



PARENT BULLETIN

2 Nov - 6 Nov 2020: Week 2



Dear parents, carers and students,

Welcome to the final edition of the parent bulletin for this half-term - and what a half-term it has been! I don't think we have been as challenged before in education as we have been recently, but I would like to say a huge thank you for all your support and efforts with our return to school and getting to terms with the new *normal*. A special thank you and well done should go to our lovely new Year 7 pupils, who have now settled well into our school community. It is such a shame that their initial experience of our wonderful school has been impacted by the pandemic; they have not yet experienced vertical tutoring and all the benefits that brings, nor have they had the opportunity to participate in our usual offering of extra-curricular activities.

It is worth reflecting on how we have all managed as a school community since reopening our doors in September. Incredibly, we have escaped what many other schools in the area and nationally have had to implement - a year group or multiple year groups out of school for two weeks. Whilst we have had a very small number of positive cases amongst our pupils, these have not resulted in a whole year group being out of school for a fortnight. The worst affected year group has been Year 8 during the past couple of weeks, and I want to pass on to parents and carers the gratitude we have for their support when we've had to inform them with very little notice to keep their child at home. I know personally how disruptive this can be; my youngest son is having to self-isolate as his primary teacher tested positive on Monday, so I fully understand the impact of having to keep your child at home and rearrange your life at very short notice. So thank you!

Year 11 students are also worthy of praise! Their mature approach and adaptability are to be commended during these unprecedented times and I could not be more proud of our 11s and their resilience, their sensitivity to the demands placed on us as a school and the way they are applying themselves in the classroom. Keep up the excellent standards, Year 11, and your success next summer will be truly deserved!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a lovely half-term break, despite the new restrictions placed on us as Lancashire moves into Tier 3. Many of you will have had plans to go on holiday or visit friends and family, and no doubt the majority of you will have had to cancel these plans due to the new rules, but I hope you manage to find some quality family time, relax and make the best out of a horrible situation.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell
Headteacher



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Year 7 Messages

All parents of Year 7 pupils should have received an email from child's Form Tutor about their first term in Parklands - please look out for this! Thanks

Group photograph proofs have been handed out to the pupils today. If you wish to order one, please do so via the Tempest website or return the slip/money after the half term break. Many thanks.

Indigo - don't forget that you can log into Indigo at home and check out career options, have a look at universities and hear from people currently employed in a wide range of jobs.

Year 7 - your assembly and introduction to Indigo is coming soon ...

Year 8 Messages

Thank you for all your support this week with the Covid issues we've faced. The year group has been fantastic and worked really well at home. We hope the deep clean & half-term break will be our own circuit-breaker!

Year 9 Messages

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Unfortunately a handful of pupils have not received their login details yet. They will be unable to access the website and app at the moment. This is an issue on the website's side, not your child.



If your child did not manage to update their eDofE information today, please take the time to get them to check via the website eDofE.co.uk or download the app. You can access help videos by clicking on the images within the PDF [here](#).

Your child will need to have logged in and updated their details either via the app or website if they have access. As I previously mentioned some pupils do not have a username or password yet but will soon.

It is also not too late to sign your child up to complete the expedition, we just require a £25 deposit with the remainder to be paid in February. If payments could be made before the end of October that would be fantastic. Payments can be made by cash/cheque or online via SCOPAY. This is a really great opportunity for your child at a very good price in comparison to other schools in the area. Thank you to those who have already shown interest in your child completing the Bronze award. The letter with details is [here](#) (and it has been previously emailed to all parents). Any questions or queries, please email Miss Greaves - ngreaves@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Year 10 Messages

None this week

Year 11 Messages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k219RRqj1gk>

The video above is from Newman College and talks about all the different courses they offer, their entry requirements and the next step: applying! Please note that college applications should be in by Christmas if possible to allow interviews to take place before exam preparation starts.

<https://www.runshaw.ac.uk/study-at-runshaw/apply/>

Runshaw College has put together a short 'how to apply' video that takes you through the online application process step by step. If anyone would prefer a paper application form, see Miss Berry. Please note: you do not have to specify which course/subject you want to take at this stage - you can simply write 'vocational' or 'A levels' and the details will be added at interview.

Geography Field Trip

You were contacted in the summer about obtaining a refund for the Salford Quays and River Wyre field trips that had to be cancelled. Please contact the school office should you still need to claim this back.

Group photograph proofs have been handed out to the pupils today. If you wish to order one, please do so via the Tempest website or return the slip/money after the half term break. Many thanks.

We would usually hold an information evening for parents and carers giving details of the year ahead, GCSE exams and the structures in place to support all our students to achieve the best possible outcomes in this crucial year. Due to current restrictions it means we will not be able to hold this event in school but we emailed a letter to all Year 11 parents and carers this week with a range of information including details of all the GCSE / BTEC courses and support we offer. Click [here](#) to read.

We would also usually hold parents' evening in November. Unfortunately this cannot be held in school, due to current restrictions, but you will receive a written update from each of your child's teachers reporting on their start to the year, effort and progress. These reports will be separately emailed to you on Thursday 12th November, when parents' evening would have been held.

Careers

Don't forget that there is a Parklands Careers Twitter account - @PHSCareers1

Indigo - don't forget that you can log into Indigo at home and check out career options, have a look at universities and hear from people currently employed in a wide range of jobs.

A few more virtual college open events for your diary: Preston's College, Saturday 7th November, 10.00am - 2.00pm and Bolton 6th Form, Saturday 7th November, 10.30am-1.30pm. Wigan & Leigh College, Monday 9th November - please note that registration is required for all these events. More information available on the college websites.

If you are considering a career in health or social care, you might want to take advantage of this **free** online course from the world famous Norland College (nannies to the Royal family and the rich and famous!) Create an account and get started on the 'Introduction to Babysitting' course, designed specifically for teenagers and young people. You can work through the course in your own time and on completion, as well as having gained lots of new skills, you will receive a certificate from the college. https://onlinecourses.norland.ac.uk/courses/course-v1:NorlandCollege+OC0001+2020_Run2/about The link above will take you directly to the course registration. If you want to know a little more about Norland and the qualifications they offer, have a look at the website and take part in the virtual open event: <https://www.norland.ac.uk/>

If STEM careers is more your thing, then take a look at the 'Routes into STEM' course for young people aged 13-15, allowing you to discover all the exciting routes into STEM careers whilst experiencing life at college, university and with a company through virtual tours from the comfort of your own home! On completion of the course, students will understand the diverse routes available to them and gain a Bronze Industrial Cadet award, a well-regarded industry led accreditation. There is a cost to this (£60) and it will take around 20 hours to complete, so definitely one for the really committed. <https://www.etrust.org.uk/routes-into-stem> This course is offered by the Engineering Development Trust.

Parklands High School has recently partnered with Oxford Scholastica Academy which will enable us to offer amazing opportunities at Oxford University such as summer schools, conferences and masterclasses - all at reduced rates. Much more to follow on this after half term ...

For any aspiring medical students, Dr Alex Argyros has kindly sent a UCAT handbook, so that you can see the type of questions you would be asked. It's never too soon to have a look and start thinking about how you would answer! [2021 UCAT Handbook](#)

Career of the Week is Construction Manager - the Prime Minister's slogan at present is 'Build Back Better', so hopefully there will be lots of jobs available in the construction industry in the future. Have a look on the school website at: <https://careeroftheweek.wordpress.com/>

Medic Mentors - conferences coming up ...

Get into Medicine - Saturday 24th October, Saturday 31st October

Get into Veterinary - Saturday 21st November (Exclusive talk from Channel 5's Yorkshire Vet)

Get into Dentistry - Sunday 29th November

Medic Mentors virtual work experience: the taster session is on Saturday 17th October with the 6 month programme commencing on Saturday 21st November 2020. Students apply directly on:

<https://medicmentor.co.uk/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Still places left - apply now!!!

Apprenticeship Notifications

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice/apply-for-an-apprenticeship>

Year 11 recently had a session on Apprenticeships during their Elevate lesson. If you are interested in undertaking an apprenticeship, the best place to start is by following the link above and creating an account. It's a short, simple form that takes 5 minutes to fill in. You can search for local vacancies and get notifications when a new vacancy is posted. Obviously you cannot start one right away, but it's worth setting up an account and seeing what kind of jobs come up - don't forget some application processes take months, so it's never too soon to start looking!

(BAE Systems pre-registration is open now and applications will be accepted from November 1st).

October Parents' & Carers' Pack - All About Apprenticeships

In the [October issue](#) we look at the differences between T Levels, traineeships and apprenticeships, dyslexia support, the BAME Awards 2020, apprenticeships in engineering, Top 100 Employers, Life as a mature apprentice with the NHS and much more.

Whole School Messages

School closes today for half-term. We reopen on Monday, 2nd November.

Uniform

Please be advised that hoodies must not be worn under blazers on non-PE days. We appreciate the weather is getting colder, so please encourage your child to bring a coat to school.

Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since the start of term? There are **321** pupils with the perfect 3!

Year 7: 57 pupils
Year 8: 79 pupils
Year 9: 60 pupils
Year 10: 64 students
Year 11: 61 students

Who had the perfect 3 last week?

Year 7: 145 pupils
Year 8: 141 pupils
Year 9: 105 pupils
Year 10: 106 students
Year 11: 139 students

Please congratulate your child if they are one of the perfect 3s! All BfL scores can be found in the Edulink app.

[Weekly Notice Board](#) for Learning Support

Studies have shown that when young people want answers about a sensitive subject, most now turn to internet searches.

The information they then receive is a lucky dip depending on what result they click on. There's a good chance that the information won't be clear or they will misinterpret it.

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

This website is working in other areas of the country so we thought Parklands students could utilise it too. The Mix works with young people to develop their content and functions, so are more relatable. The topics they cover are fairly comprehensive; it could be a good link to share with your child.

Design and Technology aprons

After half term, pupils will be completing more practical lessons in Design and Technology. Pupils will need to bring in an apron for all D&T lessons for health and safety purposes. Normally aprons would be provided, but due to the risk of cross-contamination, pupils must now bring in their own. If your child does not have an apron yet, they can be purchased from NU clothing in Chorley. I've spoken to them myself and they have lots in stock. Mr M McAvoy, Curriculum Leader

Please be advised that the two standalone vending machines in school have now been removed. This is to continue our pledge to become a greener school. The amount of plastic bottles this move will save from entering an already critically damaged environment will be significant and it is the right thing to do. Please encourage your child to bring a full reusable bottle to school.



Lunchtime Welfare Assistant

Grade 3 points 2 - 4, Salary £3104.93 - £3230.34

Required as soon as possible.

This is a re-advertised post – previous applicants need not apply

Term Time Only 7.5 hours per week. This is intended to be a permanent position subject to completion of a probationary period.

We are seeking a Lunchtime Welfare Assistant to secure the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break period. After the midday break you will remove and collect litter from areas identified.

Hours will be 1.15pm to 2.45pm Monday to Friday (term time only).

We would love to hear from you if you are a positive, friendly and hard working person who enjoys working with children. This is an opportunity to work in a friendly, and supportive environment.

Staff here benefit from access to the UK's leading provider of healthcare insurance. The position is subject to an enhanced disclosure via DBS and 2 satisfactory references.

For more information, advert and application details please visit the vacancies section of the school website

Closing date for applications: 12 noon. Friday 6th November 2020

Interviews will be held w/c 9th November 2020

During form times this week all pupils have been given the opportunity to download the Edulink App and create their own student account. This enables them to have access to many features including their timetable, their current catering balance, their Achievement points, links to useful websites and more. If your child has been unwell or required to self isolate this week they may not have had the chance to do this. I am attaching a few slides which talk the pupils through how to download and use the App to enable them to create their account over half term. If any pupil did not receive an email to their Parklands email account from Edulink (mentioned in the first slide) they should email Miss Johnson ajohnson@parklandsacademy.co.uk and I will be able to create them a link for when they return after half term. [Edulink information for Pupils](#)