Nicholas School in Southend on 17th November where they won 14-2. Players from both sides showed very good sportsmanship and were good role models for both schools.

KS3 Football v St Nicholas School

After a nervous start, both teams played well. Our keeper made a couple of excellent saves and with 3 minutes left we managed to grab the steal with a 3-1 victory, good sportsmanship all round.

Keep up the Hard Work

This term our D&T pupils have been hard at work; producing amazing objects. As a mark of respect to the fallen for Remembrance Day they made soldier silhouettes using a laser cutter, created wooden Christmas trees, snowflakes and built our latest reindeer Christmas decorations which are proudly displayed at RHA's visitor entrance.



Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another Covid turbulent year, we use this wonderful forum to praise the hard work of pupils and staff including the continued support from our parent and local community. Pupils have achieved phenomenal results in the 2021 summer exam series (100% Yr11 5+ 1-9 qualifications) and many have moved on to local colleges. Pupils across the board have achieved well in English and Maths and have thoroughly enjoyed their football and boxing experiences within the Supra Curricular offer. Within the Supra Curricular offer, pupils have successfully accessed group counselling, dog therapy, Build a Bike and Life Skills. We now welcome a careers link with London Southend airport who will return in the New Year with presentations of job opportunities and interview and CV writing workshops which will be available for Y8-11. We have honoured charity days and national issues throughout the term raising £90 for Children in Need and raised additional awareness in Anti Bullying week. Our recent Ofsted report celebrates many areas of the Academy stating:

- "Pupils say they feel safe in the school. They build positive relationships with staff and trust them to sort things out"
- "Pupils enjoy practical subjects such as food technology. This helps them to build life skills."
- "Pupils are supported effectively to take their next steps in education at the end of Yr11. Many go on to further studies, training and/or employment when they leave"

Where further developments have been outlined in the report, Sutton House Academy is acting swiftly to address them.

We look forward to the term ending in a festive and safe way and take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Star Class

During November, star class learnt about Remembrance Day. They participated in a two minutes silence to respect those that fought for our country and made silhouettes of soldiers.



Rainbow Class

Primary have had a busy half term learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives in English. The pupils have been learning all about these word families through games, activities and clips. Our Maths lessons have focused on measuring and fractions. We have measured everything from the corridor to each other and enjoyed using different apparatus to help us.



Our science topic has been light, we have been interested to discover which materials are most reflective and how mirrors reflect light. We have also taken part in fun activities such as litter picking and making cakes and Mini Pudsey bears for children in need!

Food Technology

This term in Food Technology we have been learning about eating foods that are in our growing season. Eating seasonal foods is ordinarily cheaper and better for our environment and has less carbon footprint. Pumpkins were drawn on for Halloween so our students could use them for their holiday treats. Happy Holidays from the Food Tech team.

Springboard

Springboard pupils paid their respects on Remembrance Day by visiting Shoeburyness Cenotaph. Janine Willett (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)



wore her uniform from when she served in the Royal Air Force before pursuing a career in education. Pupils learnt about the importance of the day and wrote acrostic hero poems and made poppies.

Message from the Headteacher

Dear all, Victory Park Academy have continued to provide positive experiences of school and education this Autumn term. The following Newsletter is full of stories of interest and demonstrates our commitment to developing our pupils' education experience. We have many new personal development experiences for the new year which we will share with parents and pupils. Pupils have many trips, activities and visits from speakers planned. Pupils will be able to develop new interests, explore career opportunities and are prepared for life beyond school. Almost all pupils who attend for a short time are successful in returning to mainstream schools to continue with their education. We are further developing 'Reading for Pleasure' and phonics and all staff are involved in this development. We are also focussing on programmes for pupils who have been identified as having SEN needs and require additional support we are involving parents and pupils on this journey. Finally, I just wanted to thank all pupils, staff and parents for a great first term. Have a great Christmas break and an even better new year

Headteacher: Mr M Aspel (NPQH, MA)

Examination News

Well done to the ten Year 11 pupils who have recently completed their functional skills examinations in both English and maths. The results should be in just after the Christmas break – Good luck to all!



Note in your diary, the dates for this year's GCSE exams, which are currently planned to take place are:

- Maths GCSE - Friday 20 May, Tuesday 7th June and Monday 13th June 2022 and
- English GCSE - Wednesday 18 May and Friday 10 June 2022.
- Results day will be on Thursday 25 August 2021.

Literacy Across Curriculum

The literacy focus for this term is "sentence structures", all lessons across the curriculum have embedded this into the teaching to help strengthen pupils' ability to vary their sentences. Reading interventions have been set up using the Dockside set of books; pupils selected have enjoyed reading these so far and the one to one reading is successful. We plan to run small reading groups over future terms.

Cooper (Therapy Dog)

Cooper has joined the VPA team – he is training to be a therapy dog. The pupils all enjoy working with him and he always keeps us calm. He is worth his weight in bones. Woof!



LEXIA

Part of our literacy strategy was to launch the Lexia online learning programme. Quoted from Lexialearning.com "literacy is fully within reach of the vast majority of learners...Across all our solutions and services, Lexia's approach is focused on sound methodology, engaging experiences, and continued acknowledgement of the value of each individual learner." The terms focus is reading and how this is implemented within English and all subjects; how SOW are sequenced through from KS1-4; a phonics SOW; memory and recall skills and how PDP topics are delivered in English SOW. Lexia should be used across curriculum and as a side line intervention as opposed to being part of an English lesson and Wrats should be completed within the first ten days of a new pupil entry. Everyone must be aware of the lowest 20% readers and what is being done differently for these pupils in order to close the gaps.

Term Dates 2021 - 2022

TERM ONE

INSET DAY: Wednesday 1st September 2021

Start Date: Thursday 2nd September 2021

INSET TWILIGHT 1: Wednesday 13th October 2021

Finish Date: Friday 15th October 2021

Holiday: Monday 18th October - Friday 29th October 2021

Number of School Days: 33

TERM TWO

Start Date: Monday 1st November 2021

INSET TWILIGHT 2: Wednesday 17th November 2021

Finish Date: Friday 17th December 2021

Holiday: Monday 20th December - Friday 31st December 2021

Number of School Days: 35

TERM THREE

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd January 2022

INSET DAY: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Start Date: Wednesday 5th January 2022

INSET TWILIGHT 3: Wednesday 9th February 2022

Finish Date: Friday 11th February 2022

Holiday: Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022

Number of School Days: 29

TERM FOUR

Start Date: Monday 21st February 2022

INSET TWILIGHT 4: Wednesday 9th March 2022

Finish Date: Friday 8th April 2022

Holiday: Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April 2022

Number of School Days: 35

TERM FIVE

Start Date: Monday 25th April 2022

INSET TWILIGHT 5: Wednesday 18th May 2022

Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

Finish Date: Friday 27th May 2022

Holiday: Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022

Number of School Days: 24

TERM SIX

Start Date: Monday 6th June 2022

INSET TWILIGHT 6: Wednesday 8th June 2022

Finish Date: Wednesday 20th July 2022

INSET DAY: Thursday 21st July 2022

Number of School Days: 34

Bank and Public Holidays

January 3rd 2022 (New Year's Day (substitute day))

April 15th 2022 (Good Friday)

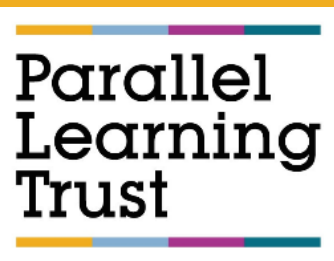
April 18th 2022 (Easter Monday)

May 2nd 2022 (May Day)

June 2nd 2022 (Late May Bank Holiday)

June 3rd 2022 (The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday)

August 29th 2022 (August Bank Holiday)



Parallel Learning Trust
Suite 1
1 & 2 Leonard Place
Westerham Road
Keston
Bromley
BR2 6HQ

w: <https://plt.org.uk>