



PARENT BULLETIN

14 Dec - 18 Dec 2020: Week 2



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

You may be aware that the government advised schools this week to close to pupils 1 day early on Thursday 17th December. This is following guidance from Public Health England. A summary of the main points are as follows:

- School and college leaders are being asked to undertake contact tracing, if necessary, for six days after the end of term. This, in effect, means we could be phoning parents up to Christmas Eve informing them of the need to cancel their Christmas Day plans and self-isolate.
- If schools close to pupils after Thursday 17th, this means that the six-day contact tracing window will finish on 23rd December.

It is disappointing to me that the government has placed the burden of this decision firmly on headteachers rather than take the bold decision to close all schools nationally. There will undoubtedly be some families who are desperately worried about Christmas and who will favour the early closure, yet there will also be families who believe we should not finish early, so whichever decision we take as a school, it will not suit everyone.

Having consulted the school's Governing Body, I have decided that Parklands will close after school on **Thursday, 17th December**. One less day in school reduces the risk of any of our students or staff catching the virus and having to isolate over the Christmas period. This was made all the more poignant this week when we were notified of positive cases in Year 11, resulting in the whole year group having to self-isolate.

The much-publicised symptoms of Covid (eg new continuous cough, high temperature, lack of smell/taste) were not displayed in the recent cases we've had at school. More typically, the students who have tested positive complained of the symptoms below:

- Headaches
- Feeling unwell, especially tired & lethargic
- Feeling sick (but not being sick)
- Sickness & diarrhoea

With this in mind, we would ask you to be especially vigilant regarding your child's health, and should they display any of the above symptoms, we request that you keep your child off school for 48 hours.

We have also been notified of the reduction from Monday of the self-isolation period. All we know at the moment is what is contained in the news - see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-55274147>.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell
Headteacher

Year 7 Messages

No messages this week

Year 8 Messages

No messages this week

Year 9 Messages

No messages this week

Year 10 Messages

No messages this week

Year 11 Messages

Don't forget to submit your college applications before Christmas. You should be applying to at least TWO colleges, so you have a Plan B. Predicted grades are what you genuinely think you are capable of achieving in your GCSEs; you do not have to specify what course/subject at this point (just write A Levels or Vocational) and you do not have to write a personal statement (just put 'I will bring this to interview') Interviews will start soon after Christmas so don't miss out.



In case you missed the autumn event, there is another national **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair** (27th January), featuring a vast array of exhibitors and 10 vital webinars. Students and parents can find out more and [sign up here](#).

It will feature a huge range of universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers and you can live chat with staff and ask any questions. You can explore exhibition stands, view prospectuses and take part in interactive webinars - and it's completely FREE!

<https://careeroftheweek.wordpress.com/>

Career of the Week is Social Media Manager. Check out the link for more details.

Medic Mentor have just launched Allied Healthcare Mentor, to support all aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities. Students now have access to their own specific work experience programme that will be highly relevant to the following healthcare careers:

- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Radiographers
- Art, drama and music therapists
- Dietitians
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Radiographers
- Podiatrists
- Osteopaths
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists and orthotics
- Speech and language therapists

You can learn more and register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Students will receive a certificate on completion. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Register through the link above. Places cost £10 per day to cover administrative costs, but there are free places, depending on household income.

Here's a link to the NHS Careers site - there are hundreds of roles within the NHS, not just nurse or doctor. Have a go at the quiz and see what career is suggested for you - it might be something you've never even heard of! [Explore roles | Health Careers](#)

<https://mtfy.org.uk/> 'Meet the Future You' is a short quiz for students who may be interested in engineering but don't really know about the huge range of careers within the sector. Take this fun quiz and discover your future self in the world of engineering!

Veterinary Virtual Work Experience

Designed for students who are considering a degree in Veterinary Medicine, the University of Nottingham, in conjunction with FutureLearn, have designed a fantastic virtual work experience programme. Check it out here: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support>
It's a free programme that should give you a real insight into the profession.



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Apprenticeship Notifications

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9ZqT-ybRPY> This is a short video from Training 2000, an apprenticeship provider based in Blackburn. Some students are not totally sure of the direction/sector they want to go into, so they choose a traineeship to build their employability skills and explore different industries. Logan started a traineeship and found a work placement - eventually being offered an apprenticeship with that company. See Miss Berry for more details on traineeships or apprenticeships.

Whole School Messages

Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since the start of term? There are **205** pupils with the perfect 3 - Well done!

Year 7: 33 pupils
Year 8: 50 pupils
Year 9: 47 pupils
Year 10: 40 students
Year 11: 35 students

Who had the perfect 3 last week?

Year 7: self-isolating

Year 8: 131 pupils

Year 9: 136 pupils

Year 10: 119 students

Year 11: 136 students

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

Food Bank appeal

Year 8 pupil Grace Scott composed a song during the first lockdown. Grace with her sister Milly, and in collaboration with Parklands High School, would like to 'donate' this song in order to raise money for their local food bank. They would like to ensure that those affected by lockdown or simply don't have enough food this Christmas will be able to go to the local Living Waters storehouse and get what they need. Please help us stock the shelves and ensure people have enough food; we will be grateful for all donations however big or small.

Thank you in advance,

Grace & Milly

Please see the link below to the donations page

https://www.gofundme.com/f/pauls-campaign-for-livingwaters-storehouse?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

Covid over Christmas

As Christmas approaches, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of keeping up the high Covid safety standards we have maintained so far. No-one wants to have to miss Christmas because they have to be in isolation or run the risk of transferring the virus to any relatives who may be vulnerable.

- Any contact that your child has with a person who turns out to be a positive Covid case after Friday 11th December would mean that they would have to be in isolation over Christmas day.
- If your child tests positive 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to inform school. The NHS Track & Trace system will deal with contact tracing.
- If your child tests positive up to 48 hours after finishing school, please email us at attendance@parklandsacademy.co.uk
- We will then conduct a track and trace of students who are close contacts to inform them of the requirement to isolate and for how long

Whole School Messages

We are delighted to announce that, following a rigorous external assessment, Parklands has been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark Inclusive School Award. Some of the comments from the assessor are as follows:

Everybody in Parklands' community regardless of gender, faith, ethnicity or background is celebrated.

Students have formed well-established working parties to support the different vulnerable groups, including a recent inclusion of a Black Lives Matter working party

Parklands' students benefit from an exceptional SENCo who has a true passion for making sure all children can access their education and thrive

The all-encompassing vision to develop students as a whole is evident through the introduction of the character virtues

Parklands' approach to student leadership opportunities is fully inclusive. To develop students' leadership skills and offer them varied experiences, the school has a large Student Leadership Team and have created many additional leadership opportunities

Students speak very positively about their learning experiences and enthusiastically describe the passion their teachers have for their subjects. One Student Leader explained how the teachers "want us to do well, succeed and improve" and that they are "always positive"



Congratulations to Larissa in Year 11 for the winning entry in this year's Christmas card competition!

Andalucia Trip October half term 2021

Email jdonohue@parklandsacademy.co.uk for a letter

- Amazing opportunity to:
- Visit the incredible Alhambra World Heritage Site
 - Explore the Great Mosque and Synagogue in Cordoba
 - See art exhibitions
 - Relax on Malaga Beach
 - Taste traditional tapas
 - And much more!



Five days
Open to current year 9 students

Approx. £720 all food, hotel accommodation and travel included
We are still planning for this trip to go ahead, Covid-dependent

Thank you for all your support with our CHRISTMAS HAMPERS! Your generosity is very much appreciated.





December 2020

E-Scooters

A message from the Lancashire Constabulary Road Safety Partnership regarding E-Scooters.

E-Scooters have been in the news over the past months as an eco-friendly method of transport.

It is inevitable that some students will receive one of these for a Christmas present.

Currently it is illegal to ride an E-Scooter on a public road or pavement in Lancashire. They are classed as a motor vehicle and subject to the same legal requirements such as MOT, Tax, Licensing and Insurance.

The attached leaflet explains in more detail what the situation is regarding E-Scooters; the fact that they cannot be ridden on the public highway and so should not be ridden to school.

We would appreciate it if you could make your students and parents/guardians aware of this information prior to the end of term, especially if they are considering these as Christmas presents.

Many thanks and kind regards

Julia Clayton

on behalf of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership



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