

PARALLEL LEARNING TRUST

Termly newsletter of Trust wide updates!

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@_VictoryPark_



@CampusPark



@InspireAcademy9



@RamsdenHall



@WandleValleyA



@_SuttonHouse_



@KenningtonPark8

A message from the CEO



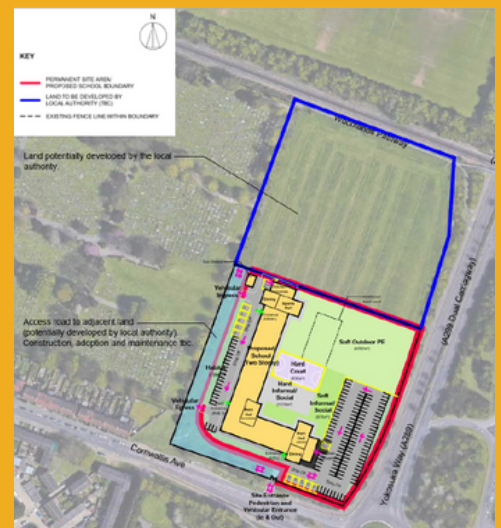
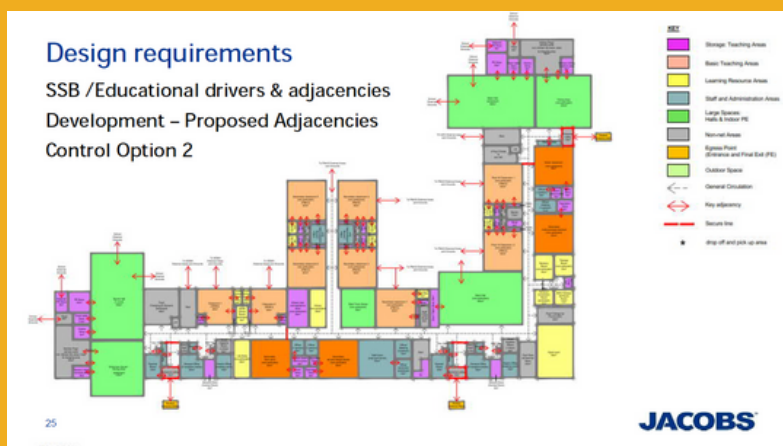
MARK JORDAN

I would like to start by saying how immensely proud I am of all of you for the unfaltering efforts across the Trust to support our pupils, their families and aspects of the wider community. This has not gone unnoticed and many professional colleagues and local authority commissioners have also remarked to this effect. The last term certainly has been packed full of developments across the Trust, these have ranged from physical developments at some of our sites, new appointments and some exciting curriculum and system developments.

Ramsden Hall has seen the first phase of its build project complete despite restrictions of working during the pandemic. The build project will provide a new, purpose built, residential building as well as double the education spaces at the academy. The Trust has also supported the project with professional expertise as well as additional funding to that which the DfE have provided so that the project will also provide a range of specialist SEN Therapy room as well as a Sensory garden.



The Inspire Academy re-build project has gathered momentum and is now officially in design phase again after much discussion with the DfE, Regional Schools Commissioner and Medway LA. This will see Inspire grow from a 50 place SEMH academy to a 160 SEMH and ASD academy on a new purpose built site thus making it the biggest academy in the Trust.



A message from the CEO

The Trust Board of Directors are continuously reviewing their performance, skills and experiences and have been successful in the appointment of Jonathan Alvis as a new Director. Jonathan is a Portfolio Manager, investing in global equities on behalf of financial institutions and high net worth individuals. He has previously worked as an equity research analyst and started his career as an auditor, qualifying as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young. His various roles have involved understanding, analysing and assessing the financial position and strength of companies and their value as a potential investment. Jonathan holds a bachelor's degree in Physics from University College London and will Chair a new sub-committee of the main Trust Board specialising in Risk and Audit. The Trust is actively seeking another Director to further strengthen and I look forward to updating you with more news on this specific area soon.

In addition to this good news I have to pleasure to confirm to you that Melissa Williams has been confirmed as permanent Headteacher at Park Campus Academy and we also welcome Nick Mallett to the same academy to lead on Behaviour and Inclusion. I am sure you join me in wishing all of these new colleagues all the best for their time with PLT.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Site Managers and indeed Richard Ashkettle the Trust's Health & Safety Officer for ensuring that the sites stay open and making a significant contribution to ensuring that all pupils, staff and visitors are safe when attending our sites. The attention to detail in contributing to risk assessments, reviewing new infection control systems and translating these into realistic solutions has been crucial to ensuring the academies stay open.

Many of you will be aware that we have moved to a 9 stage trauma informed progress system to more closely track pupil progress during these difficult times. The work that the Teaching and learning leads have done to ensure this system has been integrated has been vital in identifying how to best support our learners and I have belief in this, coupled with the revised curriculum offer will allow us to move seamlessly through to a fuller return to education in the autumn term. Landi, the Trust Quality of Education Lead, has worked with colleagues to develop a phased return around the curriculum, reviewing the offer across all sites, moving from the reduced COVID-19 curriculum, through to a Recovery Curriculum in early Autumn through to the full education offer later in the Autumn term.

Finally, I am sure that many of you have seen that there has been an announcement that the DfE made recently that there is an expectation of a full return to education for all in Autumn 2020. Whilst I welcome the desire to provide better education to vulnerable pupils I can assure you that leaders and the Trust Board are working continuously to ensure that this happens in a safe, planned way whilst maintaining the highest standards possible. I will write to you again before the end of the term to outline in more detail how this will look as plans are being finalised and will be agreed at a Trust Board meeting on 15th July. I also confirm that in light of the new information released in the latest guidance the Trust Board will also review the stance on wearing of PPE and also agree specific infection control measures which will include operational changes to how we all operate as well as increasing the frequency of cleaning.

Have a fantastic end of the term and keep safe !!!

Central Trust Update

Update from our IT team

It has been a very exciting time in IT. The department has undergone a major restructure, but even in these challenging times we have managed to deliver notable positive changes to the Trust. With the majority of our pupils currently isolating at home we have delivered a teaching and learning platform called Google Classroom, which allows our outstanding teaching teams to continue to offer support to our pupils. A secure "Remote Access Server" allowing staff to login to their academy providing access to their files and folders. Allowing for a true working from home experience. We have deployed Office 365 (Microsoft Teams) which is a secure platform, allowing staff from within the Trust to communicate with each other, this also includes Microsoft Share Point which allows for the secure sharing of documents. A Trust wide Parent management system "Parent Mail" has been delivered offering a concise and cohesive method of communicating to parents and guardians. A strong helpdesk tool called "Parago" has now been deployed to all Academies allowing staff to raise helpdesk tickets for IT, Facilities and HR. The Trust will continue utilise this application to deliver asset and contract control. We have also provided IT Lead expertise to two DFE build projects, thus making sure that the Trusts objectives are fully met. We will continue to provide the highest level of IT expertise across the Trust, making sure that all Trust objectives have been met from a technical strategic perspective.

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



As a result of the pandemic I, like many of the Central team, have been working remotely and working in the office at agreed times to ensure key documents are processed whilst ensuring there is a minimal risk of transmission during working hours. It has been a very busy time for us, so I have been ensuring the CEO's diary is always up to date and calls scheduled as far in advance as possible. I have also been focusing on GDPR, and have rolled out a new system for use across the Trust. This system will allow us to be more effective in managing Data, and overall being completely prepared and

organised. I have also been researching Human Resources to gain more knowledge in the sector. In the next coming months, I hope all DPO's and myself will see a positive change in the way we work with this new system, so I will be focusing on this. I will continue to research Human Resources, so I can be an effective HR Lead within the Trust.

Mollie Warne - Marketing, Development and HR Officer



From the beginning of lockdown in March the Central Team have been working remotely as well as coming into the office to complete specific tasks on agreed hours and days. One of the biggest challenges has been working in the new, virtual way of working and hosting meetings but I certainly have been impressed at how quickly the organisation has adapted to this new way of working. One project that I have been working on throughout the majority of 2020 has been the launch of our new websites with our new providers Schudio. The websites went live in May 2020 and the Trust is extremely happy with

them. During lockdown we launched our app, we partnered with a company called Anspear on this exciting project around a year ago and the app is for staff, pupils, parents and local governors to complete training and CPD to further develop their skills and knowledge in a variety of different areas. The Academies have been using Twitter almost every day throughout the coronavirus pandemic and have found a use for this as a communicating platform with staff, pupils, parents and carers. I have been working on a range of HR tasks including: ensuring our SCR's are compliant throughout the Trust, working on policies to add value and procedures to the organisation, helping the Academies with recruitment and selection, working with our HR consultants KAPE to roll out new HR policies for the Trust and we also arranged a HR steering group which all academy HR leads attended to speak about a variety of different topics.

Central Trust Update

Englantín Muca - Deputy Head & Teaching and Learning Lead for Victory Park Academy



Since the government announced that all schools had to be closed on 23rd March 2020, our priorities for Teaching and Learning was: Virtual Learning and Curriculum. Across the Trust we have been working on implementing Google Classroom so all our pupils can have access to their learning, remotely. All Trust Academies have access to the platform and CPD has been delivered to all staff so that they are confident in delivering lessons to our pupils and successfully implementing the platform. We have also reviewed and reshaped our Curriculum because of Covid-19 and our main focus is developing and

enhancing pupil's personal development, emotional and mental wellbeing as well as maintaining their literacy and numeracy skills. We have adopted a uniformed approach to Teaching and Learning Policies across the Trust. This will allow for a consistent, collaborative style of working and will promote effective review across the trust. We as a Trust have now in place a share point drive through Office 365 for Teaching and Learning that all staff can access to resources across the Trust and work collaboratively, supporting each other. Our next step is focusing on modelling a road map supporting our return to the main curriculum.

Maldwyn Fjord Roberts - Executive Lead: Behaviour, Safeguarding, Personal Development and Wellbeing



Through the Summer term I have been working on a number of strategies, with the intention of improving the consistency of monitoring and evaluation of Behaviour Management and Safeguarding across the PLT. This has included the development of a Trust wide Risk assessment template, which captures all major areas of need and assessment for pupils. This is particularly poignant during the Covid 19 pandemic, and moving past these uncertain times, will provide each academy with a centralised overview of every pupil, with the capacity to provide management strategies for all staff, and provide

a consistent Trust wide approach to recording and analysis in this key area. The second phase of this development has been linking the Risk Assessments with specific Covid 19 associated risk recording in the Sleuth. This has ensured all Academies are able to analyse specific Covid risks, and update Risk Assessments, enabling accurate analysis of Covid concerns, and maximising staff and pupil safety and management as a result. Further development of MAPA principles is ongoing. Developing a Trust approach to debriefing and RPI's for QA's, and further progressing to a paperless centralised system for recording aspects of behaviour management. Ongoing work has continued to Modernise the Social Independence Survey to reflect the current needs of pupils and improve the consistency of application and analysis, with particular focus on the assessment of Personal Development themes, analysis and improving the accuracy of assessment, with the aim of ensuring all pupils social and emotional needs are identified and met. I have also been reviewing Trust policies to ensure we can offer the latest guidance to Academies and staff, and ensuring we comply with national guidance, including producing a policy analysis tool, with the intention of ensuring all Academies are able to accurately audit Behaviour related policies to fulfil the required legislation and the PLT standards.

Central Trust Update

Richard Ashkettle - Health and Safety Officer



I would like to start by saying congratulating staff on supporting the new safety measures that have been implemented during COVID-19. We acknowledge that this has placed additional complexities to the way in which you work but I would like to commend you all for working with us and above all in a safe way. These have been testing times with the COVID-19 pandemic with guidance that can change rapidly and be difficult to process. My only objective has been the safety of our community, all our staff and pupils alike, you are our greatest asset.

We have listened to government directives concerning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and have felt that it fell short of protecting our staff to the degree I feel is necessary. Therefore, I have been requested to secure PPE which has been made available to all staff. I'm sure you will appreciate this has not been as easy as would normally be with the national shortages of all PPE. I have also managed to secure a larger quantity of PPE and at the time of writing this are waiting for a confirmed delivery time. With staff safety in mind and keen to provide the cleanest working environment I can, we have employed an outside cleaning contractor to perform an Electrostatic Disinfectant deep clean, which totally envelops all surfaces and sticks to them due to its electrostatic charge. This electrostatic clean has been performed twice at all Academies and is a World Health Organisation rated amber clean for suspected COVID-19 cases which has yet again gone above and beyond what is required. We have listened to staff where points have been raised and changed providers and products where appropriate so that the PPE provided will be more comfortable and better meet the needs of our environment. For example, the clear plastic face visors sometimes became misty and were difficult to see out or so we have sourced a stock from the same supplier that provides them to the NHS, ensuring supplies are of the highest standard. With the situation changing rapidly we, as an organisation are changing our stance in relation to the latest guidance. I am sure, like me, many of you will be aware that masks are now required on public transport and in close public spaces where people are in close proximity and low ventilation. Given this the Trust has acted quickly to secure high grade re-useable masks with filters that are interchangeable and can be washed and re-used. The latest supply of PPE will be delivered to us and distributed to academies by the end of 19/6/20. With staff safety in mind and keen to provide the cleanest working environment I can, we have employed an outside cleaning contractor to perform an Electrostatic Disinfectant deep clean, which totally envelops all surfaces and sticks to them due to its electrostatic charge. This electrostatic clean has been performed twice at all Academies and is a World Health Organisation rated amber clean for suspected COVID-19 cases which has yet again gone above and beyond what is required. The Academy sites have had some visual changes linked with Coronavirus. The most obvious are PPE stations erected at the entrances to buildings, floor markings in classrooms and corridors and social distancing signs. Crucially you will be aware that you and all types of visitors have been asked to follow specific procedures when entering our provision as well as where and how you move about the academies, lowering the movement which subsequently lowers the risk of any possible transmission. We have been undertaking daily risk assessments at each Academy with different systems being trialled such as implementing a one-way system and at other sites using multiple entrances for staff and pupils to limit intermixing as much as possible to identify best practice during these difficult times. Can I please stress the need to social distance and the importance of washing hands regularly. We must all make sure we abide these basic requirements as this is still the best response to the pandemic. We have installed new fencing to the front and rear of the Southend site, are in the final stages of approving the installation of a new fire alarm at Park Campus have and have moved, purchased and erected new sheds at various sites. All of this has been left in the shadow of Coronavirus. Please keep safe, take care of your loved ones, and I look forward to seeing you on-site.

KPA have been very busy during lockdown. We have been open since 24.03.20 – including over both of the school holidays. We have supported our more vulnerable pupils and from 02.06.20 have opened our doors to Y1 and Y6 pupils.

The focus for us has been upon:

- Emotional wellbeing and nurture
- Creativity
- Physical exercise and fresh air
- Friendships and relationships



We have spent a lot of time contacting families of pupils and staff members who have been at home –making weekly and daily phone calls –and keeping a log to ensure that we have been able to help out with food banks/ work etc . Our Academy Council members conducted an audit on this for us and found that our contact was much appreciated by all those in Lockdown at home.

Work packs have been delivered on a regular basis –as some families prefer ‘paper and pencil’ work and we have ensured that this has been a mix of English, Maths and Science as well as RE, History, Geography and Art. We have also given out logins for our normal on-line work –for lexia, mathletics and purplemash and our website has a lot of useful websites for parents/carers to access- BBC Bitesize has been very popular. We are starting to get Google Classroom underway –and have sent some initial work to pupils –we are reviewing this in a weekly basis –as we are all new to this.

Lereece (Y6) has been with us during most of Lockdown and has provided his own news report:

School changes have taken place to keep us safe. We have a one- way system, markings on the floor for social distancing, we wash our hands for 20 seconds, we are in smaller groups and have assembly and lunch in the classroom. I came here at the start of the Easter holidays and I have been part of all of the changes. I have enjoyed helping the other children and I have shown good leadership skills. Ms Sturman and all the staff are very proud of me.

I have liked the activities like dodge ball and racing and cycling –we have been out in the playground a lot. I have made kites and boats and have enjoyed designing structures and making models.



We made posters to put up around the school to remind us of hygiene rules

Google classrooms

Google classrooms is gradually becoming part of daily life at PCA. Staff & students are meeting virtually, & are able to see each other now which is great! It's still a work in progress, but it's moving in the right direction



NCFE

L2 Certificates

PCA are pleased to have claimed seven NCFE L2 Certificates in Working in Sports. This is particularly pleasing as this is the first year that PCA have run the course.



PCA is in the process of uploading the Teacher Assessment grades for Year 11 - we are hopeful that our students will do well this year.

Year 10 & Year 9 are in school 4 days a week currently, & are working towards their functional skills qualifications in English, Maths & ICT

Year 8 students are starting to return to school.





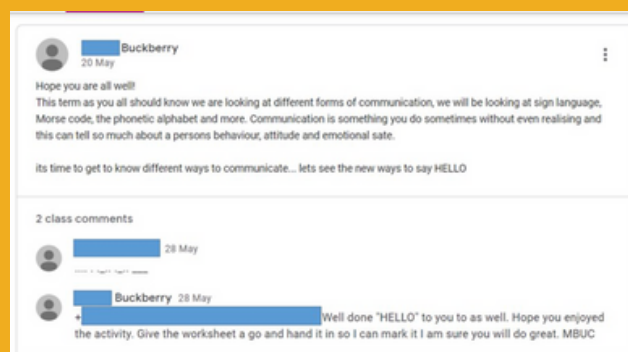
The young people in school have added to their life skills by learning two different ways to cook with pastry. Quiche followed by jam tarts.

To mark VE day and the service and sacrifice of so many, staff and pupils worked hard to create a lasting tribute to pay our respects.

Staff took part in the Covid-19 2.6 challenge to raise money for Heart of Kent Hospice. Together we raised £882.50. It was an excellent achievement by all.

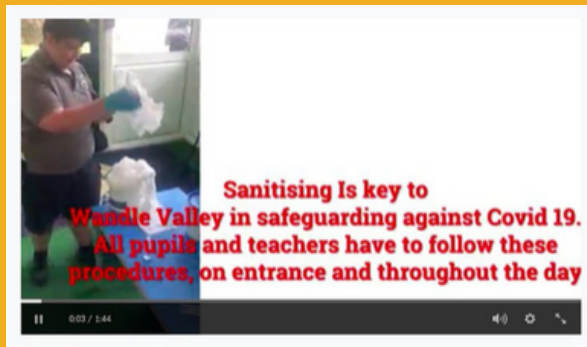


Staff have kept in regular contact with learners and their families, providing work and offering support on home learning during this uncertain time. We have recently rolled out google classroom to all learners both at home, and at school. Google classroom allows learners to interact with staff, complete work and receive quick feedback. It shows marks and progression. So far it has been a success with learners both in school, and out of school, offering better communication, for example one learner learnt how to say hello in morse code. Congratulations to Mr Nolan for being at the forefront of this





COVID Safety

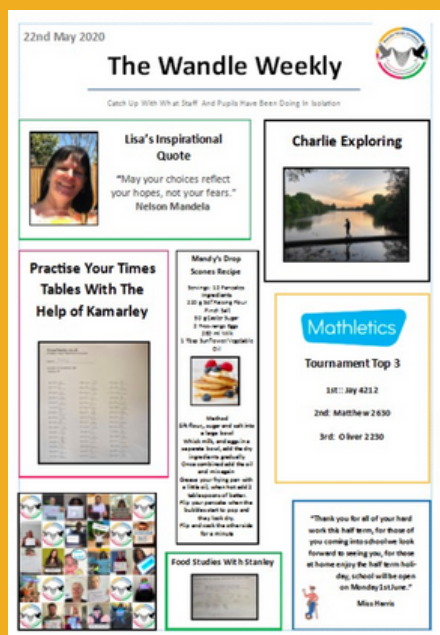


Every week we produce a Weekly Pupil Bulletin which is sent home to our families and is packed full of useful information, news from the school, learning updates, photos and fun activities. We also celebrate the efforts of pupils who have excelled in their Literacy and Maths online activities.

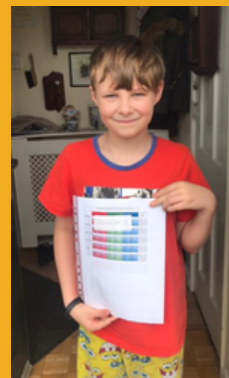
To ensure everyone's safety and to alleviate any nerves experienced by our families, we created a short COVID Safety Video, demonstrating all of the safety measures we have in place to manage the risks of infection.

Charitable Giving

We owe a huge 'Thank you' to both The Gregg's Foundation and the Don's Local Action Group. With a £500 donation, Gregg's enabled us to provide essential home-packs for over half of our families, including staple food items and cleaning products. The Don's Local Action Group have donated over 20 laptops and tablets to our pupils, enabling them to access their home learning!



Doorstep Chats



Every week, our staff visit the pupils at home to deliver work-packs, have door-step chats and to support with academic and pastoral needs. These have been really appreciated and enjoyed by the pupils and their families.



New Build

Works for our new build continue and are progressing well, following social distancing. The foundations for the walls have been laid and the main walls are starting to go up. It is really starting to take shape.

Rainbow for NHS

To show our support for the NHS, we have painted a rainbow on the wall outside Art, adding to our already colourful wall.



Cooking from home

All of our pupils have been completing lots of work while they're at home. One of our Year 7 students in particular has been cooking various different things at home including bread and they all look very nice.



Charity Head Shave

One of our Year 9 students Jamie raised over £200 for his local hospital, The Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the NHS staff there by shaving his hair. Jamie had a full head of curly locks and loved his hair. He even made it to the local news. Please see below the link the news report.

<https://www.yourharlow.com/2020/04/22/kind-hearted-harlow-teenager-shaves-his-locks-to-raise-funds-for-pahs-coronavirus-charity-appeal/>

Google Hangouts & Classrooms

During the time the Academy has been closed due to COVID-19, teachers and pupils have been using 'Google Hangouts & Classrooms'. In the google classrooms, teachers have been setting various pieces of work for pupils to complete at home. Google hangouts have been a great opportunity for pupils to see each other virtually on the computer, as well as seeing staff members. Tutor groups have also taken the opportunity to use hangouts to catch up as a group.

Phased Returns

We have carried out risk assessments and changed the way we do things in school to keep us all safe, and allow some pupils to come back in. We're focusing on our vocational subjects with each group, including animal care, DT, Art, PE & Forest Schools.



Baby Animals in Animal Care

Over the last few weeks, we have had some new arrivals in Animal Care. We have had a new baby Rabbit & a new baby Guinea Pig. Both have settled in really well and are growing lots already!

We would like to welcome our two new pupils in Year 6 who are settling in well to our school in these unusual circumstances. Both are accessing Google Classroom to support their induction. We look forward to seeing them in school soon.

Sally Carter, SENCO
Sutton House Academy

Maths

It has been lovely to see, that despite Covid 19, students are still engaging with maths. Those that are not coming in to school are attempting the work packs that are being sent out. Many are now attending on a limited basis and are engaging well. This half term we are looking at statistics so we are able to link this to real life, as there are many statistics from the government regarding our current situation. This has invoked many topical discussions appropriate to our mathematical theme.

Year 11 were absolute stars coming in to school and doing 1 to 1 sessions, this meant I got to know some of them really well and will sincerely miss them now they are moving on. I would like to wish them all well in their next steps.

Michelle Gater
Maths Tutor

Primary

We have been having lots of fun in Primary since the beginning of June. During our time, we have been doing lots of activities around social skills, creativity and outdoor learning. Recently, we have been starting to complete some English and Maths activities as the children are becoming more settled and ready to return to learning.

Sally Roche
Primary Teacher



We are currently arranging for Sutton House pupils to access Google Classroom. As the pupils begin to log in, a test task has been set. This virtual platform will be an invaluable tool for learning and is being introduced across the Parallel Learning Trust.

Stephen Karwacinski
Learning Support Assistant

A big congratulations to the Year 11 students for their dedicated determination, strong commitment and willingness for hardworking to succeed. I wish you all every success for your futures.

It has also been a pleasure to see the students returning with such positive mind-sets and an ambition to learn.

Simon Bayley
English Tutor

Victory Park Welfare support educational Success:

During these difficult times the staff at Victory Park Academy have gone above and beyond to support our pupils in their learning either at a distance through Virtual Learning or on site.

Victory Park Academy primary and Secondary teams have been busy during the Covid-19 lockdown. We have visited children at home to deliver work packs and free school meal vouchers; read stories on twitter and enjoyed now inviting children back into school. The children have been completing some academic work as well as community work such as: creating a stay alert banner for the school gate and writing letters to residents of a local care home. We can't wait to see more of our students in the coming weeks.



Term Dates 2019-2020

TERM ONE

INSET DAY

Start Date

INSET TWILIGHT 1

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Wednesday 16th October 2019

Friday 18th October 2019

Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2019

34

TERM TWO

Start Date

INSET TWILIGHT 2

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 4th November 2019

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Friday 20th December 2019

Monday 23rd December 2019 to Thursday 2nd January 2020

35

TERM THREE

INSET DAY

Start Date

INSET TWILIGHT 3

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Friday 3rd January 2020

Monday 6th January 2020

Wednesday 12th February 2020

Friday 14th February 2020

Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020

30

TERM FOUR

Start Date

INSET TWILIGHT 4

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 24th February 2020

Wednesday 26th February 2020

Friday 3rd April 2020

Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2020

30

TERM FIVE

Start Date

Bank Holiday

Finish Date

INSET TWILIGHT 5

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 20th April 2020

Friday 8th May 2020

Friday 22nd May 2020

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020

24

TERM SIX

Start Date

INSET TWILIGHT 6

Finish Date

INSET DAY

Number of School Days

Monday 1st June 2020

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Tuesday 21st July 2020

Wednesday 22nd July 2020 (Educare)

37

Bank and Public Holidays

- Wednesday 25th December 2019 (Christmas Day)
- Thursday 26th December 2019 (Boxing Day)
- Wednesday 1st January 2020 (New Years Day)
- Friday 10th April 2020 (Good Friday)
- Monday 13th April 2020 (Easter Monday)
- Friday 8th May 2020 (May Day Bank Holiday)
- Monday 25th May 2020 (Spring Bank Holiday)
- Monday 31st August 2020 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Contact Information

Park Campus Academy

Telephone: 0207 504 0542

Email: info@parkcampus.org.uk

Address: Gipsy Road, West Norwood, London, SE27 9NP

Kennington Park Academy

Telephone: 020 7504 0550

Email: info@kenningtonpark.org.uk

Address: 20 Kennington Park Gardens, Kennington, London, SE11 4AX

Ramsden Hall Academy

Telephone: 01277 624580

Email: admin@ramsdenhall.org.uk

Address: Heath Road, Ramsden Heath, Billericay, Essex, CM11 1HN

Sutton House Academy

Telephone: 01702 904 633

Email: info@suttonhouse.org.uk

Address: Wentworth Road, Southend on Sea, SS2 5LG

Victory Park Academy

Telephone: 01702 904 644

Email: info@victorypark.org.uk

Address: Wentworth Road, Southend on Sea, SS2 5LG

Inspire Academy

Telephone: 01634 827372

Email: info@inspireacademy.org.uk

Address: Silverbank, Churchill Avenue, Chatham, ME5 0LB

Wandle Valley Academy

Telephone: 020 8648 1365

Email: office@wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk

Address: Welbeck Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 1LW



Parallel Learning Trust

Address: Suite 1, Baker House
Horsley Road
Bromley
BR1 3LB

t: 020 8313 0032

w: <http://www.plt.org.uk/contact-plt/>