



Letter from the Head 24/11/23

In this issue; Sixth form open evening, Student achievements and Buddy!

Dear all,

Another couple of really busy weeks here at Park House.

We were absolutely delighted last week with a fantastic attendance at our Sixth Form Open Evening. The Sixth Form is the pinnacle of our school and we are very proud of our 56% A*- B grades in A Levels last year. Our current Sixth Form students are contributing incredibly well to our school community, and we look forward to beginning to plan for a new year group of students to join us next year. Something that was noticeable on the night was how many of our current Sixth Form students chose to attend and support the event. Not only did they look very smart and express themselves so articulately to the prospective families, but it showed just how proud they are to be a part of Park House School. Our Sixth Form admissions portal is now open until the **31st December** and can be accessed by visiting the school website (www.parkhouseschool.org)

Sporting endeavours

Our sole survivors in the National Football cup, the Year 9 boys team took on a very talented Wellington Academy team last week and came through a tough game to earn a superb 2-1 win with two goals from Jack Denner. They now head into round four and a trip to Brighton Hill in Basingstoke in the coming weeks.

Also last week, the Year 7 County Rugby festival, that saw our boys pitched against some very organised and established sides. The boys made great progress through the day, improving in every encounter, and managed two wins, two draws and two losses.

This week saw a run out for our Year 7B rugby side at Newbury Rugby club, and two excellent team performances saw the boys record wins over St Barts and Kennet.

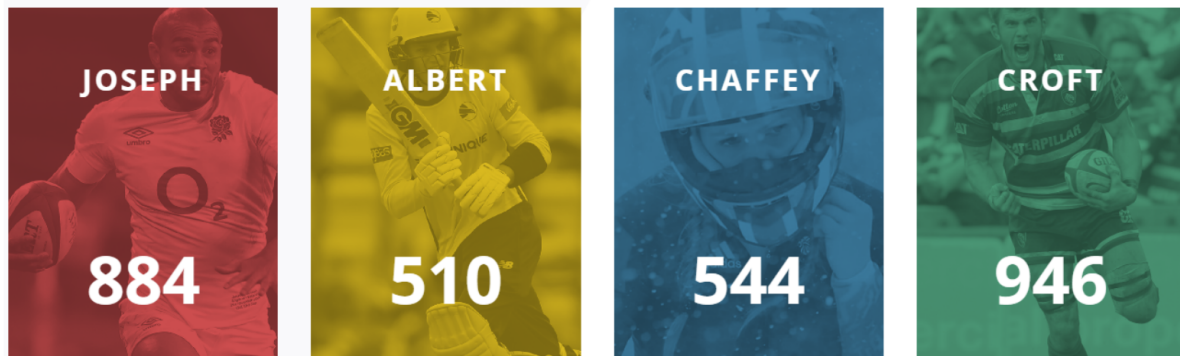
On Wednesday, our girls swimming team headed to Downe House for a swim meet and performed incredibly well against the odds...as the only school in attendance without a pool! A big thank you to Mrs Rowlands for ensuring our girls have this opportunity. On the same evening, our Year 7-10 netball teams headed over to St Barts for a block fixture and performed incredibly well against some strong, well organised teams.

House competition

The House Art competition concluded on Friday with lots of students submitting their effort in the Christmas card competition. We await the shortlisting and final decisions and look forward to sharing the finalists and winning card with you. We now turn our attention to House sports, football for the girls and rugby for the boys. The sixth form 'kicked things off' this week and it was Joseph who took



the spoils! We look forward to lots of keen competition over the coming weeks. Current totals below...



I would also like to share with you some significant success for our lunchtime 'Code Club' led by Mr Phillips. A number of students took part in the 'Bebras UK Challenge', which is a national logical thinking/problem solving competition.

Students who are in the top 10% nationally are invited to the next stage of the competition, run by Oxford University in January.

Ashley Moutrie (Year 11) was in the top 9%, Imogen Candy and Ada Liang (Year 8) were in the top 7%, and Freya Clarke (Year 8) was in the top 3%! These four students now have a trip to Oxford University to look forward to in the next round.

Code club takes place in CR1 on Wednesday lunchtimes. A full list of our extra curricular clubs on offer can be viewed [here](#).

Buddy

I am sure you will have been made aware that this week has seen the introduction of our school therapy dog 'Buddy'. He has been a huge hit with students this week, and certainly brought lots of smiles to students as they see him around the school. To ensure that students remain safe with a dog on site, we have conducted a risk assessment which is available for perusal on the policy section of our website.

Whilst the vast majority of students have enjoyed his company this week, if you would prefer your child to not have contact with Buddy, there is an 'opt out' form available for completion → [here](#).

Two administration items I'd like to share with you;

- Term dates for 2024-25 are now available and can be viewed on our school website, [here](#).
- Can I remind you that the best mode of contact with staff is either to call and make an appointment or via email. Contact details of key contacts can be found [here](#).



Park House School

Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.

Finally, a big well done to our Year 11 and 13 students for the completion of their mock exams. Their teachers will use this information to inform their upcoming lessons and reteach key content identified in the mocks and this, I'm sure, will prove invaluable. Next up, is the Year 10 and 12s for their mid year assessments who will receive their exam manifests and exam timetables on Monday.

I hope you enjoy a lovely weekend.

Regards,

Mr King

Headteacher