“A Merry Christmas to You All...”

Dear Parents and Carers,

The period leading up to Christmas is one of the most enjoyable of the year, with so much happening and the festive celebrations to look forward to!

Christmas dinner is served in the Dining Hall on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December. I hope all will join in the fun for this traditional treat!

In this edition of Park News you again have a glimpse of the rich range of experiences and opportunities our students have benefited from this term and the successes they have secured.

2015 will bring interesting development and change for everyone as The Governing Body seeks out your new Headteacher!

The General Election in May, whatever the outcome, will herald renewed momentum for innovation and change at a national level in education and this school is well placed for the challenges and opportunities this will bring. The context in which all of this impacts upon our students’ young lives is illustrated in all of the pages that follow.

We help them all to achieve their full potential and enjoy their teenage years in a school that seeks to work closely with you to provide everything possible for each one of them.

My very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas with your family and a happy, prosperous 2015!

David Atton - Headteacher

Our Christmas Concert – Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December, School Hall 7:30pm.

Tickets now on sale from pupil reception - £4 adults £2 children. This year the Concert will have a traditional concert format, with music from Des Miles’ Guitar ensemble, our string ensemble, school choir, Jazz band and many more!
Student Profiles

Helen Farr (Year 11)

I play volleyball and I have recently been selected for the England Juniors U-17 National Training Camp.

I first started playing volleyball in Year 5 at Landkey Primary School and have been playing ever since. I play for The Academy of Beach Sports indoors in the winter and on the beach in the Summer. I train 3 to 4 times a week and compete at weekends. Last year my club team won the National U-15 Championships for the first time ever which was a great achievement for all of us. I have represented the South West for 4 years and we won the U-16 Inter-Regional Championships 2 years running. I have an experienced coach in Denise Austin and a great bunch of team mates who enjoy playing together and have worked hard to get to where we are.

At school I really enjoy taking part in house matches for different sports and playing in school teams.

At Christmas, I really enjoy getting together with family I haven’t seen in a while and I love all the Christmas food!

Tahmid Chowdhury (Year 10)

I particularly enjoy all Sciences as they are very interesting and I believe I am good at those subjects. I enjoy History because it is fascinating and I have achieved very high grades in this subject. I have achieved numerous attainment awards and also I have reaching 1,500 merits. I hope to build upon my attainment awards for my GCSE’s.

In the future I hope to become a GP because it involves a great understanding in Biology, or I would like to teach History at University level.

I am very interested in football and, as a result, play it many times a week. I like playing Badminton also as it is very exciting. Furthermore, in my spare time I love watching documentaries.

The thing I like best about Park School is the teachers as they always encourage me to do the best I possibly can.

BBC Spotlight’s Simon Hall Congratulates our Year 11 Leavers

The BBC Spotlight Journalist and Reporter Simon Hall presented Awards to our high achieving Year 11 students at their Presentation Evening in November.

The School Hall was full to capacity as parents and other family members joined with the Year 11 school leavers to celebrate all of their successes at the school.
Taking a night off from his television work, Simon shared his advice on how to approach life if you seek to be happy, fulfilled and successful. As the TV Detective, he also writes crime novels and reflected upon the lessons that life had taught him in guiding young people for the future.

This celebration is one of the highlights of our year, when we all gather together with our students and their families to reflect upon their five years with us and present their well-deserved certificates and awards.

We are very grateful to Simon Hall for his help and support as he engages with young people, helping them to clarify their aspirations and ambitions.

**Special Award Winners were:**

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<td>John William Prize for Contribution to School Life</td>
<td>Alfie Baker</td>
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<td>Payne Shield for Services to the Community</td>
<td>Lauren Beasant</td>
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<td>Children &amp; Young People’s Award: The Spirit of Devon</td>
<td>Helena Standen</td>
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<td>Lee-McEldon Citizenship Award</td>
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<td>The Jonathan Baxter Memorial Shield - Business &amp; Enterprise Award</td>
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<td>Governors’ Award for Work Experience</td>
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<td>Newsham Prize for Most Outstanding GCSE Results</td>
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<td>The Outstanding Personal Achievement Award</td>
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<td>Evans &amp; Co – Maths Award for Best Overall Progress</td>
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<td>Reverend Benson Prize for R.E.</td>
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<td>Sociology Award</td>
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<td>Physical Education Prize: Female - Best All-Rounder</td>
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<td>Physical Education Prize: Male - Best All-Rounder</td>
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<td>David Pengelly Prize for Music</td>
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<td>Sara Bluett Technology Award</td>
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<td>Art Achievement Award</td>
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<td>Drama Award</td>
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<td>Gerald Thorne Prize for Geography</td>
<td>Isabel Hampton</td>
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<td>Grant Prize for History</td>
<td>Fern Clarke</td>
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<td>Biology Prize</td>
<td>Ryleigh Sloman-Gray</td>
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<td>Chemistry Prize</td>
<td>Henry Finn</td>
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<td>Physics Prize</td>
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<td>Languages – French</td>
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<td>Languages – Spanish</td>
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<td>Child Development</td>
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<td>Deputy Head Girl Prize</td>
<td>Ryleigh Sloman-Gray</td>
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<td>Deputy Head Boy Prize</td>
<td>Matthew Morrish</td>
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Katie Harris (Year 11)

I enjoy Chemistry and Maths at school and always get high grades.

I have already achieved an A* in Maths, as I took it a year early and hope to achieve an A* in Further Maths and an A* in Chemistry. I plan to go to Exeter Mathematics School next year and in the future hope to become a doctor. In my spare time I enjoy going to the gym and socialising with my friends.

At Park School I believe the opportunities available are the best, these include trips abroad and to the local area, as well as sports and academic clubs and competitions.

At Christmas I celebrate with my family, eating Christmas dinner and just spending time together.

Taya Lambden (Year 11)

I am interested in all aspects of performing arts. I had an interest in singing, I auditioned for the show Annie when I was 10 and was successful. That’s when I first realised I loved musical theatre and performing. It takes lots of time because I have two singing lessons each week, three dance classes and rehearsals for various shows every week. All of my spare time is spent learning lyrics, scenes and dance routines. I have been in many shows since Annie, including Peter Pan, Bugsy Malone, Goodnight Mr Tom, Miracle on 34th Street and Cats. Recently I was Barnstaple’s Carnival Queen. I need to invest lots of time in rehearsing and work hard.

School enables me to spend time with my friends. I enjoy Drama and Music because all the students in the class respect the Arts. Various groups I perform with will usually present a Christmas themed concert to raise money for charity and I really enjoy this.
I was born in Glasgow and grew up in a tiny village called Drymen, on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. I was incredibly lucky to attend amazing schools there although didn’t realise that until much later in life. Scotland is a country obsessed with sport – football in particular. We travelled abroad every holiday I can remember and I was thrilled by wide horizons, foreign languages, communicating with people from all over the world, glamour, palm trees and sunshine.

I remember going to university open days and being tempted by lots of wonderful places. Eventually the thought of skiing every Wednesday and weekend in winter, was just too appealing so off to Aberdeen University I went to study French and German. Having lived in Paris as part of my course, I loved being abroad and the opportunity to travel even further afield soon arose. I won a scholarship to learn Spanish in Mexico City and spent more than a year exploring Central and South America.

I went on to study a Masters Degree at the University of Glasgow where my time abroad was spent in Lisbon, Sevilla and Los Angeles. While I was working at the University, the BBC contacted the university. They were looking for a Portuguese interpreter to work at a press conference after a football match between Celtic and Flamengo (a Brazilian team). I knew nothing about football and was forced to buy my first ever tabloid newspaper and read the back pages. I quickly worked out some football chat and went live on BBC, ITV and SKY within a couple of hours of getting the call. That was the start of my football career! Interpreting at the European Championships for the Spanish and Portuguese National Teams; the World Cup and the Brazilian National Team; Champions League Finals and UEFA Cup finals soon became the norm.

I worked with amazing people who had big dreams. I watched people who were young talents, become world famous football players; world famous writers and renowned journalists.

If there were no tournaments on, I would work with players settling into the UK or abroad and clubs wishing to contract any international players. I worked with Patrick Vieira for a long time (captain of Arsenal and the French National Team) and spent years working in Senegal with him where we set up a football academy. There are many success stories coming out of the academy now with the first intake of youngsters now signing for premiership clubs in France or Spain. This was such a fabulous job which enabled me to travel all over the world and experience some wonderful places. I met so many lovely people and visited some of the most beautiful places on earth.

I once spent Christmas working with homeless children living on the streets of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This was an amazing experience to be playing football on the beach in 38 degrees, not a cloud in the sky and with only a few fairy lights around a couple of palm trees. The children were all so happy: they had only received one small present (like some toothpaste or a t-shirt) and they were unbelievably grateful. Thinking about this reminds me what Christmas is all about. I love being at home with my family and doing absolutely nothing. As we grow older, Christmas lists get shorter and we find out that the things that we really want, can’t be bought. I also love Hogmanay and the excitement of a new year.

My Life in 10 Questions:

Pastimes/Hobbies: Skiing, running, knitting, jigsaws

Favourite Book: The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho; The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari – Robin Sharma; Maximum Achievement - Brian Tracy

Favourite Music: Barry White, the Gypsy Kings, Mozart, Van Morrison, George Benson, Bruno Mars – the most eclectic music collection ever! I love a boogie!!

Favourite Film: It’s a Wonderful Life – The Godfather – The Usual Suspects (The Sopranos / West Wing / Prison Break / 24)

Childhood Hero: My Mum -

Three Famous People I’d Like to Meet: Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Tony Robbins

My Best Teacher: Alex Ferguson – obviously not at school but such an amazing guy – driven, positive, hard-working, determined, enthusiastic and always cheerful and ready with a joke

Biggest Regret: Life is too short to have regrets – your failures and your mistakes are your greatest teachers - twenty years from now, you’ll be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than the things that you did … explore, dream, discover …

Proudest Achievement: Running a marathon in 3 hours 40 minutes 7 seconds or raising £345,000 at my first charity football event which I organised from my kitchen

Most Important Thing Learned: Believe in yourself – your attitude dictates your altitude – you only get one go – the measure of a life after all is not in its duration but in its donation.
% The Governors’ Tea – Christmas 2014

Parents and other family members joined with Governors to celebrate this term's Merits Award Winners, all enjoying cake and other refreshments before the presentation, hosted by Mrs Hevingham, Senior Teacher.

Our congratulations to them all.

Chichester House

1,000 Merits
William Bird and Georgia Davies.

750 Merits
Lucy Butcher, Nicola Dunkin, Sasha Harris, Deborah Roper and Bailey Thorne.

500 Merits
Tobias Ainger, Mahmuda Chowdhury, Kiara Clarke, Rhianna Cohen, Darcie Cray, Lucas Dee, Bailey Dellaway, Jake Holding, Alex Jeffery, Samuel Knight, Johnathan Lahai-Taylor, Molly Lockett, Haines Osborne, Alana O'Brien, Bradley Rockey, Joanne Roper, Micaela Tucker and Grace Wood.

Drake House

1,000 Merits
Alison Bell and Jasmine Wilson.

750 Merits
Emily Bolsom, Owen Cockell, Chelsea Gratton, Reece Gubbin, Emily Isaac, Shelsie Jarvis, Sophie Pepper, Jade Rendle, Toby Ruhleman, Dylan Stone, Chelsea Thomas and Nadia Tucker-Jones.

Kingsley House:

750 Merits
Taya Lambden and Daisy Meadowcroft.

500 Merits

Fortescue House:

500 Merits
Olivia Edwards, Gemma Foster, Samantha Foster, Amy Frith, Lucy Hellier, Eleanor Newton, Heather Nicholls, Alex Prouse, Hannah Slade and Oliver Vaughan.
Raleigh House:

1,000 Merits
Niamh Hetfield, Kim Leson.

750 Merits
Beth Field, Millie Knight, Andrea Logie, Alexandra Murdoch, Safwath Qurashy, Oliver Ward.

500 Merits
Kamile Andriekute, Rosie Copp, Flynn Elworthy, Daniel Gibson, Finlay Lloyd, Emily Lucas, Kerrie McQuire, Connor Robson, Poppy Slattery, Ebony Toleman.

Congratulations to our Head Prefects for the School Year 2014/15

Head Boy – Joseph Sherborne, Deputy Head Boy – Henry Webber, Head Girl – Alice Bennett, Deputy Head Girl – Chloe Sloman.

Luke Mitchell (Year 9)
I have had my art work displayed in the Burton Art Gallery and Boston Tea Party, been involved in School Athletics Teams and won medals.
I would like to have some kind of career in Music Performance or Production and/or artistic drawing based career.

Maddy Hamilton Mudge (Year 9)
In school I enjoy all subjects. However, I particularly enjoy Art and Technology because I am a creative person. I also really enjoy the more academic subjects such as Science and Maths.
In most of my subjects, due to hard work, I have achieved high grades which I am proud of. I have especially excelled in Art, achieving a 7A in my baseline portrait. I plan to continue working hard and achieving good grades.

In my spare time I like to do Pencil Magna drawings, I read, play Badminton, go Swimming, play Volleyball and compete in Athletics (the High Jump and Triple Jump).
I like best about Park School the facilities, House System, Teachers, support and After School Clubs.
At Christmas I like meeting up with family and friends, remembering why we have Christmas – and opening my presents!

My ambitions for my future is to be happy in everything I do. I want to pursue a creative career but I’m not sure what.
In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I also enjoy cooking and training my dog.
I really enjoy going to Park School. I love learning new things whilst spending time with my friends. The memories and experiences I have gained from school will last a lifetime.
Christmas is very family-orientated. We have a big meal with all the family and exchange gifts. Also, my family’s hotel plays a part in our Christmas – we do a walk on Saunton Beach for Charity on Boxing Day and visit the pantomime with all my friends that are staying at the hotel.
Students’ Achievement and Successes

Adam Tobin (Year 9) is enjoying continued success as a World Class Gymnast. In his first year as a teenager, he has become London Open Champion 2014 and just a week later he was in Germany representing his country and winning an international title for Great Britain becoming International Junior Champion at under-14 level, winning 3 Gold Medals and 2 Silver.

Oliver Kinsella (Year 11) has made it through to the Final of “The Taunton Young Musician of the Year” Competition. Oliver competed at Taunton on 23rd November against nine very talented music students and was one of only three that were selected for the Final. The other two music students selected were a music scholar from Bruton School and a flautist who studied at the “Central Music School” in Moscow and had previously won the Two Moors Festival as well as being placed Second in the British Flute Society Competition held in London. The Chairman of the Competition approached Oliver at the end and told him that he could feel that he played from the heart; he said there are lots of talented musicians, but Oliver’s music came from within! He told him he had better be at the Final! The Final takes place in Taunton on Sunday 8th February 2015. Good luck!

Passing their London College of Music Exams for Classical Guitar:-
Lucy Wells (Year 10) Grade 1 Distinction, Georgia Adams (Year 9) Grade 2 Distinction, Maddy Hughes (Year 8) Grade 2 Merit, Hayley Williams (Year 11) Grade 3 Distinction, Nicole Williams (Year 11) Grade 3 Distinction, Scott Wells (Year 11) Grade 3 Distinction, Sophie Hawkins (Year 11) Grade 5 Distinction, Lucy Hawkins (Year 11) Grade 5 Distinction.

Harrison Pascoe-White (Year 8) is currently the South West BMX Racing Champion and he will be attending the World Championships in Belgium in 2015!

Congratulations to Matthew Cooper (Year 8) and Lucy Hellier on being the Modern Foreign Languages Star Pupil of the half-term.

Our Respect for Remembrance

In preparation for Remembrance day, Teacher Miss Dufresne spent considerable time searching the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database (www.cwgc.org) for each surname and first name/ initials, of all students and Tutors who belong to Raleigh House.

On the morning of 11th November, 270 people in Raleigh House were matched to a war casualty (WW1 and WW2). If possible they had the same surname, sometimes even the same first name. They were issued with a paper slip as show below to reflect upon, during the 2 minute silence at 11am.

Their names all appear on war memorials and cemeteries across the globe, some as close by as Barnstaple (Mr Alfred Pincombe lived at 16 Pulchrass St. before he became an Air mechanic 1st Class), North Molton and Great Torrington. Many are in France, especially the Somme (any name ending in –court is typical from that area), Belgium, and Germany. Other are scattered all over the planet as far away as Egypt (Kantara cemetery), Ghana (Quasi Adai cemetery), Baghdad and Papua-New Guinea.

The youngest, JC Lake, was just 15. He was a ‘second class boy’ in the Royal Navy. One student was matched to a young civilian girl from Plymouth who was just 11 when she lost her life in 1941. The eldest was Lieutenant Colonel Robinson who was 76. Some do not have their names recorded.

Many different ranks were represented, including privates, but also some engineers, mechanics, sail men, drivers and gunners.

The names were all from the commonwealth, apart from one French person! They were not just British, 26 are Canadian, 13 Australian, 8 from New-Zealand and 4 South African. There was no air travel at the time so they had endured an awfully long sea journey to arrive and then die on European land.

Miss Dufresne also found that there were 414 people from Barnstaple who lost their lives during the 2 wars. There were 1677 persons called Grant, 8655 Williams and 12021 called Jones.

At the Children’s Remembrance Service held on Friday 7th November at the Rock Park Memorial, we were represented by Year 7 students:- Laura Swales, Finley Short, Megan Howells, Adam Drew, Bethan Janes, Daisy Peckham, Zachary Adams, Joe Place, Charlie Veale, Tianna
Owen, Luke Kinsman, Amber Rogers, Kirsty Kingdom, Jack Ford, Truesanna Cooper, Finnlay Reid-Whitefield, Harry Cram, Samantha Spurling, Ethan Smale, Megan Llewellyn.

As part of the service, two readings were given by our Head Prefects – Head Girl, Alice Bennett and Head Boy, Joseph Sherborne.

Fellow Prefect Benji Lahai-Taylor also attended the service to support our contribution and Mr Street led the hymn singing with his guitar and our Year 7 choir.

Teachers are interesting people too!..

Mr TJ Cross – Science Teacher

I was born in a small town called Pistoia in Italy, but travelled everywhere because my parents were part of a circus! My mum was a professional ballerina touring Europe when she met my father who was an acrobat performing in Italy. Eventually they formed a “Cowboy-Act” for the circus. My first memories whilst being baby-sat by clowns, trapeze artists and tight-rope walkers, are watching them on stage performing various stunts. When I was 4 my parents decided that I would join the trapeze act and started to plan my training but unfortunately, or fortunately depending on your point of view, my mum and I came back to live in Bideford, where she was from.

Flying back and forth from England to Italy is one of my fondest childhood memories and when growing up all I wanted to do was be a pilot. Growing up near RAF Chivenor, which used to be one of the RAF’s fighter weapons schools, seeing the Red Arrows on “Air Day” and BAE Hawk trainers fly over every day made me want to become RAF Fighter Pilot. When going to secondary school my science teacher made physics particularly fun and I’ve never lost that enthusiasm for it; so whilst studying for my A-Levels and being told by the Royal Air Force/ Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm it was a good idea to get a degree, I decided I to read for a Physics degree at The University of Nottingham.

During university I attended the RAF Pilot Officer Selection centre at RAF Cranwell and out of the 30 candidates on my selection, I was the only one who passed! Annoyingly, due to my degree in Physics, the selection committee wanted me to train as an Engineer Officer before training as a Pilot and so I decided to apply to British Airways’ Pilot Training course. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York, the funding was pulled during my selection! After graduation, I came back to Devon, working as a restaurant/bar manager when one of my friends said I should go and do a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). I started my teacher training in September 2004 at Queen Elizabeth’s School in Credington and graduated in July 2005 in a school in Barnstaple called The Park Community School. The rest as they say is history…

What Does Christmas Mean To Me? Family, fun, films, log fire, too much food

My Life in Ten Questions:-

Pastimes/Hobbies: Kayaking, surfing and swimming with my son

Favourite Book: The Hunt For Red October; Tom Clancy

Favourite Music: Foo Fighters, The Beatles

Favourite Film: Star Wars, Top Gun and The Shawshank Redemption

Childhood Hero: Luke Skywalker and Lt Pete “Maverick” Mitchell

Three Famous People I’d Like To Meet: Douglas Bader, Tim Berners-Lee, Michael Faraday

My Best Teacher: Mr Ford – Physics Teacher, he is an absolute legend of a teacher with a great sense of humour

Biggest Regret: Not joining the Royal Air Force as an Engineer Officer when offered…

Proudest Achievement: Passing RAF Pilot selection and graduating with a degree in Physics

Most Important Thing Learned: Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. Don’t concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never have enough!
Life in English

Thank you to Stan Wilkes (Year 10) and Joanne Roper (Year 8) for their consistent contributions to the English Student Board. Stan has written reviews of many current films and Joanne has been showcasing her first novel. We have also had contribution from Aidan Hall-Goundry (Year 8).

In October, several students wrote another well-received page for the North Devon Journal, co-ordinated by the English Department.

During September, 25 students were fortunate enough to meet the Children’s Author, Malorie Blackman. Mrs Jones co-ordinated an author visit with Appledore Book Festival. Students from Newport and Ashleigh Road Schools enjoyed a lively and entertaining presentation from the young, local and successful author, Lucy Jones.

Mathematics Fun!

The Maths Puzzle of the Week Competition can be found on the VLE in the maths section. Students need to post their entries in the box in room 37 by the end of the week for a chance of winning the weekly prize.

The winners so far this term have been:
Alex Whittle 9JN
Reece Blight 9JN
Maddy Roberts 7LK
Jacob Walker 7CC
Alex Charters 9GK
Tom Turner 7MJ
Jack Palmer 7EE
Owen Davies 7JW
Ryan Mundell 9HU

Maths can be so rewarding!

The Maths reward trip will again be running this year for students in year 7 and 8 who meet high standards of effort and behaviour. To be nominated for a place on the trip students must meet the following criteria:

• Never missed a homework
• Never sent out of a lesson
• Exemplary behaviour/effort in Maths lessons

The students who were selected for this year’s trip had a great time at Exmoor Zoo!

Here is a Christmas puzzle just for fun.

The puzzle below is like a Sudoku but with the letters “s n o w f l a k e” instead of numbers 1 to 9.

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3 by 3 square contain each of the letters in “s n o w f l a k e” once.

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Gifted and Talented Maths Club

The Year 6 Gifted and Talented Maths Club started again this term. The club runs weekly on a Wednesday evening for those students selected by their primary schools. This year we have children attending from Newport, Orchard Vale, Forches Cross, Bishops Tawton, Holywell, Landkey, Ashleigh, Sticklepath and Our Ladys Schools.
The children take part in a variety of activities and challenges to enhance their Mathematical thinking and promote problem solving and team work.

**The Maths Calendar**

**The Key Stage 3 Maths Challenge Week** takes place 15th to 19th December with students taking part in a variety of Maths challenges in their Maths lessons, including the “Maths Trail” around the school.

**Year 9 Finance Week** will take place from 9th to 13th February 2015.

**The UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge** (for selected students in Years 9, 10 and 11) takes place on Thursday 5th February.

**National Pi Day** – 14th March.

There is a Maths Homework Club on Tuesday lunchtimes in Room 31 and Maths Twilight on Thursdays at 3:30 to 4:30pm in Rooms 33/35.

**An Inspirational Maths Trip of a Lifetime**

38 Park Community School students in Years 8 to 11 travelled to New York in the Summer for an exciting educational adventure with the Mathematics department.

They visited the MoMaths museum of Mathematics, which involved classroom sessions and exhibits that stimulated and sparked curiosity to reveal the wonders of mathematics.

Visiting many of the sights of New York, including the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Station, 911 Memorial, Times Square, Rockafeller Center, Empire State Building and many more, the teachers cleverly incorporated maths questions into their visit, to ensure that the experience was educational as well as fun: visiting the Empire State Building they had to calculate the ratio of security personnel to visitors, at the Rockefeller Center, how long it would take for all of them to get to the top when, the superfast elevators allowed only 12 people at a time! Even though the students were very young at the time of the 9/11 event, visiting the 911 Memorial was a moving experience for them all.

All had an amazing experience, experiencing mathematics in a new way and returning with some amazing memories.

**Yoseph Eskander** (Year 10) “From standing at the top of the Empire State Building to walking through China Town, it was a wonderful experience.”

**Ellie McMorine** (Year 10) “The experience of going to New York City was mind-blowing! To be a part of the excitement and business of a major city was fun and gave us a chance to see what life is like in such a highly rated, well known city!

The next visit is planned for July 2016 and is already fall!

**Toby Ainger (Year 11)**

I play Basketball for the Plymouth Raiders U-16 National League Development.

My interest in Basketball began when I was persuaded to join the After School Club in Year 8. I now devote between 15-20 hours a week training, travelling and playing for School and Club. At Plymouth we work on strength and conditioning, physical fitness, refining skills, techniques and tactics, as well as playing games against top sides from all over the country.

My biggest achievement so far is being chosen to join the Plymouth Raiders Development U-16 National League Side and playing with professional players and coaches.

There is no secret to success, it is just down to working hard on the basics and improving from there. Don’t run before you can walk! Also bearing in mind to enjoy what you are doing. If you don’t enjoy it, then what’s the point?

For me, the best thing about Park School is the Sports facilities. With top quality provision such as the full-size...
Astro Pitch and the Sports Hall, this allows students to play sports in the break and lunchtime, as well as after school and take their mind off things that may be troubling them.

I enjoy Christmas and the fact that it’s the one day of the year when most people get together with all of their relatives to celebrate together, opening presents and having a tasty Christmas dinner, followed by a film.

Joanne Roper (Year 8)
I enjoy Art, Technology, Maths, English and Science and think I am fairly good at English, Science and Languages. I am particularly good at Maths.

I hope to complete my Maths GCSE by the end of Year 9 with an A* (like my sister) and achieve a Level 8 in English and Science by the end of Year 8.

I would like to be an Artist, an Author, or possibly some kind of Teacher – probably Maths!

In my spare time I read, build Lego models and complete jigsaw puzzles. I also play with my pet rabbit, play the piano and computer games.

What I like best about Park School is the ‘Set’ System, it allows people to work with others of a similar level and thus to find their potential.

We celebrate Christmas with a tree, gifts and, of course, Christmas dinner. What I like most about Christmas is giving and receiving gifts – and eating chocolate!

Future Chef 2014
A spectacular culinary afternoon was spent with Sarah Williams (10AD)  Jack Tighe (10 AD)  Chloe Cooper (10PH)  Josh Stanhope (10 PR)  Caitlin Curtis (8KV)  Kiara Clarke (8DA)  Rachel Bellow (11GM)  Daniel Sutton (11KR)  and Lauren Yeowell (11EF) who were all competing for this year’s Future Chef competition which is organised and sponsored by the Rotary Club. Flavours from Italy, Jamaica, China and Indian were cooked, tasted and judged by Mrs Graham, our Deputy Head and Michael Collaott, a visting chef. Daniel Sutton and Jack Tighe were successful and went to Petroc for the second round on the 18th November; both boys are master chefs in the making. Jack’s Prawn curry and key lime meringue pie came 3rd awarding him a place at the regional rounds in Exeter early next year. Well done to everyone who participated, thanks to their parents for supporting them and congratulations and good luck to Jack next year.
Teachers are interesting people too!

Miss Vidler – Joint Head of Maths

I was born in Bromley, Kent. I lived there until I was 11 years old.

Then I moved to Ilfracombe and attended Ilfracombe College until I was 18. Then off to Exeter University when I gained a first class degree in Mathematics. I then took a PGCE at Exeter University to train to be a Maths teacher.

From the age of 11 I have had numerous part time jobs, sometimes having up to three on the go at any one time! However, I always wanted to go into teaching so this is the only full-time job I have done.

I recently appeared on ITV's Surprise Surprise, as I had spent the summer holidays organising a family reunion for my Nan, which brought together family from three continents! My Nan had not seen her brother in almost 50 years and she had never met her niece (aged over 60) before! I also managed to arrange for the rest of my Nan’s family to attend the surprise, so she had her 6 children, 20 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren with her to enjoy the surprise!

The experience was very nerve-wracking, but amazing. Having the opportunity to make another person’s dream come true was a once in a lifetime experience. It was also nice meeting Holly Willoughby; she is very nice in real life!

What does Christmas mean to me?

I am a huge Christmas fan! It is my favourite time of year. I enjoy the build up from buying presents for everyone to watching the Christmas adverts on TV – nothing beats the Coca Cola ad!! If I could put decorations up in November I would! Christmas is a special time of year; I enjoy spending it with family. It is also a time to remember those who are no longer with us and a good excuse to catch up with people who you don’t always manage to see throughout the year.

My life in 10 Questions:
Pastimes/Hobbies: I really enjoy organising things, from charity events to get-togethers! I also like spending time with family, socialising with friends, reading and shopping!

Favourite Book: Handle with Care by Jodi Picoult

Favourite Music: I generally like pop music, but I’m happy to listen to anything! Olly Murs is probably my favourite!

Favourite Film: Miracle on 34th Street

Childhood Hero: My Grandad, when I was growing up he was always there for me and could make everything better with a simple hug!

Three Famous People I’d Like to Meet: Walt Disney, Torvill & Dean, Marie Curie (I know that’s technically 4, but T&D come as a package!)

My Best Teacher: Mrs Humphrey (My maths teacher, of course!) She was always there to help and support each individual and make a difference to their lives.

Biggest Regret: I wish I had learned to Ice Skate as a child. I love watching Ice Skating, but have never got round to learning myself.

Proudest Achievement: Being the first member of my family to go to university

Most Important Thing Learned: If you work hard enough and believe in yourself then, “Dreams really do come true”!

The World of Geography!

Year 8 Environmental Olympiad
July 2014

In the Summer Term, Year 8 once again took part in this annual event. In teams, students investigated local issues, focussing on Lundy Island, Coastal Defences in light of last winter’s storms and Coastal Development, before presenting their findings. The winning team from each class then competed in the school final in front of judges (Mr Cammack, Mrs Graham, Mr Canham and Mr David Weatherly) in an attempt to win a digital camera each. As ever, the standard was incredibly high, and all students should be congratulated on their efforts. This year’s winners were from teaching group ‘P’ – Samantha Foster 9EG, Lucy Rawlinson 9GG, Charlotte Payne 9GG and Daisy Bayliss 9GG. Very well done!

Olympiad winners being presented with their prizes by Mr David Weatherly, Devon Advisor for Geography.
Year 9 Rivers Fieldwork
At the beginning of October, the whole of year 9 took part in fieldwork following the River Lyn from source to mouth. The fieldwork gave the students the opportunity to see the processes and landforms they had been learning about in class, providing them with first hand knowledge of the impacts of the 1952 flood and an understanding of how the village has changed since then. This information was then used in the assessment they completed at the end of October. We only had one really wet day, so it could have been a lot worse!!

Students at Hillsford Bridge, studying the landforms in a rivers upper course.

Students were taken in small groups to see the dramatic waterfall.

Flo Moore 9MR and Bebe Malek 9HU sketching the confluence at Watersmeet.

Zac Surridge 9GG at Watersmeet.

Year 11 Fieldwork to Westward Ho!
At the beginning of this term, Year 11 students participated in a day of fieldwork to collect data for their Geography controlled assessment, which this year was based on how the coast should be managed and is worth 15% of their GCSE grade. They worked hard, and have now completed the piece of work that was based on their data. We also all enjoyed the Hockings ice cream!

Working in groups, students were measuring the shape of the pebble ridge to enable them to compare it with previous years. This allowed investigation of the risks of sea level rise at Westward Ho!

Coming Soon...
In December, Year 10 GCSE students have undertaken their first fieldtrip of the course, with the focus being on Population and Rural Settlements. As this took place after ‘going to print’ details and photos will follow on the next Park News!

In February there will be an opportunity for Gifted and Talented Geographers in Year 8 to undertake a visit to extend the curriculum – further details to follow soon!
Aidan Hall-Goundry (Year 8)

I enjoy English and ICT. I am better at English as my Level is higher in this subject. My Aunt, Pat Hutchins, inspires me to write stories and share them with people.

I hope to get at least an A Grade in my GCSEs for both English and ICT so they can help me in my future.

I hope to become an English or ICT Teacher in a Primary School. Also, I would like to have the opportunity to design a game.

In my spare time I write stories on my laptop, draw comics and play with my friends online and outside.

The thing I like best about Park is that at lunch and break you have the freedom to walk around (most) of the school premises.

At Christmas I enjoy seeing my family and seeing everyone happy. Every year we go to my grandparents’ house and all of my family come and we have a huge Christmas feast!

Aimee Whitaker (Year 7)

My favourite subjects are English and Art. I’ve always loved writing fantasy and comedy stories and illustrating them too. At the moment I am really enjoying reading ‘The Tygrine Cat’ by Inbali Iserles and the Harry Potter series, although my Dad recommended ‘Silas Marner’ by George Eliot, a story about old-fashioned village life. I enjoy Technology class because I like being creative and making things. I also enjoy Drama and Music.

In Primary School I wasn’t very good at Maths. I was embarrassed that I hadn’t learnt all my times tables and I found it difficult to compete with others who were good at Maths, always shouting out the answers! However, since being at Park I have discovered that even Maths can be fun and, as a result, I am improving. I also hope to achieve a higher standard at Violin playing - at the moment I am working for my Grade 2 exams.

In the future I would like to have a creative job. I would particularly like to be an actress. However, I’m not entirely sure what I want to do at this point – after all, I’m only 11.

In my spare time I write stories, watch films and play games. At weekends I attend Aikido Club (self-defence) in Barnstaple and I am currently at 3rd Kyu (brown belt). We have a Scottie Dog called Robert, he is very cute and lots of fun!

Given that I was the only girl to come from St. Helen’s (my Primary School), I was surprised to have found so many friends in the two months I’ve been at Park. The teachers are approachable and have a good sense of humour (I like that!)

The fun bit of Christmas is opening all my presents! I like watching films with my family all day, eating chocolates and mince pies!

Teachers are interesting people too!

Mr Griffiths, Religious Education and Sociology Teacher

I grew up on the Hampshire/Wiltshire boarder in small village near to Stonehenge and went to the local Primary and Secondary School. At 17 I decided to travel a little further afield for college and went to Queen Mary’s College in Basingstoke. Here I became Finance Officer for the Students’ Union and gained A Levels in Religious Studies, Sociology and
Law. After college I left home and moved to Cardiff for University and studied Religion & Theology with Biblical Hebrew. Straight after completing my undergraduate degree I moved to Exeter where I completed my PGCE and was lucky enough to be selected to go to New York to teach there for three weeks. Since then I have been working at Park Community School, I literally never left education!

During my time at University I was able to develop my passion for Ballroom and Latin dancing. In my second and third year I captained a team of about 20 couples who travelled around the UK competing at various venues. One of the highlights of this time was when my dance partner and I came First Place in both Jive and Cha Cha in the home of Ballroom & Latin dancing, at Blackpool’s Winter Gardens. After all those years of hard training, it had finally paid off and we lifted our trophy high! A couple of months before this we had also won the Cardiff University version of Strictly Come Dancing in aid of Shelterbox charity. As much as I loved being at University, dancing was my escape from the continuous studying and hard work.

Since moving to North Devon, I have continued to enjoy this hobby, but in a more social rather than competitive way. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of meeting both Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe of Strictly Come Dancing fame at an evening of dance at Saunton Sands Hotel, where I will be getting married next year.

For me, Christmas is all about spending time with my family, eating mince pies and having Christmas tunes playing. It usually involves a bit of karaoke on occasions too!

My Life in 10 Questions:

Pastimes/Hobbies: Ballroom and Latin dancing is at the top, but I also enjoy sitting with a nice cup of coffee and reading a good book. I enjoy going to the cinema, playing guitar and just being around good friends. The last few years I have also enjoyed travelling the Greek Islands in the summer

Favourite Book: Anything by Paulo Coelho or Mitch Albom, especially ‘The Five People You Meet in Heaven’

Favourite Music: Country Music

Favourite Film: The Notebook. I also love a good horror film!

Childhood Hero: My Grandad and my Mum

Three Famous People I’d Like to Meet: Garth Brooks, Aung San Suu Kyi, Jack Whitehall

My Best Teacher: Miss Watts, my Geography and RE teacher. She taught me that you don’t need to be religious to appreciate religious values.

Biggest Regret: Not taking French at A Level

Proudest Achievement: A close call between coming first in Blackpool and being best man at my brother’s wedding in 2007

Most Important Thing Learned: Do your best, then just that little bit more

Enjoying Sport!

Congratulations to the 21 Year 10 students who successfully completed their Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership: Joe Sherborne, Amber Oreshko, Emily Furseman, Toby Ainger, Martika Gallagher, Helen Farr, Seb Dunkley, Heather Coombes, Will Allchorn, Sophie Watts, Mitchell Turner, Kathleen Turner, Felix Townsend, Chloe Sloman, Max Kilham, Benji Lahai-Taylor, Sophie Langford, Niamah Marshall, David Miller, Ciaran Richardson, Grace Rogers.

They have spent many hours after school being taught leadership skills with Miss Holland and then excelled themselves in events with young people, helping at Sticklepath School Sports Day and the Year 6 Athletics Festival held at Park.

The Ability Games

During November, 26 students attended the Devon Autumn Ability Games at the Tarka Tennis Centre, where they were able to try a variety of activities. This is an opportunity to encourage students to try activities that they would not always have the opportunity to do at school in their PE lessons.

Students from Years 7 – 10 were able to try trampolining, squash (in an inflatable court!), laser shooting, wheelchair rugby, (indoor) canoeing and wheelchair basketball. One of our students impressed the Exeter Otters (basketball) and Exeter Wheelchair Rugby club so much that they hope he will be able to attend their training sessions with them!

In addition to Sport, students joined in with making a mural that will become a logo of the games and were encouraged to design a mascot that will also be a feature of future games.

They were lucky enough to meet and get their t-shirts signed by Olympic Silver Medallist Diver, Peter Waterfield. As well as meeting him and getting his autograph, some students even posed for photos with him. He entertained them with stories of attending four Olympic Games and diving with Tom Daley.
Of readers. I moved back to Devon in 2012 to do my teacher training (PGCE English with Drama at Exeter University), securing a job at Park during that year. And the rest, as they say, is history...

Miss Dove’s Christmas quiz… One of these statements is not true. Can you guess which one? Come and see me to find out!

a) Leona Lewis performed at my friend’s birthday party.

b) I have had a cup of tea with comedian Harry Enfield.

c) I got a wave from Louis at a One Direction concert.

d) I stood next to Stephen Fry at an art exhibition.

What Does Christmas Mean To Me? Celebrating my faith, spending quality time with family and friends, reflecting.

My Life in Ten Questions:-
Pastimes/Hobbies: Singing, playing the piano/ukulele/guitar/penny whistle (only on special occasions), making pottery and ceramics, reading novels, spending time with friends, going to the cinema, walking in our beautiful North Devon countryside.

Favourite Book: This is an impossible task for an English teacher! I’ll limit myself to three: Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone by J.K. Rowling (for inspiring the magic), A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving (for utterly brilliant writing) and The Holy Bible (for understanding and direction).

Favourite Music: At the moment I’m enjoying Classic FM during my drive to school – a moment of calm before the storm! However, I also have a lifelong love of Joni Mitchell and all things acoustic/folksy, e.g. Kate Rusby, Carole King and Nickel Creek.

Favourite Film: A strange little romantic black comedy called ‘Harold and Maude’.

Childhood Hero: My mum – always caring, always supportive, always loving.

Three Famous People I’d Like To Meet: J.K. Rowling (to pick her brains), Joni Mitchell (to sing together), and Nakato Patricia (a girl I sponsor in Uganda).

My Best Teacher: My GCSE drama teacher Mrs Clements. She was always kind and positive and the dedication she had for her subject was inspiring.

Biggest Regret: No regrets – just lessons learned.

Proudest Achievement: Achieving a distinction in grade 8 singing.

Most Important Thing Learned: That we should find the good in every person we meet.

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The teachers also joined in, with Mr Blanchard beating Mr Horton on the Canoeing by 4 metres. (But do not mention it – Mr Horton was not happy about it!) Thank you also to Mrs Glass, Mrs Parkin and Miss Quick who attended with the competitive teachers.

The children were an asset to Park School and we thoroughly enjoyed taking them!

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Teachers are interesting people too!

Miss Dove – English Teacher

I am a Barnstaple girl born and bred! I went to school at Pilton Community College followed by North Devon College, where I took A Levels in English Literature, Psychology, Classical Civilisations and French. I then moved to Bristol where I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with Classical Studies.

Following my degree, I found myself living in London and working for Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (renowned for publishing the Harry Potter books). Alas, I never met the mighty J.K. Rowling herself, but did have lots of fun selling books around the world and reading to my heart’s content. However, after two years of having my nose stuck in various paperbacks, I resurfaced, knowing that I needed to share my literary passion with the next generation of readers. I moved back to Devon in 2012 to do my teacher training (PGCE English with Drama at Exeter University), securing a job at Park during that year. And the rest, as they say, is history...

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Proudest Achievement: Achieving a distinction in grade 8 singing.

Most Important Thing Learned: That we should find the good in every person we meet.

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16. Was it Leona, Harry, Louis or Stephen?
Options at 16+ Evening

Once again, another successful Options at 16+ evening has taken place at school, with both students and Parents/Carers attending to find out more information about opportunities that are on offer to Year 11 students when they leave.

After welcoming everyone to the evening, a brief talk about progression routes and levels was given to enable Parents/Carers to see how ‘life has changed’ and how much more complicated routes into Further Education have now become.

Several Further Education establishments attended as well as Exeter University and many vocational stands were also there, to give information and advice on Engineering, Construction, Banking and Dance. All the Armed Forces were present as well, offering a wealth of information on the variety of options open to school leavers.

Represented were:-
Petroc • Bideford College • Exeter College • Exeter Mathematics School • Bicton • Duchy • Exeter University • Anglo Krempel • G.T.D. • Institute of Engineers • Barclays Bank • Army • Royal Navy and Royal Marines • R.A.F. • C.S.W. • Dance Unlimited • C.I.T.B.

“It is a really rewarding evening to organise, especially when you see so many people attending and I hope that everyone went home feeling a little more informed about what is on offer”. (Mrs Edmonds)

I Hope to Study Medicine

As part of the Careers programme here in school, ten Year 11 students were fortunate enough to attend a ‘Careers in Medicine Day’ at the NDDH. Topics covered included lectures from Peninsula and Bristol Medical Schools about applying and entry requirements, as well as talks from current medical students who are going through the process. Junior Doctors outlined ‘a day in the life of ……’ and a local GP described what his job involved. Students also were able to listen to a talk from a top Vascular Surgeon who described some of the operations that he had carried out as well as passing round some very expensive pieces of equipment that he uses. Following a talk from a Consultant Rheumatologist about his role, there was a question and answer session.

The visit was organised by Mrs Edmonds, who reports:-

“As always, it was a fascinating and an informative set of lectures, which the students found very useful, as you can see from some of the comments that they made. I hope that the experience will enable them to consider this pathway now and I look forward to watching their progress”

“I learned many things throughout the day from many inspirational people, therefore my knowledge of the medical profession has improved making me more determined to get into medical school and become a qualified doctor”. (Katie)

“Overall it was a very good day and worth going to if you want to find out information and discover new things about medicine”. (Will)

“I found out that there were 3554 applicants for 222 places at Peninsula Medical School and whilst it is a long tough road, I am prepared to do my best in order to get there”. (Shanna)

“I found the visit to be really useful and thought provoking. There were a variety of medical professionals there who told us about their jobs and how they got into them”. (Sophie)

“I enjoyed the talks from the different professionals as it gave me an insight into the range of careers and encouraged me to pursue this profession”. (Abi)

The Widening Participation Programme – Uncover Higher Education

All Year 11 students have had an Assembly on how to apply to College and should be in a position to do so now. Please remember that the deadline for applying is 31st January 2015 to guarantee your first choice of course. If you need any further advice, please make sure that you go and see Mrs Edmonds. Fifty Year 11 students have the opportunity to attend a Taster Day at Exeter College during December, following a lunchtime workshop session in school with Mrs Edmonds.
Finlay Dart (Year 10)

In athletics I throw the hammer. I have been to two National Championships, earned a Devon Championship record and became 8th in the UK. I train two hours per week at the track doing weight and conditioning work in the winter and throwing in the summer. I also train at home doing core exercises and sometimes throw on a Sunday.

My biggest achievement so far is going to the English Schools' Championships and beating a 25 year old Devon Championship record and a North Devon Club record by over 10 metres.

I have learned not to put yourself down after a bad throw, forget about it and carry on. Also, dedication at home with regular training in your weaknesses improves the distance and technique in the following season.

I enjoy Christmas because you spend time with your family. I celebrate by spending Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day with them.

Kyle Darragh (Year 10)

My main sports are football and running, but I love doing any other sports. I have a two year contract with Torquay United. My week is full of sport with Monday football at Torquay, Tuesday running for North Devon Athletics Club, Wednesday a recovery run, Thursday back to Torquay training and Friday training in Barnstaple for extra fitness. At weekends there is cross country or football. I give my life to sport.

My biggest achievement so far is scoring the winning goal on my debut for Torquay at Bournemouth. It was 1-1 until at the 90th minute I scored the winner 2-1.

To succeed, I train in my spare time and I am very committed, showing determination in front of the coaches to succeed. You must have a good attitude.

What I enjoy about Christmas is that it is a good time to get together with your family to celebrate a great year and look forward to more to come. There is only one way and it is forwards, not backwards!

Student Investor Challenge

21 teams of 4 students have signed up to play the Student Investor Challenge at www.studentinvestor.org. Over 8000 teams across the country have entered the competition so far. Three of our teams are currently in the top 1000.

The competition is open to students aged 14-19 who are given £100,000 to invest on the stock market. The Student Investor Challenge is the most realistic share dealing competition and is very popular nationally. Contact Mrs Thomas for more detail.

Life in Art

Students respond to Richard Long's Exhibition at The Burton Art Gallery
Richard Long, one of Britain’s most significant artists, has strong connections with the South West and his work often uses the materials that make up our environment. The exhibition at Burton Art Gallery and Museum includes a number of works made in the landscape through the medium of walking.

Our Year 11 students produced their own interpretation of his work by creating a piece called Walking the River Taw. Using naturally coloured mud and silt from the River Taw and some Bideford Black, they produced a collaborative piece of work using muddy footprints onto maps of our local area. The footprints range from size 1 to 13! A continuous line made on a sewing outlines each of the footprints.

Richard Long’s Exhibition runs throughout October, November and December.

London Expressive Arts Trip

On a sunny weekend in July, 63 Expressive Arts students spent three amazing days in London. This enrichment experience always provides our students with many fond memories which will last a long time. The itinerary included a visit to The National Portrait Gallery; The Human Factor Exhibition at The Hayward Gallery; a short visit to The British Museum – Cartoons Unmasked at The British Library; National Theatre Backstage Tour; West End Shows this year were Matilda and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time; Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green; Borough Market for Lunch; Brick Lane Market for some shopping.

In October, our new Year 10 students and parents participated in an introductory evening promoting the trip for next summer. Our current Year 11 students produced collaborative pieces of batik based on their own experience of London last year. This work was on display during the evening.

Year 10 Broomhill Art Hotel and Sculpture Garden

This year we chanced the weather and decided to take our entire group of Year 10 artists to Broomhill for a day of Art enrichment activities. Our students produced a range of work in response to the internal gallery and sculpture garden. This work has now been extended into the classroom and all of our students have since produced work using clay, wire, paint, print and ICT. This unit of work has enabled the students to produce exceptional results and we are now looking forward to seeing the future creations from this year group! Examples of this work will be on display in the forthcoming exhibition at The Boston Tea Party café from 4th December to the end of January.

Our students were as usual an absolute credit our school.
Year 8 Broomhill Art Trip

45 keen artists in Year 8 also took up an opportunity to work in the Broomhill Gallery and Gardens. The unsettled weather didn’t dampen their spirits as they all embraced the challenge of drawing the sculptures with a backdrops of beautiful trees and plants. The owners of Broomhill are always quick to praise the behaviour and high standard of work produced by our students. Well done Year 8.

North Devon Heritage Photographic Competition.

8 of our students were successful in winning awards in this year’s Photography competition in the North Devon Museum. Dave Green, a contemporary photographic artist from Bideford, presented the awards and formally opened the exhibition. There were over 370 entries for the exhibition so we were delighted to have so many photographs accepted. Our congratulations to go Sian Beasant Yr 10, Leanne Phillips Yr 9, Zak Lamden Yr 9, Sophie Dyke Yr 9, Trevor Searle Yr 10, Rachel Bellew Yr 11, Grace Quinn Yr 9, Samantha Spurling Yr 7 and Robin Tanner Yr 10. Robin was in fact a winner in several of the categories!

The exhibition is open to the public until 2nd January. Free admission.

Yasmeen Abed Yr 9

Many of our students create incredible works of art in their own time which is always great to see. Just recently one of our Yr 9 students, Yasmeen Abed, brought into school a collection of her own work completed in her own time. Due to the very current subject matter, we thought our students may be interested in viewing some of her work.
Remembering the Days of Summer!

Matthew Binmore
Bradley Fuller
Martha Lethaby
Tilly Porter

21. A World of Different Cultures
Sophie Watts (Year 11)

My particular interests are beach and indoor volleyball and bowls, in which I played for Devon.

I began playing volleyball when Denise Austin came to my primary school and encouraged us to play. I train with Exeter/Devon once a week, South West once a month and The Academy of Beach Sports four times each week. Training is intense and provides good practice. It is very time-consuming as we have a match nearly every weekend. My dad introduced me to bowls when I was 7 and I have loved it ever since, training whenever I can.

My greatest achievement to date is getting through to the Final 8 in England for U-15, U-16 and U-18 in 2013/2014 and winning the U-16 Inter Regional Competition in 2013/14. I played for South West U-16. Competing in Austria for an U-16 Competition in 2013. In Bowls I won through to the last 20 in England for the U-18 Singles and in Beach Volleyball have been selected to play for Volleyball England Beach Tour (Women's Juniors).

This all demands hard work, dedication and lots of training, getting myself both mentally and physically prepared for matches.

At school, all of the teachers are very supportive with all my class work and my sports.

At Christmas, I enjoy gathering with my family and having Christmas dinner!

Flo Moore (Year 9)

I play Water Polo at Club, County, Regional and National Level.

I became interested in Water Polo because I liked to watch my brother playing it and I joined at the age of 10.

I train for an hour in Barnstaple and 2 hours in Exeter each week, plus 4 swimming sessions of additional Water Polo training in Plymouth and Cardiff. I play in matches all over the country.

My biggest achievement was being selected for the U-14 Great Britain Water Polo Squad and going to Spain for a week to train.

I have fun whilst I am training hard.

The best things about school are that there are always lots of opportunities to try new things and you make many new friends.

At Christmas, I enjoy gathering with my family and having Christmas dinner.

The Christmas Bunting Display in The Pannier Market

Y7 students took part in creating Christmas bunting to be used by the Town Council for the Christmas Fayre in the Pannier Market which opens on Thursday 4th December. Pop along and see if you can spot your child’s design.

Our Christmas Card Competition 2014

Well done to the following students whose winning designs were chosen for this year’s House Christmas cards.

Drake House – Barney Bailey 11RK
Chichester House – Joanne Roper 8DA
Raleigh House – Rhiannon Furlong 7JU
Fortescue House – Sophie Dyke 9HU
Kingsley House – Tom Mckitrick 10PH

Each will receive a £10 voucher and the prestige of having their designs professionally made into cards by The SignShop.
Runners up were: Sarah Newby Gonzalez 7CC, Molly Thomas 9RP, Polly Storey 8JM, Leanne Phillips 9EG, Lauren Braund 7Jm, Keziah Stone 10PH, Zac Lambden 9SW, Zachary Adams 7GR, Molly Maddocks 7GR

Friends of Park

Future events

- **Christmas Concerts** – Wed/Thurs 17th / 18th December
  We are requesting donations of bottles of wine for the mulled wine at the Christmas Concert.
  If you can help, please hand bottles in to the main school reception.
  If you are available to help serve refreshments at this event please let us know.

- **The January quiz** – Friday 23rd January - 7:30pm in the school hall
  Come and join us for a lighthearted yet competitive evening.
  £6 per head includes ploughman's supper - Bar available.

- It was encouraging to see new faces at the AGM in Oct and as a result we have some new fresh faces on the committee.

- Thank you to **Tracy Owen** for taking on the role of Vice Chair, **Juliet Cram** - Fundraising Coordinator, **Kate Monsoon Davies** - Refreshments Coordinator and **Sarah Adams** will be taking over the role of secretary later on in the Spring term 2015. Good luck and thank you.

- If you would like to offer help and support in any way the ‘Friends of Park’ would love to hear from you. There are many ways in which you can get involved. We support the school by providing refreshments at parents’ evenings, concerts and other school events, holding fundraising activities and generally supporting pupils, teachers and areas of the curriculum. Meetings are informal and friendly and held once a term. We are currently raising money to provide a canopy for a new Y7 and Y11 social area. Following our recent AGM we have two vacant posts.

Current Secretary – christinefarr@hotmail.com

Committee

Paula Dunkin – Chair
Tracy Owen – Vice Chair
Sarah Adams – Secretary (Spring 2015)
Karen Sandwell – Treasurer
Juliet Cram – Fundraising coordinator
Kate Monsoon Davies – Tea coordinator

Ebony Mai Brown (Year 7)

My particular interest is Dance – Classical Ballet, Modern, Tap, Street and I am starting Lyrical.

I started when I was 2½ years old. I currently attend practice and lessons from Monday to Thursday, or sometimes extra days when practising for exams. I also travel up to London once a month and to Birmingham’s Elmhurst School for Dance twice a year.

My biggest achievement was when I auditioned and got a place to join the British Ballet Organisation as a Scholar. There I work with many great dancers and teachers, including Brenda Last, who is amazing and has been awarded an OBE.

You need to focus upon what you want to achieve and work hard. You must enjoy it, otherwise there is no point.

At Park School I like the House System and the Tutor Groups because you can spend time with your friends.

At Christmas, I enjoy time with my family and the ‘Christmas spirit’, the movies and the chocolates! We always have the tree decorated. Christmas is fun!

Megan Deans (Year 11)

My sport is Golf, qualifying for the Junior European Open in October. It takes place in Malaga (Spain) from 29th November until 6th December 2014.

It first began with my dad teaching me at a very young age. Golf takes up a lot of my time as I try and play every weekend with practice 3 or 4 times per week.
My secret to success is I put in the hours of practice and try to play as much as possible to help keep my game at a high standard.

All the teachers are very supportive with my sport and class work.

At Christmas I enjoy the food and the atmosphere. Also it is when I get to see the whole family all together.

Peer Mentors

Peer Mentors apply in writing at the end of Year 9 after a special assembly and, if selected, attend a one day training course at Grosvenor Church. When they start Year 10 they work in small teams to organise games and activities for the new year 7’s in the Gym. They can offer a listening ear too and can help those year 7 pupils who are not finding transition as easy as others. They are rewarded with certificates that show commitment and responsibility. Many past Peer Mentors have used them to show at College interviews. The Mentors also learn new skills and how to plan and work in teams. More often than not it is the Year 10’s who gain most from this scheme.

Peer Mentor’s Halloween Fun

A large group of Year 7 students attended a Peer Mentor Halloween themed Activity session in the School gym.

Year 10 Peer Mentors use their training to organise games and fun activities to provide support and a listening ear to help Year 7’s to settle, in their first year at school. At this session the Year 7 students were totally focused on the three fun activities, having a wonderful time.

Two Brothers who went to Park – Their Stories


Which primary school I went to: Sticklepath

My first impression at 11 years old of Park School: I transferred from one of the larger primary schools, but even so Park seemed incomprehensibly large when I arrived. The science block in the middle of the school yard holds a distinct memory of being the tallest building I thought I’d ever see (all 3 stories of it!). Also, the pupils all seemed so big, almost intimidatingly so at first but I soon got used to it. This was a useful experience to go through as both the North Devon college and then my University each added a further order of magnitude in size.

The highlights of my school life at Park and what I achieved: During my time at Park my passion was in electronic music sequencing (after all, this was the 80s) and I was involved in several concerts and music projects. Through this I got involved in stage craft and a personal highlight was the school production of Dracula Spectacular we put on in 1992, where I co-opted and coached several friends to run the sound and lighting technical support.

University, Degree and how my Career began to develop: Imperial University (then College) London. I studied a MEng degree in Information Systems. Upon graduating in 1999 I went to work on software operating systems for mobile phones for Symbian in London. In 2006 I was hired by Google to help establish the UK engineering office and have since worked on Google Maps, Chrome and Android. In 2012 I moved to California and now work on new technology for medical applications as part of the Google [X] labs.

The most important things I regard helped me during my Park years: I really learnt to pursue my deepest interests, and they carried me through my education and beyond. Academically, Science, Maths and IT were my strongest subjects and I was lucky to really enjoy them.

24. Where will Ambition Take Me...?
Even more important was the strong network of friends that carried me through those years and beyond. I will always remember meeting my future Best Man during a game of cricket on the south field, we were both terrible fielders but had a lot more in common.

**What advice I would give to today’s Park pupils:**
A wiser man said, if you do what you love and believe in, you'll be better at it. Opportunities will come and go, don't dwell looking back but look forward to what is coming around the next corner. Looking back now I realize I didn't make best use of the sporting opportunities in my schooling, pursuing studious and career ambitions instead. In recent years I discovered I really love long distance cycling so I've put a lot of energy into training and now my wife and I are preparing to compete in the famous 3000 mile Race Across America in 2015:

lovesweatandgears.net/tandems-2015


**Which primary school I went to:** Sticklepath

**My first impression at 11 years old of Park School:**
Joining Kingsley. As I was following on from my brother, this felt good - I had some history before even beginning! I remember enjoying having an art room as my tutor room as it always had interesting stuff around (although this room, and tutor, changed many times!) The highlights of my school life at Park and what I achieved:

I enjoyed all classes and found I could do most subjects well, although probably the most challenging was drama, so I’m pretty proud of standing on a few stages and giving various performances (and getting a B at the end!) I’m also glad I spent a few years doing long jump for house, school and North Devon. But most of all I developed as a person, having a sense of myself (which continued and continues to develop) whilst making some friends who have been with me ever since (including one of my best men at my wedding this year)

**University, Degree and how my Career began to develop:**
At the North Devon College I began studying History, English and German, but transferred German to Psychology after 1 year. I then studied a year of Philosophy at Warwick University in 1998, before deciding it wasn't for me (I need a final answer, unlike philosophers!) So I went to University of Bristol in 2000 to study Experimental Psychology, where I remained until 2008 (also completing a PhD in applied psychology and a year of postdoctoral research). I then decided academic life was not for me; this combined with a desire to explore the world a bit more and led to teaching English in Barcelona, including a team involved in corporate social responsibility (CSR). After 2 years, I decided to travel more, across Europe and then over to Australia. Whilst on a birthday trip (of a lifetime!) to Koh Pha Ngan in Thailand, I met my (now) wife, who was finishing 6 months travelling around the world. She went back to her home in Edinburgh, I went to Australia, but decided to come back to the UK to see how things might go. We ended up both moving into a house in Bristol, although it took me some time to find work, including part-time lecturing in psychology at Bath Spa University. Eventually, I found a job working for a CSR consultancy, which acted as a stepping stone to where I am today.

**Where my career has taken me and what I am doing now:**
I started in the previous consultancy as a junior consultant; three years later I'm a senior consultant at ERS in Bristol. We undertake socio-economic research, much of it focused on evaluations of economic regeneration projects for charities, local councils, or the government. It’s a great role with a lot of variety; I feel like I’m thriving there now.

**The most important things I regard helped me during my Park years:**
Not worrying about being popular, or having the most friends (this just sorts itself out in my experience). Just enjoying what was there to be enjoyed.

**What advice I would give to today’s Park pupils:**
Don't get hung up about doing good or bad, but just make the most of each day, enjoying it along the way!

**Any other details of interests, experiences, adventures!**
My wife and I got married recently (in Edinburgh) then managed to get 2 months off for our honeymoon. Continuing our love of travel, we went to Madrid, a music festival in Portugal, Istanbul, India (including Goa and Kerala, having travelled around North India last Christmas), Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Another trip of a lifetime for sure!

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**Business Trip to Thorpe Park**

During October the Business Studies department took 45 Year 10 students to Thorpe Park. The purpose of the trip was to investigate a leisure attraction as a business. Students attended a 45 minute talk about “Thorpe Park as a Business”. This was followed by a question and answer session where students were able to explore the change of ownership of the Merlin Group to becoming a PLC.

The park was very quiet as it was the first day of the Halloween Fright Nights so students were able to sample
If you are thinking about pursuing a modelling career, the main thing is to stay focused and never give up. There will be highs and lows as that is how this kind of business works. Most of all be yourself, people will appreciate knowing the ‘real’ you. Just have fun!

Teachers genuinely want you to succeed. Many provide all the help and advice they can to continually help you to become better. All the teachers I have had throughout my Park School life have been excellent. I can see my improvement from Year 7 to now and I couldn’t do it without my subject teachers, my Head of House and my Tutor.

Christmas is my favourite time of the year. My very large family come from all over and it brings us all so much closer. Lots of food, films and presents! To be honest, I enjoy the lead up to Christmas more than the actual day, advent calendars decorating the house is all so exciting!

**Callum Choules (Year 10)**

My interest and achievement is in Athletics, particularly middle distance, running in the 800m, 1500m and 3000m. I also regularly compete in Cross Country races.

I first started training at Braunton Athletics track when I was 8 years old. To be an athlete you have to be committed because it takes up a lot of your time. At the moment I train hard four times per week.

My biggest achievement on the track is qualifying for the South West Schools’ Championships and coming 7th place, then ranked Number 1 in the South West and 17th in the UK for 3000m. In Cross Country, I have twice reached the National Inter Counties Championships in Birmingham with two good results. I then made it to the English Schools’ Championships at Castle Donington, where I came 2nd for Devon and in the Top 100 overall.

There are no secrets to becoming a good runner. Everyone is born with the ability to run, all it takes is determination, know-how and having the right group of people around you. You also must have a commitment to training that doesn’t stop just because it’s cold or raining, or both!

The most important thing that Park School has done to help me is letting me compete with the rest of the team at the smaller North Devon School events, which then see where this could take me! Also, the Plymouth Fashion Shows are a big success and lots of fun!

**Lucy Wells (Year 10)**

My achievement is becoming a model. I had never thought about this type of career, until I was ‘spotted’ when I was 12 years old.

It all began in Reading Sainsbury’s when a modelling scout approached myself, my nan and a close family friend. Since 2012 I have done two modelling catwalk shows and had multiple shoots at FM in London. I started off training at my ‘mother agents’ house and continued to practice at the Plymouth Clothes Shows.

My biggest achievement was being accepted at FM in London. I was very lucky and surprised to be accepted, as many of the models had to go elsewhere. I have to wait until I am 15-16 to release my portfolio. I am so excited to see where this could take me! Also, the Plymouth Fashion Shows are a big success and lots of fun!

If you are thinking about pursuing a modelling career, the main thing is to stay focused and never give up. There will be highs and lows as that is how this kind of business works. Most of all be yourself, people will appreciate knowing the ‘real’ you. Just have fun!

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allowed me to qualify for the larger races and the support I get really encourages me.

The best thing about Christmas, apart from the presents and mounds of food!, is seeing all of the family. We do this by all meeting up on the evening of Christmas to have supper. But training doesn’t stop – I have to be out for that Boxing Day run!

Life in Music

Music, Art and Late Night Shopping – Thursday 4th December at the Boston Tea Party

On the 4th December the music department will team up with the Art department for the Boston Tea Party exhibition in Barnstaple town centre. Music students have also been invited to perform in the pannier market as part of Barnstaple's Christmas Fayre. This will be a wonderful evening with lots going on!

GREASE, 4th 5th, 6th February 2015

Students continue to work hard on the production of Grease. All music for the show will be live – LIVE no backing tracks! So there are many songs to learn! The band are sounding great and we look forward to the show 4th, 5th 6th February. I recommend purchasing tickets ASAP as we are expecting high demand for all three nights.

Teachers are interesting people too!

Matthew Street, Head of Music

I was born in Leytonstone in London and grew up nearby in Woodford Green, where Winston Churchill was once an MP. I was ‘Educated in Essex’ at a school in Loughton called Davenant. The school had excellent PE and music departments and I was immediately drawn into sports teams and various school bands. I went to a soccer school with Frank Lampard at a young age and played for Essex School Boys under18 football squad, but wasn’t good enough to progress any further in the sport. I began piano lessons at age 6 then took up the trumpet at secondary school. I taught myself the guitar and have always loved playing music and writing my own songs.

After school I decided to study Sports Science at Leeds Metropolitan University. This was where I got my first real taste for surfing on the cold east coast breaks of Scarborough and Saltburn. Hats and gloves were essential surf wear all year round! As part of my course I did a work placement in the PE department of a school in the North East. I really enjoyed it and decided I would enrol on a teacher training course in Exeter once I’d finished my degree. Having achieved a place at Exeter University I was thrilled to hear that one of my placement schools would be Park (and also quite pleased that Croyde beach was close by). Still a keen musician I taught music as a second subject. After having taught PE and music at Park for a few years I was pleased to be given the opportunity to take over music full time.

In 2006 I took a career break to go travelling. I visited South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South America. I had many fascinating experiences during this trip but highlights include: Sky Diving into Lake Taupo, a bungee jump off the Karawau Bridge, Trekking to the famous ruins of Machu Picchu, visiting Angkor Wat (the temples in Cambodia), taking gamelan music lessons and surfing Uluwatu in Bali. These were great experiences, but just as fascinating was meeting people and learning about different cultures around the world.

As a keen musician I play in a band called Woodford Green. We have enjoyed playing gigs all over the country as well as a mini tour of New York. We have met many other musicians along the way including: Jarvis Cocker, Mumford and Sons, Ethan Johns and Dry the River. One of our songs called ‘What the Doctor Said’ was selected to appear on a compilation by a small record label called Folkroom Records.

Christmas to me means the Park School Christmas Concert of course (tickets available now from pupil reception!). The concert aside, Christmas has always been a time to get together with family and enjoy some good food. This year will be my son Rupert’s first ever Christmas! Zoe and I are very excited about this but also attempting to come up with some creative ways of tying the Christmas tree down!

My Life in Ten Questions:-

Pastimes/Hobbies: Surfing, mountain biking, reading, song writing, spending time with Rupert.

Favourite Book: The Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov.

Favourite Music: Favourite music is very difficult! I will go with ‘The Rite of Spring’ by Stravinsky.

Favourite Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.

Childhood Hero: Mozart and Tottenham Hotspur’s Gary Linekar.

My Best Teacher: My best teacher was called Mr O’Connor. He was my A level Religious Studies Teacher. I remember him as being an inspirational speaker, highly knowledgeable and brilliant at leading enjoyable class discussions. As Einstein once said: “It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

Biggest Regret: Losing at Table Tennis to Mr Horton in the Mulberry at lunchtime.

Proudest Achievement: My proudest moment was being present at the birth of my son Rupert.

Most Important Thing Learned: “The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.” Eleanor Roosevelt.

Chemistry is Fun!

During December, Year 8 and 9 scientists attended a lecture demonstration by Dr Tim Harrison of the School of Chemistry, Bristol University.

Called “A Pollutant’s Tale”, his exciting presentation taught us all something about:-

- the composition of the Earth’s atmosphere in comparison to other planets
- a description of the structure of the atmosphere
- investigation of some of the chemistry and properties of nitrogen and oxygen
- a few of the atmospheric pollutants including carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide

Throughout the lecture there were demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen, oxygen foam, dry ice and not a few explosions!

Leaving Us At Christmas

Ms Hall-Tomkin, Head of History – Ms Hall-Tomkin leaves us at Christmas for a new post in Taunton.

Her 11 years’ service at Park, the last 6 years as Head of History, has seen much achieved under her leadership, along with her significant contribution to the pastoral life of the school. Her teaching of History extended through many trips and visits for her students, both at home and abroad, enriching their curriculum and range of experiences to the broader benefit of them all.

She will be missed by her colleagues and she leaves with our very best wishes for future success in her new post over the years ahead.

Mr Blannin has been appointed Head of History for the remainder of this school year and an appointment is currently being made to complete the History timetable.

Charity Donations for Christmas 2014

Well done to 7CC in Drake who organised the ‘funzie, onesie, runzie’ on Children In Need Day, when they raised a grand total of £160.32.

Toby Ruhleman (9RP) had a special thank you from Swimbridge School for his donation of £20 towards their charity to sponsor a child’s education in a third world country. Toby raised the money by selling comics he has hand drawn himself at 50p a copy. Issue 2 is now on sale. This is part of a venture supported by Drake House. Well done Toby!

Fortescue Charity

- £275 – Jack Bale
- £75 – Care for Kids
- £50 – Dogs Trust
- £50 – ActionAid Ebola Crisis Appeal
- £50 – Tearfund

Children in Need

- £621.00 – from Non Uniform Day
- £117.32 – 7CC – Funzie Onesie Runzie
- £6.50 – How many jellybeans in a jar?
- £8.58 – Halloween Draw
- £192.29 – Sale of cakes by Library Staff
- £110.00 – Staff Raffle
- £7.34 – Children in Need Collection Bottle

Kingsley Charity

- £100 – Dogs Trust
- £100 – CLIC

Raleigh Charity:

- £80 each to Children’s Hospice SW, Cancer Research UK and Save the Children.

Chichester Charity:

- £26 – Make a Wish Foundation
- £26 – South West Children’s Hospice

Non Uniform Day

- £610 sent to ABF Soldier’s Charity and rest to Children in Need.

28. Helping Others

Spring Term Begins – Tuesday 6th January 2015
Non Pupil Staff Inset Day – Monday 5th January 2015
(The School Office will be open)