



The Journey Continues!

Unbelievably we are looking forward, and preparing for our Christmas vacation after an extremely busy and fruitful term.

As predicted, 2011 was Parkwood's record year in terms of examination results and what is equally if not more exciting, our current Year 11 students are well on track to significantly surpassing this performance as well as their own expectations.



Undoubtedly our new build is nearing completion and I know that students, staff and parents alike are looking forward to opening the doors after the Easter break which is now only weeks away. The way in which everybody has pitched in, and coped with losing so much of the recreational space is remarkable, but special mention must be made of our PE colleagues who continue to take many lessons offsite on a weekly basis.

The new term has seen many new staff join the Academy with Miss Ramsden (Director of English and Literacy), Mr Zia (Director of Mathematics and Numeracy)

and, Mr. Orme (Design Technology Team Leader). They have been joined by a whole host of staff across the Academy, and it may be worth a note, that a list of all staff is available on the Academy website www.parkwoodacademy.org.uk.

We are also sad to be losing some staff at the end of the Autumn Term who have gained positions and promotions elsewhere namely:

Mrs A Thomas (Team Leader Art), Mrs R Stokes (Mathematics), Mr. M Schofield (Curriculum Learning Leader Humanities) and last but not least Mr. K Rooney (Vice Principal). Keith cannot leave without a special mention from myself which I am sure will be echoed by the previous 5 incumbents of my position. Keith is totally committed to the development and personal well-being of each and every one of Parkwood's students and his presence will certainly be missed both within the Academy and within the local community where he has become an ambassador for the Parkwood name. We wish Keith well in his newly promoted role of Headteacher of the Scarborough Pupil Referral Service.

Parent and Student voice is very much alive and kicking within the Academy with a new Parents' Forum having been set up to enable parental comments and views to be aired. This group can be contacted by ringing our Community Liaison Manager Paul Howard on 0114 231 0221, or through the Academy website. Equally I am delighted to have appointed Parkwood's first ever Head Boy and Head Girl with their two deputies. They are all tremendous ambassadors for the students and the Academy and have the opportunity to meet regularly with me to raise student issues.

The future continues to look bright and exciting at Parkwood and I appreciate and value the significant support and partnership I receive from all our stakeholders.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and enjoyable break over the Christmas period.

Best Wishes as always.



Wear It Pink Day

Parkwood Academy joined in the national campaign to raise funds for breast cancer research by holding a "Wear It Pink" day on Friday 14th November.

The level of participation from students and staff was fantastic- there were some eye-dazzling pink outfits around the place, and people generously donated to this worthy cause.

Members of the Health Squad made some pink cupcakes, coloured with natural beetroot juice; these were sold along with deliciously pink strawberry and banana smoothies. Particular thanks go out to Jordan Ward, Clara Doku and Kimberley Molloy, who made it all happen.

In total we managed to raise £326 for the breast cancer charity.



Fitness Fanatics!

A new club has hit Parkwood...

Early morning Yoga and Aerobics classes! The class runs from 8am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Dance Studio, and is a great way of making friends, getting some exercise, having some fun and learning new things! As an added treat breakfast is provided after we have done a workout. Everyone is more than welcome to come along and improve their fitness.



Parkwood Ambassadors

Parkwood Academy has elected their ambassadors for this year;
 Head Boy - Darren Forde
 Head Girl - Jessica Miller
 Deputy Head Girl - Nicole Chalmers
 Deputy Head Boy - Ethan Allsopp

Netball Mania!

Wednesday night is Netball Night at Parkwood Academy! It's the girls' turn to take over the sports hall and show off their perfect passing and slick shooting skills in preparation for the upcoming matches against various other Sheffield schools. This set of girls who come along and train hard are sure to win! Want to join in? Come along on a Wednesday after school, all years welcome!

A Day Out at Rockingham Speedway

On Sunday 18th September me and my family were invited to Rockingham speedway by Clio Cup driver Darren Wilson who races for the team 20Ten Racing. When we arrived at Rocking-

ham, Darren picked us up in a golf cart which every driver gets to drive when they are picking up a guest or if they want to learn the circuit. Darren came 11th in his race because he is in the Masters Class. He got a trophy for winning the Masters Class in the championship. After the race and after he collected his trophy, we had a picture with him and then went back to his garage/tent. His hospitality was excellent because he treated us like family. All in all it was an excellent day and I'm looking forward to next year's World Series at Silverstone where hopefully Darren and his team will be there. At Brands Hatch Darren came 14th and also took the 2011 Masters Championship.

There were other races being held there as well throughout the day including British Touring Cars, Porsche Cup and Junior Ginetta Series. All in all it was a brilliant day out and I managed to obtain Damon Hill's autograph, and we also saw Lewis Hamilton, who was there to support his brother Nic Hamilton in the Clio Cup. Thank you Darren and 20Ten Racing for a brilliant day.



Digital Champions & UK Online

Myself and my friend, Courtney trained as Digital Champions as part of the UK Online Programme. We found it really interesting. Our first session was to teach members of the community. Mr Richard Wildgoose, the Chairperson of Longley TARA, came along to our workshop. He could use a computer but he couldn't send e-mails or Internet browse. He really enjoyed the workshop and was able to send an e-mail himself after the session. I am now attending sessions each week.

Destiny Shaw and Courtney Wall



following the visit in 1875 by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The hotel enjoyed further royal patronage including visits from Queen Victoria in 1897 and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret in 1947. The hotel took eight years to build and served the Sheffield Victoria station which had opened earlier in 1845, the Wicker Arches collapsing twice during the building of it. The students were shown around the hotel, looking at function and meeting rooms, bedrooms and leisure facilities. The hotel also has its own resident ghosts. Those that have seen the apparitions talk of a porter walking along the upper

As part of a national campaign to get more people confident in using the Internet, Parkwood Academy launched a project using its young people as teachers and their family members as the students. This is what Michail's mother thought of the class taught by her son:

"I really enjoyed going to the computer class at Parkwood Academy. I have learnt many new things. I have been working on Microsoft Power Point, Word and Publisher. Coming into The Academy to use the computers has been good because our computer at home does not have as many programs.

I also learned how to use Google Maps and find places. If I need to find somewhere and am not quite sure where it is, I can look it up and print it off. This course has also helped me improve my English.

I wish there were more classes where children can help parents and learn together."

Jelena Pletniova
Parent of Michail Pletnirov



The Year 11 BTEC Hospitality groups recently visited the Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield. The visit was to help them complete one of their compulsory units on the course. The hotel was built in 1862 from red brick and Pennine stone, and next year celebrates its 150th anniversary. This is sure to be an exciting time at the hotel, coinciding with the 2012 Olympics. Students were introduced to Herman Beck, the German owner of the hotel who gave them a short history of the hotel. The hotel is a Grade II listed building and attained its "Royal" prefix

floor corridors, and a lady in full length white nightgown sitting on the bed during the night.

Mr. Beck then spoke of the opportunities that are available to students who choose catering and hospitality as a career. Starting as a waiter in Britain many years ago, unable to speak much English, he progressed through the ranks and is now the owner of one of the most beautiful and historic buildings in Sheffield.



E-ACT Games

We took a selection of students to the E-ACT Games: Indoor Rowing Event. They performed outstandingly in the competition, with most of the students having to perform in an upper age group to make up for students who didn't turn up (we entered a team of 40 and 22 turned up).

Individual & Team Results:

- Placed 6th Overall as a team
- 1st Sonny Warburton Y7 in the 2 minute Individual Row
- 2nd Ben Jarvis Y10 in the 3- minute Individual Row
- 3rd Chloe Holden & Clarice Runcimon Y7 in the 3-minute Paired Row
- 2nd Ben Gregory & Lakan Hutchinson Y9 in the 3-minute Paired Row
- 3rd Kyle Holland & Ben Jarvis Y10 in the 3-minute Paired Row
- 2nd Whitney Waggot & Ann Dela Adiku-Tsowu Y10 in the 3-minute Paired Row
- 3rd Callum, Isiah & Sonny Y8 in the - minute Quad Row
- Shauna Pass also came 2nd in the Dance Competition.

The students who took part were;

Y7: Sonny Warburton, Chloe Holden & Clarice Runcimon

Y8: Callum Bower, Isiah Ellis, Shauna Pass, Alyssia Smedley & Lois O'Brien

Y9: Ben Gregory, Lakane Hutchinson
Lindie Dube, Kiera Mitchell

Y10: Aaron Thorpe, Ben Jarvis, Kyle Holland, Whitney Waggott, Ann Dela Adiku-Tsowu

Y11: Bryn Spronson, Nick Stacey, Nicole Chalmers, Nina Divers, Jade Barrett

Next year, we're using our Mission Explore platform to create The Workshop's Challenge.

The Workshop's Challenge 2012, is a Fund-raising campaign to support two of Britain's Olympic stars of the future. Jordan Houlden, 13, and Channien Lancaster, 11, have the support of their families and the potential to develop into contenders for the 2016 Olympics. However, they come from a disadvantaged and socially challenged part of Sheffield, where opportunities and financial backing are in short supply. That's where Challenge 2012 comes in. Everyone at The Workshop will be completing missions and raising money to help give Jordan and Channien the chance to fulfil their potential and achieve success. We know that they can have a real impact on their community and inspire other young people to aim high and work hard.

Look out for more information about Challenge 2012 soon, including how you can get involved.

Being a Young Carer

My name is Diana Mohammed, I'm 14 years old and I'm a Young Carer. A Young Carer is someone aged under 21 who cares for a relative or friend who has physical or mental health issues, a disability or problems with drugs or alcohol. I care for my Gran. I clean, cook, go shopping for her and give her medication I also keep her company. Being a Young Carer is hard but it makes me feel proud. Young people that are not in a caring role don't face fears a Young Carer would have to face every day. For me caring is not a big issue compared to other Young Carers. My dad cares for my Gran too while I'm at school, youth clubs, Young Carers and youth council.

I think that Young Carers don't really get free time to themselves and that there's not enough awareness of them. I personally think that teachers should recognise Young Carers early on before things get difficult because some Young Carers hide the fact that they care for someone at home and have a fear that they might be taken away from them. Being a Young Carer is not a bad thing, there are lots of famous people that were young carers e.g. Tulisa from N Dubz and Oritse from JLS. No matter what, you can still follow your dreams whether you're a Young Carer or not.

By Diana Mohammed



Transition Evening

On September 21st Parkwood Academy opened its doors to prospective parents. Classroom doors were opened and parents and students were invited to sample some Parkwood charm. Interactive displays of students' work and teaching methods allowed parents to gain an insight into what Parkwood has to offer.

In English, an evening of mystery and magic was showcased as each member of the department transformed into a character from Harry Potter. Students were magically transported into the room to write a secret spell and then mix their potion in the cauldron.

Maths needed help in solving a Murder Mystery and introduced students to Interactive Mathematic Investigations Science;

"We all love things that go boom and crash,
 We all love things that end in a flash.
 We like to see sparks and dodge a stray light,
 Or see which two chemicals will win in a fight.
 We squish and we squash, race and collide,
 Bringing atoms together with no place to hide.
 We pull and we squeeze and put things to the test,
 And though we work safe,
 Sometimes make a mess.

So for some fun and some thrills,
 then come up the stairs,
 See Science in action,
 But only if you dare!"

In Design Technology we were able to sample some home cooked pizza and scones and get our hands on making a badge or key ring to take home. Information Technology pulled out some of the software we use to engage students in learning, including Xbox Kinect, modelling software and computer animation.

Music had some of our home grown bands performing in the music room.

Art had some Parkwood artists using the potter's wheel.

Drama Showcased some dramatic performance by some of our students.

Our Language Specialism supplied a sample of some European food and showed how much fun it can be learning a new word in a different language. Time was also spent exploring resources available in our very own Language Lab, visitors could record themselves speaking in a modern foreign language and having a go on Linguascope.

Our Sport Specialism presented a fantastic display of badminton and trampolining by our most athletic students led by the Sports Leaders in the Sports

Hall and a table tennis tournament took place in the gym.

R. M Stokes....Farewell Parkwood.

Until I arrived for interview here I knew very little of the area or the school but I was really impressed on the interview day. The students looked so smart and as I walked around the school I saw so many students of so many different cultures all working together I just thought 'wow!'

After a year and a half here I still find the community spirit of the Academy amazing. I have really enjoyed learning so much about the students of this school, even though I do not live in this area I feel like I am part of this community.

Unfortunately I am moving on to new pastures. I have been fortunate to become Lead Teacher of Mathematics at Kirk Balk School in Barnsley. Quite a few students have asked me 'why?' the answer is that the students here have given me so much confidence in my teaching that I feel that I can use this further.

I have had the best of times here and I am really thankful to Parkwood for welcoming me and giving me an experience that I shall never forget.

A Fond Farewell!

I just wanted to use this opportunity in this news letter to say goodbye to both staff and students. I thought it would be nice to end my time here with a short piece about where I'm off to and why.

I started Parkwood High School in September 2008 after moving from Firvale School down the road, and after 3 and a bit years it is time to move on. Along the way I have met many great students who have proved to me yet again that students from areas such as Shirecliffe can succeed and get equal if not higher results than students in the so called 'better' schools in the city, so well done! There have also been many interesting characters along the way that have made sure that there is never a dull day at Parkwood.

I would also like to say goodbye to the staff at Parkwood, many of whom have helped me with various things over the years and have kept me sane (you know who you are). I would like to say a special goodbye to Mr. Chat-ten and Mr. Matthews for the laughs over the years and to Mr. Minton for being the most brilliantly bizarre teacher I have ever worked with!

I am moving on to Park Academy on the other side of Sheffield as Assistant Principal and start in January 2012, I think that by the end of my career I will probably have taught in almost all of the secondary schools in Sheffield, but Parkwood will always mean a lot to me.

I hope that you all enjoy the rest of your time here at Parkwood and whatever you do, try hard and be successful and you never know when our paths will cross again.

Take care

Matt Schofield

Farewell from Miss Thomas

I am in my sixth year as the Coordinator for Art at Parkwood. During this time I have had the privilege of working with some very talented and hard-working young people and some outstanding colleagues.

When I first arrived at Parkwood the Art Department had been through a fairly long period of instability, thus,



access to the study of Art was limited. Since then, I have seen many students pass through the department who have helped to 'grow the department from seed' and develop the subject into an area where they can explore a wide variety of skills and techniques including photography, felt making, silk painting, block printing, animation and large scale painting & sculpture that have been used in the many theatrical productions presented over the last few years.

In this time Art has also acquired a ceramic kiln, photo screen printing equipment, an enameling kiln for jewellery making.

Sadly, it is now time to say farewell as I move to a new post nearer to my home and hand over to Mr. Clayton who will take on the role of Teacher of Art. All the best of luck with the big move into the new building next Easter and every success, both across the Academy and in the Art Department that I feel so attached to.

Keith Rooney

22 years in Shirecliffe.

This is my last week at Parkwood. I am leaving at the end of term to take up a Headteacher post in North Yorkshire, so not only am I leaving Parkwood, but leaving Sheffield as well.

Our final day of term for staff is December 16th, and by an odd coincidence that will be twenty two years to the day since I first walked into what was then Herries School. Prior to

starting teaching there in January 1990, I had been working abroad for several years, and had been back in this country for three days. I had a strong South African accent that no one seemed able to understand and I had forgotten how cold England could be in December. There was no such thing as the internet, mobile 'phones hadn't been invented, nor had CDs, DVDs, laptops or reality TV. No one had heard of Simon Cowell and Mrs Fox was busy cutting her first tooth and learning to talk.

Where to start with the changes there have been? Mrs Fox talks more than ever, but as for the rest, perhaps today's students should ask their parents, as it seems I taught most of them. What have been the highlights of those twenty two years? Perhaps the boy who brought his pet ferret in to school and it got loose in a maths lesson, or possibly the time the Science Department conducted an experiment on gases that meant we had to evacuate the entire building. Maybe it was the fire in technology, or the Sheffield floods when we thought we may have to spend the night in school.

No. The highlight for me has been the growth in confidence of our young people, the aspirations they have, their achievements and the heights that they reach. It used to be rare for one of our students to get to University, now Parkwood students go on to be teachers, doctors, police officers, lawyers, forensic scientists, website designers, journalists and film producers. They manage sports centres, run their own

businesses, they design buildings. They are leaders.

At a time like this I think I am allowed to dispense a few final words of advice, and they will probably be kinder than the words students normally get when they've been called into my office. To the young people I will say: Aim high, and be prepared to work hard to get where you want to be. Spare a thought for your staff too, they do this job to help you be the very best that you can be. Help them to help you. And to the staff? Here I am in danger of running out of words. Thank you for your support, your dedication and your friendship. You are, quite simply, the best. Thank you for the last twenty two years and goodbye.

Keith Rooney



Celebration Evening



On Thursday 10th November Parkwood Academy celebrated the successes of the previous year with an Awards Evening. Students in every year group were honoured for their attainment and progress reflecting the best results in the Academy's history. Special awards were given for those whose achievements were recognised as being above and beyond expectations including a Chair of Governors Award given to Hannah Mathewson for her exceptional performance in the face of adversity (recovering from a leg injury) and the Principal Award for Molly Deakin who relentlessly improved her performance.

The evening was interjected with performances from singers, musicians and readers – all students from the Academy.

Two guest speakers were invited to share their aspirations and messages to our students. Toyin Onisemo spoke about her teaching career at Parkwood Academy, how she admired the progress of our students and the importance of striving to be the best in a very competitive market. Brendan Ingle shared his experiences of attempting to follow his dream in a deprived area and how with determination it can be achieved.

The staff, parents, students and invited guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening of celebration and we look forward to next year's successes which will be celebrated in our new building.



Arts Celebration Evening

