



Letter from the Head 26/1/24

In this issue; Visitors and events, sporting endeavours and student successes...

Dear all,

The pace of life at Park House continues to be high, with lots of visits and events taking place as we navigate this incredibly short term.

The focus on mid year assessments has continued, and it has been the turn of the Year 8s over the last fortnight. The newest members of our school, Year 7, have the opportunity from Monday to demonstrate how much they've learnt since joining us, and we wish them the best of luck.

Off the back of assessments, the follow up is parents evenings, which provide an opportunity to discuss progress and detail the next steps for our students. We look forward to welcoming Year 10 parents into school this coming Thursday followed by the other year groups over the course of the next few weeks. We will write to you separately with details of how to book appointments for each evening.

Outside of the buzz of the classroom, there has been lots going on. Last week we welcomed children's Author Steve Cole, who held assemblies with our Key stage 3 students to detail the inspiration that sits behind his books. He is a truly engaging speaker, and it was a real inspiration to have him at the school for the day. Staying with a literature theme, our Year 9 and 10s enjoyed a trip to the West End this week to see the play Hamnet. Students were impeccable, and enjoyed a fun and enlightening trip to the capital.

Sporting fixtures continue to come around thick and fast with attention largely turning to football and netball.

The year 7 netballers have enjoyed a good start to their season with a strong performance in a friendly with St Gabs.

Our Year 8 netballers had a good run out at Kennet School this week, playing a round robin with a number of other schools, the As had two wins and a loss and B's one win and two losses. A number of the girls also played up in the Year 9 team at the end of the week, helping them to a remarkable 21-0 win over Trinity!

The Year 10 boys have continued their fine sporting form progressing in the county cup this week with a win over Holyport and also enjoying wins for both the A and B teams in the district competition over St Barts.

Year 11 boys have bowed out of the country cup this week but bagged local bragging rights last week with a 2-1 win over neighbours St Barts!

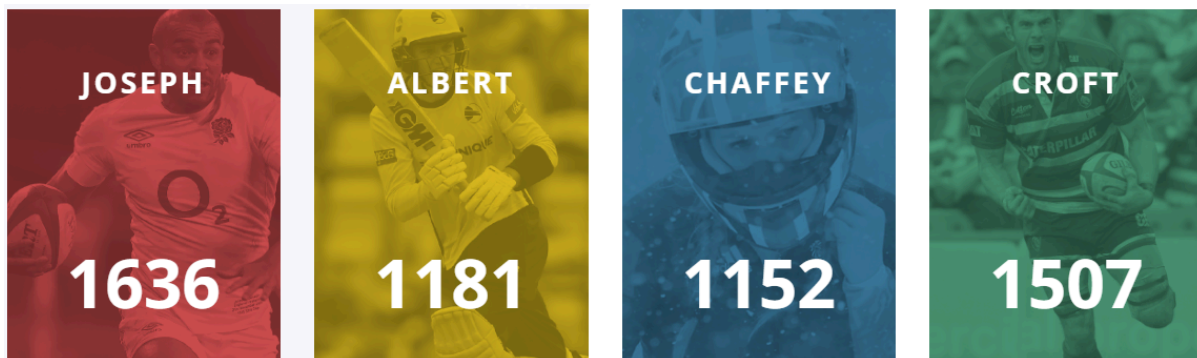
The Year 9 boys football team have also continued their fine form with a win in the county cup, a draw in the district cup and a 3-0 win over Glenmoor and Winton in the National cup that now sees



them face Matthew Arnold School (Oxford) on Monday for a place in the last 16 in the country! Exciting times and we wish them the very best of fortune.

Further to this, we had a number of students take part in the Berkshire cross country competition last Saturday at Newbury Showground and after a gruelling morning of runs in tough conditions, Oskar in Year 7 finished 6th and Ant in Year 9 made it through to to represent Berkshire in the next round of competition. In addition our U17 boys team came 3rd in the county!

Back at Park House, the House competition has continued in earnest. We enjoyed a Business Studies competition last week, testing students' awareness of 'branding', and this week students have been tasked with designing a house logo as part of the Media Studies competition. It continues to be a close run competition so please encourage your child to play their part and get involved!



As our senior students in Year 11 and 13 head towards their next round of mock examinations after half term, I am delighted to share good news for two of Year 13s. Max A has received an offer for a highly prized degree level apprenticeship with Perpsico and Sam K has received an offer to read Engineering at Cambridge next year. This is great news for both students and a testament to their hard work and efforts up to this point. I look forward to sharing further successes as the year progresses.

We recently had the pleasure of meeting with the family and friends of Toby White, a former sixth form student who sadly passed away after battling cancer. Mrs Kirby led a campaign to fund a bench to honour Toby's memory at the school, and it was an opportunity for the family to visit his bench and catch up with some of his former teachers. Efforts to honour Toby's memory continue and his close friend and former PHS student Jack Watkins is running the London marathon in April to raise money towards the Teenage Cancer Trust. If you would like to support his efforts, please find a link to his justgiving page → [here](#).

Finally, I would like to make a polite request on behalf of our local residents. There have been occasions in recent weeks when local residents have been affected by some of our families parking their cars on pavements or blocking driveways when collecting children at the end of the school day. Please can we ask that all of us are considerate of local residents when it comes to the end of the day collection and that we ensure we always park in ways that do not prevent local residents from going about their daily lives



Park House School
Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M King', written in a cursive style.

Mr King
Headteacher