



Letter from the Head 20/9/24

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to share with you the highlights of what has been a great week here at PHS

On Wednesday, we held an incredible Open Evening, with an overwhelming turnout from local families and prospective students. The Main Hall was twice filled to capacity, and there was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the evening. I would like to extend a special thank you to our student helpers, who did an outstanding job representing Park House. Their enthusiasm and dedication truly reflect the positive spirit of our school.

Clubs have really taken off this week and we have seen superb numbers turning out for the various activities on offer at lunchtime and after school. Please remind your children that it is never too late to get involved, they need to check the extra curricular timetable, and come along to any of the activities on offer.

Sports fixtures have been plentiful this week;

- The year 7 girls had their first football matches in the district leagues and playing with smiles throughout the evening, both teams enjoyed a mix of wins, draws and losses. They even had Buddy pitchside offering his support!
- Our Year 8 boys football team have started their National Cup campaign in fine fashion with a 3-0 win over local rivals Trinity School.
- The Year 9 girls started their District football competition with a win, a draw and a loss against a number of local schools.
- The Year 10 boys football team enjoyed a 5-0 win over Aldworth School in their 1st round of the National cup.
- The Year 10 boys rugby team also enjoyed a positive start to their season with a 46-0 win over Court Moor School in round one of their national cup.

Also this week we had the pleasure of hosting St Hilda's School from Argentina who are currently in the UK on their music tour. A Year 9 audience were treated to a variety of performances from the talented musicians and also enjoyed the pleasure of their company during social time. It was a lovely opportunity for our students to learn more about other cultures.

The highlight of the week has got to be the first round of Matilda auditions that took place on Tuesday. Off the back of last years' 'Bugsy Malone' success, the interest in this year's production is huge and the excitement that the auditions have brought has added to it! I wish the best of luck to all those vying for a part in the production. Based on previous experience, everything that comes out of performing arts is super high quality, and I am sure this production will be no different. I cannot wait to see it in the new year. Details regarding ticketing will be released soon.

On a more logistical note, I would like to remind all parents and carers about our Attendance Policy, particularly in relation to term-time holidays. In line with guidance from the Department of Education, we are unable to authorise term-time holidays unless under exceptional circumstances. These typically include:

- ❖ Parental leave dictated for service children
- ❖ Holidays arranged and paid for by children's social care
- ❖ Holidays arranged by charitable organisations such as the Make a Wish Foundation



Park House School

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- ❖ Blue light staff (NHS clinical, police, paramedics, fire brigade) where holidays are dictated, and proof can be provided.

We understand that holiday prices are often higher during school breaks, but unfortunately, this does not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your children maintain high levels of attendance throughout the school year.

Lastly, I would like to remind parents that Friday 27th October is a staff INSET day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make Park House a thriving and successful community. I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher