



PARKLANDS BULLETIN

WEEK 2

21st July - 25th July 2025



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of this half-term, I would like to thank you for your continued support as we work together as a school to raise standards and transform the lives of young people.

It has been a fantastic half-term, providing a wonderful finale to what has been an extremely successful year. The end of term is a time to reflect on the year's achievements, but also to look ahead to a fresh start in September.

In this final bulletin of the 2024/25 academic year, you'll find highlights from our brilliant Learning Challenge Week. The core purpose and philosophy of this week is to encourage pupils to take on challenges that develop skills, knowledge, and character. The range of projects has been truly outstanding, and the impact of this learning will be long-lasting. Learning Challenge Week is unique to Parklands, and if you were able to join us for the final day's festival, you'll have seen first-hand the impressive work produced by our pupils. Whilst the achievements in this week were many, one particular highlight that I would like to draw your attention to is the letter we received from Sir David Attenborough commending our Big Art project with an environmental theme. You will see this later in the bulletin. In addition to this, we have just been informed that we were awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award last week. This is something the Sustainability Team is extremely proud of.

A Few Reminders for September

Return to School:

- **Tuesday 2nd September – 8:35am:** Year 7 and Year 11
- **Wednesday 3rd September – 8:35am:** All year groups

We expect a high standard of personal appearance from all Parklands students. Wearing our uniform smartly and with pride reflects our ethos, promotes a sense of belonging, and sets the tone for learning. Our uniform is also a social leveller, creating a shared identity among students regardless of background. Our expectations align with national guidance issued in November 2021.

Please follow this link for full details about our uniform policy:

👉 [Parklands Uniform Information](#)

We've been very impressed with how pupils have embraced our phone policy – *'off and out of sight at all times'* – and this will continue in September. Please ensure all pupils bring a **reusable water bottle** in September, as we will no longer sell single-use bottled drinks, including water, on site.



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Headteacher's Message

Staff Farewells

We say goodbye and extend our heartfelt thanks to the following staff members for their commitment and service to Parklands. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and hope they will always remain part of Team Parklands:

- Mr Roe
- Mr Brennand
- Mrs Ardern
- Mrs Wilkinson
- A special mention and sincere thanks go to **Mrs Aspinall**, who is retiring after 22 years of dedicated service. Her influence can be seen in every young person she supported, every colleague she worked alongside, and every family she helped. Her legacy at Parklands is immeasurable.

Safeguarding Over the Summer

If you have any concerns or require support during the summer break, please visit our website for helpful contact numbers and safeguarding advice.

Finally, I would like to wish all our parents, carers, and pupils a happy and safe summer holiday. Thank you once again for your support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Mrs. Batson
Headteacher

Whole School Messages

Key Dates - September 2025

- Monday 1st September – INSET Day
- Tuesday 2nd September – Year 7 and Year 11 return to school. School photographs will be taken on this day
- Wednesday 3rd September – All year groups return. *Welcome to Year 11* evening for parents and pupils at 6pm in the main hall
- Thursday 4th September – Year 11 Review Day and Trackers will be sent home
- Tuesday 9th September – *Welcome to KS3 Home Study* evening (more information to follow)
Tuesday 9th September - Year 10 Review Day and Trackers will be sent home
- Friday 26th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning (more information to follow)

Y9 and Y10 same day detentions

Please be aware that if your child should receive a **BfL 1 or 0** they will be required to serve a same day detention after school from 3pm until 3.30pm. We hope this sanction may lead to an improved focus and better behaviour in lessons. We will endeavour to notify you by text message should your child need to attend the detention however please be aware this may not always be possible depending on the time of day. For example, if your child receives a 1 or 0 during their P5 lesson we may not be able to notify you ahead of picking your child up at the end of the day. You can also monitor your child's BFL on the EduLink app under the 'Attendance' section.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Polite reminder - Dropping items off at reception

Parents and carers are welcome to drop off forgotten items at reception, however please note that we are not able to notify pupils to let them know an item has arrived. Due to the high volume of PE kits and equipment we receive throughout the school day this is not possible. However, pupils are regularly informed and reminded that if they realise they have forgotten something they are able to check at the office to see if an item has been dropped off, even if a parent/carers hasn't been able to notify them prior. Pupils can continue to check throughout the day.

Please speak with your child to let them know that this is the protocol and therefore should they forget anything, they will know where to look.

Cashless systems - SCOPAY

To ensure smooth transactions that can be tracked and recorded for trips, food payments, uniform and more, we ask that payments are made online on SCOPAY wherever possible. We aim to reduce the amount of cash that is handled in school to improve efficiency and security. If you do not have a SCOPAY account, please email admin@parklandsacademy.co.uk stating your child's full name, form group and year group and a SCOPAY link will be sent to you. If this link does not arrive in your inbox please check your junk box.

Whole School Messages

Europe House

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, I want to take a moment to say a big **thank you** to all my Europe House students for their incredible hard work, determination and achievements this year. It's been a real privilege to see your growth and celebrate your successes, both big and small.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your unwavering support throughout the year.

Wishing you all a restful, joyful and well-deserved summer break!

Warmest regards,
Mrs Fox
Europe House Achievement Leader

Africa House

Hello everyone,

My name is Miss Fox, and I am absolutely delighted to be returning to the school community as the new Head of Africa House. Having worked here in the past, it feels fantastic to be back in such a vibrant and supportive environment, it truly feels like coming home.

At my last school, I had the privilege of leading a House to several House Cup victories, and I'm bringing that same energy and determination to Africa House. I'm excited to work alongside our incredible students to build team spirit, celebrate achievements, and aim high together.

To all our students and parents, I can't wait to get started and I'm ready to lead Africa House to success!

Warm regards,
Miss Fox
Africa House Achievement Leader

Year 10

We will be holding our annual *Welcome to Year 11 Evening* on **Wednesday 3rd September at 6pm in the school hall**. Parents are warmly invited to attend, and pupils are welcome to come along if they wish.

Much of the information will also be shared with pupils during their morning assembly with me. The evening will include a short presentation outlining how you can track your child's progress throughout their GCSE year, as well as what to expect over the course of this very important year.

I'll send a reminder in September, but I hope this early notice helps you plan ahead.

Kind regards,
Mr Metcalf

Whole School Messages

Ice Bucket Challenge

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the parents, pupils and colleagues that supported me in doing the Ice Bucket challenge on Alternative Sports Day. Bob Marley said - "Some people feel the rain, others just get wet!" Well, it felt like both but it's more than worthwhile for Lancashire Mind.

Please send any outstanding sponsor money so we are able to tot up the final amount and present it to Lancashire Mind.

If you missed it and would like to have a laugh, the event was recorded and is available to view on our Parklands social media pages so do take a look. So far, I believe the running total is over £200 which is amazing, so my sincere thanks from the heart!

Mr (not so dry) Herbane!

Whole School Messages

Learning Challenge Week 2025 SUCCESS!

Friday 18th July saw Parklands High School celebrate Festival Day! We invited parents, carers, members of the public and we even had one of our feeder primary schools visit us. The pupils were fantastic and showcased everything they had been working towards all week. We had cheerleading, an Elizabethan masque, a wellbeing event, Scare Fest, a Derian House fundraising event, a Japanese culture exhibition, a photography exhibition, carnival presentations and much much more.

The event was a roaring success and below are some comments from our community and pictures of the events. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff that make weeks like this possible at our wonderful school. We would also like to say another massive thank you to all the parents and carers who support our pupils and staff to pull off what was an amazing day! Well done everyone!

'My child had a great week and really enjoyed herself. I think it's a fantastic week for the children. Someone said to me a while back, 'Parklands are always doing something fun and different from all the other schools' and you certainly do!'

'Thank you for all the time and effort you and the staff put in for our children in making their school life so enjoyable!!'

'She had a great week and we appreciate all the effort that has been put into making it all happen.'

'We are very proud of Annalise's attitude to learning, friendships and general school life.'

'This is great to hear! We will be sure to tell him how proud we are of him this evening.'

'Thank you so much for your support and kind words, we are so proud of her, and Parklands and her teachers have been an amazing support to her.'



Whole School Messages

Learning Challenge Week 2025



Whole School Messages

Learning Challenge Week - Big Art

During Learning Challenge Week, 25 students took part in an exciting 'Big Art' project, where they collaborated to create a giant mural inspired by David Attenborough's Blue Planet II documentary. As part of the project, we wrote a heartfelt letter to Sir David Attenborough himself and to our great delight, he replied! You can see both our letter and his response below, along with photos of the stunning artwork. Don't forget to scan the QR code to watch a video showcasing the mural in all its colourful glory!

'Dear Sir David Attenborough,

We are a group of 25 students from Parklands High School who have been deeply moved and inspired by your groundbreaking documentary series, 'Blue Planet II'. Your words and film footage have ignited both our imagination and a sense of responsibility for the future of our oceans.

As part of a recent art project, we created a giant mural in response to the theme of plastic pollution and humankind's impact on marine life. Central to our artwork is a quote from your series: "It's our responsibility." Those three words became the driving force behind our message and purpose of the artwork.

Our mural depicts a large school of fish, which we created individually using lino printing. The fish are intertwined with plastics and fishing nets along their journey through the ocean. Each fish tells its own story: some appear healthy and vibrant, while others are skeletal, symbolising the damage and death caused by pollution. Hidden within some of the fish are words such as "crisis", "pollution", and "waste" - silent warnings embedded in the artwork. We also incorporated twinkling lights into the piece to suggest both movement and the beauty of the sea, as well as its fragility.

We were hoping that you might be willing to view the photographs we have attached of our artwork. It would mean so much to us if we could dedicate this piece to you, in recognition of your tireless efforts to raise awareness about the environmental challenges our planet faces.

Your voice continues to influence generations, and we are proud to be part of that wave of change. Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do for our blue planet. We hope you enjoy our work, and if possible, we would be incredibly honoured to receive a reply from you which we would frame and display along with the artwork.

*With sincere admiration and thanks,
The Art Students and Art Staff of Parklands High School'*



Whole School Messages

Learning Challenge Week - Big Art



Whole School Messages

Learning Challenge Week - Big Art

19.7.26

Dear Graham Wood and Art Students
and Staff at Portland High
School,

Thank you for your letter.

Your giant mural is truly spectacular
and sends a most powerful message.
Congratulations! Everyone who sees it,
I feel sure, will find its message
unforgettable.

Best wishes to you all

David Attenborough

from David Attenborough

Whole School Messages

Trip to Manchester & Mackie Mayor

To mark having read 'When Our Worlds Collided' the group visited Manchester where the story is set and to see some of the impressive street art in the Northern Quarter. We rounded off the visit with lunch at Mackie Mayor.



Whole School Messages

House Shield Winner 2025 - ASIA!

Yes Team ASIA! This trophy is not mine, it's all of yours. You're the ones who have spent hours creating, playing and taking part in this year's House competitions. You make me so proud to be your House Leader!

Enjoy your summer break, rest up and get ready for another crazy year.

Mrs O'Keefe



Whole School Messages

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award



I cannot express how proud I am of all members of the Sustainability Team and students from both Eco and Rewilding clubs. We have worked tirelessly over the past year to regain our Green Flag status.

We chose three topics to focus on. These were ENERGY, LITTER and SCHOOL GROUNDS. We have been involved in every stage of the Solar Panel scheme, we included the whole school in the Chorley wide 'Anti Litter' campaign and ran a House competition to choose the best designs (more on that below). Regarding the school grounds; more trees and shrubs have been planted, the rewilding area looks amazing and a garden was designed and created by Mr Cunningham and the 'Obvious Garden' Learning Challenge Team. It has been a super effort by all!

Feedback from Eco-Schools;

You've rightly chosen your solar panel installation as your standout achievement. It's a powerful example of pupil-led change transforming the school's future. Thanks to your initiative and teamwork, the panels are now generating regular, clean energy for the school, reducing costs and carbon emissions. Even more impressive is the role the Eco-Schools group played at every stage - from sparking the idea to supporting its planning and installation. Fantastic job.

Whole School Messages

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

Now we aim to strive to make our environment even more sustainable. If you feel that you have any ideas or initiatives that the school could benefit from, please feel free to contact me - Katrina Dewhurst kdewhurst@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Further News

As mentioned above, we ran a competition to highlight the 'Anti-Litter' campaign. Although it was a House competition, we also entered the Chorley Council Schools competition. We only went on to win or rather I should say, an entry from our wonderful student Destiny in Y8 (pictured below) was crowned overall winner in the Chorley High Schools category. Well done, Destiny!

♥ Have a wonderful (GREEN) summer ♥

Mrs Dewhurst



Whole School Messages

Nature Photography House 2025

Final Results

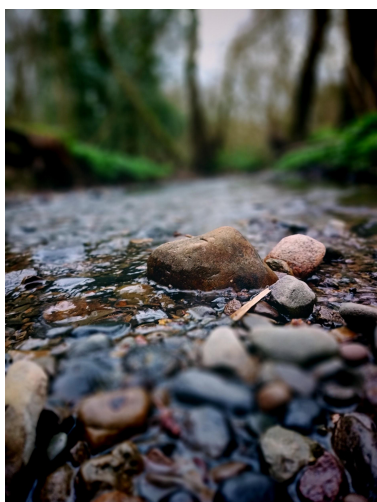
Thank you to all those who took part in the competition this year - the standard was exceptionally high. We can now reveal the winning picture, picked by our teachers, pupils and parents.



First Place - Daniel
(Y10)



Second Place - Liam
(Y11)



Joint Third Place -
Kalina (Y9)



Joint Third Place - Róisín
(Y8)

Whole School Messages

Students, please click the link to see what clubs, trips and activities are happening in school
[Parklands Bulletin](#)

Weekly Learning Support Board - please click [here](#)

The collage contains several sections:

- Learning Support Board Week Commencing 28th July 2025**
- "Some of the very best of memories are made in flip-flops or sliders."** by KELLIE ELMORE
- LANCASHIRE LOCAL OFFER** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer in Lancashire
- Have You Heard the News?** So that's all folk for the 2024/25 academic year. In the final week of term, we had a successful and enjoyable Reward trip for those pupils above BFL and attendance thresholds. On Friday morning, we had the House Shield Assembly where the winning House was revealed. Well done to all. Have a great summer holiday. School reopens for pupils on Tuesday 2nd September. Learningsupport@parklandsacademy.co.uk
- INSPIRE CLUB** What does this UK road sign mean? 30
- Joke of the Week** Which insects can tell the time? CLOCK-roaches!
- THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS LOUD AND CLEAR, SCHOOL'S OVER, THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE.**
- Follow us on Instagram:** [phs learningsupport](#)
- Useful Links**
 - ADDitude Magazine
 - Autism Eye
 - Autism Parenting Magazine
 - British Dyslexia Association
 - The Communication Trust
 - FIND Newsletter
 - GOV.UK Covid-19 Information
 - Headspace (Meditation & Sleep)
 - KOOTH Mental Health Support
 - Local Offer
 - NHS Urgent Mental Health Helpline
 - Witherslack Group

This Week in KS3 Religious Studies

As we reach the end of the academic year, we encourage you to take a moment with your child to reflect on their learning in Religious Studies this summer term.

Year 7 - Wealth and Poverty

- How do celebrities use their voices to support people in need?
- What inspires people (religious or not) to help others?
- What have you learned in this unit that has changed how you think about poverty?



Year 8 - Life After Death

- How do different beliefs about death affect how people live their lives?
- What have you learned that changed or challenged your own thinking?
- Why is it important to understand different beliefs about life after death?



Year 9 - Religion and Life

- How has studying Religion and Life influenced the way you think about real - world issues?
- Why do Christians and Muslims believe life is sacred? How does this belief affect their views on abortion and euthanasia?
- Looking back at your end of year 9 RS assessment, what did you do well? What is one area you want to improve as you head into Year 10?



GCSE Results Day



Ski Trip 2027

SKI TRIP

- 5 full days with ski instruction
- Ski hire
- Boot hire
- All meals provided including breakfast on the outbound and inbound journey
- Full area ski lift pass
- Apres ski programme including bowling, pizza, ice cream & disco
- Trip hoody
- Helmet hire
- Comprehensive winter sports insurance.

Open to years 7-9

The next trip will not go until 2029 so don't miss out!

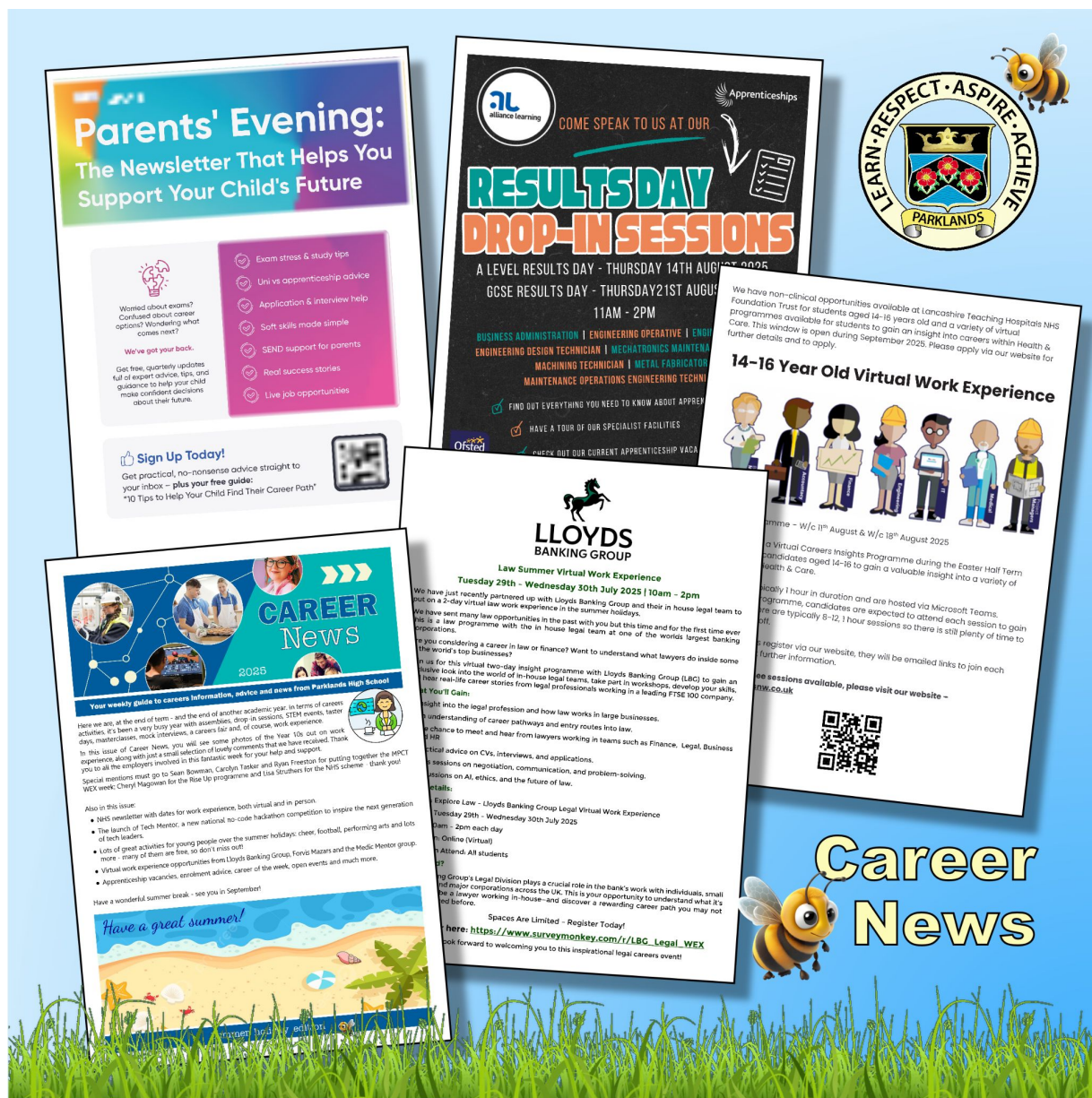
13th February 2027
7 days
Total cost: £1590
Deposit: £100



Deposit Payments Via ScoPay
Email Miss Marr more information.
gmarr@parklandsacademy.co.uk
Letters available from the pavilion office.

The deadline to sign up has been extended to Friday 12th September.

Click [here](#) for career news.



Welcome to the final edition of Career News for this academic year - and it's a packed one! As you may be aware, our Year 10s spent last week undertaking work experience - see inside for some of the many lovely comments and photos we received. There's also lots of useful information about summer activities, virtual and in-person work experience, apprenticeship vacancies, open events and much much more.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

Words like 'rizz' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be repurposed the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind and for children to misstep.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION

Inside jokes and trending terms like 'slimp' or 'NPC' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM

Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH

To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying 'unalive' instead of other death-related terms. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP

Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL

Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict filters or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE

Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY

Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change swiftly.

COMMON SLANG:

- Sigma** – Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes.
- Skibidi** – Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi Toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Usually harmless but pervasive.
- Chat** – The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.
- Lock in** – To focus, commit or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.
- Cooking** – Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'cooked'.
- Rizz** – Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence.
- Aura or aura farming** – One's perceived 'energy' or vibe; 'farming' means manufacturing clout.

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG

- Bop** – An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material.
- Gyat or gyatt** – Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.
- Tralero tralero / bombardino crocodillo / tung tung tung sahur** – Spammy references to AI-generated creatures with 'Italian-sounding' names. Can clog chats, derail discussion, and harass others.
- Glazing** – Overpraising or obsessively defending a streamer or celebrity.
- Crash out** – To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.
- Cooked** – Ruined, exhausted or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.
- Unalive** – Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.
- NPC** – Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

Meet Our Expert

Keith Brani is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College



SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION APPOINTMENT

Who Are Compass Bloom?

We offer a free & confidential service supporting children & young people, aged 5-18, with mild to moderate emotional health & wellbeing needs. We work in 85 schools & colleges throughout Chorley, South Ribble, Preston & West Lancs.

Are you the parent/carer of a young person who is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or low mood? This could look like:



Feeling
worried



Struggling to
sleep



Withdrawal from
family, friends and/or
usual activities



Struggling to
concentrate



Tearful

If any of the above sounds like your child/young person we can help!

Please note: Consultations are just for students at our partner schools. - Check our [website](#) to see if yours is on the list!

How to Book

We've got 30-minute telephone appointments available.
Monday 28th July, 4th August, 11th August, 18th August &
Wednesday 27th August | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Book via the link below or scan our QR code:

bit.ly/CompassBloomBooking



Pick your place, pick your date! - search for your chosen venue and select a date to see what times are available.

Can't see any appointments available? Don't worry – just give us a call on 01772 280123 and we'll do our best to help!



COMPASSBLOOM@COMPASS-UK.ORG



01772 280123



@COMPASSBLOOM



@COMPASSBLOOM_

UNIT 8 BALFOUR COURT, OFF HOUGH LANE, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE, PR25 2TF

Things to do this summer

LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER?

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2025

SUMMER IN LANCASHIRE: EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

🍷 Summer Youth Events @ Lord Street & Beyond! 🍷

JULY

Mon 28 - Unite the World: USA | SEN Provision | 4:30-8:30pm @ Lord St

Tue 29 - Ultimate Youth Games | 12-4pm @ Lord St

Wed 30 - Arcade Club Trip | 11am-4pm

AUGUST

Fri 1 - HAF in the Park | 12-4pm

Mon 4 - Unite the World: Asia 🌏 | SEN Provision | 4:30-8:30pm @ Lord St

Tue 5 - Splash Zone Showdown 🌊 | 12-4pm @ Lord St

Thu 7 - Pleasure Beach Trip 🎢 | 8:30am-5:30pm

Fri 8 - HAF in the Park | 12-4pm

Mon 11 - Unite the World: Brazil | SEN Provision | 4:30-8:30pm @ Lord St

Tue 12 - Creative Vibes: Art Jam 🎨 | 12-4pm @ Lord St

Fri 15 - HAF in the Park | 12-4pm

Mon 18 - Unite the World: Italy | SEN Provision | 4:30-8:30pm @ Lord St

Tue 19 - Celebrate & Chill 🎵 | 12-4pm @ Lord St

Wed 20 - Anderton Outdoor Centre 🏞️ | 9am-5pm

Fri 22 - HAF in the Park | 12-4pm

Wed 27 - Wildshore Water Inflatables 🌊 | 11am-4:30pm

To book a place, scan the code and search Chorley & HAF:

For more information contact: chorley.tys@lancashire.gov.uk



lancashire.gov.uk/events



There are lots of fantastic events and clubs on over summer in Chorley and beyond! Simply click this link to see the range of activities on offer - [Click here!](#)



Parklands Preloved uniform

Pass it on, don't throw away,
A uniform's here to save the day!
Keep it going, let it flow,
Helping pupils as they grow.

Please send any preloved uniform into school
to Mrs.K O'Reilly.

Thank you.

Do you know
about...



Free school meals



If your child qualifies for free school meals,
they will have a **free meal** every school day

It's easy to find out if you qualify –

Lancashire

Website: <https://lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Pupil Premium

Is **additional funding** for our school to
ensure we can support pupils
to **achieve their full potential**