



PARKLANDS BULLETIN

25 Jan - 29 Jan 2021: Week 2



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents, carers and students,

We are half-way through this term and you will be receiving a lockdown audit report by Friday 29th January via Edulink in the Documents section, which will give you an overview of engagement with work so far. This will be RAG rated (red, amber, green) and an explanation will be provided alongside the report. You will receive a separate notification on the day the reports are published. In addition to the report, teaching staff have been contacting parents/carers regarding engagement with work, so hopefully there should not be any surprises when the audit reports are published. Please remember that these reports are produced with the best of intentions, and they are a response to feedback we received last year when audit reports were only produced at the end of the half-term.

I expect that school will not reopen after February half-term, but I shall confirm this once the government has made the announcement. Please note that we do not get advance notice from the Department for Education, schools are informed through press releases to the nation.

Attendance of children of critical workers (click [here](#) for government guidance)

We have been overwhelmed with the number of requests for places in school for the children of critical workers, so much so that we have had to decline many of the requests. Pupils in school are supervised by teaching staff; the more staff we have in school, the greater the number of teaching groups which are not able to benefit from Google Meet lessons. The children of key workers currently able to attend school will **not** automatically be able to attend after the half-term break. As per government guidelines, children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can**. Furthermore, the more pupils we have in school, the greater the risk of them catching the virus and passing it on to others.

If you are a critical worker and you believe that you **absolutely must** send your child to school, please email admin@parklandsacademy.co.uk. We will need evidence of your critical worker status (eg ID badge) and an explanation as to why your child cannot work from home. As we have to put a limit on numbers in school, there is no guarantee of a place in school, so please wait for confirmation that you can send your child into school after the half-term break.

Year 11 & their parents/carers - please ensure you read the next two slides regarding exams.

Thank you for your ongoing support, positive messages, and please keep safe!

Mr Mitchell

GCSE Exams 2021 - Ofqual Consultation

Click [here](#) for details of the consultation and how to respond to it.

The Department for Education has confirmed that traditional GCSE exams will not go ahead in summer 2021. We had long suspected this was going to be the case, and since our return in September we regularly informed pupils in assemblies that it was highly likely that teachers would have to submit CAGs (Centre Assessed Grades) to the exam boards.

In light of our experience of last summer, we introduced the concept of WAGs - Working At Grades - to show both students and parents/carers current attainment levels. WAGs have appeared on the students most recent trackers, so there is no excuse for any student to not be aware of their current progress.

WAGs are based on regular, low-stakes assessments in every subject, the frequency of which varies from subject to subject. Year 11s will have completed many such assessments since September, and the trackers therefore show the average grade the students have achieved in the respective reporting period. It is entirely possible for pupils to improve their WAGs but the opposite is also true; it has never been more important for Year 11 to fully engage with their studies, so that teachers have a breadth of evidence upon which to base their CAGs later on in the year. Without evidence, students will not achieve their potential.

The paragraph below is lifted from the Ofqual consultation.

We propose that in summer 2021 a student's grade in each subject will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing. In the absence of exams, our view is that teachers, once provided with the necessary guidance and training, are best placed to assess the evidence of the standard at which their student is performing. This consultation seeks views on our proposals, including how to support teachers to make their assessments fairly and consistently. We propose that the final assessment will be made towards the end of the academic year, at about the time students would have taken their exams.

As per the consultation, there will be a few differences to last year, which you need to be aware of:

1. Teachers will be asked to submit a grade which best reflects current performance of the students.
2. Teachers will not be asked to predict a GCSE grade.
3. Teachers will not be asked to take into account what the students could get if they revised or had the pandemic not happened.
4. There should be some form of external moderation this year to ensure all schools are submitting honest, accurate CAGs.
5. Exam boards should provide training and guidance to all schools to support teachers.

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GCSE Exams 2021 - Ofqual Consultation

It is my responsibility as Headteacher to ensure that we uphold the highest of standards and integrity during this process. I will work with my senior team and curriculum leaders to ensure the evidence base we have, when submitting CAGs, is an accurate reflection of what the students have achieved. Ms Williams, SENCO, will ensure that those students with additional learning needs are not disadvantaged and that these students have the required support.

At the time of writing I do not know when school will reopen for face-to-face teaching, but I doubt it will be after half-term. I cannot therefore emphasise enough that students complete and submit all their work, respond to feedback and improve, where necessary. If students fully engage with work, then there should be very few surprises when GCSE results are awarded.

Do not expect a student to be awarded a grade 5 in Maths if their WAGs have been grade 3 all year, for example. WAGs can go up and down, depending on how students perform in their key assessments.

Do not expect a student to be awarded any grade if they have not done any work, completed any assessments during the autumn term, or failed to work during lockdown.

Do expect a student to be able to improve their WAGs and therefore increase their chances of attaining a higher GCSE grade. They can do this by responding to feedback, asking for extra work and tasks to provide evidence that they can produce work at a higher level, and asking their teachers.

Do expect the full support of teaching staff to offer advice and support so that students can improve.

BTECs

After initially giving schools the option to run the exams in February, the DfE have now cancelled them nationally. Unfortunately, we have received no further advice or guidance as to how we will be assessing and awarding grades. Please see below the update we have been sent:

We want to reassure BTEC learners and centres that we will put arrangements in place for students who are now unable to take their external assessments to ensure they are not disadvantaged. So, those expecting to complete their qualification this year will be able to progress normally. By the end of this week, Ofqual will start to consult on arrangements for issuing grades this year for regulated Vocational and Technical Qualifications, as well as arrangements for external assessments due to take place in June.

While it is certain there will be no February exam we are still uncertain about what will replace it. As soon as we are made aware we will be sure to let students, parents and carers know.

The consultation closes on 29th January, after which Ofqual will publish the final details of how grades will be awarded.

Year 7 Messages

None this week

Year 8 Messages

None this week

Year 9 Messages

None this week

Year 10 Messages

None this week

Year 11 Messages

Message from Cardinal Newman College, in case anyone hasn't seen it:

"A decision was made late yesterday afternoon to cancel our initial College interviews. Applicants and their parents were emailed immediately to inform them of this decision.

The initial interview and enrolment interview will be consolidated, so they will still have their enrolment interview in the summer once they have received their GCSE results. They will be able to use this opportunity to ask any questions that they have, discuss their future plans and make any changes they wish to their courses.

However, if any of your students do still want to have a chat with us they can of course get in touch and we will arrange a date and time for them to discuss any concerns that they may have. An email has been sent to both applicants and parents (where accurate contact details were available) and this will be followed up by a letter through the post. These contain details of how to go about getting in touch with us should they wish to.

All students who have applied have secured a conditional offer of a place, so please reassure them that their places with us are safe".

Please note that all college interviews will be via telephone or virtually on Teams this year - remember to check your emails regularly for your date/time. If you do miss an interview, just drop them an email and they will reschedule - or let me know and I will organise it for you. (Miss Berry)

If you have not yet applied to college, please do so as soon as possible to enable staff to put together their interview schedules. Don't forget that you can change your choices at any time, up to and including the day you enrol at college. You should also accept **ALL** places that you are offered. For those set on an apprenticeship, you still need to have a full time course as a backup option.

Year 11 Messages

Wigan & Leigh College

The next event in our series of virtual events is our '**Applicant Parent Evening**' which takes place on **Thursday 28th January, 6-7pm.**

The event will cover topics that explore wider College life, and delve deeper in to how we support students beyond the classroom, including:

- Transition to College (preparing & supporting Year 11 for Further Education)
- Career Planning
- Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities

There is also a chance to meet the College Principal Anna Dawe and participate in a live question & answer session.

Registration for the event is open, and can be found by visiting

<https://wiganleigh.onlineopendays.com/> before clicking '**Book My Place**' and then selecting 'Parent Evening'.

For anyone interested in courses in Sport and Exercise Sciences, [click here](#)



**LIVERPOOL
JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY**

Myerscough College are holding an Advice Morning online on **Saturday 6th February** 10.00am to 12.30pm. Instructions on how to book are through the "What's on" section of Myerscough's website.



QEGS held their final Sixth Form open event for 2020/2021 last week and shared new videos, such as student testimonials and faculty guides, and further information on applying to their Sixth Form. For anyone in Year 10 or 11 - have a look.

BLACKBURN live Q&A on Facebook, answering the questions received from applicants in the build-up to the event. Please click [here](#) if you wish to view the videos on their website, or visit their Facebook page to view the live content: <https://www.facebook.com/QEGSBlackburn>

Applications close for September 2021 on the **21st February 2021** and can be made here:

<https://www.qegsblackburn.com/admissions/sixth-form/>

Careers

New Year Virtual Careers Fair

The National Careers Service will host the [New Year New Career Virtual Careers Fair](#), taking place on 27-28 January. Students can visit a wide range of organisations and can get advice and support to manage careers and how to take first steps towards them.

National Careers Service. Our advisers are available online every weekday from 8am - 8pm and between 10am - 5pm every Saturday. Get in touch today for personalised, expert support for any age group. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us...>

Parklands is now affiliated to the **Arkwright Engineering Scholarship** programme. This will enable us to hopefully identify some potentially outstanding engineers of the future.

The aim of the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship scheme is to inspire talented students to pursue their dreams and change the world through engineering, specifically targeting students destined to go to university or into a higher apprenticeship. These students may eventually take a 'leadership' role in engineering.

Successful Scholars receive many benefits including:

- A £600 financial award (school also receives a financial award)
- Industry Connect Days
- An industrial mentor
- Networking with other Arkwright Engineering Scholars
- Summer Schools
- A quarterly newsletter packed full of information and events
- A highly respected Scholarship to go on their university or higher apprenticeship application forms.

More information about the scholarships can be found here: <https://www.arkwright.org.uk/>

A student brochure is available here: <https://bit.ly/AES-Student20>

For more information on this or any aspect of careers, please email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Apprenticeship Notifications

The **Amazing Apprenticeships** January Parents' and Carers' Pack is now available:

In the [January issue](#) we look at getting ready for NAW2021, a plan for finding an apprenticeship in 2021, new Traineeship resources, a guide to Higher and Degree apprenticeships, Life as a new apprentice at the BBC and more!

Despite the current situation, please note that many companies are going ahead with apprenticeships in 2021 and beyond - including Jaguar LandRover and BAE Systems, who plan to recruit 1550 apprentices and graduates this year.

Reminder that the **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair** is taking place on **Wednesday 27th January from 12 - 6pm**. Interested students, teachers and parents can register [here](#). I have added an activity sheet into the Google drive and shared Year 11 students into this document. It contains useful questions and pointers to get the most out of this event.

Another fantastic apprenticeship offer comes from **Leyland Trucks**, who this week announced their apprenticeship recruitment drive.

Vacancies for Sept 2021 Apprentice Intake are now live.

All information and application form can be found at www.gov.uk and on our own website <https://www.leylandtrucksLtd.co.uk/en-gb/working-at-leyland-trucks/apprentice-ship>

This year we are recruiting for:

- 10 x Assembly Operators**
- 4 x Automotive Engineers**
- 1 x Fabrication & Welder**
- 2 x Design Engineers**

These apprenticeships range from 3-5 years, offering qualifications from Level 3 up to degree level. Applicants must be predicted grade 4 or above in English and Maths - starting salaries are around £15,000 and increase each year of the apprenticeship.

Don't miss out - each Chorley school will have been notified, so competition will be intense for these positions. For any advice/help with the application form please email: pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk and we can organise a Google Meet to talk through any issues/questions.

Whole School Messages

Coming up soon is The Big Garden Bird Survey conducted by the RSPB. Here is a link if you feel like getting involved and looking out of your window for an hour:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

<https://retailevents.microsoft.com/event/event-details?id=DWP - Build a professional CV with free CV templates1446356996>

JobCentre Plus in conjunction with **Microsoft** are offering free employability sessions over the next few weeks - the link above is to 'Build a professional CV with Microsoft Word' - one that will be particularly useful for students applying for apprenticeship positions, where a CV is required (although useful for anyone considering a career change/applying for jobs). This session is just 30 mins and runs on **Tuesday January 26th** from 1.00 - 1.30pm. You must register in advance. Sessions are on Microsoft Teams. There are other sessions - making the most of a LinkedIn profile and interview techniques - details to follow on these.

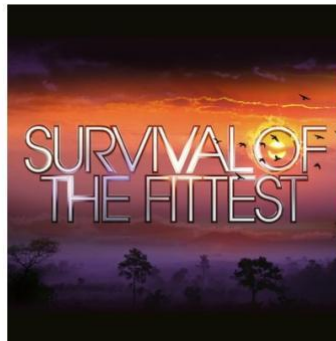
For the next fortnight we are now competing as houses and year groups!
Please send in your workout selfies/footage/screenshots via your year group [google form](#).
We will provide updates on which house is staying the most active during lockdown 3.0
Complete as part of your PE lesson period!



PARKLANDS LOCKDOWN WORKOUTS - HOUSE COMPETITION WEEK 3



YEAR 7	
YEAR 8	
YEAR 9	
YEAR 10	
YEAR 11	

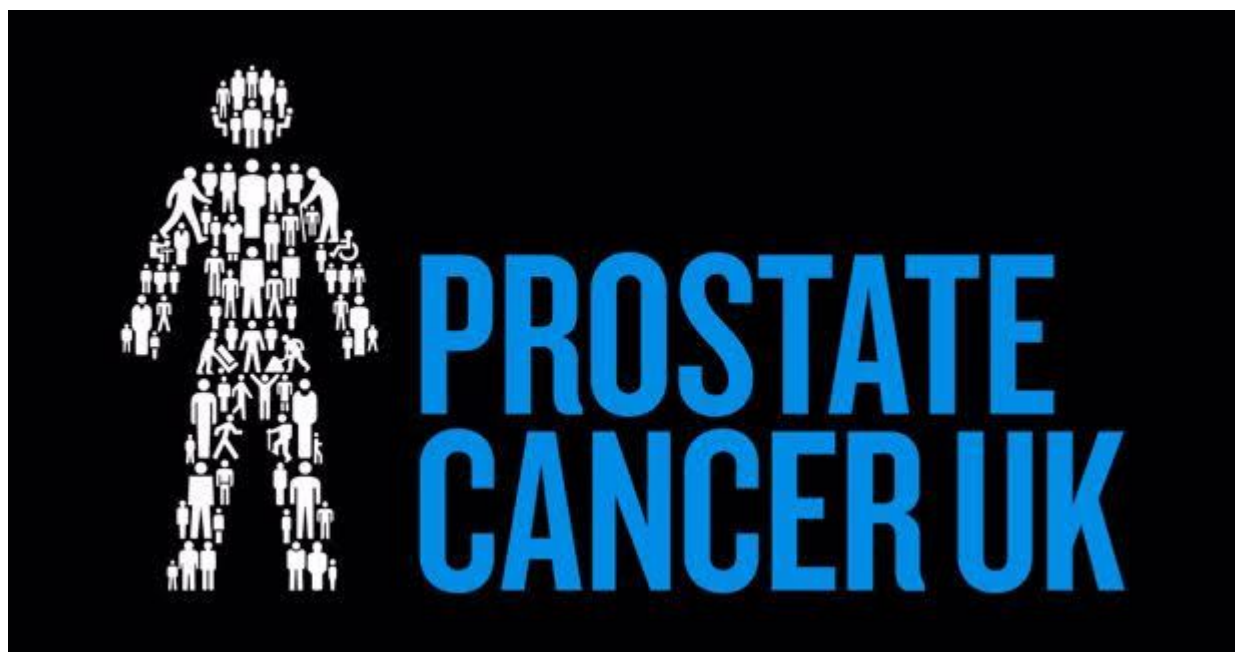


Click on your year groups google form icon! To submit your PE entry for your house!



[Managing Anxiety in CYP Presentation for Parents Jan 2021.m4v](#)

[Weekly Learning Support Board](#)



Year 9 student Lola is asking all of the community in Chorley to support her father in his battle with prostate cancer by sponsoring him with *run the month*. Lola's father will be running the distance of a marathon over the course of January and raising money to support Prostate Cancer UK. Click [here](#) for his sponsor page. We wish him well with *run the month* and his ongoing treatment.



The English Department will be running a Instagram Book Review competition until the end of term. This is open to all years and you need to be following @parklandsenglish on Instagram. More information about the competition is available [here](#). There will be £100 worth of Book Vouchers available in prizes at the end of term for the best reviewers! Good luck!

In 2021, why not commit one hour a week to learning a new skill and boosting your mental wellbeing? With over 70 courses to choose from, there's something for everyone on

<https://theskillstoolkit.campaign.gov.uk/>

#AnHourtoSkill

Includes:

- practical maths
- computer essentials
- personal growth and wellbeing
- professional development
- business and finance
- digital design and marketing
- computer science and coding