



Letter from the Head 27/9/24

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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 at PHS.

As you all know, attendance is one of our key priorities this year at Park House. We have set a target of 95% or higher attendance for all students as this has been shown to be a key predictor of both happiness and success in school. To support this, we have introduced a new initiative—our termly attendance raffles. Every student who achieves 100% attendance between Monday and Friday each week is entered for the chance to win some fantastic prizes at the end of term. The more weeks they have 100%, the more chances they have of winning. We are looking forward to celebrating our first round of winners at the end of this term!

Assessment windows are another key area I want to highlight. It's important for parents and students to be aware of upcoming assessment dates to ensure everyone is well-prepared. Please take note of the following:

Mid year assessments begin;

Year 7: w/c Monday 20th January

Year 8 w/c Monday 13th January

Year 9 w/c Tuesday 7th January

Year 10 and 12 w/c Monday 2nd December

Year 11 and 13 - First round of mock exams w/c Tuesday 5th November

Full details of this year's assessment schedule can be found on the website [here](#).

Although a shortened week due to staff training on Friday, we still managed to squeeze in a number of trips with the Year 11 GCSE Geography dodging the showers and battling the gusty winds to complete their field work trip to Studland Bay and acquire key data ahead of the coursework element of their GCSE assessment.

Our sixth form students had an overnight stay in Youlbury, Oxfordshire to spend time working on team building exercises and better acquaint themselves with their peers under canvas and around a campfire!

Despite the poor weather, we have had another bumper week of fixtures with a number of football and rugby matches taking place across the school;

- Our Year 7 and 8 girls football team had a tough start to the season with a County cup loss against St Barts, but played with lots of heart and big smiles throughout.
- The Year 7 boys team kicked off their national cup campaign with a comprehensive 6-2 win away at Brighton Hill.
- The Year 8 boys rugby team started well in their League competition with a 25-5 win over St Barts.
- The cross country team endured incredibly tough conditions in the event at St Gabs on Wednesday. We await details of the final results, but the PE department reports some fine effort and tremendous resilience on show!



Park House School

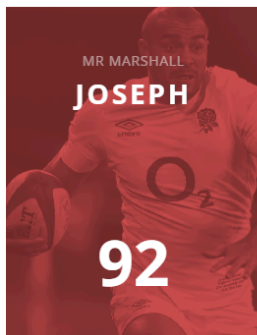
Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.

- The Year 11 boys football team bowed out of the national cup at the hands of an experienced and physical St Brinius school from Didcot.
- The Year 11 boys rugby team had a successful start to the season with 12-0 and 8-0 wins over the 6th form teams from Leighton Park School and Claires Court School. The team's combination of tenacity and high skill levels bode well for the year ahead.

In addition to their exploits on the field this week, we also had two groups of sports students invited to Arlington Arts on Wednesday for the West Berkshire School Sports Awards. I am delighted to share with you that both our Year 10 Sports team and Sports leaders group were successful in their categories and proudly received awards for all of their efforts over the last 12 months. A deserved acknowledgement of all of their hard work and commitment. Furthermore, our Year 11 dancers provided entertainment at the event and treated the audience to two exceptional performances.



Our first House competition, the MFL challenge concluded on Thursday and we await the results from Mr Marshall. Next week sees attention turn to literacy skills and the Spelling bee competition!



Thank you all for your continued support. We are off to a fantastic start this term, and I look forward to sharing more successes with you in the coming weeks.

I wish you all a lovely weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher