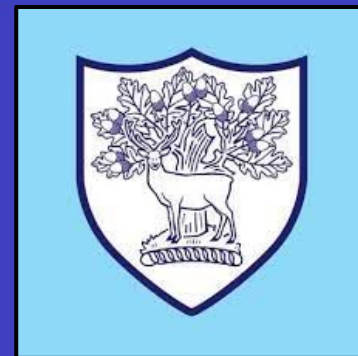




Park Life

3rd Edition



It gives me a sense of enormous well-being

PH Has Got Talent

Tuneful Talents on display

By Staff Reporter

Park House students have been proving themselves born entertainers over the past few weeks with a number of exhibitions of their musical mastery.

During lunchtime on Friday 22nd of March, the main hall became the setting for Fun Friday's first Live Lounge in which students got to showcase a wide range of abilities, ranging from singing to saxophone and dance.

The show started with rendition of Ex Wives from the musical Six by members of year 8 before launching into a guitar recital, Under The Sea from Disney's The Little Mermaid by six formers on the flute and a very popular solo sax performance by Ethan L of year 10. The school band, under the baton of the Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Cooper, then played a piece from their recent performance of Bugsy.



School News

The musical motif continued on Thursday 28th with a round of karaoke. The popular event saw students singing along to classics such as Mr Brightside and Don't Stop Believing by Journey. The ever exuberant twins Tafara and Takunda managed to place themselves centre stage for a raucous rally of Wonderwall by Oasis while the boys of Year 7 got to grips with Let It Go from Disney's Frozen.

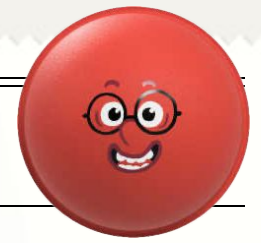


One student who attended said it was the best event yet.

“Everyone was jumping around and hugging and singing at the top of their lungs. I tried to get up on stage but they've had to limit the numbers otherwise people could fall off, I suppose.

“I didn't realise the Year 10 boys were such Frozen fans though, they seemed to know every word. I'm more of an Oasis fan so next time they do Karaoke I'll be up there with Champagne Supernova.”

Red Nose Day



Red Nose Activities

Written by Rueben Jaggard



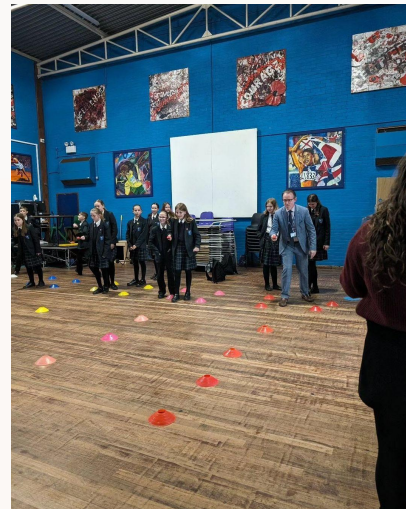
Friday 15th of March, was Comic Relief Red Nose Day! To celebrate the occasion, red noses were being sold alongside red nose themed activities for Fun Friday.

Students that had ordered a Red Nose on ParentPay collected them, and they were also being sold in the orangery at lunch and break.

There were also Red Nose day themed Fun Friday activities in the hall at lunch.

These activities includes Red Nose cookies, and a Red Nose 'n' Spoon race. One of these participants was the well know English teacher, Mr Carolan.

I asked him about what he thought of these Fun Friday activities, and he said, "I had a fantastic time trying to vanquish my enemies in the spoon race but lost by a nose - several red ones, actually!"



RED NOSE DAY



Performance

Brilliant Bugsy

Written by staff reporter



Songs, shootings and splurge guns filled the main hall in early February with the school production of Bugsy Malone. The story of a small-time gangster who negotiates his way through the seedy underground of 1920s New York whilst trying to strike up a relationship with an aspiring singer, all the characters are traditionally played by teens and is accompanied by a selection of catchy songs.

Unsurprisingly, the Park House drama and music team more than rose to the challenge and put on an incredible production. The whole cast did an amazing job but there were some particular standout performances from Eleanor S in her role as the tap dancing cleaner Fizzy and Sienna as the sweet singing Blousey. Isabella C and Flo B also put on confident performances as Bugsy and Tallulah respectively.

At the end of the show the backstage team, who had worked with military style efficiency all evening to ensure the show ran smoothly and efficiently, were rewarded for their work by being covered in foam. Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Cooper, and Mr Sutton were also included in the foamy fracas and ended the evening in a soggy but happy state.

Megan P, part of the backstage team said it was a brilliant end to the show run.

“We just had all this splurge left and it was a shame to waste it. We absolutely covered Mr Sutton but I think he enjoyed it, he was laughing.”

English teacher, Ms Meyer, who attended the final performance of the three day run, said she had thoroughly enjoyed the show.

“I really love the story of Bugsy Malone and the brilliant songs and the students really did it justice. Sienna has such a sweet voice; I think she’d make a good Disney Princess. The boxing scene also stood out as well, I was singing the song all the way home.

“It was the first time my children had seen a live theatre production and they loved it. My daughter got splurged and ended up looking like a cake with a whirl of foam on her head.”

Clubs

Journey into (cyber) Space

Written by Rueben Jaggard



Students from Park House have entered a national competition to get their work sent into space. The Astro Pi competition, as it is known, was started in 2015 when British astronaut Tim Peake took two computers into space with the aim of using them to run scientific experiments dreamt up by young people from across Europe. The competition has grown in popularity with each passing year and, last year, students from Park House School were lucky enough to see their code being sent to the International Space Station for use in the experiments. Mr Philips, Head of Computer Science, hopes to repeat the success again this year.

Computer Science

He says: “This is an excellent opportunity for the students to get involved and have a chance of getting their own code sent into space. When your code has been run on the ISS, you will receive a certificate telling you what your code did in space, and its position in orbit at the time your code was run.”

Students who entered the competition, which closed on March 25th, were advised that this was serious stuff.

“The code needs to be checked before being beamed up to space,” added Mr Philips. “We don’t want bugs to be occurring in the middle of space!”

Phoebe G, a coding club regular, said, “Coding club is an engaging lunchtime club that encourages logical thinking through coding.”

Lucas from Year 11, who took part in last year’s competition, quipped, “I like Pi, you like Pi, we like AstroPi!”



Coding club is run by Mr Phillips in CR1 on Wednesday, Week B.

Extra curricular

Disco Divas

Written by staff reporter



Students from Years 7 and 8 got their boogie on back in March at the school discos.

Following a survey of students at the beginning of the year, which revealed a desire to dance, the events took place in the main hall and were well attended.

The events featured popular music, a light display and a smoke machine, which so successfully filled the hall with smoke that it set the fire alarm off. The students were not perturbed by the alarm, instead believing it to be part of the music.

A Year 8 student said she'd really enjoyed the event.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to come at first but I'm glad I did because it was so much fun.

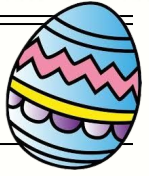
"I really hope they're going to do another one because it's really nice to be able to relax with your friends after working so hard during the day."

Other events suggested during the survey had been more school outings, non uniform day, craft sales, a raffle and a chess tournament, among others.

The student said she and her friends had suggested a trip to go and see the Christmas lights in London at the end of the year.

"All these extra things just really help to bring people together. It's so nice to see everyone enjoying themselves."





Easter Eggstravaganza

- Easter eggs brightly coloured,
- All the lambs dancing in fields,
- Sleepy animals waking up,
- The blossoms budding on the trees,
- Every bird singing a sweet song,
- Rabbits racing through grass.

Poem by Amelie Jaggard



By Imogen Candy

Easter is one of the coolest times of the year! With a load of traditions like chocolate eggs and the Easter bunny but where did they come from?

Easter eggs: eggs represent new life and rebirth. In the mediaeval period, eating eggs was illegal during Lent so on Easter Sunday, tucking into an egg was a real treat!

The Easter bunny: Originating among German Lutherans, the Easter Hare originally played the role of a judge, evaluating whether children were good or bad at the start of the season of Eastertide, similar to the "naughty or nice" list made by Santa.



Easter traditions from around the world:

- In Jamaica they crack eggs on Good Friday that are said to predict the future.
- In Central America they make art with sawdust on Good Friday.
- It's illegal to dance in Germany on Good Friday.
- In Sweden children dress up as Easter Witches on Easter Sunday.

Minibuses

On a roll: new minibuses

Written by Rueben Jaggard



Four new mini buses finally got to work ferry students too and from school. The mini buses had been approved back at the beginning of the previous academic year but only finally made it into service in February.

The fleet of four new Citroen Flexilite minibuses, which came all the way from Scotland, cost £50,000 each, and carrying 17 people per bus.,

Displaying the school's website and logo, it is sure to be a good way of advertising for the school.

Providing an amazing 140bhp, these buses are sure to be rapid. These buses are more luxury than the old Transit and having a fleet of four means more students can go to more places at once.

Which of you will be the first to get a ride in these new minibuses?

I spoke to Mr King, and this is what he had to say about these new minibuses; "I am delighted that we have four new minibuses replacing the two 'very tired' looking buses we had previously. It has been a long wait, originally ordered in September 2022, the lead time for new vehicles is currently hindered by world events, but we are really pleased they are finally here. The buses will enable us to have more flexibility with home to school transport, as well as providing for more opportunities for trips and fixtures to be run."



School trip

Hamnet at The Garrick

Written by Alex and Zack Cruikshank



The bright lights of the West End dazzled a group of students from Park House back in January when they went to watch a performance of Hamnet at The Garrick Theatre.

The trip, organised by Mrs Kirby, head of the tutor time reading programme, was the first of its kind this academic year and the play was chosen as it is one of the books year 10 students will be reading as part of the tutor time programme.

The story of Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell, is a reimagining of Shakespeare's life, in which he is inspired

to write the famous tragedy, Hamlet, by the death of his son. It is billed as "a bond between twins and a marriage pushed to the brink by grief".

Year 10 pupil Alex C said the staging had been remarkable.

"The stage was set up well and the acting was really good. I'm not entirely sure I was that engaged by the story but I could tell they'd put a lot of effort into it."

Alex said his favourite things about the trip had been arriving at the theatre, which he described as very plush and the bus journey home.

He said: "There was a sing along on the way back which was really good fun. It made what could have been a long journey fly past."



House Sports

Sporting success for Chaffey

Written by Rueben Jaggard



House sports have been going on during the run up to Easter, and boy was it a tough game. With house netball for the girls and house football for the boys, every year from Year 11 to Year 7, with football for everyone in 6th Form, has put up an amazing effort for their houses in their respective sport, even though a false fire alarm, and the British weather cut it short for a few. House sports is an excellent way to show the talent that each house from each year group has in either netball or football. So congratulations to everyone who played a part for their house in the sporting activities. Let's see what house sports, and sports day brings in the next coming terms!

We have the winning houses for each year, they are listed below. A massive congratulations to [Chaffey](#) for winning most of their house sports matches so far.

The results were:

Year 7 : The British weather cut it short, so a rematch will be after Easter

Year 8 : 1st - [Chaffey](#), 2nd - [Albert](#), 3rd - [Joseph](#), 4th - [Croft](#)

Year 9: 1st - [Chaffey](#), 2nd - [Albert](#), 2nd - [Joseph](#), 3rd - [Croft](#)

Year 10: TBC

6th Form: 1st - [Chaffey](#), 2nd - [Croft](#), 3rd - [Joseph](#), 4th - [Albert](#)



Dungeons and Dragons club

DND club

Written by Alex Cruickshank



"I backflipped out of a club and a small child waved at me so I shot him with my long bow but I missed." It was probably one of the strangest things I'd overheard at a school club but, as this was Dungeons and Dragons, it did sort of make sense.

Dungeons and Dragons club has been running for the past year and a half under the careful watch of Mr Philips, head of computer science and overlord of the dungeon realm. He decided to start the club as it was a personal hobby of his and a student had requested it.

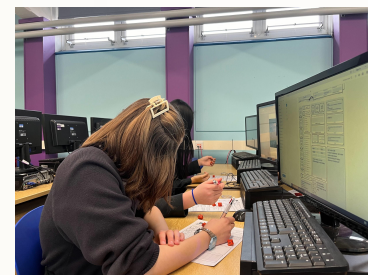
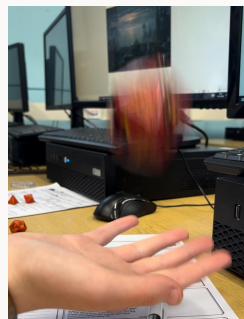
DND, as it is known by aficionados, is a tabletop role playing game in which you play as a character in a fantasy world,

rolling dice to determine whether you destroy your enemies or fall off a cliff. Well, every choice maybe won't be that drastic, but you get the picture. Your character's abilities are determined by statistics such as strength and intelligence.

The club meets every Thursday Week A in CR1.

Ada, a regular participant, says: "If you don't know how to play, it's fine as there are plenty of people there willing to teach you at the club."

But what is Dungeons and Dragons, you may ask? Well, Dungeons and Dragons is an amazing roleplaying game where you can be a fantasy creature in a worlds of magic, adventure, daring do and wild experiences. You gain incredible powers and progress as a character, whether you're throwing yourself into the midst of battle or throwing fireballs from afar, wholesome roleplaying or daring heists, there's something for everyone.



Short Story

The Easter Tree

By Freya Clarke

I always loved to go on Easter walks. Ever since I was a little kid, I loved walking, especially during spring as the leaves were green and the animals came out to play. It was never too hot or too cold either. I could spend ages running around on the grass or playing in the flowers. Even as I grew older and should have been playing it cool, it still had that effect on me. But there was one place that was particularly special to me: a beautiful tree near my house that seemed to glow blue and green, especially around Easter.

I went there any chance I got until I moved away for university but, whenever I could, I came home and would walk there. The tree always felt so magical; its branches were always swarming with wildlife. Butterflies, squirrels and bunnies all around. Sometimes, parents would organise egg hunts and, even though I was now too old to play, I loved to watch the kids run around and try to reach the eggs scattered around. The squirrels helped them to get any eggs hidden in its branches by knocking them down from its boughs.

I will always remember being one of those kids and thinking how lucky I was every time I found an egg with little teeth indents from the squirrels or rabbits. Their fur was always so soft and they were always so gentle.

One day, around the time my parents divorced, the tree was chopped down and suddenly it felt like the foundations of my world had gone. That was definitely a low point in my life but, they say that time heals all. Last year, I went back to the place where the tree had been and discovered the smallest sapling, its tiny leaves glowing green and blue. It felt like a message: sometimes unhappy things happen but the seed of hope never really dies.



Book Review

Two siblings planning an escape from a cruel, unforgiving farm. Will they succeed...

Written by Phoebe G

Where the River Runs Gold is a fictional story set in the dystopian aftermath of a hurricane. The book is about family and how people can adapt and overcome when faced with cruel and powerful leadership.

I liked this book because it was a wonderful mix of fiction and reality. It brings out a range of emotions, from dying of laughter to sobbing all over the pages. It really makes you think how fortunate you are to have a roof over your head and have simple enjoyments like going to the park or meeting up with friends.

To me, this book is empowering. It encourages young people to speak up for themselves and fight for their rights. It deals with lots of modern themes and is totally engrossing due to the compelling storyline. Not only is it a thrilling adventure, it is also relatable in some ways. For example, the author alludes to climate change and the class system.

Hurricane Chronos has devastated this future world and now the organisation, Freedom Fields, is in charge. After learning the basics at school, children are separated from everything they know and sent to work at one of the pollination farms.

The main characters are Themba and Shifa, a brother and sister, who were coincidentally placed on the same Freedom Fields farm. Up until then, they had lived with their father Nabile who loved to teach them how to plant flowers beneath the wrecked railroad. Another character is Luca who has a bitter demeanor at first, but slowly warms up during the story. In my opinion all the characters are very caring towards others even through the rough times. All except the cold-hearted owners of Freedom Fields, that is!

The farm Shifa and Themba are sent to is hard and cruel. Fearing Themba won't survive, Shifa comes up with a plan to break them out and the real adventure begins.



Pictures and puzzles

Sudoku

WARNING! answers on the next page!

6	8			4				7
4					6	3	9	2
		3	7	1			4	
9		8	1	5	4			
		2	8				6	
7	3		9	6				
	9	6						1
			3	9			7	
	1			2			3	9

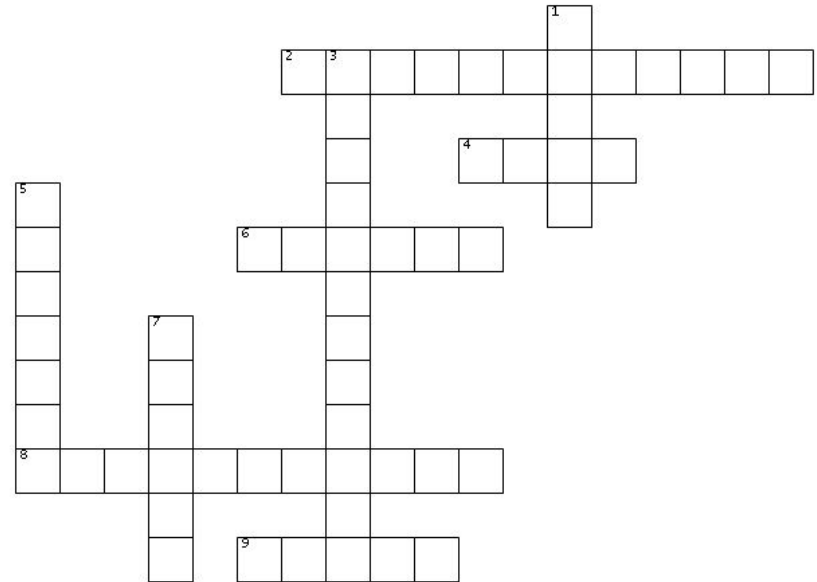
Word Search *Eleven words to find. All easter themed.*

U E E T Q T D A A K K C Y E H
Y C A B N J B Y S B R A T H O
E G G S Y E E E L O D A Z C T
L Y S B N B L S S N L A Z R Y
E R S C N Z P S U O A O A U H
N Z Q N U D B S C S J E Q H G
W N P Y B U R O T S I R H C B
R P C K N S H E F G V M G X X
Y M K S I C K K T X N P C W N
B D Z E U Z B Z A S T Q Z G F
S C C D J J Z Y C E A L S F P
W I A B W U V U Z P C E H R R
J O V O Z C P P U A U Q F W H
O S M I D V I Q Y X T K K X T
L R Z Q A Q M G B T T K Y M Y

Words:

Bunny
Church
Eggs
Lent
Chocolate
Cross Buns
Hot
Sunday
Christ
Easter
Jesus

Crossword



ACROSS

2. Beloved Easter snack
4. The part leading up to Easter
6. Gods sons last name
8. Easters mascot
9. Gods sons last name

DOWN

1. What's on the Easter egg
3. A treat with a cross
5. This food has a day during Lent
7. Holiday with egg

Pictures and puzzles

Sudoku answers

6	8	9	2	4	3	5	1	7
4	7	1	5	8	6	3	9	2
5	2	3	7	1	9	6	4	8
9	6	8	1	5	4	7	2	3
1	4	2	8	3	7	9	6	5
7	3	5	9	6	2	1	8	4
3	9	6	4	7	8	2	5	1
2	5	4	3	9	1	8	7	6
8	1	7	6	2	5	4	3	9

Word Search Answers.

U	E	E	T	Q	T	D	A	A	K	K	C	Y	E	H
Y	C	A	B	N	J	B	Y	S	B	R	A	T	H	O
E	G	G	S	Y	E	E	L	O	D	A	Z	C	T	
L	Y	S	B	N	B	L	S	S	N	L	A	Z	R	Y
E	R	S	C	N	Z	P	S	U	O	A	O	A	U	H
N	Z	Q	N	U	D	B	S	C	S	J	E	Q	H	G
W	N	P	Y	B	U	R	O	T	S	I	R	H	C	B
R	P	C	K	N	S	H	E	F	G	V	M	G	X	X
Y	M	K	S	I	C	K	K	T	X	N	P	C	W	N
B	D	Z	E	U	Z	B	Z	A	S	T	Q	Z	G	F
S	C	C	D	J	J	Z	Y	C	E	A	L	S	F	P
W	I	A	B	W	U	V	U	Z	P	C	E	H	R	R
J	O	V	O	Z	C	P	P	U	A	U	Q	F	W	H
O	S	M	I	D	V	I	Q	Y	X	T	K	K	X	T
L	R	Z	Q	A	Q	M	G	B	T	T	K	Y	M	Y

Crossword answers.

Across

2. Chocolate egg
4. Lent
6. Christ
8. Easter Bunny
9. Jesus

Down

1. Paint
3. Hot Cross Buns
5. Pancake
7. Easter

Credits:

Zach Cruickshank
 Alex Cruickshank
 Rueben Jaggard
 Amelie Jaggard
 Phoebe Gittins
 Ada Liang
 Freya Clarke
 Adam Markiewicz



By Megan Pye