

much  
more than  
just a school



# Newsletter

## March 2026

### RACE AT OUR PLACE 2026



#### DEAR PARENTS, CARERS AND STUDENTS,

This mammoth edition of the newsletter captures a great deal of life at Park throughout March 2026. Whether it was Park Literary Festival, Science Week, university events or our first ever Strong Women, Bright Futures conference, Park students really have pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones to try something new.

Our 14th Race at Our Place was a fantastic end to the term. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us and donated to this great cause.

We are delighted to have welcomed over 400 parents and carers into school in the final two weeks of the term to collect mock results for Year 11, practise revision skills with Year 10, explore GCSE option choices for Year 9 and also start the process of selecting a creative option for Year 8.

As we return to school for the summer term, a reminder to ensure your children are ready to learn with equipment and full uniform, including phone pouches. Students should bring blazers every day, but as always, can remove them in when in lessons.

Finally, we wish safe travels and wonderful adventures to our two travelling groups of students and staff. Our group travelling to China leave this weekend and our India team depart on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 13 April.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

Dolcie-Mae  
£131.00

Tegan and  
Liberty  
£54.50

**TOTAL RAISED:**  
**£1863**

Leon  
£135.00

More on page 8...

Elaine  
£63.60



## Strong Women Bright Futures

On Tuesday 17th of March Park Community School hosted our very first Strong Women Bright Futures conference.

The conference was focused on inspiring Year 6 and 7 girls to be ambitious for their future and consider careers they perhaps had never thought of, with a focus on stem.

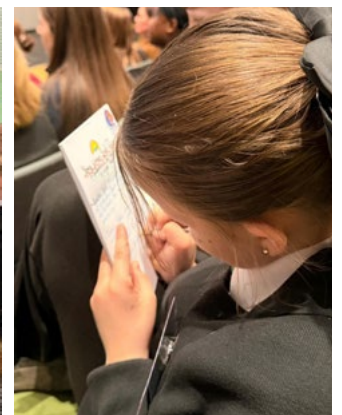
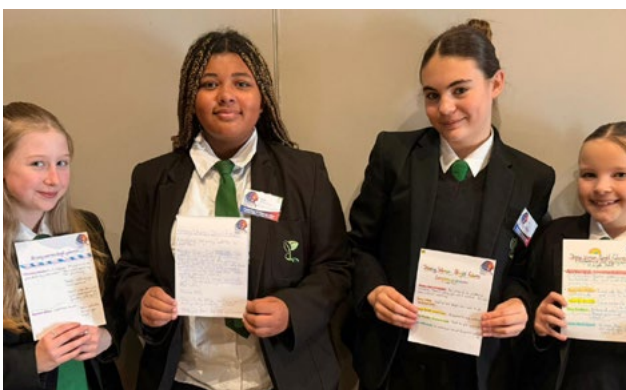
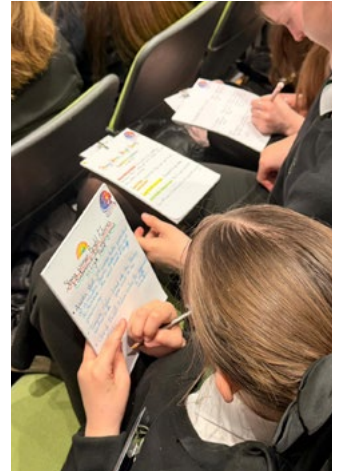
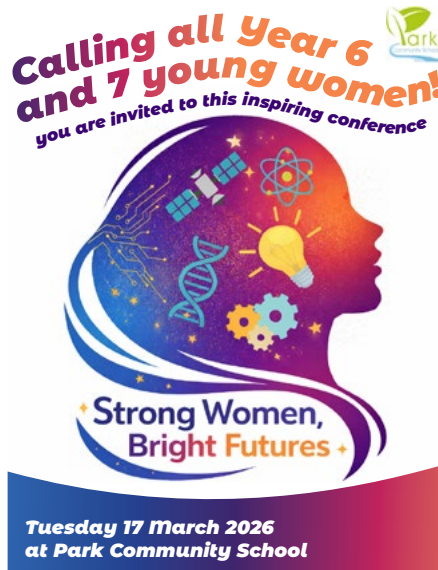
We were delighted to kick off the conference with a keynote speech from Anusha Shah, President of the Institute of Civil Engineering.

Almost 300 girls from across Leigh Park came to Park Community School to take part in the conference. Delegates came from Riders, Front Lawn, Barncroft, Warren Park, Sharps Copse, Trosnant and Park Community School .

The afternoon combined inspiring talks and workshops, all led by amazing women who shared their personal stories and advice. The women came from a range of industries including, Portsmouth Water, Future Water, Ward and Burke, Ceeftec, the NHS, the Royal Navy and Final Straw Foundation. We were also joined by a Park Alumni, Jasmine Bone, who is now studying for her PHD in biochemistry.

The conference was a really inspiring event and we are already planning next year's.

### Mrs Capaldi





**TOP TIPS FROM THE CONFERENCE**

1. Never be afraid to be yourself
2. Follow what you love
3. Accept that the journey won't be smooth - that is ok !



**Tea with our Local MP-Alan Mak MP**

On 12 March, Alan Mak, our local MP, hosted a drop in session at Park for parents, carers and children. Alan Mak chatted informally to local families over tea and cakes. He also made time to meet with our Park Reading Champion team to hear all about their efforts in the National Reading Championships.

**Flo Fearon**



**Hydration Stations!**

We have now installed two Hydration Stations in our school restaurants.

The stations will help us all stay hydrated and also reduce plastic waste.

Students are encouraged to bring in their own bottles to refill before school and at break and lunch.

**Mrs Capaldi**

## MAST Mayflower Studios Performance

On 18th March, our students performed at MAST Mayflower Studios alongside over 130 boys from across the south coast in an incredible celebration of boys' dance.

We're also proud that ZoieLogic Dance Theatre were so impressed they invited some of our students to attend taster sessions with their main company!

**Miss Marr**



## STEM Ambassadors trip

On 19th March, 13 Year 7 and Year 8 girls had the opportunity to visit the FatFace HQ in Havant. We had the opportunity to look around their huge building and ask loads of questions about how the designers think up the designs to the new laws and the importance of fashion being environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The different roles and interests involved in bringing a brand together was amazing.

After walking around and getting thoroughly lost, the girls had the chance to design their dream bedroom, treehouse or desert island in a growth mindset workshop. Everyone enjoyed the morning and feel inspired with so many different careers being offered right on our doorstep.

**Ms Gregory**



## Park students at Shakespeare's Globe

Students from the Spring Arts Project swapped their classrooms for the bright lights of London's famous Shakespeare's Globe — and what an adventure it turned out to be!

For many, the excitement began long before the curtain rose. Instead of hopping on a Bus or tube, students travelled along the River Thames on an Uber Boat by Thames Clippers. The city skyline drifted past as the sun began to set, and for lots of students it was their very first time arriving anywhere by boat — a journey worthy of a Shakespearean entrance! Once inside the Globe, the magic truly began. The students watched a bold, modern-day take on *Romeo and Juliet*, packed with laughter, gasp-out-loud shock moments, and even a few tears. This wasn't your typical quiet, sit-back-and-watch theatre trip. Standing right at the front of the stage, students were so close they could see every expression, every dramatic glance, every ounce of emotion.

With no microphones and an open roof overhead, the actors' voices rang out powerfully into the night air. Planes roared above, London hummed in the background, and yet the performance held everyone spellbound. It felt raw, real, and completely alive — just as theatre was meant to be in Shakespeare's time.

To top it all off, students stepped back out into a glowing London evening, the city sparkling along the riverbanks. The combination of river travel, powerful performance, and the buzz of the capital at night made it an unforgettable experience.

The trip was far more than just a theatre visit — it was an adventure. From sailing down the Thames to standing at the very edge of the stage, students experienced drama in its most exciting and authentic form. A night of culture, confidence, and city lights — one that will surely be remembered for a long time to come.

**Miss Wingham**



## Year 7 Girls Football

The Year 7 Girls played their third round of fixtures this month. Some unlucky losses for the girls against a strong Year 8 TPS team and an unfortunate long range free kick to Cowplain.

The girls again kept their heads up and continued strong performances across the games.

### Heroes of park:

Immy  
Lottie  
Ava  
Darcie  
Verity  
Ella  
Rose  
Margot  
Evie  
Elisana

### Player of the match:

Darcie for a consistent strong performance in defence!

**Miss Brown**

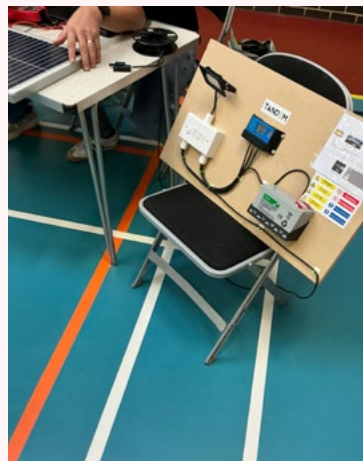


## Year 11 Apex Construction

Year 11 Apex Construction students visited a Careers Fair for construction trades organised by EBP. This was a fantastic opportunity for these individuals as they learned about a variety of skills and qualifications needed post Park Community School to progress with a future career in construction.

The students participated in a carousel of activities including carpentry with Portsmouth Carpentry, employability skills with EBP, Public Relations, electrical installation, and Interior design. This trip has inspired our students and given them fantastic industry experiences and links for their future progression.

**Mr Payne**



## Music Industry Experience Day

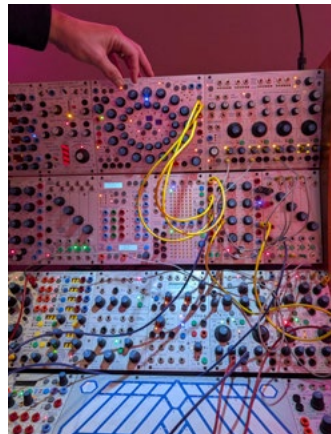
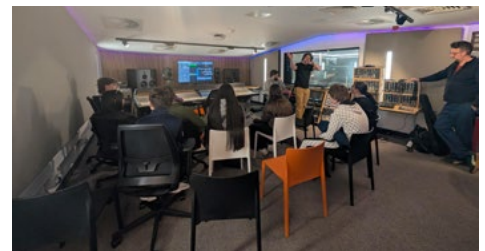
The Year 9 BTEC music had an inspiring day exploring professional music facilities and career pathways within the industry.

We began the day at The Base at Portsmouth Guildhall where students experienced creative workshop spaces and learned about opportunities for all creative artists, young musicians, producers, and performers. We then visited Portsmouth University to tour their state-of-the-art music technology facilities. A highlight of the visit was seeing the impressive £100,000 professional sound desk - the same model used by major artist Snoop Dogg - which gave students a real insight into high-end studio production.

To finish the day, we walked over to the Wedgwood Rooms where students experienced the technical side of a live venue. They explored stage setup, lighting rigs, and discussed organization of a live show with staff, helping them understand how live events are produced and managed behind the scenes. Students also had the opportunity to try the lighting rig themselves, which sparked real interest. Sam even declared he is now a "lighting guy" - a great example of how the visit inspired students to consider different roles within the live music industry. Students were engaged, curious and really enjoyed the experience. The visit provided them with valuable exposure to real-world music environments and helped them better understand the wide range of careers available within the music and creative industries.

Well done to all students who attended - it was a fantastic and inspiring day.

**Mr Alcantara**





# OUR 14TH RACE AT OUR PLACE





## YES Trip - Marwell Zoo

Thanks to funding provided by the YES Project, Miss Nuttall, Miss Manning, Miss Turp and I took 18 students to Marwell Zoo on Saturday 14th March.

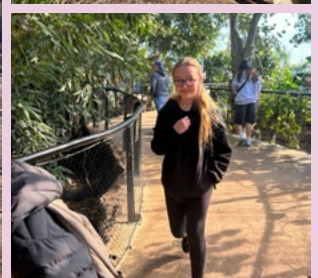
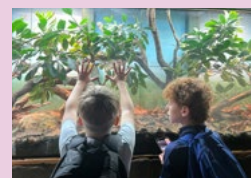
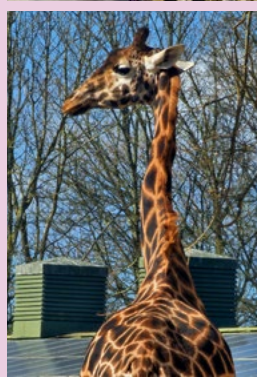
The weather was glorious and the children were very excited to explore. They enthusiastically took on navigating Marwell. Armed with printed & interactive maps, we spent the day in the sunshine finding giraffes, zebra, rhinos, snow leopards, meerkats, and many other animals. Seeing them up-close was an incredibly enriching experience, especially for those who'd never visited a zoo before.

A major highlight of the day was most unexpected - a big hill, which the students (and some extremely brave adults) were delighted to roll down.

It was a brilliant day, everyone had fun, and represented the School beautifully in the process.

A very big thank you to the other YES team members for making it happen with me.

**Miss Spencer**



## Year 10 Badminton

Over the past few weeks year 10s have participated in fixtures at Crookhorn. The students worked hard to gain their first win!

### Year 7 Fixtures

This term the Year 7 girls have participated in fixtures across multiple schools. They have played many matches with a variety of results from great wins to a few unlucky losses. The team have worked hard to become one consistent unit.

**Miss Brown**



## Student Success in GB Boxing

I am delighted to share that a group of our dedicated students at Park Community School have successfully achieved their Preliminary and Standard GB Boxing Awards.

Under the expert guidance of Myself and Mr Coates, students have demonstrated outstanding discipline, commitment, and enthusiasm while developing their boxing skills. Throughout the programme, they have been introduced to key techniques including skipping, warm-ups, and straight punches such as jabs and rear hands. They have also learned how to move effectively in all directions, taken part in partner work, and gained an understanding of the basic rules of boxing.

This award provides a safe, non-contact introduction to boxing, focusing on skill development and fitness. To complete the course, students undertook a practical assessment where they demonstrated their technique and overall proficiency.

Achieving this award is an important milestone, as it prepares students to progress onto the Bronze Award, where they will develop more advanced techniques such as hooks and shadow boxing. In time, this pathway can lead to the Silver and Gold Awards, which introduce controlled contact elements.

In addition to their achievements, students received certificates that can contribute towards recognised qualifications, including GCSEs, BTEC courses, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Billy Bessey from Leigh Park ABC for providing students with access to a professional training environment. We are incredibly grateful for this support and excited to see how our students continue to progress.

Finally, thank you to Mrs Cavanagh for presenting the students with their well-earned medals and certificates.

We are very proud of all involved and look forward to supporting them as they take the next step towards the Bronze Award!

**Mrs Rundle**



# PARK LITERARY Festival

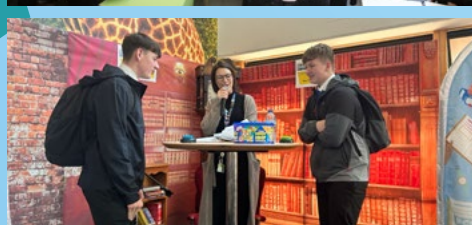
2026

2026 is the National Year of Reading, a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire more people to make reading a regular part of their lives.

Everyone knows reading expands worlds, sharpens minds and fuels creativity. But fewer of us are making time for it. At Park reading is important, we aim for all students to read well, but more than that, to find what they love to read. This is the reason we hold our annual Literary Festival, a week long celebration of reading and books, where our students have the opportunity to take part in a number of book related events, activities and competitions.

Park LitFest 2026 took place 2nd - 6th March and championed the National Year of reading campaign to GO ALL IN. Whatever you are into, reading lets you go all in. Football, music, robots, chess, Tudors, rocks & crystals, chickens... what ever your into you're not really into it until you read in to it! With this in mind we invited along poet and rap artists. 432 Nomads along with authors, Tia Fisher, and Becky Jeram's to speak to students and showcase their talents. We also asked our students to showcase their talents with open mic sessions at breaktimes, students had the opportunity to read and share stories and poems they had created, while others sang songs and play music inspired by literature. The restaurant was abuzz with student spectators who were able to enjoy the entertainment while sampling a literary inspired menu created by our catering team.

Ms Hucklebridge





**"It was a nice change to the usual timetable. Lunchtimes were fun especially the book Quiz"**  
Shayth Y9

**"It has been brilliant and I loved every minute"**  
Arabella Y9

**"I was able to get some of our Year 11 students reading in Spanish. This was great exam practice in a different setting, and all were really engaged!"**  
Miss Nuttall

**"There were so many things going on. The 432 Nomads were pretty awesome and very inspirational. I also loved the free books"**  
Faith Y8

**"The Lit Festival was great and so much better than just having World Book Day as we get to do lots of different things"**  
Tahlia Y8

**"It was amazing seeing everyone performing and reading. I wish it could be LitFest everyday!"**  
Toby Y7



National Year of Reading 2026



**World record attempt for biggest reading lesson**

PCS



As part of our LitFest Events we took 52 of our Year 7 students to Fratton Park on World Book Day to take part in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest reading lesson.

Thousands of students from different schools filled the stadium to take part and we're delighted to say it's now official... we are Guinness World Record holders!

Our Year 7s did us incredibly proud. They were engaged, enthusiastic and behaved brilliantly throughout the trip, acting as fantastic ambassadors for Park.

It was a really special experience for them to be part of something on such a huge scale, and they represented the school wonderfully with many stewards at the ground commenting on their lovely manners and brilliant behaviour.

Miss Manning and Ms Hucklebridge



## Science Week

During British Science week our KS3 Science club activities included fun with flame tests, a mini investigation on viscosity and a dramatic demonstration of combustion with the whoosh bottle.

Last week the Science Department had the pleasure of taking 45 students to LifeLab at University Hospital Southampton across two days.

All the students engaged brilliantly with the activities during the visit and were a credit to Park.

Here the students learn about how to monitor health and meet with scientists working in research at the hospital.

### Ms Balch





### Winter Hours

Mon - Thur - 9.30am - 3.00pm

Friday - 9.30am - 4.00pm

Sat - Sun - 9.00am - 4.00pm

07734 227058



Tearoomsatcoachhouse



@TEAROOMS2020

Breakfast | Lunch  
Cakes  
Drinks | High Tea



Staunton Country  
Park, Petersfield Road,  
Havant, PO9 5HD

# Park Community Nursery

Opening times: 7:30am - 6pm  
51 weeks a year

[pcn@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:pcn@pcs.hants.sch.uk) 02392489830

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Park Design and Print (PDP) was established by  
Park Community School to give young people  
real life work experience.

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