

PARKLANDS BULLETIN Week 2 3rd - 7th March 2025



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Today we held our annual Careers Fair, which was really successful with stalls from a wide range of apprenticeships, employers, colleges, and training providers. Years 11, 10, and 9 all had the opportunity to visit the fair and speak to representatives of the organisations. There was a really positive atmosphere throughout the morning, and the visitors were very complimentary about the conduct of our pupils. We hope that the Fair provided lots of inspiration for Year 10 as they start to think about Work Experience towards the end of the Summer term. Next week Year 11 will be having admissions interviews for Preston College and Runshaw college.

This week, we held an assembly on hate Crime for Year 8 pupils, which was led by officers from the Local Police. Next week, the Year 7s will have the same assembly.

We are moving to be a mostly cashless school, so we would encourage you to use Scopay wherever possible for ties, trips, dinner money, stationery, etc. Most payments can be made by Scopay. We do have a card reader in the school office; this is as a backup system for payments that cannot be made through Scopay. We appreciate your cooperation with this slight change to our existing system.

Regards,

Mrs. Batson Headteacher

Key Dates

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March

- 20th March Y9 Specialisms evening 6:00-7:30 pm in school
- 21st March Comic Relief Day more information to follow
- 25th March Parent Forum 6pm
- 27th March Iftar Evening

Year 11 Revision Sessions - 8 weeks to go until the first exam.

Week 1

Please remember to check with teachers regarding these sessions.

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Week 1	Subject	
Monday	English	
Tuesday	Option A	
Wednesday	Science	
Thursday	Option B	

Core Subjects	Option A	Option B	Option C
English Maths Science RS	French Geography History Art Dance Health and Social Music Photography GCSE PE	Computer Science French Geography History Art Drama Engineering Food and Nutrition Business Studies Health and Social	Computer Science Geography History Creative Media Triple Science Design Technology Engineering Food and Nutrition Music Tech Connect

Safeguarding & Intervention

All our Yr 11s will be in an assembly on Monday afternoon as we have invited Compass Bloom into school to deliver strategies and techniques to support them with exam stress. This was very successful last year and we feel it will benefit our students in the run up to their GCSE's. **N Fairhurst**

Community Iftar Event – Please Join Us!

- T Date: Thursday 27th March
- 💆 Time: 6:00 PM 7:30 PM
- P Location: Parklands High School (Main Hall)

We invite students, families, and friends to our Community Iftar as we break fast together to support our fasting Muslim students.

Tickets: £3 per person – available from Miss Rhodes (in N24) during school hours. Tickets can be purchased with cash or via Scopay.

Food Contributions: Guests wishing to contribute a (halal) dish are very welcome, please email Miss Rhodes in advance to coordinate.

2 Fundraising: All funds raised from the community event will be donated to Islamic Relief.

We look forward to sharing this special evening with you. If you have any questions please email Miss Rhodes (<u>srhodes@parklandsacademy.co.uk</u>)

KS3 Religious Studies: Exploring Abrahamic Religions

This term, students are learning all about the traditions, beliefs, and history of the Abrahamic religions. Here are some questions to discuss with your child/ children this week:

Year 7 (Judaism)

- What is Shabbat, and why is it important to Jews?
- How is Shabbat celebrated?

Year 8 (The History of Christianity)

- What were the reasons for the Great Schism of 1054?
- How did the split impact Christianity?

Year 9 (An Introduction to Islam)

- What is a mosque, and why is it important to Muslims?
- What happens inside a mosque?

Extra Challenge!

Students in Years 8 and 9 can test their knowledge by answering questions from the earlier year groups. How well can they recall key concepts from previous years?







Perfect 3s

Excellent Behaviour for Learning goes hand in hand with achievement. It is an excellent indicator of how your child is performing in lessons. Who's had the Perfect 3 since we've been back?

Year 7: 58 pupils to date Year 8: 58 pupils to date Year 9: 46 pupils to date Year 10: 53 students to date Year 11: 47 students to date All: 262 students How many had the perfect 3 in the previous week? Year 7: 155 pupils Year 8: 153 pupils Year 9: 129 pupils Year 10: 162 students Year 11: 137 students All: 736 students

Please congratulate your child if they have the Perfect 3. All BfL scores can be seen in the Edulink app.

How many pupils have a BfL score of 2.99 - 3? Year 7: 147 pupils Year 8: 122 pupils Year 9: 97 pupils Year 10: 128 students Year 11: 94 students All: 588 students

Students, please click the link to see what clubs, trips and activities are happening in school <u>Parklands Bulletin</u>

Weekly Learning Support Board - please click here



Visit to Edge Hill University:

On Tuesday 4th March, a group of Year 10 students visited **Edge Hill University** to experience life on campus. They explored the university's facilities, including the sports facilities and Costa Coffee, getting a real sense of the student environment.

As part of the visit, students took part in an exciting challenge to design a student-focused support app. Their creative ideas included a timetable reminder, a healthy and budget-friendly recipe app, and a mental health and wellbeing support app.

The students were fantastic throughout the day, representing the school brilliantly. Well done to all who attended!



Visit to Lancaster University:

On Tuesday 4th March, a group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit **Lancaster University** and gain valuable insight into life on a university campus. The visit included a full tour of the site (with a quick stop at Greggs!), allowing students to get a real feel for the university environment.

During the visit, students spoke with student ambassadors, who shared their experiences of university life and explained their role in supporting prospective students. They also explored the university's archives in the library, where they examined historical maps of Lancashire.

The students made an outstanding impression, with the Widening Participation team praising them as "the best and most well-behaved group they've ever had." Well done to all who attended!







PE Update week beginning 3rd March 2025

Another busy week in the PE department and the weather is finally starting to warm up! Lessons outside will still continue unless it is unsafe to do so. Remember, there is no need to sign up just look at the extra curricular timetable, choose an activity, bring a kit and attend!

Year 8 Chorley District Basketball Tournament

- the squad played teams from St Michaels, Holy Cross, Southlands and Bishop Rawsthorne at home. Great teamwork on home soil. The team worked together and secured 3rd place. Well done!



Year 8 Girls and Boys Chorley District Handball Tournament - Their last ever Handball competition representing Parklands. The team played some very strong teams showing some great skill and tactics. After some great attacking plays and some nail biting defending it was all down to the last match...a great game but unfortunately it ended in a loss. HOWEVER they secured second place. Well done. We are very proud of you.



DANCE SHOW REMINDER - last chance to order the dance show DVD. Please check google classroom for details. The deadline in SUNDAY 7th MARCH!

We are very proud of all of our pupils and the continued commitment they show. Well done!

PE Update week beginning 3rd March 2025

Leadership Training Opportunities



Down Syndrome Awareness day 21st March 2025

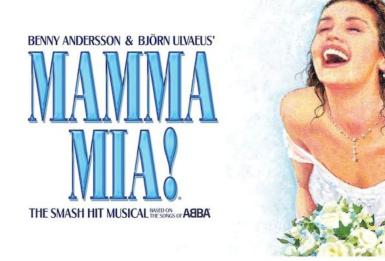
Sweet stall and Chocolate Tombola in school. Pupils and staff are invited to wear odd socks on the 21st day of the 3rd month to signify the triplication (making three) of the 21st chromosome which is what Down syndrome is caused by.



Easter Egg Hamper Raffle for Parklands Peru Crew.

3 fabulous hampers full of goodies to make a great Easter for everyone. Tickets are £1 available to pay on SCOPAY and can be collected from Mr Johnston in the Library, tickets will also be available in the Library and during Form. To be drawn Thursday 3rd April.





Wednesday 18th March 2026 at The Palace Theatre, Manchester @7.30pm

£33 including tickets and coach transfer

Pay on Scopay to secure your place

Dancing through Life

An amazing £524 was collected over the 3 show nights of Dancing through Life last week in memory of Sally Cornes who sadly lost her life to cancer 4 years ago whilst in Year 9. The money has been donated to Shine for Sally and will be distributed to Derian House & Millys Smiles. Thank you to everyone involved.



Barcelona Dance Trip 2026

Sunday 24th May - Thursday 28th May 2026

All pupils, in current Y7-9, who dance inside and outside of scho are welcome to attend!

- Flights to and from Spain
- 4* Accommodation in Lloret De Mar
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the hotel
- 4 professional dance sessions
- Visit to Girona
- Visits to the Lloret De Mar Beach
- Bowling
- Full day at the local waterpark
- 1 x tour t shirt

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Total Cost estimate £895.

Deposit of £250 required by 28th March 2025 NOW TAKING DEPOSITS VIA SCOPAY UNDER BARCELONA DANCE TRIP



Deadline is this month and places are now limited!

Click here for career news



Lots of great content in this week's Career News, including quizzes, advice, information, work experience opportunities, conferences, webinars and much more.

Careers

College interviews start on Monday 10th March with Preston College, Tuesday with Wigan & Leigh College and Thursday and Friday with Runshaw College. Students will get reminder texts/emails from the colleges and the interview schedules will be posted outside the Top Office.

If any Year 11 has yet to apply to college - please see Miss Berry as soon as possible. If applications are not in soon, students will end up on a waiting list with no guarantee of a college place.

Work Experience reminder: WEX week is 14th - 18th July 2025. Booklets need to be collected from the Top Office and taken to employers to complete. Don't forget that a number of other schools may have the same WEX week as us - don't let them take all the best placements! You can work in a shop, office, garage, nursery, school, cafe, restaurant, vets just about anywhere. All the documents you need are also on the school website: <u>https://www.parklandsacademy.co.uk/</u> I do have some offers of placements, but there is not a dedicated database of employers. Click here for more details.

HR and Finance Officer

Ref: SCH-AFM-0025

17 day(s) remaining

Establishment: Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust Location: Aspirational Futures MAT Central Office, Euxton Lane, Chorley PR7 6TE Salary: 27268.66 - 31066.89 Department: ADM Job Type: Full Time Closing Date: 17/03/2025 13:00 Interview Date: 26/03/2025 Start Date: As soon as possible

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carrers 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT -> 1 TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they c a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a Comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Toaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

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dern devices include built-in tools ost mo Most modern devices include built-in tools <u>Acce</u> designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

INTERACTIVE READING 4 PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

VIDEO GAMES AND 5 **READING SKILLS**

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

SUBTITLES AND 6 **CLOSED CAPTIONS**

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Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension

1.00 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognitior and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and neareachericien comprehension

TEXT-TO-VOICE 9 TECHNOLOGY



Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR 8 WRITING AND READING

27 Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND 10 PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy



The National College

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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.

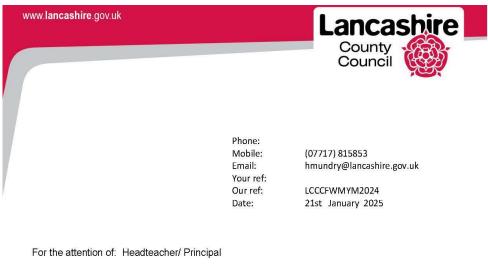
Please send any preloved uniform into school to Mrs.K O'Reilly.

Thank you.

Making your Mark 2025

Leading on from the letter and support from County Councillor Jayne Rear, Making your Mark -Lancashire Youth Council and Youth Focus Northwest – Enabling Lancashire Young People to have a voice. The attached letter explains the process that we are asking our local secondary schools to support throughout March. If you could forward it to the relevant person at your school, that would be great.

You can get your school involved by using the attached ballot paper to take a 'show of hands' tally from each form group and send these back to me by Monday 24th March, so Chorley Youth Council members can count them and collect the top priority topics chosen by Chorley young people. There is also a digital form, QR code, that young people can access to vote individually (see attachment) Lancashire Making Your Mark 2025 Additionally, I can drop off paper ballots at your school if you prefer this method.



RE: Lancashire Youth Council and Youth Focus Northwest – Enabling Lancashire Young People to have a voice

In Lancashire we strive to ensure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to be involved in decisions, that affect their lives and the communities in which they live. We have a responsibility to support and enable this process where possible, we do this by encouraging young people to be part of their District Youth Council, Lancashire Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament. Lancashire Youth Council meets regularly with members of the County Council Cabinet and the Education scrutiny committee which provides a formal route for them to discuss issues with senior decision makers.

One route for young people to get their voice heard is to become a member of youth parliament (MYP), this role is an elected role and we have 6 Lancashire representatives, in the UK Youth Parliament who are then responsible for ensuring the voice of Lancashire young people is heard regionally and nationally at Westminster.

We actively encourage young people to put themselves forward to stand for Member of Youth Parliament. (MYP). Young people represent Lancashire in local, regional and national level debates, ensuring that young people's voice is heard at every level. Putting young people at the front of decision making on youth issues. This includes a debate in the House of Commons supported by the speaker of the house.

We are writing to ask for your support and involvement in the upcoming voting in our 'Lancashire Making your Mark' campaign 2025.

The process of supporting young people from your school in this democracy process, can take no more than 10 minutes, for all young people in your school to take part. Or this can be expanded into a full Citizenship lesson (if you wish).



Young People can use this QR code to vote (it takes approximately 2 minutes)

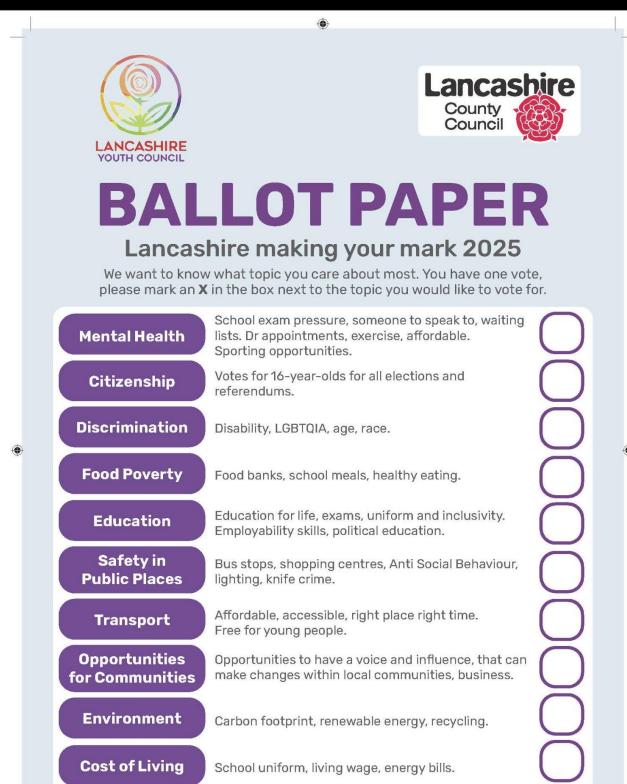
Please contact Hans Mundry who can offer you the support and information that you may need. <u>hans.mundry@lancashire.gov.uk</u>

Or your district Targeted Youth Support worker:

Wyre: Nina Beavers Fylde: Jasmine Gwillam Lancaster: Nicole Cobb Pendle: Qadeer Ahmed Burnley: Carl Coughlan Rossendale: Lisa Spencer Hyndburn: Phil Clark Ribble Valley: Simon Whip Preston: Annie Riley West Lancs: Amber Wood South Ribble: Rebecca Myers Chorley: April Pollitt nina.beavers@lancashire.gov.uk jasmine.gwillam@lancashire.gov.uk nicole.cobb@lancashire.gov.uk gadeer.ahmed@lancashire.gov.uk Carl.Coughlan@lancashire.gov.uk lisa.spencer@lancashire.gov.uk philip.clark@lancashire.gov.uk simon.whip@lancashire.gov.uk annie.riley@lancashire.gov.uk amber.wood@lancashire.gov.uk rebecca.myers@lancashire.gov.uk

Yours Sincerely

County Councillor Jayne Rear Cabinet Member for Education and Skills



Thank you to everyone who takes part in this vote. We will use the results of this to discuss local issues with county councillors and this will help us to shape our future service delivery.



