Parkfield School

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Telephone: 01202 592530
Headteacher – Mr Jeremy Payne

10th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parkfield Press #10 – Half Term Review

As we reach the half way mark on this term, I wanted to write to you to reflect on some of the magnificent things that have been happening across the academy in the last few weeks. We may have been challenged with the weather and some logistics, but your brilliant children and the great #teamparkfield family have continued to work together to aspire for the best outcomes for all our children. I hope you have a wonderful half term break, enjoying activities and the people you love as we refresh and re-invigorate ourselves for the second half of spring term.

- **Science dome visit.** The children in EYFS and Year 1,2 and 3 were treated to a visit from the Science Dome which inflated in our hall and took them on wonderful journeys to explore Science with the magic of projected technology. Lots of 'oooos' and 'aaaas'!!!. Y3 had an enjoyable time where they learned more about volcanoes and what causes them to erupt. They have been studying volcanoes as part of their project, Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. The presenter was very impressed with all the children's knowledge and praised their behaviour during the presentations.

- **Police Community Support Officer undertaking Online safety talks.** Thank you to Lauren, our PCSO, who continues to support us and our students with really useful and important assemblies based around key issues such as Safeguarding, making the right choices and how to access support if you are worried.

- **BTEC Performing Arts students' workshops.** On Monday 30th January students from the BTEC performing arts course attended Middlesex university's 'Raising Aspirations' workshop at Pavilion Dance Southwest. All of the students had a great time, learning about the many options available to them if they were to undertake a performing arts career. The student's behaviour and performances in the workshops were exemplary.

- **Amazing individuals!** Many of our students excel outside school in a variety of disciplines, and here are just a few… **Phoebe Drury** passed her air rifle shooting assessment for Army Cadets. **Bobby Morris** who has recently started kick boxing , has passed his first belted exam and is now a red belt. **Tilly DE Freitas** is training twice a week for a dance competition. **Annabelle Williams** is training for a badminton tournament. **Lily Bische** is training 3-4 times a week for a boxing match over half term. **Max Henry** has football trials for ProDirect and Bournemouth in the Community next week. **Millie Millar, Guy Purnell** and **Matthew Lacey** are performing in The Wolves of Willoughby Chase, with their theatre company 'Forest Forge' in April. **Ceris Hopkins** has been increasing her skills in Rugby, Dance and Boxing outside of school

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(but not at the same time….). **Radella Iswanto** and **Emelia Rodman** successfully achieved their red belt in karate. **Evie Willis** moved to Stage 2 and **Daisy Appleby** has moved to Stage 5 in their gymnastics class. **Christopher Bond** has completed Basic Training for Air Cadets. **Tobias Bonney** completed the Rubik cube in 24 seconds – can anyone beat that?. **Sophia Symonds** got to showcase her hip-hop talent for Misfit Dance Co at their annual show. **David Riley** won his Scalextric racing competition. **Alanis White** joined the police cadets and earned her official 'cadet' title this half term. **Sam Linger** has just moved up to Stage 8 in Swimming.

- **Next steps – future careers.** Many of our Year 11 students have already secured provisional places on their chosen college courses or next steps – looking forward to their futures!

- **The circle of life.** Mrs Saidi has had her baby! Everyone is healthy and well.

- **Children's mental health awareness assemblies.** Mark, our resident Place2Be counsellor has done lots of work with individuals who just wanted to chat some of their problems through with him, he has supported friendship groups to find ways to resolve their differences and he has spoken to whole year groups about managing their mental health and how to keep a happy and healthy mind.

- **New Site Manager starting.** Over half term we will be welcoming Jon Skinner into the team as our new Site Manager. We're very much looking forward to having him at Parkfield.

- **Growth mindset in adults.** The Admin/IT/Site teams have been amazing, supporting each other and working together, despite internet/phone problems, problems with the buses, staff absence, heating challenges, Ofsted and the rest. The teaching and support teams have rallied to support colleagues who have been unwell and take lessons even in their cover time, and thank you to all parents for bearing with us through it all as well!

- **Mentoring students.** Lily Carey, David Czaja and Luke Robinson have been fabulous helping most days in the common room with younger students, either helping with friendship issues, helping them to regulate and talk about things, engaging them in games like chess in the classroom. It has been incredibly helpful and supportive to both adults and children, they have been great with the year 7s!

- **Hot Chocolate rewards treats!** Our new rewards system got back up and running after our technical difficulties and groups of students with high numbers of points have made Mr Payne very happy by sharing hot chocolate and cakes with him while he picked their brains about what is working in our school and what can still be

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better. Lots of great ideas, ambassadors for our school and recipients of Mr Payne's VERY special stickers….

- **Cross Country success.** We entered a COUNTY competition and delighted to say that Fin Hurst Adkins came 2nd overall. Well done Fin!!

- **The family of children working together.** When a child left for a new chapter in their life recently, everyone in their class ALL played together in the playground and included everyone in the class. It made the class teacher feel so proud of them all. They all organised a card to go round the class too, without being prompted.

- **Year 5 swimming.** Many of our children showed great resilience and determination to achieve in their swimming sessions at Littledown. Personal bests achieved and a hugely important life skill instilled in many.

- **Year 9 getting ready for their futures.** Year 9 children attended their first one to one Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) interviews in January and engaged with the support brilliantly. Setting them up to make the best choices for their futures with their upcoming options choices.

- **Year 11 English revision has begun in earnest.** Voluntary additional sessions to help students cram in extra learning for their GCSEs have started to take place and it has been great to see the number of individuals taking advantage of this offer.

And all of the above has happened alongside the daily teaching and learning, assemblies, breaktime activities and clubs and the busy lives we all lead. A wonderful roll call of achievement that we are looking forward to continuing to grow into Spring term two and beyond. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support, challenge and ambition for all our children. The Parkfield family is a very special place to belong and I am very proud to be able to lead it alongside all of you. Have a wonderful half term, we begin again on Monday 20th February. Can't wait to get stuck back in!

With my best wishes,

Jeremy
Headteacher

#teamparkfield
#halftermbreakwelldeserved
#thankyouforyoursupport

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