

The Big Parklands Paper



Issue 2: March 2022: Ми з Україною

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Any Answers?

Grace Scott

Friday night on the 25th of February, was a great success! Parklands high school were blessed with the opportunity to host the talk show Any Questions on BBC Radio 4! Through the duration of the night, we were enlightened about current international affairs by a panel of influential figures - Dr Liam Fox (Conservative Party), Chris Bryant (Labour Party), Bronwen Maddox (Director for the Institute of Government Thinktank), Mary Dejevsky (columnist for The Independent) and the host Chris Mason. Ukraine and Russia was the topic of most conversations, even though it is largely distressing and disheartening,

I personally learnt a lot about the minds of those behind conflict and figuring out their next advance. Questions and curiosity was rife, as the community wrote down questions that the panel could answer. I even put a question in, but they only choose a few to analyse and judiciously respond to. The knowledge the panel possesses is truly remarkable, it's extraordinary to hear their erudite responses. It was a pleasant shock to see members of opposing parties, who would often persistently disparage one another's arguments, agree on these ones.



There was one opposing view to all of this Ukraine and Russia talk, and that was of Mary Dejevsky (The Independent). She hypothesised that it was the deed of the western countries, merely antagonising Russia, thus provoking the possibility of war. Consequently, her ideas were soon shot down by the fellow members of the panel, as they saw no validity in her statement. Controversy was widespread among the crowd, as they believed her beliefs were lacking accuracy.

It was utterly heart-breaking to hear a member of the public testify about the struggles he's been facing - due to his family being stuck with continual conflict in Ukraine. Considerable empathy was designated to him, as the members of the community pondered about life essentially in a war zone. Ultimately, the night was sensational, it led me to empathise with those struggling overseas on a greater level and also even led me to consider a future career in international relations!



The Big Parklands Paper team meet journalist Chris Mason and see behind the scenes of the show.

Parklands Got Talent!



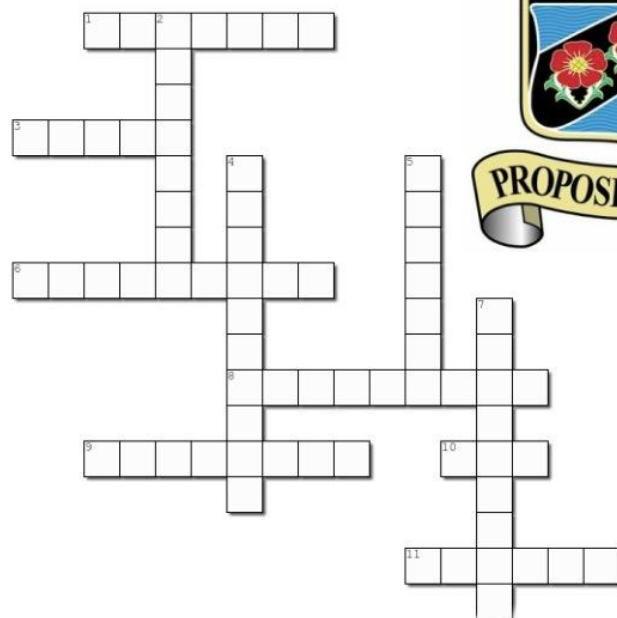
A dragonfly

Wings of porcelain paper thin,
 the folds of origami in its flutter,
 It's infrastructure,
 tiny tiles Spring water clear,
 no fear that it will fall,
 even though weights,
 greater than its own,
 it holds the power and
 towers Above the clouds,
 of Star dusted cotton,
 with the paper folds forgotten,
 tied with gold, the thread old,
 from past autumns,
 knitting together the cracks,
 covering the scars,
 with polished powdered gold,
 visions of blue white Kinsugi,
 soaring so truly,
 Through Decay and defeat,
 But she doesn't retreat,
 For she was born to survive,
 And grow And thrive,
 Empowered To stay alive,
 Wings of porcelain Paper thin,
 The folds of origami in her flutter,
 Her infrastructure,
 Tiny tiles Spring water clear,
 No fear that she will fall,
 Even though the weights,
 Greater then her own,
 She flies empowered,
 Now she dances for hours,
 Sally

Poem written and performed by Evie Roby.

Thursday 10th February saw the Parklands Got Talent finals in school. Pupils from across all year groups took to the stage to showcase their abilities. The evening was organised to raise money for the Sally Cancer Foundation, a charity set up in the memory of Sally Cornes, one of our very own pupils. While all of the entrants did Shine for Sally, above Milly (Sally's sister) presents the trophy to overall winner Seb Holbert. Well done to everyone involved.

Parklands crossword



Across

1. The second word on the school motto
3. The corridor with the most maths classrooms
6. The club that takes place in the library on Wednesday
8. The first Latin word on the schools logo
9. Teacher that teach in N28
10. The animal with the same name as Europe's head of house
11. The colour of the head student ties

Down

2. The type of bird that populates the field
4. The park very close to school
5. The catering company for school
7. The name of the outside P.E. area on the field



Empowered Poets

Parklands pupils **Ebony Williams-Goodman**, **Oisín Whitehead-St.Pierre** and **Anabel Sorbie** were awarded national recognition for their poetry as part of the Young Writer's Empowered competition. Their work will now be published in a commercially available anthology.

Comment

Is this the way?

Aaron Denham

As everyone is aware, the one-way-system is a big part of the school's health and safety regulations. Though it may be a pain in the backside, it does have its fair share of positives.

The one-way-system was initially a good idea because the school was built in 1972 to hold approximately 700 students. Over the years, this has grown to a whopping 1200 pupils. As a result, many of the corridors are too small for such a large number of pupils. This can cause heavy congestion, causing many people to be late to lessons through no fault of their own; the congestion can also lead to accidents, unnecessary shoving in the corridors has led to students breaking bones in the past, particularly on stairs.

Maths teacher, and everyone's favourite one-way-system invigilator, Mr Johnson says that "the system is a good rule to have in our school because the corridors that [have it] are the ones that are narrower, so it helps prevent the congestion being too much for people." In line with this statement, it is not unreasonable to imagine that someone who disobeys the system would be more easily crushed during lesson changeover, the force of which could result in injury to themselves or others. Head of Geography, Mrs Eastham, says that the system "is down to the health and safety of pupils and staff at the end of the day."

Rugby Victory

The Year 8 Rugby team celebrated a 12-0 thrashing of local rivals St Michael's this month. The Parklands team was able to triumph in the game after putting in the work over winter in training. Commenting on the victory, Oscar Simm (Y7) opined that "before St Michael's start rugby, they need to learn how to make a straight line." Rugby training is on Thursday after school if you would like to get involved.



On the other hand, English teacher Miss Cathey says "it can be stressful for staff because you have to coordinate the traffic so it does not become a mess, and have to supervise to see if everyone is following the set rules and instructions that are given."

Another issue with the one-way-system is that some teachers do not follow it themselves during changeover. This can cause corridor chaos; teachers are generally bigger than students, and going against the system just for the sake of it can cause pushing. Whilst this obviously doesn't apply just to staff, many students go the correct way during busy periods as they experience changing classrooms on a very regular basis.

One unique idea from Europe's very own Mrs Fox is that "we should have more bright and friendly signs to embrace the one-way-system in school as a precious part of it." If this was implemented, it would be clearer as to where one-way rules start and end, as well as in which way to go.

Whether we like it or not, the one-way-system will remain part of our school culture for years to come. Whilst it is annoying, if everyone follows the rules, including teachers, it can reduce congestion effectively.

How School Can Raise Disability Awareness?

While the school is very good at being accessible to those with disabilities, there is still quite a bit that could possibly be done to help. We could drone on for this entire article about fundraisers, which can be very important, but instead we will make actual suggestions for how Parklands can improve the awareness of students and make school more accessible for everyone.

For instance, wheelchair access is an issue. The school has put up a few ramps to help but there aren't very many, and they are made of wood that people jump on. They're loud, and some students find it amusing to mess around on them, and sooner or later, the ramps wear down and break. It would help to put up more ramps and in a more sustainable material, so that they have less possibilities of breaking. Since this can be expensive, it may be easier and cheaper if the school put up some better ramps that are made out of a harder wood, without gaps.

Another improvement would be teaching more to raise awareness for disabilities. For example, in Secure we learn about disabilities but we are not taught about awareness of the topic and how we, as students, can help raise awareness and learn how to help in everyday life. Understandably, it is hard to just randomly add new lessons into the school curriculum but over time we, as a school, could possibly develop Secure lessons to teach more about what we can do to help; one way to do this would be to teach some basic British Sign Language in scheduled lesson times, even if it has to be during form. This could then be used in situations outside of school too.

On the other hand, Parklands is already striving to raise as much awareness as possible. The building is accessible to those with all needs from every entrance, and the pastoral care system at school ensures that everyone with educational needs is able to receive a high quality education. School sees that it is important everybody is catered for, and this is achieved by printing sheets off in different colours, employing enough hard-working Teaching Assistants, and enabling wheelchair access.

Lilly Hodgkinson & Alexa Makinson

Another way to be more inclusive to people with a disability would be to change the signs on the toilet door. The current sign in question is the typical blue circle with a symbol that represents a person in a wheelchair. Whilst this sign is completely fine and has been around for nearly 50 years, there are still a couple of significant design flaws. The first is that it isn't inclusive to people with hidden or invisible disabilities, (disabilities that can't be seen by a stranger). For this reason alone it would help enormously to change signs to something different. Personally, we are both of the opinion that nobody should feel distanced and segregated from society, which one of us has in the past experienced due to a Tics Disorder and Anxiety. Going back to the point of toilet signs, a more ideal solution for it would be a simple sign that reads the words "Disabled Toilet", with braille next to it for those who are blind. This way the sign isn't unfair to people with hidden disabilities and it also helps disabled people not feel as segregated from other students.

It would also be helpful for the school to add braille in other places as well, as many children with special needs go to mainstream schools, such as Parklands. Braille can be used in a variety of situations and would be useful for many people, especially visitors who are unfamiliar with the school. It would also be helpful if teachers could look into making slideshows optimal for those with dyslexia. Whilst of course, everyone will have their own colour preferences and needs, off-white or cream colours, with simple black text in small bullet points has been proven to work well. Alternatively, simple white text on a black background is often more accessible.

The suggested improvements, if implemented, would have a positive impact on the school and make Parklands more inclusive as a whole. With a few tweaks and adjustments, Mr Mitchell wouldn't just be advertising our school as "the best in Chorley", but also as, "the most accessible and inclusive school in Chorley."