

Headmaster's message



Welcome to the first InForm of 2022 at the end of what feels like a very busy but extremely productive half term. Yes, we have had to face unprecedented cases of coronavirus amongst staff and students (thanks to the latest omicron strain) but what a difference a year makes - NO

lockdown, clubs and activities all running at lunchtimes and after school plus the return of our wonderful annual Performing Arts show and the Winter Picnic Concert. We can well and truly say, "We have our Parmiter's back!"

New Staff

We have welcomed the following new colleagues since the start of the year: Mr Ephgrave (Flute), Mrs Fielding (Head of D&T), Ms Ruiz Calatrava (TA), Mrs Scuri (English), Mr Wernham (TA).

We said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Trollope, who was our Student Support Officer for four years and has left us to relocate to Dorset. Mrs Doran will be taking over her role at the beginning of March. Mrs Keegan will also be starting at the same time in Network Resources department.

Examination classes

I want to start by giving well-earned praise to our exceptional cohort of Year 11 and Year 13 students. It looks ever more likely that there will be external examinations this year for the first time since 2019 and we are extremely confident that our students will do full justice to their abilities as well as their attitude to learning. Their commitment to their studies has been first rate and it is so pleasing to see them taking full advantage of the additional support my dedicated colleagues offer outside of the classroom.

Performing Arts Show – Rejuvenate!

I cannot let the opportunity pass to praise the superb Dance production, Rejuvenate, which took place at the Radlett Centre at the end of last month. Never has a show had such an appropriate title and the Dance and Drama pieces were full of such energy and emotion that it was a true privilege to witness it all. My thanks to the Drama impresarios, Miss Hunter and Miss Windmill and also Miss Burnham who led so much of the Dance. Thanks also to the many, many student Drama and Dance Leaders who arranged and organised so many of the performance pieces. And of course a HUGE thanks and congratulations to Miss Coakley who oversaw it all. A phenomenal achievement.

Student Congress

Hopefully, parents and carers as well as all members of the Parmiter's family are aware of the importance I personally and indeed the whole school place on developing student leaders at Parmiter's. It has been a real pleasure to see evidence, on a daily basis, of older students supporting younger students (through peer mentoring or our Sports Leaders programmes) across the school. It was also a real pleasure to invite Mr Wilson, one of our Parent Governors, into school to attend our Student Congress Meeting in January. We were both so impressed with the maturity of the discussion and the proposals for improvements. Most important of all was the evident commitment the student leaders had to their peers and the good of the whole school community.

2022

One thing that has been somewhat hindered by the impact of the virus has been the opportunity to properly launch the celebrations for our 300th Anniversary year. A planned Thanksgiving service at Bethnal Green, where our first school house opened in 1722, had to be postponed but we are hopeful that this will be rearranged and that we can continue to plan a number of celebratory events throughout the remainder of the year. You might like to make a note in your diary that our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held in St Albans Cathedral on Monday 12 December. Another personal ambition for the year ahead is that we reach out to and invite as many Garston Old Parmiterians as possible to visit their old school.

The Winter Picnic Concert

I am writing this with the sound of our amazing Jazz band rehearsing for the Winter Concert this evening. This event was possibly one of our very last public presentations in 2020 before the advent of coronavirus put paid to so much fun. It is yet another reminder of what we have missed as well as how much amazing talent we have at our school.

A personal note

Finally, you will also be aware that the start of January saw my decision to remain in post and reverse my earlier decision to retire. I am enjoying my time at Parmiter's as much as ever which, I hope, is fully evident to you all and certainly to the student body. I have received many very kind words from so many parents and carers since then and I am so appreciative. I look forward to seeing you at the many events in the months to come. My very best wishes to you all,

Michael Jones
Headmaster

Parmiter's Parents' Association

I'd like to provide an update on PA activities for you; it feels like time has flown by since Christmas!

We've held two events already this year! **Bag2School** and a Second Hand Uniform and Book Sale. These generated £191.50 and £1169 respectively, which I'm sure you'll agree is a great start to the fundraising year.

We were really pleased to be able to hold the first PA meeting of the year at school, please remember that you are welcome to come along to a meeting at any time.

Our next planned event is a **Family Quiz Night**, due to be held at the end of April. Details for this event will be shared as soon as possible after half term.

We are working on an idea of a cake competition in line with the theme of Parmiter's 300th year. Stay tuned for more information!

The PA will be supporting many of the other celebratory events that will take place this year and we really look forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible take the opportunity to get involved. Whether you help organise and event, run an event, donate raffle prizes or simply support an event by buying tickets or attending – every little contribution helps!

Thank you for your continued support of the Parents' Association and consequently the school, and thanks to all those involved in the PA who make it all possible.

Robert Pyle
Chairman

If you would like to know more about the Parents' Association, how we work, what we do – please feel free to contact us and follow us on the following social media platforms –

parent.classlist.com

Parmiters School Parents Association



@parmiterspa



PA@parmiters.herts.sch.uk

*Our next meeting is on **Monday 21 February 2022** at 7.30pm in the Boardroom (Main Entrance)
Come and join us!*

Winter Picnic Concert

STOP PRESS!

Thursday evening saw the welcome return of the informal picnic concerts to the main hall.

A large audience enjoyed a variety of pieces performed by our talented musicians from all year groups across the school.





Rejuvenate

We're back!

Congratulations to all the students involved in 'Rejuvenate', Parmiter's Performing Arts Show. We were delighted to see our talented students return to the stage. The show was held at The Radlett Centre in January over two evenings. Over 120 students participated in the show, performing to an audience of 500 teachers, parents and carers. The show was made up of 30 acts. There was an array of styles on show; students performed in Ballet, Bollywood, Commercial, Contemporary, Disco, Jazz, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, Rock n Roll and Tap dance styles. Dance was interspersed with acts of Drama and Gymnastics.



Sport

We have had a busy (and successful) half term in PE with the students performing in 65 competitive matches in 6 different sports, in addition to the annual Performing Arts Show!

Football

The football season has very nearly ended with the last remaining games played in the first week back. It is looking promising for a strong representation in the District League Finals with both the Year 7 and 9 teams already confirmed. It is likely that the Year 11 and Senior teams will be joining them. These games will be played on Wednesday 2nd March at Queens. The Year 7s run in the County Cup came to an end at the ¼ final stage where they lost to a strong Robert Barclay School. The U13 Girls went on a step further, losing at the Semi Final stage on penalties after a 2-2 draw to Beaumont.

Rugby

In Rugby, the teams have started their seasons with a flurry of wins. The Year 7 and 8 teams remain unbeaten, having gained victories over Rickmansworth, St Joan of Arc and Queens so far. The U15 teams have had some bruising battles so far with their best performance coming against Rickmansworth winning 39-21.



Cross Country

We had a successful morning of Cross Country at the Herts Championships. We had 12 runners representing Parmiter's with several top 20 finishes. Archie Marshall gained a place in the Herts Athletics team with an impressive run to finish in 2nd place. He will now go on to race in the National Championships in March. Peter Bansaghi paced himself well to finish in 6th place in the Year 7 race. Emma Cresswell was 7th in the Senior Girls' race with Jamie Maxen crossing the line in 12th place in the Senior Boys' race.



Netball

Our Netball season continues and, with the season not finishing until Easter, there is all to play for. This half term there have been some really close matches with the stand out being the U15 Girls beating local rivals 17-16 with a last second goal. The U13 team had a really good win against Royal Masonic School and the U15B team played with maturity in their thrilling 15-15 draw against St Margaret's.

Hockey

The hockey season continues to build at pace with several games being played this year. The Year 7s and Year 8s have found the matches challenging but continue to improve and are hopeful of getting their first wins after half term. The U15 team missed some simple chances and were left disappointed with a 3-1 loss to a strong Royal Masonic side.



Basketball

After a hiatus of two years, the basketball season is back with our teams giving some fantastic performances. The Year 7s were magnificent in their 35-26 win over Watford Boys and unfortunate to lose 27-21 to St Clement Danes in their first game. The Year 9s played well but fell in a 50-37 defeat to St Michaels. The Senior team have worked hard in training all year and were rewarded with a fine 61-45 win over St Clement Danes. With plenty more games left after half term, the season is full of promise!

