

SEPTEMBER 2024

PARK VIEWS

The Official Newsletter of Park View School



Amazing A Level and GCSE Results 2024

BY MR FINLEY

All at Park View are proud to share another year of outstanding A Level and GCSE results, showcasing the hard work, dedication, and work ethic of our students and staff. The 2024 cohort has once again raised the bar for academic achievement at our school. In A Level Results this year, we continued to build upon the strong results from 2023 to record our best results for some time. This year, the average grade for traditional A Level subjects was B- and Vocational subjects an impressive Distinction+. In GCSE subjects, 9-4 and 9-7 grades were way above national achievement with 71% achieving 9-4 and 22% securing the best grades. This was more than matched in GCSE Science subjects which



achieved over 85% 9-4 and Vocational courses also performing at over 75% pass rate too. These impressive results underscore the strong commitment to academic excellence that defines all at Park View.

Andrew Finley, Headteacher, commended the students for their dedication and perseverance: "We are immensely proud of our students and the exceptional results they have achieved this year. These accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and determination, as well as the unwavering support provided by our dedicated teachers and staff at the school. At Park View, our goal is to create a nurturing and challenging environment that allows every student to reach their full potential, and these results are clear evidence of the success of our approach."

As our students move forward, whether to further education, apprenticeships, or into the workforce, we are confident that they leave us not only with excellent qualifications but also with the skills and character necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world. We extend our congratulations to all our students, their families, and our staff for their tremendous efforts throughout the whole year.

This issue:

Amazing A Level and GCSE Results 2024

PAGE 01

Enrichment Week 2024

PAGE 02

Costa Rica 2024

PAGE 03

Cadet Summer Camp 2024

PAGE 04

Northern School of Art/Exploring the River Wear

PAGE 05

Goodbye Year 13/Aspire

PAGE 06

Mount Snowdon/Orchestras For All

PAGES 07

Teaching and Learning at Park View

PAGE 08

Chicago

PAGE 09

Sport at Park View

PAGE 10



Enrichment Week 2024

BY MR FINLEY

Enrichment Week 2024 was as action packed as ever! The week at the end of Summer Term was full of activities designed to develop the character and wider skills of our students in a range of different settings. Whether it was games design, wilderness walks, outdoor education at school in Dalguise, mural making, mindfulness activities, multi-sports, design projects CSI Park View, Space Day or a whole host of other things, it was a huge success.



In addition to these events “at home”, we also had students exploring the wider world in France, Germany and Poland in our annual international visits which were designed to build cultural capital and engage our students in the world around them. We are sure that many positive memories have been formed on these residential or day based activities and it was great to see so many smiles on the faces of students when they engaged in things that may have been outside of their comfort zones.

We could not run Enrichment Week without the support and dedication of our staff who put so much into ensuring the experiences our students have over the course of the week are as rewarding as possible. We are fortunate to have such a great staff body who would all say that it was worth the hard work that goes into the week to see how much students get out of it.



“Enrichment Week was as action packed as ever”

ENRICHMENT WEEK 2024





Costa Rica 2024

BY MR RUSSELL

For the month of July Mr Stainsby, Mr Russell and Miss Gerry accompanied 32 students from Y10 - Y13 on a Camps International trip to Costa Rica. Students had been fundraising for over two years for this trip, and made sure to get everything they could out of it! Over the month we visited 5 camps spanning the length and breadth of Costa Rica, taking part in project work to help the local communities around each camp: Caño Negro in the very north where we laid the foundations for a greenhouse and built a nature trail, Terraba in the south west where we contributed to reforestation, La Amistad on the border to Panama where we worked in a plant nursery, Uvita on the west coast and the indigenous Yorokin community on the east coast, where we refurbished local primary schools. While at Uvita, students also worked towards their Open Water Scuba diving certification - three long and intensive days that brought out the very best of all involved!



Along the way, students were immersed in the local culture, taking part in everything from learning native dances (and teaching some of our own!), painting jicara shells, teaching English at a primary school, getting first hand experience of how coffee beans are grown and how hot chocolate is made, and learning, albeit briefly, how to fire a bow and arrow! Throughout the month we had laughs, new friendships, dancing, singing, gameshows, quizzes, so many brand new foodstuffs and tastes that we lost count, and so many items that were just...lost! We got to know the most wonderful native staff at each camp and, by the end of the month, many students considered just abandoning the flight home and moving to Costa Rica permanently...thankfully though everyone did come home safe and sound!

As teachers, we were so impressed with the confidence, kindness and maturity shown by every single one of our students. We met students and teachers from multiple other schools, English and Costa Rican camp staff, and many other people around the country, and our students were fabulous representatives of us to all. Several staff at each camp even commented on how kind, funny, hard working and lovely our students were, and they didn't want us to leave! To see our students make such strong impressions in only a few days at each camp was heart warming, we are deeply proud of the students, and have loved sharing this once in a lifetime experience with them.

Cadet Force Summer Camp: A Week of Adventure and Achievement

BY MRS MOORE

Park View Combined Cadet Force (CCF) recently returned from an unforgettable annual summer camp in Strensall. This year's camp was a blend of challenging outdoor experiences, exhilarating water activities, and significant recognitions, reflecting the cadets' unwavering spirit and camaraderie.

The camp kicked off with a night spent in the field, where the cadets had to adapt to the rugged outdoor environment. The following day, they braved the rain, demonstrating resilience and teamwork. Despite the weather, the cadets maintained high spirits, showcasing their determination and ability to support one another under challenging conditions.



One of the highlights of the camp was a day at North Yorkshire Waterpark. Here, the cadets engaged in a variety of water-based activities, including sliding down thrilling water slides, paddleboarding, and learning how to sail. Throughout the day, the cadets consistently encouraged and supported each other, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect. It was a day filled with fun, learning, and unforgettable experiences, leaving everyone with broad smiles and fond memories.

Back on base, the competition day was another highlight, where Park View CCF's teamwork and determination were on full display. The cadets excelled in the obstacle course and the field gun race, earning praise from the Cadet Training Team for their exceptional teamwork. Their efforts were rewarded with a joint 3rd place finish, marking a significant achievement for the group.

The camp also featured a special awards ceremony, where several cadets were recognized for their bravery, participation, and supportive spirit. These awards highlighted the individual contributions that made the camp a success and reinforced the values of the Park View CCF.

A particularly poignant moment was the celebration of Sonny Laws, the first Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of Park View CCF. Additionally, George Polkey was honored with the prestigious Clayton Award, named after a Park View student who was awarded the Military Cross during World War I. This award symbolises exceptional dedication and service, making it a significant honour for George.



After an intense week of activities and achievements, the cadets returned to school feeling extremely tired but equally proud of their accomplishments. The camp was a testament to Park View CCF's growth and strength, showcasing the dedication and hard work of everyone involved.

Park View CCF continues to go from strength to strength, and the success of this year's summer camp is a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of the cadets and their leaders. Each member of the Park View CCF is deserving of recognition for their contributions, and the future looks bright for this exceptional group of young individuals.



“All students were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed their day”

Northern School of Art

In May, Park View hosted a presentation of the further and higher education courses on offer at The Northern School of Art. The college then invited Year 10 students to attend their annual ‘taster day’, giving them the chance to experience life at a specialist art school.

Our students participated in practical workshops and collaborated with peers to create some fantastic creative outcomes. One group practised animation techniques including concept art, flip books and stop motion, while the other group used filming equipment to record an interview. All students were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Exploring the River Wear

BY MRS FENWICK

As part of the Geography GCSE course, Year 10 Geography students visited the River Browney in Lanchester. They were investigating how the river changes by carrying out practical fieldwork measurements, whilst waist deep in water at times! On one of the days they were even stalked by a herd of horses and had to leave the area pretty quickly! All students were able to take part in the activities and have a great day, made even better by ice cream on the way home. Mrs Fenwick said; “This year’s group was one of the most involved and enthusiastic groups I’ve had on this trip and were a credit to the school.”



Goodbye Year 13

MISS KEIGHLEY

June saw us say goodbye to our beloved Yr 13 - a fantastic year group who will be missed by us all. We had three celebration events to send them to their next destination in style. First of all, Mr Hern delivered a fabulous leavers' assembly where we laughed and cried at photos old and new and Mr Turner returned to school for one last time to play the year group out with some classic tunes; the memory of the students standing up, arms around each other belting out the words to Wonderwall will last in my memory a long time.

Next we hosted the graduation night at North Lodge where we looked back at the students' time with us alongside their parents/carers and presented a number of awards for subjects stars as well as other awards. It was another lovely night where we reminisced fondly.

Finally, the Year 13 committee planned the leavers' prom that was held at the Botanist in Newcastle; a chance for students and staff to celebrate the achievements of such a talented and humble year group and another great night. We will miss these unbelievable students but we are so excited to see them start their new adventures. We hope they keep in touch."

"Such a talented and humble year group."

MISS KEIGHLEY



Aspire

BY MRS ANDERSON

Aspire is a developing programme at Park View that aims to facilitate opportunities for wider learning, developing skills, widening horizons and to help our pupils achieve their full potential.

Year 7 pupils were pleased to welcome Kirsten Scott from Newcastle University to deliver a workshop introducing Higher Education. They were fascinated to find out about the huge range of courses available including many they had not heard of before, as well as intrigued about extra-curricular options including Wednesday afternoons for sports and the various societies students can join.

The workshop was excellent and a great chance to learn more about what opportunities there are in further education. Meanwhile, Year 9 pupils enjoyed competing against one another in a Higher Education game run by Northumbria University, with Harry Brodie introducing the many different opportunities at another local university.





Mount Snowdon Sunrise Challenge

BY MRS HARRISON

Mrs Harrison, with support from her daughter Sarah, climbed Mount Snowdon raising funds for St Cuthbert's Hospice, Franklin House Charity. Their commute to Wales from Chester Le Street felt like the start of their challenge with a six hour drive in torrential rain! Having had no sleep, they started their ascent at 1am with the weather continuing to be against them. However, they persevered and reached the peak at approximately 4:30am. Mrs Harrison said ; “We were just in time to witness the most beautiful sunrise I have ever seen!”.

They completed the whole challenge in under 6 hours and raised almost £800 for the charity.

“This was a fantastic experience for the students and I was very proud of them all!” - Miss Inkster

Orchestras for all

BY MISS INKSTER

Eight of our musicians went to the University of York to take part in Orchestras For All's 'Modulo Meet' workshop. Students had the opportunity to interact with musicians from other schools across the North East of England and perform in a large ensemble. The day involved rehearsals with instrumental tutors to help develop instrument-specific skills, and a performance all together under the direction of a professional conductor.

The students thoroughly enjoyed performing 'Hornet' from the *Hollow Knight* video game and an arrangement of 'I Wish' by Stevie Wonder. Miss Inkster, Music Teacher, said; “This was a fantastic experience for the students and I was very proud of them all!”





"This year we have introduced a range of new Teaching and Learning initiatives and the students have responded brilliantly!"

MR JARVIS

Teaching and Learning at Park View

BY MR JARVIS



This year we have introduced a range of new Teaching and Learning initiatives and the students have responded brilliantly! Our main focus has been on encouraging our students to become more independent and resilient; skills that will stand them in good stead in school but also in adult life. We strongly believe in helping our students to develop the skills and characteristics needed to succeed in this challenging day and age, and preparing them for their future beyond Park View.



One of the new initiatives is called 'The Green Zone'. This is a period of time within a lesson during which students are expected to work 100% independently and be as resourceful as they can be in order to overcome challenges they may encounter. Prior to this phase of the lesson, students are supported via 'guided practice' and provided with all of the resources and information required to access the Green Zone task. As an evidence-informed school, this initiative - like all of the initiatives we have introduced - is rooted in research, particularly that carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation.

At first, some students found it hard to resist the temptation to ask the teacher for help immediately. However, over the past few weeks and months, we have seen an enormous improvement in the independence, resilience and resourcefulness of our students. One Year 10 student recently said to me 'I found it hard at first but the work I do in class is so much better now than it was before.' Teachers still provide support for students but we are seeing a positive culture change in which students try to work things out for themselves and 'think hard' before asking for help. As the educationalist and cognitive scientist Daniel Willingham said, 'memory is the residue of thought.' In other words, the more 'hard thinking' our students have to do, the more they will retain in their long term memory. The Green Zone has really contributed to an increase in the amount of 'hard thinking' students are doing at Park View and we are really proud of them as a result!

CHICAGO

An amazing end of year school show

Park View School recently brought the razzle-dazzle of Broadway to its own stage with a stunning production of *Chicago* in the school theatre. From the opening number to the final bow, the performance was a testament to the immense talent and hard work of the students and staff involved.

The musical, known for its sharp wit, jazz-inspired score, and satirical take on fame and justice, was executed with a level of professionalism that far exceeded expectations. The cast, led by Annabel Guest as Velma Kelly and Eleanor Adamson as Roxie Hart, delivered standout performances that captured the complex, bold, and charismatic nature of their characters. Both leads demonstrated strong vocal abilities and impressive stage presence, commanding the audience's attention throughout.

"Chicago" was a resounding success. The production not only entertained but also highlighted the incredible talents within the student body. It was clear that a tremendous amount of effort went into every aspect of the show, from acting and singing to choreography and technical design. The result was a performance that the students, staff, and the entire school community can be immensely proud of.

The ensemble also shone brightly, particularly during the intricate dance numbers choreographed by the brilliant Mrs Monaghan. The iconic "Cell Block Tango" was a highlight of the evening, showcasing not only the

performers' precision and energy but also their ability to convey the dark humour that defines the piece.

If this production is any indication, the future of Performing Arts at Park View School is bright, and audiences will undoubtedly be eagerly awaiting their next show.



BY MR FINLEY





ACADEMY OF SPORT NEWS



Setting the Blenckmark!

BY MR A GAMBLE

We are delighted to confirm that Jenny Blenck has signed a contract for Sunderland A.F.C. Women. Jenny will be part of the PGA Academy alongside regular training and playing opportunities with the first team.

Jenny landed the contract after making huge strides here at Park View Academy of Sport which has seen her develop into an accomplished goalkeeper! Jenny received daily coaching from our goalkeeping coach Ross Morecroft which mirrors what she will receive at Sunderland.

Head of Women's Football Craig Bewick said, "I am delighted that Jenny is signing for Sunderland; she has been a huge part of our academy over the last couple of years. Her application to improve throughout the year has been a pleasure to see, and she has been a credit to the academy and we look forward to following her progress!"

As an academy, we are immensely proud of Jenny's achievements and wish her all the best in achieving her dream of becoming a professional footballer.



Blooming Marvellous!

BY MR A GAMBLE

We are delighted to confirm that Emily Bloomer has signed for Super League side Durham Women F.C. Emily will be part of the PGA Academy alongside potential training and playing opportunities with the first team. Emily recently attended a trial within their U23 set-up and impressed to earn a contract. "Bloomer" as she is known, has had a fantastic two year spell at Park View, coming back from a serious injury along the way. After hard work in her recovery, she played a pivotal role in the double-winning Women's Football Academy team, who were crowned ECFA North East & Women's Premier Cup champions.



Emily was selected as a first-year student to represent England at the ISF School's World Cup in Morocco, along with the rest of the Park View team where the team finished 6th in the World!

The following year she was chosen again, alongside her Park View team mates, to represent England in China at the U18 ISF School's World Cup, once again, finishing in 6th place! All in all, not a bad two years at Park View for Emily. We are very proud.