



PARK HALL ACADEMY

The Chronicle



- Member of The Youth Parliament for Solihull
- Fashion show for Help Harry Help Others
- The Hidden Mathematics of Sport
- Academy Radio goes live!
- Pamper Evening for Parents
- Cabin Club, Liverpool performance





A letter from the Principal



Tony Morrison
Principal

We would like to welcome you to the eighth edition of the Park Hall Chronicle. The hard work of this year's Editorial Team has resulted in a detailed and creative account of the last term. The cover photograph shows James being congratulated by Irene Chamberlain, The Mayor of Solihull following his election to the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. The articles in this issue illustrate so well the wide range of opportunities available to our students both out there in the wider world and within the Academy.

Park Hall Academy has gone from strength to strength in so many ways this year. For the third year running exam results have improved, with the class of 2010 – 2011 achieving our best ever results in both the Sixth Form and Year 11.

An elite group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students recently achieved the prestigious Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards in The Mathematics National Challenge and will now compete in the Regional Finals and a group of our students were invited to perform on the stage at the World famous Liverpool Cavern Club, where the Beatles first made their name. The pupils were selected to play at a concert to celebrate the 55th birthday of the opening of the Cavern Club. Always keen to put something back into society our students have raised money for local and national charities throughout the year as well as developing projects within the local community such as the Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council sensory garden which is located on the village green and our performing artists produced the outstanding show 'Narnia'. All in all an impressive record!

These are just a few of the many achievements made by Park Hall students during what has been a hugely successful year. I would like to thank everyone who made it possible – staff, parents/carers and Governors.

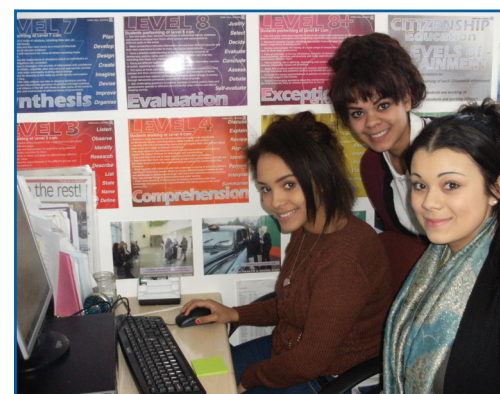
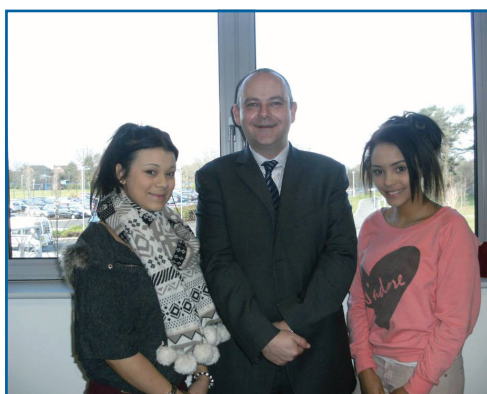
To our students, we want you to know how brilliantly you have done and how proud we are of you.

Well done!

Tony Morrison (Principal)

Chronicle Editorial Team 2012

For the fifth edition of the Park Hall Academy Chronicle we would like to thank Shannon Coulson, Makyla Christopher and Lannay Tooze for their work and contributions which have transformed the initial idea into reality. The students are representatives from the Media Studies AS Level group and were supported by a number of other students from the group. The transferable skills that these students have been able to draw upon have brought 'The Chronicle' to life. If you would like us to feature an article in 'The Chronicle' about our students or an aspect of community please get in touch with Dr. Lesley Browne on 0121 748 0400.





James Hunt (MYP) United Kingdom Youth Parliament

We are thrilled to be able to announce that James Hunt was confirmed as the Member of The Youth Parliament for Solihull at a celebration event at the Library Theatre on Tuesday 29.02.12. James was presented with a certificate by Councillor Rebeiro (Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Board) and Irene Chamberlain, The Mayor of Solihull. This means that James will now represent Solihull and Park Hall Academy on Solihull Youth Council, West Midlands Youth Council and on the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. We would also like to congratulate Alex and Billy, who attend our partner school Arden Academy on their election as Deputy Members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and to congratulate them on becoming members of Solihull Youth Council and Natasha who was also elected as the Member of The Youth Parliament for Solihull. Similarly to the Adult Parliament Solihull has two MYPs and Birmingham has ten MYPs which is a reflection of the population of each constituency.



Pictured at the ceremony:- Councillor Rebeiro (Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Board), James (MYP), Irene Chamberlain, The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts, Deputy Mayor of Solihull, Natasha (MYP) and Councillor Tildsey.



James will now attend the Annual Sitting of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament in June at Nottingham University where he will contribute to national debates and be involved in high level policy decisions. He will also have the honour of attending the Annual Debate of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament in The House of Commons in November 2012. The UKYP is the only other group allowed to debate in The House of Commons and the five debates are chaired by John Bercow, The Speaker of The House of Commons and televised on BBC Parliament Channel.

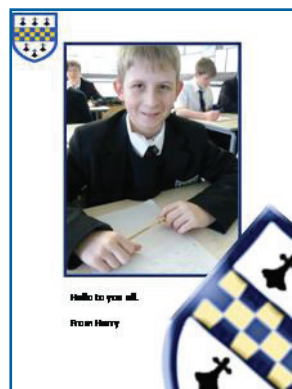
James has also been invited to the Education Scrutiny Board Meeting by Councillor Rebeiro. This really is an outstanding achievement and we would like to congratulate James on his election success. He really is a credit to Park Hall Academy. Thank you to everyone who voted for James in the UKYP elections and those who helped organise the election, they played a significant role in enabling one of their own to become MYP for Solihull.



Dear Bangladesh ...

We are delighted to inform you that our students have recently sent letters to their counterparts in Bangladesh. Park Hall students were extremely excited about corresponding with children from the Azad Choudhury Academy and are looking forwards to finding out about education in Bangladesh and about the young people's families and future careers. Mrs Monika Badham kindly agreed to deliver our letters personally in February and came into school in March to deliver two assemblies to our students and letters from the children at the Azad Choudhury Academy. Our students enclosed a copy of the last Chronicle for each child and a personalised photograph.

Park Hall Academy is extremely keen to develop our links with the Azad Choudhury School and are thrilled to be able to establish opportunities for Park Hall students to write to their counterparts in Bangladesh to celebrate and share their experiences as young people on opposite sides of the world today.



Top and bottom right: Writing letters to Park Hall and Azad Choudhury students
Right: to celebrate Monika's arrival each child was given an orange – a very special treat!



Middle right: Parvez, who is the School Captain with his family – he is the first member of his family to be able to go to school (he is also the pen friend of Chloe)





Academic News

Further Maths Conference - The Hidden Mathematics of Sport



A very enthusiastic group of 14, year 10 students visited Solihull Sixth Form College to take part in a Further Mathematics Conference; Maths in Sport. The afternoon consisted of different seminars which included balloon model making, decision making and solving puzzles, ending with an inspirational talk from Rob Eastaway on The Hidden Mathematics of Sport. Did you know that when Dame Kelly Holmes, won her two gold medals at the 2004 Olympics she ran 8 metres further than any other competitor because she ran the whole race in the second and third lanes. Maths considers all these issues and many more. The learners had a really enjoyable afternoon, with Gazal Raii winning a prize for one of the best entries for the quiz. Both Andrew Evans and Joseph Cairnes contributed greatly throughout the last session. All learners left the conference wanting to pursue Mathematics to A Level and a couple want to study Mathematics at Higher Education.

Mathematics National Challenge

The Mathematics National Challenge took place in February 2012 at Park Hall Academy. Nineteen of our students from year 9,10 and 11 took part and we are absolutely delighted to announce that three of our students achieved the Gold award, one Silver and two Bronze. This is a superb achievement and everyone deserves to be congratulated. These students have consequently been invited to take part in Regional Maths Challenge in King Edward Grammar School. Good luck to them all, however it doesn't sound as if luck will be needed!



BP Enterprising Science Day



On Tuesday 28th February BP came in to deliver a session explaining the role of an Oil Trader. Sixty Gifted and Talented Year 9 and 10 students had an opportunity to work in teams, competing to trade oil and make a profit, whilst demonstrating their mathematical and enterprise skills - and the personal qualities that contribute towards success in business.

Students enjoyed the day thoroughly and gained a great deal from this day. Mrs Davies was very proud of her classes that were demonstrating their understanding of how Crude Oil is used in everyday life from the very beginning of the enterprising event.

Christmas Science Lectures

Park Hall attended the Christmas Science lectures in December with 100 students. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot, the students particularly enjoyed the 'Am I an Ape' lecture and said they all had a wonderful day. We hope to take year 8 students to the Summer Science Lecture later in the year.



Partnership with Lycee R. Schuman School, France

The French Department is excited about developing its partnership with Lycee R. Schuman in Cholet, France. Our current Year 11 pupils made a first class DVD to send to the school introducing Park Hall Academy and its staff to the pupils in Cholet. Meanwhile the pupils in Cholet have been very busy making brochures about their town for us to use in our lessons.





Academic News

History - Castle Competition

“After William won the Battle of Hastings his Normans began to build castles all over England. This helped him to control the country and stop any rebellions that might try to get rid of him. First he built the Motte and Bailey castles because they were the quickest and cheapest to build. After William’s death, other Kings and Queens ordered castles to be built. The castles were called Stone Keep castles and were made from stone.

For our half term homework we had to build a castle of our own. The best castles were entered into a competition and the rest of the class had to vote for their favourite. In my class I got a few votes but Jade Commander was the winner in 7b2.” - Molly Sansoni.



Creative Geography

The year 8 geography students have been studying plate tectonics and natural hazards during the spring term. Several students have completed some excellent creative work on volcanoes as can be seen from some of the superb models which were exceptional additions to a wide range of wonderful work. Well done! George Pleseter, Demi Hodson, Jack Bagshaw, Ellie Batterham, Siobhan Merriman and Jade Avery-Smith

My favourite lesson
by Courtney Christopher
(year 8)

My favourite lesson is English. I like poems and writing stories and learning new techniques to do this. The teachers plan good lessons and make learning fun. A lot of the time my teachers get us to do role plays which recently have been based on The Canterbury Tales and Romeo and Juliet.

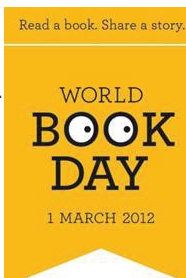
Promoting Literacy at Park Hall Academy

Everyone is reading! Teachers are displaying their favourite books around the school to highlight to pupils the importance of reading and the variety of books out there.



Spelling Bee!

We are preparing ourselves for another fantastic attempt on the national Spelling competition. Look out for the spelling bee edition of The Times near summer, when the Park Hall Academy spellers will have their names published.



World Book Day

The school thoroughly supported this year’s World Book day, every pupil was given their £1 book token and took part in creating a book mark for a national competition.



Community News

Christmas Party for Jubilee Gardens



Everyone was really looking forward to the Christmas Party on Tuesday 6th December and could not wait to meet our visitors from Jubilee Gardens to arrive. A lot of planning had gone into the event. Sixth Form students helped to plan the event and the Health & Social Care students made Christmas cards and prepared the tables and Christmas decorations for our visitors. Sixth Form students wrapped the presents, collected flowers and put up the decorations and the Performing Arts students prepared carols and a performance of their GCSE production for our special visitors. The catering staff did us proud by putting on a lovely spread that was enjoyed by all.

Our very special guests arrived early on Tuesday afternoon and were greeted by staff and Sixth Form students. It was a real treat to see our young men and women take the arm of each visitor and escort them to the Party. Everyone was really excited and thoroughly enjoyed looking after their guest for the afternoon! Once everyone was settled our guests from Jubilee Gardens were served by their own personal attendant (Sixth Form students). The boys and girls carried plates of food and then sat down to chat to their guests. Our guests and students learned a lot about each other's lives and really got to know each other well. Interestingly some of our Sixth Form students have since visited Jubilee Gardens and thoroughly enjoyed chatting to their new friends.



Pamper Evening for Parents

On Monday February 6th Park Hall academy held a Pampering Evening for parents. Members of Park Hall staff, Parents and Students were all on hand to offer treats such as, hand massage, nail painting, hair up do's, facials and make up. Outside agencies such as Solihull College, You + and Solihull neighbourhood Sports were also on hand to give advice on healthy lifestyles, courses and events that are available locally. The evening was a great success and the feedback from all of those who attended was excellent. We hope to run more events like these so please, if you have any ideas that you would like to put forward, please contact Teresa Mayes Child and family Support 0121 748 0400 EXT 4105



Community Christmas Party

Park Hall worked hand in hand with local community groups to give over 150 children an extra happy Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of the pupils and of the parents of Park Hall together with many of the local residents, Father Christmas had many gifts to distribute and not a single child left empty handed. On behalf of the children a very big thank you to all those involved.





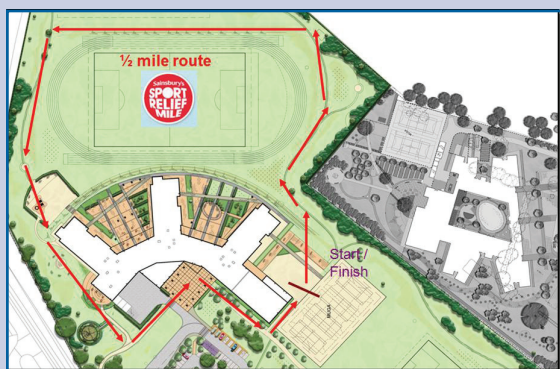
Charity News

Fashion show for Help Harry Help Others



The Fashion Show is the brain-child of the Year 12 BTEC Award in Creative Media Production students. They are working on a unit of work which requires them to create a documentary and they decided they would like to make a documentary about the process of organising a fashion and selling bracelets, in order to fundraise for the Help Harry Help Others Charity.

Does a new Sport Relief record beckon?



On March 23rd Park Hall staff and students will kick off the Sport relief weekend by trying to beat the records that they set raising money for Sport relief in 2010. On that occasion Park Hall's sixth formers organised an event where throughout the day volunteers from all four houses ran half mile circuits around the school, grounds. The aim was to cover (between us) the 'coast to coast' distance of 180 miles. By the end of the day students and staff had covered that distance more than five times over and had actually covered the distance from John O'Groats to Lands End! In so doing students raised £2,646.00 for Sport Relief.

This year students aim to cover the distance it would take to run around all of the Premier League football grounds in the country – a distance of 807 miles! We aim to raise even more money for a very good cause. Any students wanting to volunteer for the event are able to take part. Students are also invited to wear football shirts to take part as we aim to find which club has the fittest supporters. (Last time round Aston Villa Supporters beat Birmingham City supporters by 53 participants to 45.)

We aim to raise a serious amount of money for this excellent cause.



Sutton Coldfield Autism Support Group

Park Hall Academy is supporting a charity set up by parents with autistic children in 1986.

"We are here to offer you help on many subjects including toileting issues, special needs/mainstream schools, dietary advice, Statement of Special educational Needs, repetitive behaviour, plus much more. The children whose parents attend our group have an age range of 3 to 54 years, so it is easy to see how we can offer support on so many issues. Meetings are held every Wednesday during school term time, from 10am to 12pm Here we meet members new and old, to share information and help, and have a good chat over a cuppa. This is a great way to make friends, share problems, pass on advice; but more than that they help one not feel so isolated; no-one is there to pass judgement on you as we are all in the same boat. Please feel free to bring someone with you when you come to a meeting. We love to meet family members and friends. Once a month, on a Monday evening we hold a formal meeting, from 7.30pm to 9pm (please see our website for details). It involves a professional guest speaker coming to talk to us on a variety of subjects, for e.g. speech and language, disability charities etc. We also do fun stuff! We have an annual children's Christmas party, to which the whole family is invited, day trips and fund-raising events. I hope this gives a little insight into what we can offer. Please check out our website and join us on Facebook."





Academy Radio

Academy Radio went live across the Academy and within the community online in November 2011.

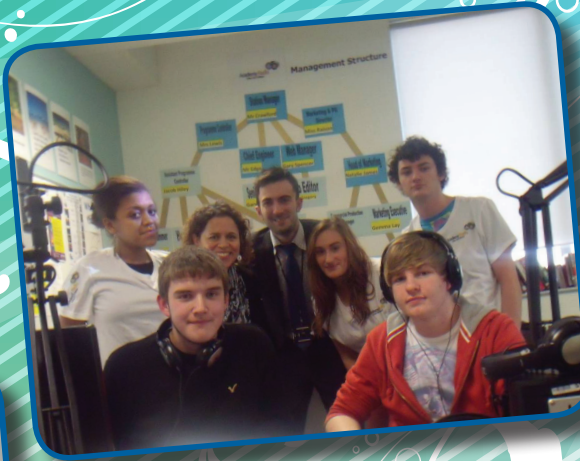
Famous names share their skills with Park Hall students. A host of famous names from the rRdio Industry joined us throughout the week including Mark O'Sullivan, (Touch FM) Elliott Webb, (BBC Radio) Tammy Gooding (BBC Radio) and Russ Morris (BRMB) who came in to cut the ribbon.

We really appreciated them joining us to work with students on their broadcasting skills and guest hosting on our 'Brekkie' shows. Students gained a great insight into the radio industry and found the coaching from industry professionals really useful. We even had the Press in the Academy and we featured in several newspapers including the Birmingham Mail.



Academy Radio is now well and truly up and running with students presenting live programmes across the day and reporting the latest Academy, community and national news and sport as it happens.

You can also get in touch with us to request your favourite songs and give us some feedback on what we are doing and what you'd like to hear us talking about. You can now add us on facebook and follow us on twitter @academy_radio.



Academy
Like No C



Switch Radio

Year 12 BTEC students are currently studying the radio industry and as part of their current assignment must demonstrate an understanding of the difference between Commercial radio, BBC radio and Community radio. In order to develop their understanding we visited Switch FM in Castle Vale where students met with Neil Hollins the station manager and were involved in a Q&A session about how the station is structured. Students met with volunteers and employees and sat in on some live radio broadcasts. As a result of their visit students have produced some excellent comparative work on the radio industry and will be visiting again to broadcast live their own radio programme creations. Students are now looking forward to a visit to the BRMB radio studios.



Our Academy Radio Christmas reindeer competition kept students guessing in the build up to the Christmas holidays with many tutor groups winning chocolate prizes for their forms. We've got lots more competitions lined up ready to go and we have a fresh stock of CD albums to give away on air so stay tuned for more info!



Radio
Other



Academy News



Debate Team Success

Park Hall's Debate Mate team have got off to a flying start, following the first round of the Urban Debate League. Two teams of five students were entered and performed exceptionally, debating over two topics; curfews for under 15s and euthanasia. They had little time to prepare, and had to work together carefully to form well structure arguments, and then think on their feet as they offered counter-points to competing schools. It was a very successful competition, our debaters won every competition, leaving champions and finding themselves on the Urban Debate Mate National Leader Board. Congratulations, and bring on round two!

Merit Cheque Tuck Shop

Students who had gained 25 merits or more were treated to a merit cheque, entitling them to a variety of sweets, stationary and stickers! Students eagerly lined up to receive their well-earned prizes. Watch this space for the text tuck shop and keep collecting those merits!



Celebrating at the Sea Life Centre

On Tuesday 21st February, students who had worked exceptionally hard throughout the year were treated to a trip to Birmingham Sea Life Centre. Encountering all sorts of weird and wonderful creatures including Sharks, Jellyfish and clownfish, it was a fantastic and informative day out. Highlights include handling crabs, tickling sea enemies and a '4D' cinema experiences that surprised us with squirts of water and rumbling seats. Students who want to be in with a chance for the next rewards trip should ensure they are collecting plenty of merits and positive sleuths. Well done to all our rewards students!



GCSE Citizenship

Park Hall attended the Christmas Science lectures in December with 100 students. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot, the students particularly enjoyed the 'Am I an Ape' lecture and said they all had a wonderful day. We hope to take year 8 students to the Summer Science Lecture later in the year.



Promoting Primary Links

We are looking forward to the spring and summer terms as they will provide more opportunities for Park Hall staff to work with pupils from our main feeder schools. There will be some creative workshops involving Castle Bromwich Junior students who will be working with Mr Henderson on a photography project. St Mary & St Margaret's will get a feel for the African drums in support of the end of year music concert with the help of the Music department at Park Hall. As the summer arrives, and the weather becomes fairer, Mr Noorani will be offering tennis coaching to year five students and the science department will be leading a project on the anatomy of animals. These will all lead up to our induction days where our new intake for year seven will get to experience life at Park Hall for two days in summer.

As part of their Citizenship coursework campaign, some students from group 11a3cz went to Castle Bromwich Junior School on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd February 2012. They ran a session on personal safety with year 5 pupils, which included raising awareness of theft and how to keep property safe in and around school. The students from both CBJs and Park Hall Academy were polite, well-mannered and respectful and the session was a success. Many positive comments were made about the content of the presentation and the accompanying activities and all pupils learnt a lot from the visit. We

were invited back to run further sessions in the future: so here's to a successful future partnership with CBJs!





Academy News



Park Hall Academy celebrated apprenticeship week with a number of initiatives aimed at Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Apprenticeships allow you to work and study, thus gaining a recognized qualification that employers really value. Students were actively encouraged to investigate and attend apprentice workshops

during the week and register their interest within their chosen career paths. Park Hall students also had an insight into the four Stages of the Learning Journey through apprenticeships; this was presented by Bellis Training, Birmingham who looked at Foundation Learning, Access To Apprenticeship, Intermediate Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship. If you require any further information with regards to apprentices please contact Mr.Noorani or Mrs Smith.

Peer Support Mentors take over Assemblies



A group of Park Hall students became the first to request, prepare and deliver their own week of Assemblies to students from all four houses. Park Hall's peer support mentors are a group of students who initially came together out of a desire to help other students experiencing difficulties. Their hope was that some students would feel more comfortable talking through their problems with someone of a similar age. They underwent six weeks of training

with the children's society to prepare them for the role. The group, which runs at Park Hall with the help of Miss Claff, meets once a week on a Thursday lunchtime in BG4 with an open invitation to any students experiencing difficulties.



Starting secondary school
by Lauryn Boone (year 7)

When I started Park Hall Academy in September it was pretty scary meeting new people and not knowing what the teachers or older pupils were like. However we soon found out that the teachers were kind and very helpful. They weren't easily frustrated and were very patient. The older pupils and other pupils in year 7 were actually very welcoming. Some of them even showed me where to go when I got lost! The lessons were fine and I was put into a class with others at the same ability as me so we all learn at the same speed. I really like Park Hall Academy and I hope to learn as much as possible!

Psychology- Are you a Night Owl or an Early Bird?

Year 13 Psychology students have spent the last four weeks studying Biological rhythms. These are bodily processes (such as the sleep wake cycle) that are regulated by internal body clocks. Students have been looking at a range of psychological studies including one by Michel Siffre (who lived in a cave for sixth months to see what would happen to his daily sleep / wake cycle) and Patricia Decoursey (who removed the 'body clocks' of chipmunks to see if it effected their survival chances).

One interesting study by J.F.Duffy suggested that people can be categorised as 'Early birds' or 'Night Owls' depending on their internal body clocks. 'Early Birds' prefer to rise early (6.00am) and go to bed early (10.00pm) and enjoy peak performance earlier in the day. 'Night Owls' prefer to rise late (10.00am) and go to bed later (1.00am) and enjoy their peak performance in the late afternoon or early evening. Unsurprisingly (for a group of teenagers) our psychology class contained a lot more night owls than early birds!

Why not try a Daily Rhythm test at

www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep/crt/





Academy Sport

Swimming

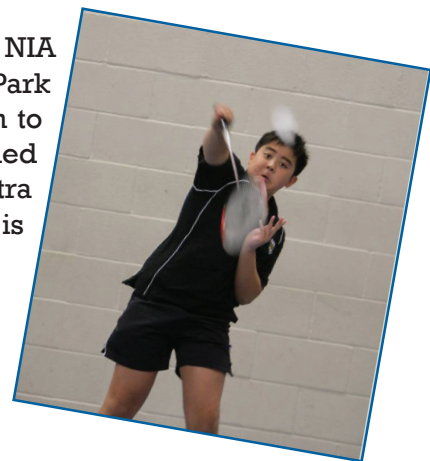
The Physical Education Department are currently holding trials for years 7, 8 and 9 to choose four students to represent Park Hall Academy in The North Solihull Swimming Competition. We have completed the year 7 trials and are now looking at pool time for the year 8 and 9 trials.

The competition is being held to increase the promotion of the 2012 Olympic Games in Schools.



All England Open Badminton Championships

The Physical Education Department took a group of Park Hall Students to the NIA to watch the best 1 badminton players in the world compete for top honours. Park Hall Academy hopes to inspire its Gifted and Talented sportsmen and women to stress themselves and to consider new areas of expertise. Students are provided with many opportunities to experience new sports both in lessons and in extra curricular clubs before school, at lunch time and after school. Everyone is welcome and encourages to get active and involved.



First Aid Course



A large number of the Physical Education Sixth Form class recently passed The Royal Yachting Association First Aid certificate. This is a highly a c c l a i m e d

qualification and the 8 week course with Mr Darren Tranter Ambulance Call-out service covered Heart Start, De-fibrillation, Certificate from Tranter Whatmore Associates, Certificate of attendance. The following BTEC National PE students (and Mr Nardiello) undertook the First Aid Course in December 2011. and all passed with flying colours! Well done to Jamie Ataria; Emma Boxall; Aimee Harper; James Hey; Simon Lo; Alex Pavey; Natalie Sheehan; Jake Shenton; Jordan Smith; Jordan Sturridge; Simon Williams; and Mr Nardiello.

Academy Sport

In the Aston villa football tournament, we won 2 matches and lost 3. The last match was against Aston and in their team was a girl who was previously in the under 15's England team. My position was goalkeeper and it was pretty easy as I had Jess, Emily and Rhiannon as defenders. Chelsey and Megan scored most of the goals and Megan even headed a shot straight into the back of the net! Luckily, Emma didn't fall into the pond :) and Charlotte was a great mid-field. I had a good time and the rest of us did (I think?!). We all worked well as a team and Mrs Covell was a great coach. I couldn't see her while I was playing but the only thing I heard throughout all of the matches was her yelling "keep on her Chelsey!" Jess was great at being a captain as she was always cheering us on, I had a great time. – Katie Millward year 8.



Why I love P.E.
by Jake McColl (year 8)

At Park Hall Academy you will love P.E. Whatever the weather you will do different sports. You can change sports every three weeks and your teacher will decide your sport. The sports we do at Park Hall are Football, Tennis, Basketball, Hockey, Rounders, Trampolining, Table Tennis, Netball and Fitness. These are all

enjoyable sports but made even better when you learn something new each lesson and take it further into your local team sports. The tips you gain from P.E. can improve your game. This makes you a better player.



Performing Arts and Drama

Peregrine Theatre Company

On the 18th January, Year 8 G+T and Year 9/10 BTEC pupils took part in workshops with Peregrine Theatre Company. Year 8 took a closer look at the language used in Shakespeare's Plays and how to bring this to life in a performance, while the BTEC pupils explored a range of acting techniques and how to be a 'reactive' actor. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, and the workshop leaders Miles and Ingrid commented that the pupils were some of the most mature (in terms of their performances and approaches/commitment to the text) that they have come across.



Assisting the Performing Arts Department
by George Chance-Osman
(year 8)

Lately the Performing Arts Department has been preparing for the next show. It will take to the stage a few weeks after we come back from Easter. All of the school bands will be performing in this film themed event. There will be slow songs too that will be played by some very gifted musicians. The planning that goes into these performances is unbelievable. Lights have to be hired and put up using a giant ladder. The lighting and sound have to be planned and they must be operated by people who have patience and timing. I enjoy helping with the Performing Arts Department and playing in my own band!

The Nutcracker 2012



At the start of term the performing arts department organised a trip to the Birmingham Hippodrome for year 13 A Level dancers to watch the contemporary performance of Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! It was a fantastic opportunity for A2 Dance students to watch one of the UK's leading companies perform live. The girls have gained a great deal of understanding from watching the ballet and we look forward to seeing some of the ideas gathered in their future choreographies.

Liverpool Cavern Club



In January of this year Park Hall Academy were invited to perform on the stage at the World famous Liverpool Cavern Club, where the Beatles first made their name. The pupils were selected to play at a concert to celebrate the 55th birthday of the opening of the Cavern Club which was organised in conjunction with Solihull Music Service. All music students who performed in the Park Hall Academy Christmas Concert

were invited to perform or be part of the event as a Well Done for all their hard work in the Christmas concert. Lucky enough to be able to perform on the stage were The Ukulele club who of course performed some classic Beatles hits, the Year 8 Rock Band and Year 10 Rock band. The pupils revelled in this incredible experience of performing live at the Cavern club in front of a large audience. All students were able to explore the Cavern club and were taken to the Beatles memorabilia shop where they bought Beatles various posters, old newspaper articles about the Beatles and other items of memorabilia. All students involved in the trip were given honorary membership cards for the Cavern Club and were a real credit to the Academy. It was a fantastic opportunity and a brilliant trip which we all really enjoyed.



This half term we are lucky enough to be joined by two Theatre students from Coventry University. These

pupils are spending a substantial amount of time in the performing arts department collaborating with staff and supporting pupils. This is an excellent opportunity for Park Hall pupils to receive help, advice and inspiration from drama specialists. We are very excited by their presence within the department and look forward to a new and creative partnership.



Academy House News



"Make you feel my love"



Another Celebration Assembly has been and gone and what a huge success it was! Academy Staff were on song with some fantastic renditions of well known songs. A huge thank you to Mr Roper and Miss Smith for their Robbie and Kylie duo, Miss Millman performing a unique blend of of singing and comedy, Take That and Lulu for relighting the audiences fire, Santa's Little Helpers who rocked the assembly, Mrs Macarthur-Clare with a cracking performance of Adele's "Make you feel my love" and Abba who were fabba. Students were then asked to vote for their favourite act using voting cards. It was a tough decision as the acts were so good and voting was so close, but in the Arden and Jaguar assembly Miss Millman won the audience vote and in the Bradford and Spitfire Assembly Take That ruled the world and took top spot. A huge thank you to all staff that took part in the flash dance too! Look out for posters over the next few weeks for Egg-citing news on the upcoming Celebration Assembly!

Year 11 Prom....

The Inclusion Team have organised this years Year 11 Prom to be held at the spectacular Forest of Arden Hotel on Friday 11th May 2012. We are looking forward to a memorable night and saying good luck and farewell to our current Year 11 cohort. Look out for photos and news in the next issue of The Chronicle!



Year 11 Experience by David Chawner (year 11)

Year 11 is a lot tougher than some people might think. The lessons are harder than year 10 and the teachers really push us to do our best. At the moment in several lessons we are completing our coursework, an essential part of our overall GCSE grades. We sometimes have to complete several drafts to make sure it is at a high standard. In June I will have about twenty exams. There is a lot of pressure to do well but revision classes and extra tuition will help us with this. However in May we will be able to celebrate our success at our year 11 prom.

Year 11 is a lot tougher than some people might think.

Best Attendance & Punctuality

Congratulations to A5, B8, J5 and S10 for achieving the best attendance so far this academic year!

Congratulations to A5, B8, J11 and S10 for achieving the best punctuality so far this academic year! Well done and keep it up!



Sixth Form News

Record numbers of external Applicants to the Sixth Form

As the success and reputation of Park Hall's Sixth Form grows more and more young people are applying to join the sixth form from further afield. A record number of students applied for the sixth form from outside of Park Hall this year looking to follow in the footsteps of Daniel Maguire and Lucy Burnham in year 12. Lucy says that her reason for wanting to come to Park Hall was, "I wanted a new experience, and really liked Park Hall and the people as soon as I came here." Daniel says that he has settled in quickly to life at Park Hall because "the staff and students are really friendly and it's a nice environment to work in."



Sixth Formers Check out alternatives to university study

On the 8th February 2012 a number of Year 13 students' for the section on Sixth Formers check out university studying on the BTEC Early Years National Diploma Course, took part in a visit to an Apprenticeship Roadshow. The Roadshow was organised by a Service Provider - Crackerjack Training to compliment National Apprenticeship Week which ran from the 6th to the 10th February. The objective of the 'roadshow' was to give students an idea of the Apprenticeships on offer in their chosen

fields of Childcare/Playwork/Education. 8 Students took part in the visit - 3 of which have decided to look into Apprenticeships with this organisation along with further education and training.

Sixth former Hannah Smith said "the event was really informative. I would like to pursue a career in nursing and thought that a university degree was the only way to enter the profession. Since attending the event I have learned that I could also apply for an NVQ level 4 Apprenticeship in childcare, learning and development which could lead directly into a nursing career."

The visit to the roadshow is one element of the 6th Form's efforts to help students gain employment once they leave YR13. 6th Formers are currently still working with Inspire Futures on an Employability Programme which is geared to give our students the best possible headstart when looking for Apprenticeships or future employment.

Prestigious Dance Scholarship for Amy

Congratulations to Amy who has been awarded the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts College Scholarship. We are tremendously proud of our students! Amy, a Park Hall Academy Sixth Form student has recently been awarded the scholarship at Laine Theatre Arts College which will enable her to pursue her dream career as a dancer. Amy is an outstanding student who recently took the role of The Snow Queen in the Academy production and achieved outstanding success as a dancer. She has performed with the Birmingham Royal Ballet, at Coventry Belgrade Theatre and has only recently been offered an impressive scholarship at Laine Theatre Arts College. Another equally exceptional student recently competed in the Latin World Dance Championships in Paris and qualified for the semi-finals.



Castle Bromwich Parish Council Community Award

We are extremely proud of Lauren, a Sixth Form student at Park Hall Academy. Lauren was recently awarded the Castle Bromwich Parish Council Community Award for Young People. Lauren has contributed much to the local community. She has been on the Academy Council since Year 7, helped devise a guide to parents on Anti-Bullying, contributed to student ideas for the new building as well as being a member of Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council. As a member of the council Lauren has helped design, build and overseen the Sensory Garden on Castle Bromwich Village Green and the new play equipment at Arden Hall. She is an absolute credit to Park Hall Academy and we would like to congratulate her on this superb

achievement. Lauren was invited to a full Parish Council meeting and presented with the award by Mark Hayes Chairman of Castle Bromwich Parish Council and Mrs Kernan, Senior Vice Principal at Park Hall Academy.



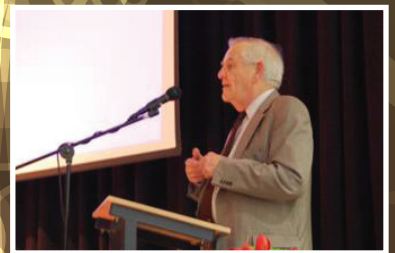


Celebration Evening

We had a superb Celebration Evening on 15th December. It was extremely well attended and lovely to see so many of last year's Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students celebrating their successes in the 2011 examinations. Park Hall Academy has gone from strength to strength in so many ways. For the third year running exam results have improved, with the class of 2010 – 2011 achieving our best ever results in both the Sixth Form and Year 11. Not only were these results again the best in the Academy's history, they were also amongst some of the best in the country. Additionally, for the second year running, every Year 11 student (yes 100%!) achieved 5 A* - C grades – making Park Hall one of the very small number of schools in the country to achieve this – and the only school in the North of Solihull

Students and guests were welcomed into the Academy with carols from our Choir and were treated to a number of outstanding musical and arts performances during the evening. The students were presented with their prizes by Tammy Gooding who was born in Birmingham, starting her career at BRMB and currently presenting for BBC Radio. Tammy made a witty and poignant speech with some interesting pointers for our students – these were extremely useful from someone who has achieved so much in her life. The Chair of Governors, Mr Derek Smart also spoke passionately about Park Halls achievements and Mr Morrison gave an inspiring address to the audience.

It was a thoroughly good night and we would like to extend our thanks to all involved, especially to Tammy Gooding for her speech, our honoured guests for their support and the staff and students for their support on the night as well as all the hard work that made these successes possible!



PARK HALL ACADEMY

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