



Key Stages Three & Four

Spring Term 2 Newsletter

Geography

Geography has been marching on studying Ecosystems in KS3 and shortly will be starting a module on Climate Change. Children are enjoying finding out about the different biomes and are starting to connect this to impacts humans can have.

KS4, Year 10 are looking at Natural Hazards and are taking on Global Atmospheric Circulation, and doing well!

Our Year 11s are studying hard and have one bit of fun left to come, the Human fieldwork trip to Swanage in March.

All the Parkfield students are great Geographers and will have many life skills to equip them as grow into our world around us.

Modern Foreign Languages

This half term the Y7s are currently learning to describe their personality and we will be moving on to physical appearance this week. We are now fully immersed into the big bad world of 'French Grammar' and they can successfully apply the concept of adjectival agreement to their writing.

Y8s have started on the 'Free Time Activities' which is actually the first unit from the GCSE course! Next term we will start on and 'Technology In Every Day Life', also a GCSE unit. They will re-visit and deepen their knowledge of the unit throughout KS4.

Y9s have also started the topic on Technology and will be continuing in the second part of the term. We have looked at the young people and their use of social media networks like Facebook. Our focus for after half term will be about dependence on mobile technology.

Y10s have worked hard for their first ever mock exams (writing and listening) and we are starting a unit on Healthy Eating and Diet after half term (a topic that was first encountered in Year 9).

Y11s are getting ready for their upcoming mocks and we have spent time focusing on the speaking exam in our extended school sessions. Mocks and revision have been the focus for Y11s as we approach the finishing line and their summer exam (not quite in summer but in May!)



History:

Students in all year groups are continuing to make good progress in history.

Students in Year 7 have explored the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest and will study the design & structure of castles after half term to prepare for their trip to Corfe Castle.

Year 8 have been studying aspects of Slavery including exploring the Slave Trade Triangle in depth. After half term we will look at the Civil Rights Movement in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s including figures such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael.

Year 9 are part way through their depth study of the Holocaust which will also see them complete a self-guided assessment on anti-Semitism over the last couple of hundred years.

Year 10s have completed their study of Health & the People and will soon look at Elizabethan England including figures such as Drake, Raleigh, Shakespeare and the various plots to prematurely end her reign.

Year 11 have completed the USA, 1920 – 73 unit and I am sure will have a successful set of mock examinations after half term.

PE:

PE has been progressing during the term and very much enjoyed by pupils. Pupils for this half term have enjoyed taking part in badminton, handball, tag rugby and volleyball as part of their curriculum sports. Year 11 GCSE pupils have been working on their table tennis skill and making steady progress. In one tightly fought match, two Yr11s saw off a strong pairing of Ms Taylor and Mr Golding.

Fixtures have been the key focus for us as pupils have not been able to gain access to sport outside of school. We have been running lunchtime and after school clubs which have focussed on basketball, tag rugby and table tennis this half term.



Year 6 were invited to take part in a 'CAN DO FOOTBALL' event held at Littledown Centre hosted by AFC Bournemouth. The club ran a coaching session and then all schools that participated took part in a tournament. The focus for this event was to engage pupils who do not necessarily like sport or take part in football.

Although one or two pupils were reluctant to take part, by the end of the tournament all pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and did not want to leave. This was a great experience for all the pupils and it was good to take part in an event where winning was not the most important thing.

There are more fixtures to be played before half term such as a basketball fixture for our KS3 pupils against Bourne Academy and many more fixtures involving our year 9's and 10's, both basketball and volleyball. The aim after half term is to host various friendly fixtures against different schools and provide opportunities for pupils to access sport not just during curriculum time but after school also.

Finally, our young sports leaders from KS3 have taken on the role of sports coaches and ran a PE lesson which both the sports leaders and year 2 students thoroughly enjoyed. Pictures can be seen on the School's Facebook page.



**"You don't have to be great to start
but you have to start to be great"**

- Zig Zigler

Art

This Term, Year 11 Art students are planning for their final exam at Easter. This is the first of their GCSE exams, and the 'right of passage' that heralds the final few months of their Parkfield careers. In terms of subject and projects followed, I am so pleased to see a variety of ideas and interesting uses of media, that will, not doubt, result in some excellent outcomes for these hardworking Art students.

Are you a wild beast? Year 7 are enjoying learning about the brilliant and vivid colours of Fauvism, focussing on the work of Matisse and the Pointillist techniques of Georges Seurat. Students have enjoyed learning to blend and mix colours, using a variety of techniques and applications.



Why does Tim Burton wear striped socks? Year 8's studies in the weird and beautifully creepy world of this famous American filmmaker and artist, are leading them to the design and creation of clay models, learning how to join and manipulate clay. This is a new avenue for them, and they are learning, quickly, about the properties and characteristics of this exciting medium.



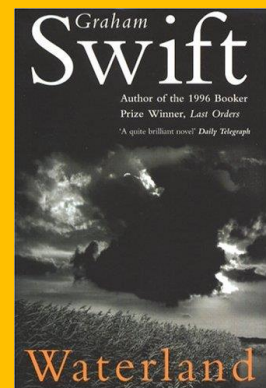
When is a painting not a painting? Year 9 are examining the notion of Abstraction in 20th century art, learning painting techniques to create colourful, abstract images. They are encouraging each other to think critically, deciphering images and learning about their creation.

In researching the work of Piet Mondrian, and Wassily Kandinsky, they are beginning to comment and make judgements about the art studied, "...they're just a load of colours and shapes...." – Is that true?

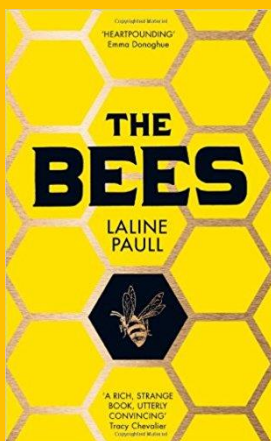
English

New Staff

The English Department would like to introduce two new staff. Firstly, Mr Eden takes over as Head of English. He has over ten years of experience teaching in secondary schools in Dorset and Hampshire, and enjoys reading and playing in a pool team. His favourite book is 'Waterland' by Graham Swift.



Secondly, Ms Courtauld joins Parkfield as a specialist English HLTA and will work with individual students and small groups to provide interventions and assistance where required. She loves singing, swimming in the sea and her favourite book is 'The Bees' by Laline Paull. Both Mr Eden and Ms Courtauld look forward to meeting parents very soon.



World Book Day

Parkfield students will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st of March this year. Years 7 to 10 will be enjoying a range of activities themed around dystopian fiction. Year 11 will have their usual lessons so as not to disrupt preparation for GCSEs.

Book Club

Ms Courtauld will soon be starting a Book Club. The club will meet one lunchtime per week in the English Department. Members of the club will all read the same book so that they can share opinions about it. They will then be able to nominate which book the club reads next. Details to follow after half term.

Things to remember:

- The second Year 11 Mocks Week begin just after the February half term, they should start revising now!
- All students should now have a blazer and should be wearing school shoes. We will be introducing plimsolls for students who arrive in incorrect footwear.
- Please ensure that planners are regularly signed.
- If a student is on report, this should be signed by a parent/carer every evening.
- Secondary attendance continues to be a real concern, our current attendance is well below national averages. Although some of this can be attributed to the fact that we are a small school, too many students are absent from school, far too often. We know statistically that outcomes at GCSE directly correlate to attendance. The chart below is based on data that is a few years old now, however the link is clear. If your attendance was below 90%, your chance of achieving five good grades fell by 30%.

GCSE achievements for Year 11 by total attendance %

