



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our Newsletter

Autumn 1, October 2020

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020 – 2021. I hope you enjoy learning about all the exciting work we have been doing.

Thank you for your support, it has been challenging co existing with Covid-19. We have tried to keep you informed about any outbreaks and after the initial cases I am pleased to say our staff teams are nearing 100% fit and well. The anxiety around living with Covid-19 is difficult so if you feel you need any support with understanding guidance or attending school during these times please get in touch. My job is to help and I work with a great team who care and do some amazing work. We have more technology and to hand out if this would help virtual learning, we will be sending a very quick survey soon so we can get this kit out to you all in case of any further virtual teaching.

For all the latest news and celebrations including a Parent Governor role look on our websites.

www.phoenixparkacademy.co.uk
www.sevenhillsacademy.co.uk

Governors View
John Cottingham, Chair of Governors, 'We are all going through tough times which seem never ending. I am pleased to report continued success at Sevenhills and Phoenix Park Academies. Our GCSE outcomes in the summer were excellent. The refurbished Sevenhills site reopened as planned at the beginning of term and has been transformed. New staff members have settled in well and are effectively delivering learning, both face to face in school and virtually when needed. Covid-19 is inevitably affecting how we work, but I am satisfied the team are making it as safe as possible for students and staff.'

I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Phil Hutchinson

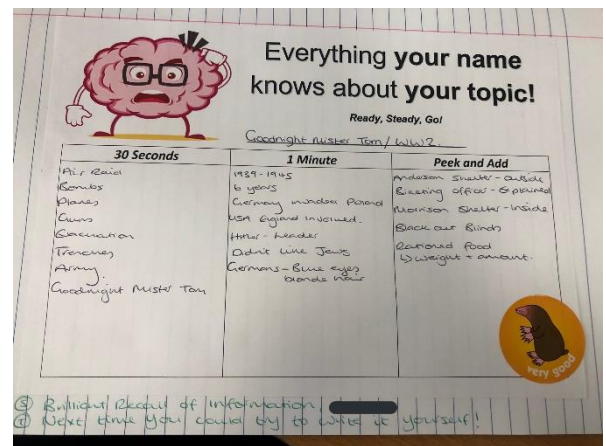
Executive Principal

Phoenix House



In science this half term, students in KS3 have followed a big question 'How do we keep ourselves healthy?' in the topic Health and Exercise. During the lessons, they have taken part in a number of experiments including dissecting a pig's heart and burning foods to find out which burns the most energy. There has been a clear increase in engagement and interest in this subject.

This year, a focus for the school is developing retrieval skills in a range of ways through teaching and learning. The focus is well underway, with 'brain dumps' in Key Stage 2, where students thoroughly enjoyed shouting out everything they can remember about their topic in a set time. In Key Stage 3 we are trialing 'Retrieval Friday', where children have specifically set questions around what they have learnt during the week.

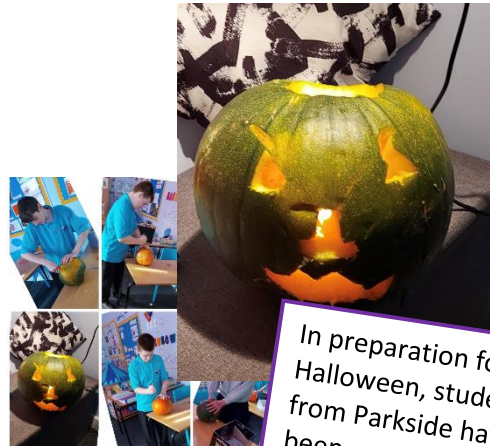


In Key Stage 2, the students have engaged very well with the story 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. There has been some great progress made, which has been shown in the end of term assessments. As well as their English lessons, the students have been learning Spanish! They understand the numbers 1-10 and aware of words to use for greeting others!

It has been a challenging half term, with some students (and staff) needing to self-isolate at certain points. However, there has been some brilliant home learning and teaching happening, with virtual cooking lessons, home P.E and online maths lessons amongst others.

Park House

Students were given the opportunity to experience spinning the tunes during Noise Academy's taster session, we have a few budding David Guettas in the building!

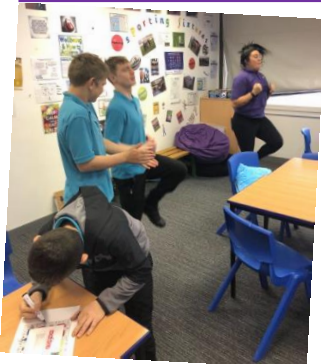


In preparation for Halloween, students from Parkside have been carving out pumpkins.



During our Sports sessions students have experienced a range of different activities this Term.

Mr Mansfield and Miss Dobson have incorporated Fitness Monopoly and Street Cricket into their sessions, which have been extremely popular with students.



Our Construction group have been working hard on the first Unit of their Qualification, Bricklaying Skills. They have built a wall eight courses high.

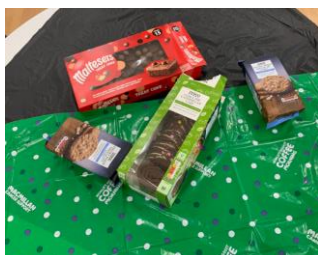


Sevenhills

Students have enjoyed a really positive start back to school and the half term has been full of excitement: returning after such a long time away, welcoming new staff members who been such a welcome addition to our school family and of course, celebrating and enjoying the amazing new and improved facilities. The outside space in particular has been used as part of the curriculum in KS4 and has been a welcome area to help our wellbeing.

Thank you as ever to the parents and carers who have supported us through this half term and we look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Autumn 1 has focused on supporting students SEMH needs to reintegrate them back into education and routines. This has been achieved through nurturing support, personalisation of learning and embedding life skills alongside our academy curriculum. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this recovery blend.



We held a Macmillan morning and celebrated mental health day, in order to raise awareness and support agencies.

Haven have demonstrated the importance of building strong relationships. Pupils have thoroughly engaged with the blended offer of school based work and educational visits to broaden horizons.



School closes for half term on Friday 23rd October 2020 and we return on Monday 2nd November 2020. Please keep safe and follow the Government guidance during half term. We look forward to seeing you after a well-earned rest.