

Parkviews

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A NEWSPAPER FROM PARK VIEW SCHOOL

Issue 51

Talent Rewarded

The new academic year has begun with the school in optimistic mood with regard to the challenges ahead, largely because our students continue to achieve so well in so many fields. Academically, students in Year 11 continue to perform well, exceeding national averages significantly.

The GCSE results this year were a fitting testament to the talent and determination of our students and the professional dedication of our staff. It was an absolute delight to see the vast majority of our young people gaining the grades they needed to access the future opportunities which they had set their hearts on, with 75% achieving C+ in English and 72% in Maths. It is no surprise that the majority have joined our Sixth Form and have made a great start to their life there.

Out of so many spectacular achievements, special mention must go to Sarah Campbell, Satiago Dubov, Becky Gatenby, Katie Gunn, Frazer Hepburn, Alex Jennings, Scott Burgess, Daniel Jukes, Summer Patton, Megan Cotcher, Kiah Edwards, Isabelle Foster, Katie Hopkinson, Adam Petch and Katherine Turnbull who achieved the highest grades in ten subjects or more

Our A-level students have maintained excellent standards, achieving, on average, points scores equivalent to AAA. Of particular note were Ben Fraser, Lauren and Rachel Potter, Erin Bell, Irem Ozen, Robyn Bailey, Steven Lowes, Daniel Thompson, Amy Williams, Sarah Forster and Saima

Chowdhury who all achieved at least three subjects at grades A*/A. Our heartfelt congratulations go to the students who worked so hard, the parents/carers who were so supportive and the staff who were so committed to ensuring that they achieved their potential.

Park View is not, and never will be, an examination factory. We believe that education is not about finding quick fixes to make the school look good in performance tables but rather that we have a duty to educate the whole child. Performance in external examinations is vital but as important to many children are their achievements in music, drama and sport; their creativity in the workshops and art studios or their contributions to the local and global community: it is in these arenas that lifetime memories are made and that young people truly grow and mature, developing the skills and attributes which they will need in adult life. With that in mind, just before we broke up for the summer, I was delighted to see so many throw themselves heart and soul into the Enrichment Activities. Study visits abroad and at home, work experience placements and in-school projects were hugely successful, with all praised for their positivity and commitment. The attitude shown is indicative of the collective community spirit which pervades Park View: put simply, we are a happy school where children thrive because they are valued and value others.

I.R VEITCH, Headteacher



A BADGE OF HONOUR



Created when we became a Comprehensive, and worn with pride by numerous generations, the school badge has very much been seen as a symbol of Park View. So why change it? Mrs Graham, the Business Development Officer, explains: 'When I came into post, I was intrigued by the meaning of the badge and asked several students what the symbols were.

All agreed on the hand but interpretations of the bird ranged from a turkey to a budgie and the animal from a bull to a dog. I asked Mr Veitch and he told me that they represent the three areas which were brought together to create the school: a glove, to symbolise Lumley; a deer, to symbolise Lambton and a Raven for Ravensworth.

It seemed sensible, given how important our heritage is to us, to have the badge redesigned to make these more clear. I am delighted with the result, as are the students, and particularly like the way we were able to keep the school colours of yellow and black whilst incorporating the coloured strips to show the House identities.'



This Was a Big River

It was with Jimmy Nail's tribute to The Tyne ringing in our ears that myself, Mr Owen and Mrs Heslop and an intrepid group of Year 9 students set off on a week long adventure to find out why so many Geordies regard the river as the heartbeat of the city. We started at its mouth, with what for many was their first taste of not only surfing but also the North Sea.

Unbelievably, we had a sun-kissed day, the kind which makes the Long Sands at Tynemouth the most beautiful beach in the world, and all were quick to get into wet suits and out on their boards: it was a truly fantastic experience. The next two days were spent on The Quayside, seeing sights, taking photographs, interviewing local people and hearing their moving stories as well as undertaking a river cruise. We even found time to go for lunch to the magnificent Sausage Emporium, where Stone and Ryan tried Chipotle peppers for the first, and probably the last, time.

The week was rounded off with the creation of a living museum, visitors being treated to models, paintings, soundscapes, poetry, films and photo-montages, all created by the students. I could not have wished for better company and was delighted by the work that they produced. My father and uncle both served their time in the shipyards of The Tyne and loved it above all else – I think they would have been moved at the way that the river had spoken to the souls of children of a different generation and time.

I.R VEITCH

Cayeux-sur-Mer



At the end of the summer term a group of fantastic students from Y7 spent a wonderful week in France exploring the culture and history as well as practising their French language skills. At the start of the visit we explored some of the WW1 battlefields of the Somme and the war memorial at Thiepval which gave students an insight into the historical significance of the region. Students took part in different language challenges and also conducted interviews in French which was fantastic to see. It was an entertaining week with Mr Smyth's musical soirée and the sports and games on the beach. We enjoyed a fantastic day at the Nausicaa aquarium followed by a visit to a local snail farm, where students learnt about this French delicacy and sampled some 'escargots'. Délicieux! The highlight of the visit for all was without doubt the visit to Parc Bagatelle, c'était fantastique!



Brave Hearts North of the Border

Sixty Year 7 and 8 students spent a week in Dalguise on an activity holiday. The students had a fantastic time and managed to dodge the rain drops on the whole, whilst the staff found a way to avoid the Scottish midges. Students took part in new activities this year, including archery, night walk and a burn walk, alongside the traditional canoeing, biking and climbing. The burn walk was particularly hard as they quite often had to scramble over difficult terrain whilst at times being blindfolded and led by friends: scary stuff!!!! The week was all about team work, pushing boundaries and having fun, ending with a brilliant disco, during which Mrs Danby was seen throwing some shapes on the dance floor. Members of staff at Park View School love the Dalguise trip as it is a fabulous opportunity to interact with the students in a different environment and to see how remarkable they can be.

A Year 8 student said "The activities that we did were excellent. The instructors were very kind and pushed us to try to go further in each activity: we were pushed to our limits. The best activity was probably the tree climb because it was so high – my heart was racing. I liked it because there were six of my friends in my dorm and in summary the whole trip was really fun."



Life Stories from the Older Generation

Students from Park View School visited St Mary's Nursing Home and had the pleasure of spending time with the residents, listening to their life stories. It was a privilege to be able to listen to the poignant stories the residents shared with our students: stories about the war, first days at school, when they met their life-long partners or a special moment from their lives. One student said the project was 'amazing' and that it was 'an honour to have someone open up and share the personal details of their lives'.

The students took the information they gathered and wrote up an account of what they had been told and, when these had been critiqued and redrafted, placed the stories in beautiful wooden frames and returned them to the home and presented them as gifts to new friends, leading to many tears on both sides. The work the students created remembered and paid tribute to stories from the lives of some of our elderly residents, creating a permanent account that the residents placed proudly in their rooms.

The project certainly proved to be rewarding, as students gained knowledge of what life was like during earlier years in and around Chester – le – Street, and they formed relationships with the residents which continued after the project ended: some students have taken to visiting the residents in their own time. One Park View student said she found the project 'inspirational,' seeing how 'older people have helped to improve and shape our communities and overcome obstacles she would never encounter today'. She went on to say she saw 'real strength' and believes our 'elderly residents should be respected more'. Mrs Moore said "For me, the beauty of this project was that it allowed us to span generations, to work with our community, and it enabled our students to feel a sense of pride in their work, as it is dearly valued by those who received a 'Story from their Life'."

BARRY SMITH, CORNET KING!

Walking into St Mary's Care Home, the smell of tea, coffee, and freshly baked scones overwhelmed me. I was not sure what to expect. Barry came whizzing around the corner, in his Wheelchair, with a smile on his face and a sense of happiness in the air, I could tell this was going to be a good and very interesting afternoon. Barry Smith, resident of St Mary's Care Home in Chester Le Street, is a talented 68 year old man full of advice that he is willing to share. He was born in Stanley in 1946, one year after WW2 ended. This is his life...

Barry went to Brooms R.C. and Durham T.C. as a child. It wasn't always his favourite place but when music was the main subject in Durham Tech he loved it. After school he would return home and continue pursuing the hobby he loved so much. Throughout his life Barry has cared a lot about music. He first started having a vivid interest in music at 8 years old as his father was the leader of a dance band and just a mere 4 years later, aged 12 he went to The Royal Albert Hall playing the cornet in Crook Hall Brass Band.

Barry told me that he felt very proud, especially the first time, as he knew that his mother and father were watching him play. In his lifetime, he has made many great musical achievements, such as: playing in 3 brass bands at the Royal Albert Hall, being part of the 5th best brass band in the country, and being the County Durham cornet champion in 1962. However, the greatest achievement, in his eyes, was winning the slow melody competition in The Shakespeare Hall in Durham. When I asked why, he replied full of pride, "It was because my mam and dad had seen me win a competition before they died". I could tell that moment in time meant a lot to Barry as his expression turned from certain seriousness to pride on his face. In a way, even I felt happy that he remembered that moment, as it showed he remembers the 'rosy' moments in his life, which some people can't.

Sadly at 16 years old his father died and therefore could no longer influence him physically but he could in another form. Barry has always been influenced by his dad and even though he was no longer with him, Barry always kept the memory of him in his mind and his heart while playing music.


Barry loves his family especially his brother and his nephew as they are the main members of his family he has left. As well as losing his father, Barry lost his mother and step dad, even though this tragic event happened it hasn't affected his amazing personality he has today.

It was at 40 years old when Barry went back to education at Gateshead College and completed his higher national in accounts which allowed him to get jobs in the finance department at Gateshead and Chester-Le-Street council. This shows that Barry was determined, thirsty for success and wanted to fulfill his life and persevered through all the troubles to get there, many people do not do this but he showed that he has the character to do this eventually succeeding musically and in his professions. Barry's favourite job was working in the motor trade at Minorities as a store keeper and he really enjoyed it, I have something to relate to Barry with this subject, as my carer George worked in the motor trade so I found this subject very interesting and full of information. I and Barry spent a good 15 minutes talking about this subject, so it showed that we both took a great interest in the subject.

Barry loves music especially 60's pop as he thinks that music nowadays is complete rubbish. The reason he says nowadays is rubbish is because "It's all electronics that make their voice sound good whereas the singers in the 60's had real talent!" If Barry could choose his favourite singers would be Elvis and Cliff Richard as they have some meaning to their lyrics unlike singers in the 21st Century. Just like singers such as Elvis, Barry also has meaning to what he says and in the two days I have seen Barry I can see he loves having the freedom of having an opinion. If he didn't have this personality Barry would not be the outgoing, unselfish, happy man he is today and my interview with him would have not been the same.

Even though Barry is living in a care home he doesn't act sad and angry; he does the total opposite as he is full of life, happiness and wisdom. Music has changed his life as he enjoyed it and persevered which made him the character he is today. I am glad that I met Barry and I am also glad he took the time to tell a silly kid like me his life because if he didn't I would not have met a talented man like himself that has made many great achievements over his life.

THIS IS HIS LIFE. Kensley Bailey.





TAKING READING TO THE EXTREME

Before the Summer holidays, the staff were challenged to show their devotion to the written text by taking books to places no man (or woman) had gone before. Some chose to weave their reading into their past-times, with Mrs Wilson and Mrs Burnett photographed reading on golf greens in sunnier climes. Others chose to dice with danger, most notably Mr Cooper, who climbed the huge tree outside the Sixth Form Block for some tranquillity; Mr Higgins and Mr Macnamara, who chose to hang upside down from great heights; Mrs Wanless, who took her book to the

very edge of Cheddar Gorge and Mr Bell, who read his newspaper on Holy Island Causeway whilst the tides encircled him. Finally, we had the exotic: Mrs Heslop reading on the floor of the Barrier Reef; Mrs Reynolds hanging out of a tower at the highest point of Majorca; Mrs Muncaster hanging on for dear life in a tuk-tuk and Mr Main attempting to teach a monkey to read in Bali. In the photograph, Mr Groark reading at an archery range – perhaps if he had worn a different football shirt, people would not have been so keen to fire arrows at him!

Exchange Programme to Holland

In July, a group of science students from Park View School under-took the return leg of their Next Generation Science Exchange programme to Arnhem in the Netherlands. The trip was an opportunity for the students to work on different types of science projects as well as have a cultural experience with a host family.

Over the course of the 10 days, the students firstly visited the World War 2 British headquarters at Oosterbeek, where the British planned and unsuccessfully tried to resist the German army's push across the Netherlands. This was documented later in a Film: 'A Bridge too Far'. The students visited the war graves for the British soldiers, learning some stories about some of the fallen, including some members of the Durham Light Infantry.

On the second day they visited an algae farm as well as the dams at Zeeland, which allowed the Dutch to reclaim land from the sea. It had also been the finishing line to Stage 2 of the Tour de France only days earlier. The highlight of the day for most students was taking the trip by the Dutch Football National Team bus.

After a weekend of cultural activities, they returned to school in Arnhem bright eyed and ready to visit Arnhem Zoo. This proved a popular day as the students studied the animals and presented a new eco-system habitat for an animal in the zoo. Tuesday and Wednesday saw them back in the school working on Lego Mindstorm projects to develop a test tube train for monitoring PH readings and temperature.

On the final day, they took a bike ride through the suburbs and out to a Parc where they made models from metal using spot welding machinery. Again they were in full flow as engineers, planners and designers. After a break to make bread for lunch, they cycled further into the countryside to a Pancake House, where they drank and ate savoury pancakes in the setting sun, before cycling home for a final night with hosts.

After early morning goodbyes, students and staff boarded the train back to Amsterdam for the flight home. The 10 day Dutch adventure was over and many new friends had been made.

Wilberforce Be With You!

Students returned from the Summer holidays to find that not only had the school badge been updated but also that they had been allocated to one of four Houses. Mr Finley, Deputy Head, explains, 'We wanted to bring all of the competitions which run in school under one umbrella in order to promote participation for all. It was also an opportunity to foster the community spirit, which is so much a part of our school, by allowing students to identify with and meet others outside of their tutor and year groups.'

After much thought, it was decided that the Houses should be named after great Britons who had changed the world. Because of their scientific prowess, Darwin and Newton were obvious choices, followed by Wilberforce, the great slavery abolitionist, and Franklin, for her work within genetics. The latter provoked initial debate because many assumed that the house was named after Benjamin Franklin and thus we had no female representation. The aim was, in fact, to highlight the pioneering research of Rosalind Franklin, a British scientist who worked alongside Watson



and Crick on the discovery of DNA yet died before this was made public, and thus was given no credit. Interestingly, since the House launch, Nicole Kidman has opened a play in the West End on this very subject!

So far, competition has been intense. A staff 'Extreme Reading' competition, two

Twitter challenges and a busking competition have all taken place before the sports and academic contests kick in? Who will win? It is very close at present, with Darwin and Wilberforce leading, then Franklin and Newton. Follow us on Twitter for regular updates @ParkViewCLS

BAND AID COMES TO PARK VIEW



A group of Year 9 and 10 students wrote and recorded a single exploring issues of mental health. The students' moving ballad 'Whatever the Weather' is about this sensitive issue, with the chorus "Just hold on, it'll get better. It's a storm now, but we'll get through this together" being a rallying cry to all those who are suffering in silence. The students wrote the lyrics, composed the music, recorded the song and even created a music video. The first live performance of it took place in the Link on the last day of term, with all of the Church Chare site gathered as an audience. It was a fitting end to a great academic year, with many left in tears by the talent of so many of our students. Mr Jarvis, who led the project and played guitar on the final track, said, 'It was an incredible week because the students were so committed to what they were doing. I cannot remember an educational project which has moved me so much – a real privilege to be a part of.'

The single is still available to download on iTunes for £1 (search 'bandcamp'), with all money raised going to American Mental Health Foundation.

GIVING A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN NEED



In an effort to combat poverty in Chester-Le-Street, seven students from Park View School held a food bank collection at the entrance of the local Tesco store for a day. Overall, an outstanding 338 items were donated by the general public to the small collection point; this was then delivered to the local food bank which will help and support people in crisis in the local area.

Mr Veitch, Headteacher at Park View School said: "It truly is an amazing achievement". Miss Brown who helped organise the project said: 'We explored what it is to be poor in modern day Britain and then organised a collection point at Tesco for people to donate to the CLS Food Bank. The response from customers, staff and students left a lump in all of our throats! The students were a pleasure to work with and I am very proud of what they have achieved through-out this project.'

Hannah Roberts, from Durham Christian Partnership, said "The students at Park View School donated a marvellous 254.3kg of food to County Durham Foodbank - that is approximately 317 meals! It is thanks to such generous donations and support that we do not have to turn people away who are in food crisis. Thank you for your support!"

Sport at Park View

Elite Performers Recognised

Park View's PE department are delighted to announce the launch of the Park View Elite Sports Academy, an exciting venture designed to support gifted and talented young athletes from Chester-le-Street and Durham Primary Schools as well as our own talented young sportspeople. This amazing opportunity aims to provide young athletes and their families with world class mentoring, bespoke education programmes and access to services designed to nurture talent and improve chances of sporting success.

Working in conjunction with Youth Sport Trust and Durham University, the scheme has already attracted lots of interest from students across our primary schools as well as within school. Debbie Hepple, from the Youth Sport Trust, says "The Park View Elite Sports Academy is just the sort of programme that sports clubs would love to see more of in schools. Talented sportspeople are often identified at a young age and anything that schools can do to nurture and develop this talent is essential if we are to continue to produce future world class athletes. This scheme has our complete support and will provide welcome education for young sportspeople to complement their undoubted talent."

A range of services and support will be available to athletes performing at County through to International level and it is stunning to see the variety of sports our young people are so actively involved in. Athletics, football, judo, boxing, gymnastics, swimming, rugby and basketball are just some with athletes accepted onto the scheme. So far 35 athletes from Year 6 to Year 13 have been recruited after proving their talent in a

competitive application process. The programme hopes to provide these athletes with tailored education sessions on nutrition, psychology, strength and conditioning, communication and goal setting, free sports kit, educational visits to world class venues, sports photography sessions and discounted sports physiotherapy as well as other bespoke services. Mr Finley, the man behind the idea has been overwhelmed by the level of interest: "Throughout my time at Park View, I have always been hugely impressed by our success in a wide range of different sports and the level of dedication shown by some of our talented students. It fits with our ethos that we offer educational support for these gifted performers and I am delighted to be able to give a helping hand alongside our partners who I know are as enthusiastic as we are. We can't wait to get going and seeing our sports students blossom."

We are delighted to have secured sponsorship from County Coaches and The Education Network who have both been impressed by the scheme, its values and support. The support from these partners will go towards providing the kit for the athletes as well as contributing towards the education sessions and Sports Personality of the Year Awards to be presented at the end of the year. We are delighted to have them on board.

We hope to keep you posted as the scheme launches later this term and we will always welcome applicants from Year 6 students onwards as their sporting success stories are told.

Tour De Northumbria 2015

The inaugural Year 9 Tour De Northumbria 2015, in aid of 'If You Care Share', proved to be a roaring success. The students (and staff) experienced challenging but rewarding cycling as they journeyed along the new Sandstone Way route through Northumberland. The week began with some training in road etiquette and bike maintenance provided by Bike4Health, who were also the expert guides for the week. On the Tuesday 'If You Care Share', Park View's chosen charity, came into school to talk about the excellent support they provide for young people in the local area. The rest of the day was filled by researching the places along the route that we would be taking. By Wednesday morning, all were primed and ready to go. Stage One took us from Bolam to Rothbury, travelling through some of the country's most picturesque areas of outstanding natural beauty, including Belsay, Scots' Gap and Simonside. After a well-earned evening meal at Tomlinson's Bunkhouse, Rothbury, fun was had trekking through the

grounds of Cragside. The overnight accommodation was superb, and everyone awoke refreshed and ready for Stage Two, which was across some wild terrain, with' thankfully, mainly thrilling downhill sections. The group stopped at various historical landmarks from Chillingham Castle to St Cuthbert's Cave, where the students managed to present some interesting mini talks about these famous historical landmarks. Wooler Youth Hostel provided the second night's much needed rest and recuperation. The final day began in the pouring rain but ended in the brilliant sunshine of Berwick. Despite cycling nearly 100 miles, no-one wanted the week to end. Over 23 students had demonstrated their determination, resilience, and fitness whilst earning praise from all who had come into contact with them along the way. Mr Bishop, support driver, said: "It was lovely for me to see students outside of the classroom engaged in an physical activity, completing goals and raising money for a fantastic local charity."



INDIVIDUAL STARS SHINE BRIGHTLY



Philippa Ellis was the overall individual winner at the Durham Schools U12 County Mini-Athlon. A fantastic performance from Philippa, but by no means a surprise given her great talent in the sport.

Lucy Crozier has been selected to represent the district at Netball with County Durham Netball Team. Lucy plays centre wing attack and has also been selected for regional try outs. Her commitments to the sport spans across many teams, playing for Park Views Schools Year 10 team and the Vixens as well as volunteering as a coach for the Vixens under 11's team.

REPRESENTING THE REGION

The Year 8 (Junior) boys athletics team travelled to Hull for the Regional 'A' Final of the English Schools athletics competition. There were some good individual performances but things never came together for the team on the day and we finished 8th overall. The achievement really was qualifying for this round of the competition - not done since the days of Mr Robison! Mr Christie and Mr Wilson were ably assisted by Sixth Formers Harry Simpson and Russell Bewick.

PE ARE IN THE HOUSE!

The house matches are underway across both the North Lodge and Church Chare sites. The PE department are delivering a range of activities over lunch times during the school week, including Netball, Futsal, Dodgeball and Table Tennis. The competitions are open to all pupils from all year groups, with an excellent atmosphere established between the houses with the correct amount of competitive spirit shown. The matches in each individual sport run for one half term; at the conclusion of the fixtures, points are tallied and positions are achieved. First place gains 100 points, second 75, third 50 and fourth 25. These points go towards the overall house totals. The House competition will run for the full academic year and end with a major sports day at the Riverside on the last day of term.

