

Parkviews

July 2014

A NEWSPAPER FROM PARK VIEW SCHOOL

Issue 47

Chair of Governors receives MBE at the Palace

It was a great privilege to receive my honour from the Princess Royal in the State Ballroom of Buckingham Palace at the beginning of May. My wife, Carole, and daughters, Joanne and Lucy (both former students of Park View), were among the invited audience for the Investiture. The whole event was meticulously organised and a truly memorable occasion. Even though there were 95 other recipients, Princess Anne knew something about each of us individually, able to enter easily into conversation about the background to the nomination for the award. Officially, mine was for Services to Education but I'm only too aware that the predominant factor was my role as Chair of the Governing Body at Park View. In that regard, I'm wholly grateful to my fellow governors, to all of the staff and the students of the school (both past and present) who have helped establish and sustain the high regard for Park View, at both local and national level, which was recognised in my award.

Bill Dennison MBE



Performing Arts and Primaries



The annual Primary Liaison musical took place in the final week of the half-term, with over 150 of our local pupils performing on the stage in the Church Chare theatre. This year's production was 'Cook's Tours', a celebration of cultures around the world which followed the history of Thomas Cook. Students came together from Bournmoor, C of E, Lumley, Red Rose, Woodlea and Park View to sing, under the watchful eye of Mrs Woods. Both nights proved to be popular with parents and carers and all had great fun. This area of County Durham certainly does have talent!

Anti-Bullying Message is a Hit

At Park View School, almost 400 children from local primary schools including Cestria Primary, Woodlea Primary, Bournmoor Primary, Ouston Primary, Red Rose Primary and Chester-le-Street Church of England Juniors had an opportunity to see a performance by Jessica Alice who is making waves as a UK singer songwriter. Jessica performed a selection of her songs including 'Stand Up and Say' which she wrote for anti-bullying in support of Cybersmile Foundation in which she is an ambassador. Along the road to success Jessica has been making friends in the music industry from performing dance music to being the lead singer of various indie bands.

Jessica Alice signed autographs for all the children and some staff after her performance too.

Maddison, a Year 3 student from Woodlea Primary School said "Jessica was fantastic and I loved hearing her sing"

Iain Veitch from Park View School said 'It was a joy to see so many primary school children enjoying themselves in the school. I thought Jessica's anti-bullying song had important messages in it which they could take back - the most important thing was for them to have



great fun whilst learning. It was also lovely to see so many ex-Park View students amongst the staff who came from the different schools - it reminded me again of the size and strength of the Park View family.'

Legal Taster Day



The Northumbria University Law School and Bond Dickinson Legal Taster Day proved to be an excellent experience for four of our students; Shelley Millington, Gina Millar, Lucy Crane and Danielle Causer. The day involved visiting Northumbria University to learn about the benefits of studying Law, taking part in a mock courtroom session and experiencing a sample Law lecture. This was followed by a visit to Bond Dickinson law firm on Newcastle Quayside, to participate in a negotiation exercise facilitated by solicitors.



Building Brighter Futures

The Year 11 students who participated in a project to design leaflets aimed at providing advice to young tenants of Cestria Community Housing completed their assignments and presented them at a presentation evening in the last week of half-term. They all demonstrated key employability skills during the project and developed as individuals, receiving awards, certificates and gift vouchers for their efforts. All will be eligible to apply for an apprenticeship with the company.

The students who participated were: Jordan Beattie, Lewis Greensmith, Annie O'Mara, Tom Sirrell, Daniel Lawrence, Samantha Wilson, Katelyn Dockery, Molly Spowart and Paul Whitfield. The winning leaflet 'First House Help - A guide to help make running your first home a good experience' is available to view on the Cestria Facebook page.

North Lodge Perform Shakespeare



The North Lodge drama students performed the famous play Macbeth. We rehearsed for weeks with help from drama teachers who had wrote the script. We decided to use a modern twist to the traditional play in the form of the 'gossips' to talk the whole play through. The play had to include Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo and of course the infamous witches!

After a lot of rehearsing and perfecting lines we performed the play to all of Year 8 who will be studying the play in their English lessons. A couple of students from Year 8 were chosen to represent King James and William Shakespeare in the audience, parts that are vital in seating the atmosphere and making all students feel like they were in the famous Globe Theatre. The hall was arranged like the Globe Theatre would have been like with comfortable seats for the rich and the hard floor for the poor. The play was such a success that we performed for our parents who laughed and thoroughly enjoyed the show, much to our delight.

We are now working towards Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and hope it is as successful as Macbeth!

Alice Johnson and Holly Couzens

Keeping Durham Tidy



A group of year 9 students are currently working towards an ASDAN Citizenship qualification with Mr Batey and Mrs Hutley. As part of their course they undertook a litter pick at ASDA Living in Durham. The students managed to fill many bin bags with rubbish and discussed the damage this created in the local area. Adam Foster, ASDA's Community Life Champion was delighted with their hard work and commitment and rewarded them with goodies.

Army Experience

Mr Moule and Mrs Scott took 28 students from Year 7 and 8 to the Army Cadet Discovery Day in May where they participated in a range of activities including first aid, archery and problem solving. The highlight of the day was when the students learnt how to march and do army drill with some hilarious interpretations!



The students, as ever, were a credit to the school and came home with plenty of food for thought regarding careers in the armed forces.

Talented Drama Performers

At the end of March our year 12 Drama students reminded audiences of the redeeming power of theatre when they performed Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker as part of their AS exam course.

The evening began with individual monologues by a variety of modern playwrights from Alan Ayckbourn to Charlotte Keatley. The students then presented an abridged version of Wertenbaker's text. The play tells the story of the first fleet of convicts arriving in Australia in 1788 to set up a new colony under the guidance of Governor Arthur Phillip; it focuses on the convicts' attempts to rehearse and stage a play, despite their ignorance, illiteracy and clashing personalities.

The students' powerful production was followed later in May with equally captivating performances by our GCSE students for their Unit 3 exam. They delighted an invited audience of parents with their interpretations of *Blood Brothers*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Antigone*.



Library Receives Makeover

On Tuesday, 22nd April, Park View School officially opened their refurbished North Lodge Library. A successful funding bid to Garfield Weston Foundation had enabled this area of the school to be modernised, with comfortable seating, including sofa's and beanbags, added alongside a security system for logging books in and out. Most excitingly, the funding has allowed us to totally replenish our fiction and non-fiction stock and to add to this a set of Kindles.



The library was officially opened by Karen Langtree, author and former student. Karen's recent reconnection with Park View School began with a chance meeting on a train from London to York

when she happened to be seated next to Br. Bill Dennison, Chair of Governors. Karen has since been into school to work with students on creative writing. Karen said, "It is an honour and great pleasure to be invited to open the

new library. Park View was a great place for me to start my secondary education, a school that wasn't so big that I felt lost and overwhelmed. Students are so enthusiastic about writing and have some marvellous ideas. May the new library provide many years of inspiration, wisdom and discovery to the pupils at Park View School."

Iain Veitch, Headteacher, is delighted with the re-development and added, 'Like everything else in our school, this is an investment in our students. I sincerely hope that it brings to them the joy and excitement which reading has always held for me. I wish my school library had looked like this when I was in Year 7!'

The Big Spring Clean

For the second year running, as part of the national 'Big Spring Clean' initiative, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students spent an afternoon helping to ensure that local parks and paths were kept clean and tidy for the Chester-le-Street community. 44 students were involved, collecting a total of 61 bags of rubbish. Students participated as part of their service pledges, which contribute towards their Record of Achievement. There was great enthusiasm and hard work from all involved, making us really proud of them. This hard work was also recognised by the Parish Council who took time to write:

'At the North Lodge Parish Council meeting last Tuesday evening, we heard from Councillor Margaret Caygill about the remarkable achievements of the students of the Lombard Drive site who collected over 60 bags of rubbish during the recent Big Spring Clean.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who took part as your efforts have contributed greatly to the local community.

We all like to live, work or study in the nicest surroundings and the students have certainly helped in a big way towards making our area a really good place to be.

Everyone at the Parish Council sends their thanks for your work.

Best Regards

David Murrell, Clerk, North Lodge Parish Council'



French exchange

After a very sad 'au revoir' it was finally time to leave Albert taking all of the memories along with us, memories we should probably share with you Park Viewers. 10 days of music, physics, French and culture was a lot to take in yet there was somehow still time for plenty of eating, conversing, history and laughter! The exchange trip with the correspondent school 'Lycée Lamarck' in the picturesque town of Albert, just 2 hours north of Central Paris.

The exchange began in October when the French students came to stay with us and see the sights of the lovely Chester-Le-Street (and the rest of the north east 'tout à fait') along with understanding the basic physics of music we built up friendships and allowed the French students to live like us for 10 days.

Months passed and it was finally time to voyage to France and rekindle those friendships for the last leg of our exchange journey. The trip began with a three day trip to the beautiful Paris where we indulged in the culture of the city from food to bridges, also visiting some museums to inspire us in creating our instruments from recycled materials - which we discovered was a more dynamic field than originally imagined! Then on the third day both the English and the French departed Paris towards their home of Albert (not before seeing the Eiffel Tower and other various sights, courtesy of Nigel our bus driver). Once in Albert we met our correspondents families and settled in nicely before being up bright and bushy tailed for a wonderful 8am school start. We spent the Thursday learning about Northern France and the religious culture surrounding it with a visit to an Abbey where we were all mightily impressed by the organ playing there - who knew there was a keyboard for your feet?! After that it was back on the bus back to everyone's temporary home. Friday is when the project commenced and we began drilling, hammering, sticking, cutting and tuning all in order to complete our instruments in time for Tuesday's concert. Some worked out better than others but every group managed to create something with its own original attribute.



So after hours of manufacture and testing the loudness, timbre and frequency of the instruments we were finished and able to present and pitch our instruments to everyone else. Somehow we pulled everything off and it was a great success! Our creations were then presented and concluded in a concert for the parents and students on Tuesday night with some real music talent featured on stage as well from our lovely choir and musicians. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the exchange and for some, lifelong friendships have been made. Exchanges like this provide an experience that's not available from any other school trip and we have all been lucky enough to experience a much wider curriculum that we never normally have the chance to study. 'Salut' for now our French Amis lets hope to see you again sometime!

Nina Fowler

Space Day

Park View held a very successful Science Day at our North Lodge site, which involved a deadly crime scene and the site of a space adventure. Creativity and imagination abounded as students attempted to solve the problems they were presented with.

Year 7 students took on the mantle of CSI experts to solve the crime and bring the criminal to justice. Evidence was analysed, a crime scene was investigated and statements were taken. Scientific techniques were used and finally a report on the evidence collected was produced. Future inves-

tigators and problem solvers one and all, Park View is a place where crime does not pay!

Year 8 have boldly gone where they had not before...The Space adventure began with...the propulsion lab. Students investigated propulsion, looking at rocket engines and demonstrated Newtonian mechanics to better understand space flight. Experiments then followed featuring "The Rocket Factory" where students built rockets and then saw how high they could go...some reached 30m! and the "Lost in Space Challenge" in Apollo 13esque style, with limited resources, students had to build an airtight suit in order to survive!

Both year groups had a fantastic time and fully entered into the spirit of the activities.

Future Scholars Award

On Friday 16th May 5 Year 9 students Taly Walton, Zac Sunderland, Gemma Younger, Anya Dyson and Jonathon Kennedy spent the day at Edinburgh University as part of the The Future Scholar Awards.

The students had the opportunity to gain a real-life experience of what studying at university is like, working with professors and student ambassadors as well as sampling new subjects.

Our students took part in a lively debate on whether 16 years old should have the right to vote. The students put forward very convincing arguments and received excellent feedback from the academics running the workshop.

It was a fantastic day and the students were excellent ambassadors for Park View.



Young Interpreters



Our Year 11 students have recently had the opportunity to work in one of the few professional interpreting suites in the country with student ambassadors and experts in this field. We worked with Andrew Simpson, interpreter for NUFC and Noel Muylle, Honorary Director of the European Commission, who has led on conference interpreting at some of the major summits of international leaders in the 1980s and early 90s. It was an informative day during which students really enjoyed working in the high tech booths and had the opportunity to further develop their language and presentation skills. They also gained an insight into possible career routes, university life and work with experts in the field research. One of our students, Sarah Hodgson stated that she "would love to be an interpreter now." whilst Chloe Liddle has been "inspired to learn Mandarin."

Budding Chemists Shine



Recently, two Sixth Form Chemistry and Applied Science teams entered the National School Analytical Chemistry Competition. Students Sophie Tulip, Robyn Bailey and Louis Shepherd, Keiron Brown, Liam Martin and Georgia Simpson did very well in the regional event, finishing 3rd and 4th overall after a series of challenges designed to test their practical skills in a number of situations. The images show our students after they had been analysing the components of fizzy drinks as part of the competition.

Cracking Easter at Park View

Free activities for children and young people have been delivered at Park View Community Association over the Easter Holidays. Children and young people from the local area attended a variety of activities including Dance, Arts and Crafts, Basketball and Football with fantastic attendances totalling over 160.

Chloe Saunders from Chester-le-Street Church of England Primary said, "I like arts and crafts the best because you can create whatever you want for free. If I wasn't at the activities, I would probably be just sat in the house."

Iain Veitch, Head Teacher at Park View School said, "The programme of activities is very much in keeping with our belief that a school should be at the centre of its community. We have had a busy time this Easter as we have also had Year 11 and 13 lessons running but it is always lovely to hear younger voices ringing through the school. Long may this type of programme, made possible by our partnership with Chester-Le-Street AAP, continue."

Activities are planned to be delivered Monday to Friday, 1-3pm across the entire Summer Holiday absolutely free of charge with support from Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership.

Sport at Park View

As usual, Park View continue to impress on the fields, tracks, pools and halls around the North East and beyond. Our sporting reputation continues to be very strong in a number of individual and team events. To give you a flavour of the range of sport we host at Park View, here are a number of our notable achievements.

Park View students can boast a number of hugely talented swimmers, representing clubs throughout the region. Recently, students including Elle Brown, Aaron Beckford, Oliver Wallace, Olivia Nelson and Mason Jacques have participated in Regional swimming competitions with notable individual and team success. Elle, in particular, has had a very good season, claiming coveted medals in a range of strokes and distances and even achieving her National qualifying times a year early in the recent NER events in Leeds.



As well as this success, we continue to dominate athletics in the area. Our Year 7 girls team and Year 7 boys team each came 1st at the recent West Wearside Athletics competition at Monkton stadium. The students had a great day out with notable performances from Eve Southern who set a new personal best of 1.39 meters in the high jump as well as victory in the 800m race. Eve has since gone on to break the school record for the 800m. Eve Percival also set a new PB winning her 200m race in under 30 seconds. Other school record breakers are Eva Hardie, who has recently become our fastest ever Year 7 1500m runner and Katie Gunn has smashed the girls Year 10 1500m record with a very impressive time of 4:44. Other notable performances which have helped Park View qualify for the next round of the English Schools Championships include Neve Jackson (100m), Elyse Davies (200m), Grace Turner (long jump),



Charlotte Enright (hurdles), Abi Jackson (discus), Megan Cotcher (javelin) and Grace Oliver (1500m) showing our strength in depth in these fields.

This strength was further exemplified In the Year 8 and 9 Pentathlon (hurdles, long jump, shot putt, high jump and 800m) where there were some great individual achievements by Neve Jackson, notably in the long jump, and Xsara Burgess in the high jump. Xsara then improved in her performance in the high jump in the Year 7 and 8 pentathlon, achieving an impressive height of 1.45meters (not far off the Year 8 girls school record!).

Our girls U14 football team won the district Futsal tournament and went onto represent the District at the Area tournament, where they came 3rd, a very commendable performance in this increasingly popular variant of football.

A number of our Young Cricket Leaders have been working with Durham Cricket Board umpiring some primary schools festivals including the county finals. These students have worked hard and have been great role models to the younger players whilst helping the organisers hold a very successful event.

A very talented group of rounders players have recently taken part in local competitions with a number of state and private schools being represented. Park View were the only school to enter two teams for the Tyne and Wear Schools Girls Tournament with both teams impressing in finishing 3rd and 6th respectively beating schools with excellent track records of success in the process. The girls were a credit to the school, as are all our talented sportspeople!

Finally, Park View always likes to give students opportunities in some more niche sports. We have a team of Park View Racing drivers who competed in the British Schools Karting Championships - Matty Dickinson, James Burnett, James Thompson and David Armstrong. The lads did brilliantly and qualified via the local final to compete in the regional finals in Leeds where they finished a very creditable 5th in their debut season.

