

# The Big Parklands Paper

Issue 5: September 2022



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# Welcome Back!

Welcome to Parklands! We hope you've had a wonderful summer holiday and are all very excited to come back to school. For the majority of you, this will be a welcome back, however we are now joined by new year 7s!

For those who are coming back to school, despite what you may think, there are some minor changes. For example, the school building itself is changing! Now there is wall art all along the N-Wing corridor, including the staircase, with more hopefully coming soon to brighten and liven up the school. On top of this there are a few new teachers, some of which you might have bumped into already; these include Mrs Shields (counsellor), Mrs Holbert (school office), Mrs Murphy (Learning Support), Mr Stott (Science), Mrs Roberts (Food) and Mr Gilgun (English). Some of our current teachers have also changed their names, so now Mrs Brown is Miss Lewis-Brown and Miss Robinson is Mrs Sullivan-Brown.

We are also going to share a few general changes that you should be aware of, although you might have heard a few of these already through form tutors in the

Evie McDonnell and Will Woods Cookson

morning or just through teachers giving reminders during the day. To summarise, students can only eat in the hall/refectory or in the student social area as people are still continuing to litter, despite the number of bins.

Welcome to Parklands year 7. We hope you have enjoyed your first weeks here. If you need help getting to a lesson, never be afraid to ask a teacher or older pupil. If you need help with something you could also go to your HAL. They are in the first door on the right of the N-wing [bottom floor]. For the years that you're here at Parklands, you will find that your HAL will encourage you to go to a lot of house competitions. There, you have a chance to win points for your house which will matter a lot if you want your house to win overall! You will also find that starting a new school is hard, so I recommend joining one of the many clubs that go on in our school to make new friends and meet new people, including the older years! You can learn more about these and our school in general on the bulletin so remember to check in on that daily. Good luck year 7!

# Library books!

Aaron Denham

As you may know, the library and library books play a massive role in your school life (even in GCSE and above). As you might know, books help learning and concentration substantially during lessons. Another important thing about our library is what it has to offer, from books such as *Pride and Prejudice* to *Heartstopper*. They come in all shapes and sizes, and cover all genres of books.

Library lessons may appear on your timetable as well as reading. Library lessons occur once a fortnight with either your English teacher or an alternative English teacher. This is when you get a lesson to read a book you select from the library or a chance to find your reading range which can scale from 2.0-8.0+. They do this also, to track if you have actually been reading for approximately 20 minutes every night with the book you have chosen (must be in your reading range) because the teachers want to help you in the best way they can. Reading occurs everyday from 8:55 am to 9:20 am. This is where you read a book for 20 minutes, which is often on Accelerated reader.



Accelerated reader is a website used a lot of the time for your library progress. It is the secondary use to track if you have been reading or not with their points system. The system is basic, once you have read a book of some sort, you log on to accelerated reader and you start a quiz on the book (you must have read it first) and you will get a score out of the number of points the book has (determined on the website). These points are useful because when you get your reading range you also are given a set amount of points you must aim to achieve or excel in a term. The higher the range the more points you must get generally.

The library is open at break, lunch and after school if you want to either read in peace or do some homework. It is not open on Tuesday lunch times due to book club but at break and after school, it is.

Our librarian Mr Johnston will always help you out if you are stuck whether that is looking for a book or logging in to your accelerated reader. Our English department will also help too.





# Food at School

Cooper Refoy

Recently, I have gone around school asking some people anything they would like to say about the food and here are some opinions I obtained. A lot of people spoke about the prices and how they thought some things were a bit overpriced, most talked about were the chicken wraps, most believed some things should be more affordable. More suggestions are to add more vegan and vegetarian options, because at the moment I believe there is only one option for hot vegan food each day.

The following items are suggestions on what to add to the menu, from some of our students. Here's the list. Crispy and chewy bacon barmes, cheese sticks, warm pasta, burgers, pancakes, skinny salty chips, full English breakfast, salad, lasagne, chicken, bacon and gravy pies, fish and chips, steak, full pizzas, chip butties, seasoned chips, noodles, soup, chicken nuggets, gyros, spaghetti bolognese, kebabs, macaroni and cheese, quiche, fajitas, eggs, curry, burritos, toasted sandwiches, chinese food, stuffed peppers, sushi, Coca Cola, big milkshakes, rubicon, smoothie, lemonade, coffee banana fritters, boba, cereal, cheese cake, cake, ice-cream, custard creams, sweet packs, mars bars, maltesers, brownies, cinnamon rolls, pretzels, churros, frozen and defrosted mochi.

We need more affordable and vegan/vegetarian options because we don't have many at the moment. We would also like some new food that we currently have little of.

## How to get involved this year!

Seb Holbert

Welcome back, hopefully you've all had a lovely summer and year 7's, I hope you're all settling in okay. I'm sure some of you want to get stuck in and fully involved in school life. Parklands high school has many extracurricular clubs to help you get involved and take breaks as you settle into this new environment. This is a really good way to have fun and make some new friends.

For the performing enthusiasts, there is a vocal ensemble club that runs every Monday. This is for years 7-9. This is brilliant and a great experience (especially for those who love singing). Following on from this, the saxophone ensemble is on a Friday lunchtime in W04 There are also regular dance and cheer clubs after school for those that want to have fun and dance.

Eco club (at the core) is all about making the world a better place. To join this club, all you need to do is show up at W01 Tuesday lunch. This is a great club as it really gives students the chance to make a positive difference and be the change. Grace Scott says "Eco club needs new members and we need you!"

LGBTQ+ club is run by the lovely Miss Melia in E22 (lunchtime). This is a highly inclusive environment and is a great place to express yourself and be in a community. Clubs have been really beneficial to me as it has allowed me to grow my confidence, find new friends, and discover hidden talents I didn't know I had. Daniel Dickinson (year 8 pupil) says, "I made a lot of new friends and I look forward to going to tabletop gaming club every week. I'm really grateful for this club and it has had a positive impact on my school life." This really shows how a small step like joining a club can really make a difference to a pupil's experience in Parklands. Good luck and get involved!

## House Competitions: The Race for the House Shield 2023

Alexa Makinson

House competitions have been a part of the school for years but why do we do them?

As a little explanation as to what they are, for anyone who may not know, house competitions are events held to earn points towards the different houses. Many of the competitions are sports, but for anyone who may not find themselves to be the fitness type, there are many other options you may find enjoyable that take place during the year. This includes everything from photography, art, design, drama to simple quizzes that are completed during registration in the morning. Anyone and everyone can get involved because you even get points just for participating.

The majority of the sports competitions are held within year groups, so you don't have to worry about being away from your friends - I'm sure they'll enjoy it too!

People reading this may not understand what the scoring and points are for, but they contribute to an even bigger, yearly competition where we all work to win the House Shield. Even if you aren't interested in winning, the HALS are incredibly fun and competitive so if you feel that you just want to take part and don't care about the competition go ahead and join!

Overall, even if the scoring isn't massively important, one other main reason for holding these events is for the students to enjoy themselves. These competitions can work for anyone who's wanting to try something new and you can even make some friends with common interests whilst you're there.

Even if it isn't for you, that's okay because there'll always be chances to try out something new. These competitions are held so you can find your own interests and have fun whilst you're at it. The house points are just a little bonus so that the HALS can be happy and enjoy it as well (unless you're Miss Fox or Mr Swift: always competing to prove which house is the true winner!)



Europe: House Shield winners in 2022 (for the second time in a row!)

### The Big Parklands Paper

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If you have any comments on the content of the paper, wish to suggest future articles or want to submit a report to the paper, please email:

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### Want to write for the Big Parklands Paper?

Join the newspaper team at 1.30pm, every Wednesday in W01.