



PARENT BULLETIN

9 Nov - 13 Nov 2020: Week 1



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you were able to have an enjoyable half-term break with your child/ren, despite the current restrictions and the appalling weather we had to endure.

You will be aware that as of Thursday, 4th November the country has entered a second national lockdown. Schools are currently unaffected and for us at Parklands, it is business as “usual”. The Government has also announced that face coverings are now mandatory in communal spaces in all secondary schools, but as we implemented this weeks ago we do not need to do anything extra. Please be advised, however, that some staff may ask pupils to wear face coverings temporarily in lessons; this will generally be when a member of staff needs to help an individual pupil, so that both pupil and staff member are protected as much as possible. I am really pleased that our pupils have responded so maturely to the wearing of face coverings, perhaps it is this which has enabled us to keep school running as well as we did during the first half-term. I really hope that we will continue to keep all pupils in school in the run-up to Christmas.

There has been much talk nationally and in school about the implementation of a rota system. Such a system is introduced when schools go into the *education tier 2*; this is different to the other tier system you will be more familiar with. A rota system would limit the number of year groups in school and help with lowering the transmission rate in schools. It could also be implemented by individual schools, should staffing levels fall too low. You may remember that before the national lockdown in March, I had to send certain year groups home as I did not have sufficient staff to run the school safely. If, like some other schools in the area, a large number of Parklands’ staff are required to self-isolate or are ill, I may have to introduce a rota system with very short notice. I hope you can understand why I would have to do this however inconvenient it may be. My teaching staff are able to deliver online Google Meet lessons and set work via Google Classroom, so please rest assured that your child would have enough work to keep themselves busy during the day if required to stay at home. Finally, should I have to implement a rota system, I will endeavour to ensure Year 11 and Year 7 pupils remain in school at all times, with the other three year groups rotating. Whilst this is far from ideal, I must prioritise our youngest pupils (who may not be able to stay home alone during the day) and our eldest pupils, who are working towards their exams next summer.

Finally, I would like to inform you that we are implementing staggered lunches from Monday. Years 8 & 10 will have their lunch after period 3, followed by years 7, 9, and 11 after period 4. This change will ensure all pupils have an indoor eating area and more inside space now that the weather is changing for the worst.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Mr S Mitchell
Headteacher



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Year 7 Messages

None this week

Year 8 Messages

None this week

Year 9 Messages

None this week

Year 10 Messages

Would any y10s or y11s like to take part in a Lancaster University essay competition? The title is "Do we still need to learn about other languages and cultures in the age of Google Translate?" This is a video competition. Email jdonohue@parklandsacademy.co.uk for more information.

Year 11 Messages

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.

Lots more college open events coming up: Myerscough College on Saturday 7th November, Preston's College on Saturday 7th November, Wigan & Leigh College on Monday 9th November and Runshaw College on Tuesday 17th November. Students will be sent the links via email to pre-register.

Preston's College are offering an after school virtual drop in every Wednesday, from 3.30 - 6.00pm on 01772 225774 for any Year 11 who would like assistance with application support, CV advice or for anyone who just wants general advice on the college and courses offered. This will run until the end of the year.



Monday (9th November) Virtual Open Event at Wigan & Leigh College. Talks start at 4.40pm and are offered up until 7.55pm - from all departments, as well as from the Principal.

Registration for the event and information on the presentations and talks can be found here:

<https://wiganleigh.onlineopendays.com/>

Students are reminded that there is a Careers Drop-in every Thursday and Friday lunchtime in A21. Come along for help with application forms, or for general advice and support.



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Year 11 Messages



APEX Mentoring

This half term sees the launch of our new Y11 mentoring system. We have developed a tailored and personalised 4 strand approach to mentoring our pupils based on differing needs and attributes.

These programmes are aimed at supporting the study and aspirational needs of each student. We have introduced a new strand of personal or professional mentoring for students that have demonstrated a conscientious, committed attitude but tend to hide their light and get on independently. These students will be mentored by the Senior Leadership Team.

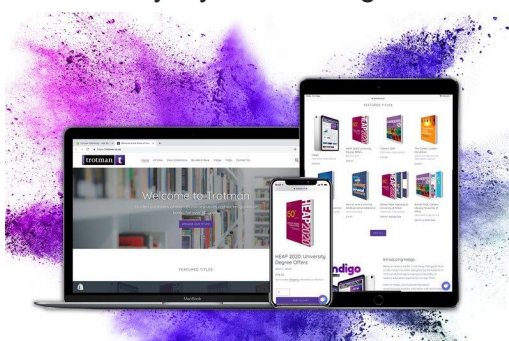
Careers

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

Please don't forget that every student (and parents/carers) can access Indigo, the comprehensive careers package we have in school. This will allow students to look at different careers: watch videos and find out more about different industries, as well as exploring universities and degree courses (including degree apprenticeships). See Miss Berry if you have forgotten or lost your Indigo log-in.

indigo

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If anyone is interested in a career in animation, VFX or game design, then you might want to consider this offer from Escape Studios: Access VFX. This is a series of virtual events where you can hear from professionals working at PlayStation, Industrial Light & Magic, Union VFX, Moonraker VFX, MPC Advertising, The Mill and more. Whether you're artistic, have a passion for maths and programming or have an interest in business and marketing, there is a role in the Creative Industries for you.

https://www.accessvfx.org/events?utm_source=careermaps&utm_medium=email&utm_content=esc_teachemail_291020

Check out the website - there are events all through November.

This week's Career of the Week is Newspaper Journalist. A top journalist can uncover corruption or capture the mood of the nation - even in this digital age! So if you think that could be the job for you, follow the link on the website: <https://careeroftheweek.wordpress.com/> and find out more.



SPEAKERS for schools

Another not-to-be-missed event is the live broadcast with Rich Waterworth, Tik Tok's General Manager for the UK (in partnership with the Creative Industries Federation). This event is made possible by the brilliant Speakers for Schools team. Rich will be sharing highlights from his career, why creativity matters and his favourite Tik Tok moments - as well as answering questions from viewers. Check the Twitter link for joining instructions: <https://twitter.com/speakers4schools>

Date: Wednesday 11th November, from 16:20(Only the presenter will be shown on screen - webinar style with mics and cameras turned off and the Q&A function moderated by a member of the SFS team)

“

I'm the type of person that
likes to get stuck in and
really involved in what I do.
That's the way I learn best.

Max Whitlock MBE
Double Olympic Gold Medallist
BTEC Sport



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kt0a1R2P1u0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBVOGP0920OPTNS

If you have any questions about whether to take A Levels or BTECs at college, or just want a bit of information about BTECs, then have a look at the short film (link above). It's a step by step guide to BTECs and where they can take you in the future.

GAMES ● JOBS LIVE

Tuesday 17th
November

The global games market is a \$159 billion industry, with 2.7 billion people globally playing video games. It is one of the few industries to see growth as a result of Covid-19; nearly 50,000 people now work in the UK's games industry, with constant demand for talented programmers, artists, animators, designers, musicians, testers and more.

"How to get into the games industry" is a FREE 90-minute livestreamed event on Tuesday 17th November, featuring acclaimed developers giving their advice and taking questions about getting into the games industry.

Companies presenting include Mediatonic (Fall Guys), Ubisoft (Assassin's Creed), Epic (Fortnite), Rocksteady (Batman: Arkham titles), 4J Studios (Minecraft), TT Games (Lego Star Wars), and Sony PlayStation's former Director of Strategic Content, Shahid Ahmad.

Abertay University, Escape Studios and Wrexham Glyndwr University will also talk about the games courses they offer, and be available online for the event duration to answer any questions.

Interested individuals should register at: careers.gamesjobs.live

From Andrew Bernard FPSA PGCert

Speaker | Author | Director

Innovative Enterprise - Bringing The Future To Life

<https://twitter.com/EnterpriseSBox/status/1320645849299472386>

Have a look at this series of short videos – to help young people to take control of their futures and start a business or, at least, start to make money using their smartphones. I started with a video of 2 minutes and 20 seconds (because that's the maximum you can upload to Twitter) and put it on my Twitter account @EnterpriseSBox with the #BusinessInYourHand hashtag...and the next day I did another one and then another and so on...to date there are eleven films in the sequence and I'm still going strong with one a day planned until Global Entrepreneurship Week (#GEW2020) w/c 16th November

The image features a large, futuristic aircraft with a white and black body and yellow accents, flying over a dense cityscape. The aircraft has a unique design with a large main rotor and smaller rotors on the wings. In the background, another smaller aircraft is visible in the sky. The BAE Systems logo is prominently displayed in a red box in the upper right corner of the image.

BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems Apprenticeships - UK Virtual Career Open Events

There are a series of open events coming up, each covering a different job role (Business Admin and Supply Chain Practitioner or Technician/Craft/Aircraft Maintenance). These roles are offered as Level 3 apprenticeships, equivalent to A Levels and leading directly to Higher or Degree Level apprenticeships.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/C7BCFR/> Each scheme has four dates to choose from and you must register a place in order to attend. The apprenticeship application window is **now open** until 28 February - apply online at: www.baesystems.com/apprenticeships



MISSILE SYSTEMS

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST - APPRENTICE PROGRAMME 2021

<https://www.mbdacareers.co.uk/early-careers/apprenticeships>

Register your interest now and be notified when the application window opens.

Our four-year apprenticeship schemes provide you with a platform to study for a recognised qualification and gain incredible work experience at the same time.

We offer apprenticeships in Engineering, Software and Business areas. You will move around the company in rotational placements where you will gain a wider understanding, build a network within the organisation and define your future career with us.

You will work at one of our MBDA sites and study for your qualification via day release at university or college. In addition, we organise bespoke training courses focused on your development to further enhance and improve your skill set.

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair for the North-West, North-East, Scotland and NI is taking place next **Wednesday 11th November** (12:00 - 18:00).

It's completely **free** of charge, and it's a fun and easy way to explore over 80 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. Whether you're looking at studying or working **close to home**, or thinking about **moving away**, you'll be able to find out more about your post-18 options. You can join us at **school or home**, whatever suits your day.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIm5KnR1IUw>

Watch the short video clip to find out more about the event.

Whole School Messages

Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since the start of term? There are **287** pupils with the perfect 3!

Year 7: 52 pupils
Year 8: 72 pupils
Year 9: 53 pupils
Year 10: 57 students
Year 11: 53 students

Who had the perfect 3 last week?

Year 7: 93 pupils
Year 8: 117 pupils
Year 9: 120 pupils
Year 10: 121 students
Year 11: 120 students

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

BfL Reports

All year groups received their first report of the year this week. Please spend some time discussing the information with your child. The reports should be in the Documents section of the Edulink app.

Weekly Notice Board for Learning Support

Due to Covid restrictions and the newly implemented second lockdown, to minimise the spread of infection, we kindly ask that, other than emergency/essential items, you do not bring any forgotten items that your child has left at home to the school reception. We cannot guarantee that any items dropped off at reception will be delivered to students. We appreciate your understanding during these uncertain times.

GCSE PE Nike tops.

Having spoken to the company who are supplying the new Nike GCSE PE tops, we will be receiving them at school week beginning 16th Nov. Sorry for the delay. Mr Rimmer

From Mrs Fairhurst - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bedtime Stories – Highlighting the dangers of online bullying:

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/bedtime-stories/bedtime-stories-chapter-two/>

Alumni should be well on their way with the Gold Cultural Capital Qualification. All information about this is on Google Classroom. Please email jdonohue@parklandsacademy.co.uk

DINNER MONEY & SCOPAY - A reminder that any cash dinner monies will be collected during Monday's form registration **only**. Please note SCOPAY is the school's preferred method of payment. If anyone still requires a link code to register for the school's online payment system, please email accounts@parklandsacademy.co.uk and an email with the code will be sent to you.

Family Support Phone-in & Text Service

"We Are With You" have set up designated phone time for support, information, and advice for family members affected by young people's substance misuse. If you need any advice please call us:

Call us on **07789 397918** Wednesday's 10am-12pm

You can also text this number to arrange a time that's convenient for you to talk.

Call us on **07789 397959** Wednesday's 4pm-6pm

You can also text this number to arrange a time that's convenient for you to talk.



@WeAreWithYouLancashire



@WAWYLancs



@wearewithyoulancs



Children in Need 2020

Non Uniform Day 13th November.

Please can pupils bring in a donation of £1, Form Tutors will be collecting the money from Tuesday. We will also be running a raffle for the pupils at 50 pence a ticket, our bubble prefects will be in forms next week selling tickets. Thank you so much for your continued support. Mrs Haslam



Leaders Unlocked

We are currently recruiting young people to join the **Lancashire Youth Commission on Police and Crime** – an exciting initiative in partnership with the **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**, **Lancashire Violent Reduction Network (VRN)** and the **Police**.

The Youth Commission enables young people to **support, challenge and influence decisions about policing, crime and violence reduction in Lancashire**. The Youth Commission allows **young people to get involved and have their say about policing, crime reduction and approaches to prevention** where they live.

The Youth Commission will explore urgent issues affecting young people in Lancashire, such as reducing offending and re-offending, improving the relationship with the police, and anti-social behaviour.

The Youth Commission is aimed at young people aged 14-25 years who want to make a difference to their community. **We're looking for a diverse group of young people from different backgrounds and life experiences** to take part, including those who have direct experience of the criminal justice system.

This is a brilliant opportunity for young people to gain new knowledge, skills and experiences. Members of the Youth Commission will play an important role in helping to run consultation events and **gather the opinions of other young people about policing, crime and reducing offending and re-offending**.

All documents needed to apply for this opportunity are attached. We've tried to make this process simple and accessible for everyone. We would very much appreciate it if you could encourage any young person who you feel would benefit from this experience to apply, and support them to fill out the application if needed.

The application pack can also be accessed via this link:

<https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/lancashire-youth-commission/>

Application deadline is: 13th November 2020

If you have any questions about the Youth Commission, please feel free to contact either:

Kaytea Budd-Brophy: kaytea@leaders-unlocked.org

Ali Roberts: ali@leaders-unlocked.org

we are
withyou

in Lancashire

UNDER 25?

Worried about your Drug or Alcohol use? Want to speak to someone in confidence?

(Freefone 0808 164 0074)



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wearewithyou.org.uk

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ACTION CALENDAR: NEW WAYS NOVEMBER 2020



SUNDAY

1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

8 Find out something new about someone you care about

15 Go outside and do something playful - walk, run, explore, relax

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

29 Discover your artistic side. Design your own greeting cards

MONDAY

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way

9 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

30 Look for reasons to be hopeful, even in difficult times

TUESDAY

3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

10 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

WEDNESDAY

4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community

11 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

THURSDAY

5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel

12 Overcome a frustration by trying out a new approach

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

26 Tune in to a different radio station or TV channel

FRIDAY

6 Give yourself a boost. Try a new way of being physically active

13 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

27 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

SATURDAY

7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

28 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it



"You never know what you can do until you try" ~ C. S. Lewis



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/new-ways-november

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Wellbeing message to students and parents

Covid is restricting our lives and the lives of our children, but we can find new ways to keep making progress. Trying out new things can actually boost our wellbeing and help us feel connected as a family. When we open up to new ideas, it helps us stay curious and engaged. It can also bring a sense of accomplishment and help to boost our self-confidence and resilience. There are so many ways to learn new things and this month we're encouraging everyone to find new and creative ways to overcome our frustrating situations.



Remembrance Assembly

This year the assembly will still take place but will be streamed in classrooms by form tutors on Tuesday. It is vital that we continue as a school to raise awareness of such important events and issues in the world in our attempt to provide a holistic education.



Energy drinks are not allowed in school. They will be confiscated if found.