

Park Views

February 2016

A NEWSPAPER FROM PARK VIEW SCHOOL

Issue 52

A Feast of Festive Fun at The Sage



It was with huge pride that Park View once again held its Christmas concert at The Sage, Gateshead on December 14th. This year's event was made even more special by the fact that not only were we joined by our partners in the Learning Alliance, Ponteland Community High School, but also by four of our family of primary schools, Cestria, C of E, Red Rose and Woodlea.

The first half of the concert was an eclectic mix of solo, group and ensemble pieces. Performers from Park View included by a rock band, the junior choir, a piece for the piano written and performed by Dominic Kirby and the Chamber Choir, the latter inspired by their surroundings to take their singing to astonishing levels. The evening was lifted to new heights by the primary choir, made up of over 100 students, who performed 4 numbers under the watchful eye of Mrs Woods: their energy, confidence and talent were infectious, filling the arena with joy.

After a brief interval, the audience returned to find the stage set out for a 170 piece orchestra as well as a joint choir of all schools involved. They were treated to orchestral arrangements of the theme from 'Polar Express' and a Christmas and 'Dr Who' medley, the latter conducted by our very own Chris Turnbull, as well as beautiful choral renditions of popular carols. The evening finished with the audience joining all on stage in a roof-lifting rendition of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Lorraine Gowland, Head Teacher at Cestria Primary School, said, "The children thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic opportunity they were given to perform at such a wonderful venue. Our children couldn't wait to get back into school to tell all their friends about it!"

Headteacher at Park View School, Iain Veitch, said, "The responses I have received from those who attended the concert show what a fantastic evening it was. The range of talent on display, ranging from students aged 8 to 18 (and adults who prefer to keep their ages secret), was simply astonishing, putting many professional companies to shame. I am delighted that we were able to give our magnificent performers an equally magnificent setting in which to shine and would like to thank both Ponteland and our primary partners for making this possible. Nothing but the best should be available to our children as they are simply wonderful."

Philip Adamson, Headteacher at Woodlea Primary School, said, "Speaking on behalf of all my primary colleagues, I'd like to congratulate all the children who took part in The Sage Christmas concert. To see such immense talent on show filled us with pride and admiration. The experience of performing to a packed house, at a world renowned musical venue, is one that will stay with the children for a very long-time. Evenings such as this remind us all that it is a privilege to work with such fantastic young people: roll on next year!"



Peer Support at North Lodge

The Peer Supporters at North Lodge has grown exponentially this year as the Year 7 and 8 students are determined to stamp out bullying!

At the start of the school year thirty four Year 7 students and twenty six Year 8 students were trained to be Peer Supporters.

A competition was held to compose a Mission Statement for the Peer Supporters Team and Ben Bouet Rennison (Year 8) won with 'Together against Bullying'.

Using an Action Plan to ensure that the profile of anti-bullying is constantly high throughout the school, an assembly was written and presented by some of Peer Supporters. They performed this to Year 7 and 8 students and started with a video which had been previously been made for a Good Morning Britain Anti Bullying Competition. After this they then went on to talk about the types of bullying, what to do if you are bullied, etc. The assembly was concluded with a short role play.

The Peer Supporters go beyond tackling bullying in school. At Christmas, 15 of them went into Chester-le-Street to give out chocolate Santas with a greeting from Park View School attached spreading Christmas cheer. This was well received and promoted a positive image of school and young people today.

Watch this space to find out what else the Peer Supporters do in their fight against bullying!!

Full International Schools Award for the 10th Year Running!



Park View School has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its efforts to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

Park View's international programme includes sustaining and developing existing partnerships in The Netherlands, Germany, Lebanon and Spain as well as establishing a new sister school in France.

British Council Chief Executive, Sir Ciarán Devane, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.'

Mrs Rowell, Head of Languages at Park View School said: 'We are delighted to receive the award. This is a credit to our school, our students, our colleagues and demonstrates our continued passion and commitment to understanding and applying the principles of international education in a creative and imaginative way.'

A 'Good' Result from Ofsted

In line with the new methodology for inspecting 'Good' schools, two inspectors spent a day at Park View School in November, observing lessons, interviewing students and staff and scrutinising policies and practice. The inspection went extremely well and the whole report is now available on the website.

The key strengths of the school were identified as:

- 'Leaders set high expectations of staff and pupils. They create a warm and supportive climate in which pupils thrive and make good progress in the lower and upper schools and in the sixth form.'
- 'The academy has sustained good teaching since the last inspection. In departments where there were weaknesses, leaders have provided

effective challenge and support that has resulted in improvements. Effective mentoring is used to tackle any inconsistencies in practice. The rigorous checks made by senior leaders ensure that they have a detailed picture of the strengths and weaknesses in teaching, over time, across the academy.'

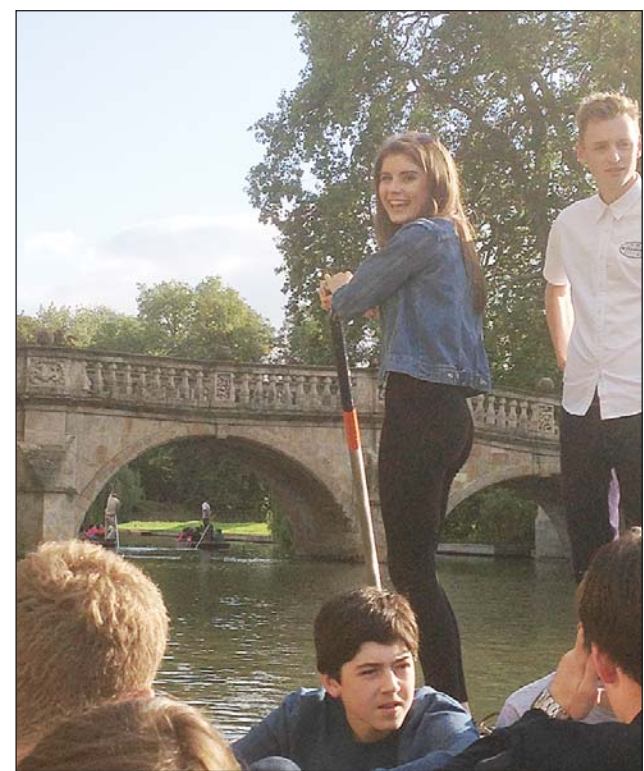
- 'The curriculum has developed to provide a variety of pathways that support pupils' different abilities and interests. There are clear academic and vocational pathways across Key Stage 4 and the sixth form, underpinned with good-quality, impartial careers guidance.'
- 'Leaders track the progress of pupils in all year groups carefully, to identify any underperformance. Governors

use this information to challenge leaders and swift action is taken to support teaching where slower progress is identified. For example, the governors are not content with the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils in the academy, despite the gap being smaller than that seen nationally. Consequently, leaders have good arrangements in place to monitor the progress of disadvantaged pupils.'

Headteacher, Iain Veitch, said; "All at Park View were delighted with the report as it very much captures what we are about as a school. We would thank all parents/carers and students who completed the on-line surveys for the inspection team: inspectors were hugely impressed by the very high levels of satisfaction with the school."

Year 11 get Physical at Cambridge

A group of Year 11 students had the opportunity to take part in a residential trip at St' John's College, Cambridge. This visit was to give students an insight into what it would be like to study at one of the world's leading universities. Thus, for three days, our young people lived as Cambridge students, staying in the halls of residence, attending lectures, meeting and talking to present undergraduate students, dining in one of the finest halls in Cambridge and attempting punting. They were also given information about applying to the university and what it would be like to study as an undergraduate at the university. It was a privilege granted only to them to have a private tour of the Department of Physics at Cavendish Laboratory and Museum, a prestigious institute where many famous scientists have studied, including Ernest Walton and John Cockcroft, famous for splitting the atom. Students had a tour of the laboratories and were given demonstrations by leading scientists in their field. Asked what the visit had brought to them, the consensus was a deeper understanding of how to apply to Cambridge and what then life would be like there as well as a burning passion to be a part of it.



Children In Need 2015

On Friday 13th November 2015, in the pouring rain and bitter cold, over 150 Park View Sixth Form students were raising money all over County Durham for BBC Children in Need.

The day began with the traditional fun run around the park in Chester-le-Street (in fancy dress, of course!), before students travelled to their different fundraising stations all over the county. Most students chose to brave the freezing cold wind and rain, by fundraising outdoors in Durham City or in Chester-le-Street, but some decided to help their local community whilst also trying to fundraise; these students organised a bag-pack with Morrison's Chester-le-Street, which brought in over £200!

There was also a large contribution towards the fundraising total from the lower years of the school. Every student in Year 7 to Year 11 donated £1 or more and came into school wearing non-uniform.

The Sixth Form also arranged cake sales at both of the school sites where they sold chocolate brownies, fairy cakes, flapjack, marshmallow cakes and bags of Pick 'n Mix to the younger students and even to some of the teachers!

At the end of the day, the efforts of all were hugely rewarded when it was confirmed that they had managed to raise an impressive £5156!

Head of Sixth Form, James Cooper, said; "The generosity of the local community and the drive and commitment of the Sixth Form students at Park View never fail to astound me. From Spiderman to Wonderwoman to Iggle Piggle to Where's Wally, our students surprised and delighted us all. Well done on the amount raised this year. I am proud of you all and look forward to you beating it in 2016!"



Playing our part in the Community

The School Houses, Franklin, Darwin, Wilberforce and Newton, all came together to deliver a joint house project which centred around collecting food for the most vulnerable families and residents in the Chester-le-Street area for the festive period. Students from each house were encouraged to donate food, with the house which donated the most being declared the winner. Staff and parents were also involved in the challenge. A staggering 345kg of food was donated in total, with many giving real thought to their donations. Wilberforce House were declared the winners with Mrs Clancey-Maley, its joint leader, commenting, 'The beauty of this competition was that there could be no losers as we were all doing the right thing! I am really proud not only of my House but also of the staff, students and parents too: the importance of giving something back is the message we are constantly giving at Park View and it is tremendous to see so many families embracing it.'

Mr Veitch, Headteacher, said, "The response was simply overwhelming - in a commercial age, it was fantastic to see that the true spirit of Christmas is alive and well in our community."



Supporting Our Local Community Centre

Park View Community Association (PVCA) was set up in 1981, operating as an independent charitable organisation. Its relationship with Park View School was on the basis of sharing the school's amenities, such as its Theatre and Sports Hall, in order to provide a range of activities for local people during evenings, weekends and holiday periods. Initially, it was generously subsidised by Durham County Council until the funding cuts back in 2011. Since then, a total withdrawal of funding in 2013 means that it has had to run on existing resources and membership fees, leaving the Association to face potential liquidation within the next eighteen months. Unwilling to contemplate the end of community activity on its Church Chare site, Park View School has become the sole owner of PVCA. With the unanimous support of the School Governing Body, PVCA will now operate under the direction of a new group of Trustees and will be rebranded as Park View Community Centre.

Dr Bill Dennison, Chair of the charity, said, "We are intent upon becoming a more dynamic, outward-looking organisation to serve the children, families



and local community of Chester-le-Street and its surrounding area. There are difficult decisions to be made in order to ensure our survival but we have had an influx of ideas on how to take our provision forward. It is genuinely an exciting time!"

For more information visit www.pvca.org.uk or follow Park-View-Community-Association on Face Book or [parkviewca](https://twitter.com/parkviewca) on Twitter.

Enhancing Hamlet

The Year 8 Gifted and Talented students in English are furthering their study in William Shakespeare in an after school club. After completing some research, they decided that they wanted to focus on the play 'Hamlet', a tragedy about the Prince of Denmark and his quest to seek revenge for his father's death.

During the meetings, the group have read sections of the play, took part in role play activities and created a wall display for the library at North Lodge that depicts the mixed emotions of the central character. As a finale to the project, students are now collaborating to produce lesson resources that Year 7 students will use when they study Shakespeare later in the year.

Miss Smith, Gifted & Talented Coordinator for English, said; "I've really enjoyed working with the pupils on this project. It's wonderful to see them enthusiastic about Shakespeare and they've had some very creative and mature ideas about the topic."

Performing Current Affairs

A Level Drama students wrote and performed an original piece of drama, 'Exodus', to an invited audience of family and friends. The piece focused on the current Syrian refugee crisis and Europe's response. It combined humour with a serious message, highlighting the hardships experienced by refugees as they travel to Europe to start a new life and satirising the lack of a coherent political response. Their audience found it both thought-provoking and entertaining. Miss Moore, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts, said; "Students worked with great creativity and performed the piece with confidence and purpose."



Sport at Park View

Park View Swimmers Rule the North



In only the second year of competing in the English Schools Swimming competition, Park View's talented young swimmers made the National Finals at the London Aquatic Centre, the Olympic Pool which housed so many memorable moments in 2012. They qualified for three events; the Junior Boys team made the Medley and Freestyle events and the Junior Girls qualified for the Medley.

In the build up to the finals, the swimmers received a huge boost when Alphagraphics North East decided to sponsor the team by providing kit for the big day.

Mr Finley, Deputy Head, said; "The day was everything we hoped it would be. The pool was amazing and the team spirit and camaraderie was special. We were one of only a few state schools to qualify for the finals and one of even fewer schools from the North. This just made us even more proud and determined to do ourselves justice in the water." The boys made the final of the Medley relay, eventually finishing 9th in the country, with personal bests for all as well as the satisfaction of finishing as the top state school in the country and the best school in the North. The girls had a tougher time to qualify for the finals but eventually came 23rd in their Medley and secured top school in the North East along the way.

In the afternoon, the boys didn't quite make the final of the



Freestyle, finishing 14th but going faster than the regional rounds. It was nonetheless a great achievement.

Mr Finley added; "Personally, I am really proud of all of the swimmers. The future is bright for Park View as many of them are swimming a year early for their age groups. We fully expect to fly the flag for the North East next year and for many more to come, looking at the performances of some of the primary school swimmers!" The boys swimmers are: James Davison (Y8), Thomas Adamson (Y7), Lewis Maxwell (Y8), Ben Ward (Y7) and Joshua Savage (Y7). The girls swimmers are: Grace Maskell (Y8), Molly Finley (Y7), Emily Dolman (Y7) and Ella Hall (Y7).

Year 11 Sport Students Go with the Flow

Mr Finley and his class of Cambridge National Sport students in Year 11 have been experiencing alternative, adrenaline sports as part of their work in their course. The class have recently challenged themselves on the FlowRider, a surfing simulator at Heworth Leisure Centre in Gateshead. The group have been developing their skills in bodyboarding and surfing and over the time period have really excelled. Confidence has started to grow and the execution of tricks and skills have shown that this is a

sport that can really take off in the area. All who have taken part have really loved the experience, with some hoping to go back to develop their skills in their own time. Mr Finley said, "The beauty of this course is the fact that students get credit for taking part as well as excelling in particular sports. The practical nature of what we do shows real life learning whilst building other skills such as confidence, communication, listening and resilience. It also helps that it is really good fun too!"

Football Remembers

Gifted and Talented students from the Year 9 French and German language classes spent a day talking and learning about the World War 1 Christmas Truce. They looked at whether the Sainsbury's Christmas advert from last year depicted the events of the truce accurately, read some letters from the trenches in German and French and then wrote their own letters from the trenches. The day ended with some creative work in German and French; some wrote scenes from the truce, others wrote an article about it while the more artistic wrote poems based on events surrounding it. A fantastic day was had by all! Mrs Goad, Subject Leader for German, said; "We were extremely impressed with the students' imaginative use of French and German and their commitment during the day."

Individual Achievements

Judo Jane



Jane Thomas (Year 10) became the British National Judo Champion! She had three fights in her pool, winning all three by Ipon (knockout) including the eventual Silver and Bronze medal winners. Jane was in the 13-15 year old category. Since that momentous achievement, she has been named in the GB Squad - with a view to the 2020 Olympics.

Taking English Football to Germany

Jackson Ward (Year 9) represented Chester le Street, Washington and Derwent-side Schools FA on their football tour to Dortmund, Germany. The trip included stadium tours of Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund, training sessions at Borussia Dortmund and attendance of a Bundesliga game between Borussia Dortmund and FC Augsburg, in a crowd of over 82,000 supporters at the Westfalenstadion.



Making Waves

Oliver Lovell (Year 7) has been sailing nationally this year and is currently GBR ranked at 21st in his age group. He sails, either competitively or as training, each weekend and can be anywhere from Weymouth and Portland, GBR National Sailing Academy to Pwelli, Grafham Water, Rutland, South Shields, Hartlepool, Kielder Water, Poole, Hayling Island, Ulswater etc.... some extensive travelling! He is on the RYA Olympic pathway and represented the North of England at the Eric Twinname Championships May this year. A future Olympian, he is a fine addition to Park View's elite!

