



InForm

NEWSLETTER

Headmaster's message



Welcome to the first "InForm" of the academic year as we approach the end of an extraordinary half term. A huge thank you for all the support and encouragement you have provided for your children, who are to be commended so highly for their excellent conduct throughout the past eight weeks. I am so proud of every single member of staff for delivering excellent lessons or providing exceptional support in these extremely challenging times and the behaviour and attitudes to learning shown by our student body has been just as remarkable. Their focus and application in lessons have been so impressive, as has been their engagement in all the House Competitions and extra-curricular activities after school. We have been delighted with how well our Year 7 students have settled into their new school routine and are living up to the high expectations set for all students at Parmiter's. I was particularly proud of Dylan Mynett who, after a mere four weeks in school, delivered a superb recorded address for our Virtual Open Evening website. At the other end of the student age spectrum (almost) was a new student in Year 12, Jodie Campbell, who delivered an equally impressive address reflecting on the reasons why she chose Parmiter's for her Sixth Form studies.

New Staff

Our new staff have also settled well into life at Parmiter's: Mrs Kyriacou (Computer Science), Mr Bunce (Geography), Mr Collins Pearson (Chemistry), Miss Burnham (PE), Miss Hunter (Drama), Miss Smith (English), Dr Belhitar (Maths), Mrs Lowe (English), Mrs Page (Science), Mr Card (Maths), Mr Farrell (Geography), Mr Peters (PE), Mr Ahmad (Maths), Mr Brothwood (History), Miss Wrobel (D&T), Mr Coombs (PE), Mr Hare (Physics), Miss Bhatt (Maths).

We wish Miss McKay (Science) well as she starts her maternity leave today.

Virtual Senior Speech Night

Thanks to the wonders of technology, Parmiter's has been able to persist with our rich tradition of celebrating student achievement and we were delighted to hold a Virtual Senior Speech Night via our website with the Guest of Honour speech recorded by a former student, Squadron Leader Martin Pert, better known as Red 1, the leader of the Red Arrows display team. I would urge every parent and carer to search out the recording on our website. It is the perfect articulation of the Parmiter's vision and the values we hold so dear. I was equally proud of the student achievement and contributions from Ellie Williams and her beautiful saxophone rendition of Debussy's "Syrinx", as well as Nicole Egenes in her Vote of Thanks as School Captain, demonstrating what a superb appointment she is to this prestigious role.

Parents' Association

My sincere thanks go to Mr Peter Moss and Mrs Mehlika Cetin who have stepped down from their posts as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively this year. Under their leadership, the PA has flourished and their commitment and dedication to the PA and our school has been exceptional. Alas, we are unable due to current restrictions, to maintain every Parmiter's tradition and, sadly, our annual Christmas Gift Fair will not be able to go ahead next month. However, that does not mean our wonderful Parmiter's Parents' Association are inactive – far from it. Under the new leadership of Robert Pyle and Lynda Pool, they are full of exciting ideas for fundraising and creating opportunities for parents and carers to socialise as members of the Parmiter's family. Do look out for their article contained in this newsletter and, in particular, the exciting announcement of a Grand Draw to be held next half term as a major fundraising and prize winning opportunity for the whole family!

Health and Safety

Hopefully, you will have seen my communication yesterday concerning an extension to our expectation around the wearing of masks after half term. Whilst we have had a small number of positive tests this half term, it is testament to the measures we currently have in place that they have been very few and that there has been no single case where the virus was contracted on the school site. We are, however, not complacent in the least and the health and safety of every single adult and child at Parmiter's will always be my number 1 priority as Headmaster. Having reviewed areas of congestion around the school site and taking into account the change in the weather, we feel this adaption to our current protocols is a necessary measure to ensure every adult and child is protected from the virus as far as possible. It is clear from the students' compliance that you are being incredibly supportive from home and, on behalf of every member of staff, I thank you so much for this.

Racial Equality

Inside this edition I have included the text of an assembly I co-presented with Anthony Nasah, a student in Year 13, reflecting on the issues all institutions should reflect on in the wake of the death of George Floyd in America. We have formed a staff working party to look at ways in which we can shape the educational experience of all our students such that it further promotes a sense of tolerance, understanding and respect for equality. We will be launching Student Voice groups after half term and I look forward to their views and thoughts being expressed in future editions of this newsletter. At the end of any half or full term it is always so important to take the opportunity to rest and I know you will be encouraging your children to do so.

They have been an absolute credit to you and our school.

Michael Jones
Headmaster

Help to reduce our carbon footprint....

7.7 billion plastic bottles are bought in the UK every year. That is about 1 million a minute. Most of these are not recycled and end up polluting our oceans from landfill.

As part of the school's Sustain group relaunch, one of the first changes we would like to make is reducing the buying of plastic water bottles from the canteen. As demonstrated by the information above, this is a serious problem and we need to change our habits urgently. Currently, many single-use plastic water bottles are being bought from the school canteen daily and are disposed of in general waste bins. We are aiming to reduce the buying of plastic water bottles to zero and would like everyone to buy a hard plastic or metal water bottle which can be reused and brought into school every day. If a student bought a bottle of water from the canteen every day for one week, they would end up spending between £3 - £4. This is a third or more of the average price of a reusable bottle that can last for a much longer time. The number of water fountains around school have increased since last year and therefore, there are more stations for filling up during the day. We are hoping to increase this number even more in the future. By doing this we can dramatically reduce our plastic consumption and save money.



Furthermore, we are going to introduce more bins around the school, especially in the canteen. When this has happened, we will produce an assembly to explain to everyone the intended use of each bin. We would appreciate everyone's help by placing the correct materials in each bin.

The new Sustain group is combining with the Community student voice committee and has 4 sub-committees: awareness, recycling, monitoring and a school taskforce.

- ◆ The **awareness** sub-committee is focusing on improving the school community's knowledge of the issues we face, the work we are doing and the ways in which we can help prevent climate disaster.
- ◆ The **recycling** and **monitoring** sub-committees will organise the use of bins and ensure we are recycling as much as possible. The above initiatives will help us with this.
- ◆ Finally, the **school taskforce** sub-committee will focus on planning events to raise money and long-term solutions such as more solar panels and water fountains. We are trying to get as many students involved as possible and have members from every year group. We will provide more information about how to get involved with Sustain after half-term.

As our work as the new Sustain team progresses, we will update everyone. Thank you in advance for your help.

The Sustain Group

Parmiter's Parents' Association



The first PA meeting and AGM of the school year resulted in two changes to the committee; Peter Moss and Mehlika Cetin have completed

their tenure on the board as Chair and Vice-Chair. I'm sure you'll agree that they have both developed the PA and are due a big 'Thank you' from us all. Robert Pyle and Lynda Pool are taking over as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The PA welcomes any new volunteers, we have a few already!

The Christmas Gift Fair is unfortunately cancelled this year. It has always been a significant contributor towards PA fundraising, so will be missed. However, we have some fantastic fundraising projects planned. These include the Grand Draw, which you will have received a separate communication about, a Facebook Auction, another clothes donation day and a second-hand uniform sale to name a few. We will endeavour to hold a family quiz and are investigating how this can be provisioned over the Internet.

Our next 'virtual' meeting is on **30th November at 7.30pm**

All are welcome!

Please email pa@parmiters.herts.sch.uk if you are not already a member of the PA and would like to attend the meeting.

Grand Christmas Draw 2020

Sponsored by avanti fostering



avanti fostering

It's here – our biggest fundraising opportunity for our School this academic year!

Click on the link below to buy tickets

[Parmiter's PA Grand Christmas Draw 2020](#)

Stay connected with the PA social app:

parent.classlist.com

Parmiters School Parents Association



@parmiterspa

PA@parmiters.herts.sch.uk



~ Racial Equality Assembly ~

Mr Jones:

As Headmaster, two events have shaped both my professional and personal life during 2020. Coronavirus of course, but also the death of George Floyd in America. Some of you may be aware of the communication I sent out to parents and carers at the time and I was really impressed with the quality of the emails I received from a number of students in reply. So much so that I invited each student to meet me and share their responses. One of these students was Anthony Nasah, now in Year 13, who has joined me to record this Virtual Assembly.

Anthony and I want to talk about some of the issues that have been raised by the Black Lives Matters Movement in the aftermath of George Floyd's death and, in particular, the implications these have for Parmiter's school. We want to address three issues: Education, Empathy and Equality. The killing of George Floyd, a black man brutally suffocated to death by a white police officer in America, was a stark reminder to us all that racism is a horrifying reality in the world today. And also why it is vital that we all unite together to oppose racism in whatever form it appears.

Anthony:

For me it's important to understand that nobody is born racist. Education is absolutely the answer. In younger years it's easy to access social media where a lot of confusing and racist views are too often expressed. Even older students can be deceived by a lot of the lies and prejudice that passes for news and information. As a school we need to challenge this in lessons and tutor times and educate those who are misguided rather than simply get angry and confrontational. Of course, when you face racism it is deeply upsetting and it is right to acknowledge how we feel. But change won't happen with the snap of your fingers, it may be slow, but change will happen. Education can bring us together and help each of us have a better understanding of our different backgrounds and cultures.

Mr Jones:

Education has changed significantly since I was at school and the curriculum in particular. Hard as it may seem to imagine but I was taught the history of South Africa in terms of conflicts between the Boers and the British Army and yet left school completely ignorant of Apartheid. Likewise, we were taught about the colonial wars between the French and the British in India and yet were taught nothing about the struggle for Indian Independence. Fortunately, a consequence of my parents' influence, my choice of friends, higher education and my own intellectual curiosity meant that I was not short changed by such a one sided, mono cultural education. Nowadays, Parmiter's can boast an incredibly diverse curriculum offer, not just in History but across all our Humanities subjects as well as in English. Aside from broadening your understanding of other cultures and racial perspectives, it promotes tolerance and develops one of the most important qualities we look for in all our students – empathy.

Anthony:

It's so important that we all feel a sense of belonging. I want to belong to my school, I want to belong in my community and I want to belong in my country.

When you see someone cross the street as you approach them or when they clutch their bag more tightly or follow you with their eyes when you go in a shop – all of those very real experiences make me feel like I don't belong. I know it's ignorance but what it all comes down to is that they are failing to see or treat me like a normal human being - which is exactly what I am.

You can't empathise with someone unless you take the time to really get to know them and respect their individuality. Don't stereotype and dismiss other people. Just assuming a black male is naturally aggressive, because of how they look, or invading the personal space and asking intrusive questions to black women are both actions that show a lack of respect for them as human beings. The best way is always to ask yourself – how would you feel if someone said or did that to you?

Mr Jones:

So what are the school's plans in response to the death of George Floyd? We want to form staff and student working groups to champion greater equality across the school and, in particular, to enable us as an institution to be robust in our anti-racist policies and practice.

Anthony:

Being an ethnic minority student in a predominantly white school can be tough if you feel you don't have enough adult role models in positions of authority. However, we have a real opportunity at Parmiter's thanks to the number of older students from BAME backgrounds who can play our part as role models for younger students. Parmiter's has the right values and ethos but it is important that we serve our fellow students by listening to you if you feel you need a listening ear, or guiding you, if you feel you need it, throughout your time at our school.

Mr Jones:

To end this virtual assembly I want to say this – to explain why all staff at Parmiter's are committed to equality of well-being and opportunity for every single student at our school. Adults, be they teachers or support staff at Parmiter's work incredibly hard for you, in fact it is fair to say their efforts go way beyond their call of duty. We have one simple purpose and this is to ensure that each of you has every opportunity in later life to enjoy successful and prosperous adult lives. The idea that after all we have worked for that even one of you could have your well-being threatened or an opportunity blocked simply because of your race, gender or sexuality is completely abhorrent to us all. You are also our future. Future employers, future leaders, future policy and decision makers. We want to send each of you out into the world determined to champion the equality of all human beings and help shape a better world. That is what is meant by *Nemo sibi nascitur!*



Houses October 2020

The House system has seen a lot of changes this half term. Miss Coakley and Mr Perkins are the newly appointed Heads of Houses.

The House System has its own Instagram account ([parmitershouses](#)) with currently 139 followers and a Twitter account ([@ParmitersHouses](#)) with 83 followers, please follow for all updates and photos!

House Sport Week

There was an amazing turn out to our first House Sport week. There were round robin tournaments in netball, football, rounders and basketball. 173 YR7 students, 115 YR8 students, 154 YR9 students, 103 YR10 students and 110 Senior students participated throughout the week. The results were as follows:

| Year Group | Netball | Football | Rounders | Basketball |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1. Carter 2. Beven 3. Renvoize 4. Lee 5. Woolley 6. Mayhew | 1. Lee 2. Renvoize 3. Beven 4. Woolley 5. Mayhew 6. Carter | 1. Lee 2. Carter 3. Renvoize 4. Mayhew 5. Beven 6. Woolley | 1. Lee 2. Carter 2. Woolley 3. Renvoize 3. Mayhew 4. Beven |
| 8 | 1. Beven 2. Woolley 3. Mayhew 4. Lee 5. Carter 6. Renvoize | 1. Carter 2. Renvoize 3. Mayhew 4. Lee 5. Beven 6. Woolley | 1. Carter 2. Lee 3. Mayhew 4. Beven 5. Renvoize 6. Woolley | |
| 9 | 1. Beven 2. Mayhew 3. Carter 4. Renvoize 5. Lee 6. Woolley | 1. Beven 2. Mayhew 3. Woolley 4. Renvoize 5. Lee 6. Carter | 1. Beven 2. Mayhew 3. Lee 4. Carter 5. Renvoize 6. Woolley | |
| 10 | 1. Lee 2. Woolley 3. Mayhew 4. Beven 5. Carter 6. Renvoize | 1. Woolley 2. Lee 3. Mayhew 4. Beven 5. Carter 6. Renvoize | 1. Mayhew 2. Woolley 3. Lee 3. Mayhew 4. Beven *Carter did not participate | |
| Senior | 1. Mayhew 2. Renvoize 3. Lee 4. Carter 5. Woolley 6. Beven | 1. Woolley 2. Renvoize 3. Beven 4. Mayhew 5. Lee 6. Carter | 1. Beven 2. Renvoize 3. Mayhew 4. Woolley 5. Lee 6. Carter | |

