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NEWSLETTER

Headmaster's message



Christmas Greetings to all our readers as we come to the end of term. It has certainly been a term with a difference and has challenged each and every member of staff as well as our students and parent/carer body. Yet I am extremely proud of how well we have all coped and with the quality of education as well as range of extra-curricular activity we have continued to deliver in spite of the pandemic. A special mention needs to go to our new Year 7s who have made such a superb first impression on joining their new school as well as our Year 11 cohort who are completing their trial examinations as I write and also our Year 13 students who will face their own trial examinations in February. But I repeat, whatever the year group, I am exceptionally proud of every student at our school.

Staffing

As we reach the end of term, we say farewell to two long-standing members of staff.

Mrs Crawford, our Catering Manager, is retiring after an incredible 31 years service to Parmiter's. She has seen many changes and catered for thousands of students over the years.

Mrs Cheeseman, our librarian, is retiring after 17 years at Parmiter's. Her job title doesn't do justice to the service she has given; supporting Sixth Form students with their Extended Project Qualifications, implementing our school's VLE platform and so much more.

We wish both colleagues a well-deserved, long and happy retirement.

We welcome back Dr Boorman from maternity leave and thank Mr Collins-Pearson who has taught her classes this term. We have welcomed Jake Farrenkothen and Michael Houbart who are supporting our technicians in D&T and Science.

Finally, congratulations to Miss McKay who had a baby girl on Friday 4 December!

Parmiter's Houses and Commitment to school life

In the following pages you will find a record of just some of the highlights from the many House competitions that have run this term to keep everyone involved in the vital social and extra-curricular activities that stand alongside the curriculum at Parmiter's. We are all indebted to the staff Heads of Houses, Miss Coakley and Mr Perkins, as well as the dedicated Senior House Captains, Joe Sykes and Melissa Coates, for inspiring so many students and staff members to engage in all the activities they have organised this term. The competition for House places has been fiercer than ever but we will all have to wait for the final rankings at the end of the term.

Virtual Carol Service

This Tuesday we enjoyed our annual Carol Service which, like

many other events, was recorded and enjoyed as a "virtual experience". We are delighted that the Reverend Caroline Wainman, former Languages teacher at Parmiter's, officiated via a recording from her new parish in Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire. As ever, we were treated to some wonderful performances, with music of the very highest quality. Thank you to all who took part.

It only leaves me to wish all my colleagues, our students and parents, carers and friends of Parmiter's a most Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I do hope one and all enjoy a restful, happy and safe Festive Period and look forward to welcoming back our students to a new school term on Monday 4th January 2021.

Michael Jones
Headmaster

Parmiter's Parents' Association

We were delighted with the fantastic response to our first online **Grand Draw** which raised a fantastic **£4685.84!** Thank you to everyone who helped put this together and, of course, thank you to all of you who bought tickets. Congratulations to our winners!

Although we are not yet in the position to plan events for the coming year, we are hopeful that we will be able to soon. A second Bag2School collection will be planned in the first few weeks back; we will publish the date as soon as we can.

Our next 'virtual' meeting is on
Tuesday 19 January at 7.30pm
Everybody 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.

We wish you all a very
Stay connected with the PA social app:

Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

parent.classlist.com

Parmiters School Parents Association



@parmiterspa

PA@parmiters.herts.sch.uk



Vision

Inside my perfect garden, a bed of wild roses grow
The sensual colour of a lipstick stain on the collar of white clothes
Hanging from the trees are apples, the same hue as fresh spilled blood
And behind the seven, flowering plants lies a bank of fresh and earthy mud
The soft, shy blush of cherries is distinct amid the smooth boughs
The mellow sunlight peers through the branches, everything under its gaze aglow
The ground peppered with crisp, maple leaves, the exact same shade as rust
The sound of boots crushing them as they crumble to pumpkin tinged dust
In my little garden lies a pool, tinted like the sky
A mirror for the robins, exuding vanity as they fly
It ripples as a bird grazes it, on her swift journey past
A russet talon sweeping across the omnipresent looking-glass
I walk through my gorgeous garden, silently observing each detail
From the Braille bumps that embellish the bark to the petals falling in the gale
The giggling of snowdrops as they tilt their heads away from the sun's rays
The leaves that slowly change throughout the months, weeks and days
The world would be a beautiful thing, if it was like my garden paradise
But the world doesn't compare to my meadow, its air warm enough to melt ice
The cities are lively and as are the crowds
Their dresses are lurid and their music is loud
Perhaps they turn up the speakers, to drown out the cries
The croaking voices that scream, 'What about black lives?'
'What's another protest?' they think under multicoloured strobe lights
'It's a waste of time,' they conclude, frolicking through the moonless night
They wear rose-tinted glasses here in this huge, roaring city
The buildings like cardboard - the people, eccentric and witty
They see the flowers as cotton candy blue, the foliage bubblegum pink
They're not to blame for their poor vision, their spider lashes tangled as they blink
Their distorted view of their surroundings - beautiful, neon and hazy
So they continue to build their cloud kissing towers and uproot fields of daisies
Tiny sparks fall from their matchsticks, like a shower of resplendent rings
The smoke, black like mascara, consuming everything
They wave their fiendish lighters in the sky, devoid of stars
The lustful colour of an unfaithful lover leaving angry scars
The abashed, flushing fire swallows plants and creatures whole
They imagine the flames are disco beams, in their bubble of chemicals and coal
Their perfect, rouge lips pout around lies, so brutal, impure and foul
So vile that they choke and splutter upon the inky, poisoned vowels
But if they removed their shades and revealed their gas fire eyes
Stopped lying through their pristine teeth and removed their garish disguise
Would they see the world as it is, in its decaying and burning state?
Would they confess that the planet is collapsing under all this heavy hate?
Led to believe that love is blind though that can't possibly be true
Because if you really were all loving you'd step into their furry shoes
You'd stop poaching the exotic creatures, to make a rug for your house of cards
Stop the violence on the streets, plaster each crevasse of your broken heart
Stop setting fire to animals' homes, stop putting plastic in our seas
Stop building your space snogging towers and hacking down the trees
I wish the world was like my perfect garden, my ethereal paradise
I wish the air wasn't so dense and hot enough to melt ice
I have a vision for the future and it is a thoughtful dream
I see fluffy blankets of grass and water in the silk ribbon streams
I see clear, crystalline oceans, dotted with rainbow coral reefs
The evergreens left to stand, untouched are their tenacious leaves
Acrylic paint swirls on my canvas, which was once a miserable grey
My vivid, luminescent vision is not so far away.

Shreya Tanna VIALC

English House Poetry Competition Winner - Carter House

House Challenges

House Challenges

Senior House Captains Joe Sykes and Melissa Coates have set weekly challenges for staff and students. There has been fantastic engagement and effort with all House tasks. Challenges have ranged from; Decorate a Cupcake, a Keepy Uppy challenge, a 1km run and a Target Throw week.

Gimkit Competition

House competitions have not been limited to just sports; a Houses Gimkit took over some form time, with Lee House coming out on top, and Lee's very own Ben McGaughey being the highest points scorer in the whole school!



Dingbats and Christmas Anagrams Competition

A Dingbats competition was organised by our House Captain Melissa Coates. Years 7 to 11 completed a Dingbat quiz in form time. The competition was won by Woolley house.

House Quiz of the Week

New to House competition this year is the House Quiz of the Week, which is emailed out to students promptly at 3:20pm on Friday afternoons. There has been excellent engagement from both students and staff.

House Captains

Also new to the House System is the introduction of House Captains for each year group. There was plenty of competition for these positions, and it was an incredibly difficult decision to make, but the newly appointed captains are settling into their roles well.

House Heroes

House Heroes are awarded each half term to students who display our principles: Participation, Pride, Identity, Team work, Service and Commitment

Beven	Asher Davison & Bronwyn Bates	Raised the most money of all the House Captains from selling poppies
Carter	Shreya Tanna	Wrote an outstanding poem to win the House Poetry event
Lee	Thomas Patten	Outstanding participation in so many House events
Mayhew	James Beasley	Performance in the Keepie Uppie Challenge
Renvoize	Jake Rayner	Winner of the House History Competition
Woolley	Charlie Taylor	Outstanding performance in Year 9 House Football

House Christmas Card Competition

A massive thank you to all who entered the Year 7 Christmas Card Competition. We had a difficult time narrowing down the entries due to the superb quality of the designs and Mr Jones had an even more challenging time choosing winners! He chose a winner from each house: Laura Luczynska, Alice Henderson, Marlene Winter, Mia Patel, Katie Benham and Gowtham Kirubakaran. Laura, Alice and Marlene's designs have been printed as the school Christmas cards and all 6 winners received an Art prize and were invited to the boardroom to be congratulated by Mr Jones.

Massive CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners!



Miss Coakley & Mr Perkins, Heads of Houses

House Sport Week

We had an amazing turn-out for our first House Sport Week! There were round robin tournaments in netball, football and dodgeball. 146 Year 7 students, 118 Year 8 students, 114 Year 9 students and 85 Year 10 students participated throughout the week.

The results were as follows:

Year Group	Netball	Football	Dodgeball
7	1. Beven 2. Carter 3. Lee 4. Woolley 5. Renvoize	1. Lee 2. Renvoize 3. Carter 4. Beven 5. Woolley 6. Mayhew	1. Lee 2. Renvoize 3. Beven 4. Carter 5. Woolley 6. Mayhew
8	1. Beven 2. Mayhew 3. Carter 4. Woolley 5. Lee 6. Renvoize	1. Woolley 2. Mayhew 3. Beven 4. Renvoize 5. Lee 6. Carter	1. Carter 2. Lee 3. Woolley 4. Renvoize 5. Mayhew 6. Beven
9	1. Beven 2. Mayhew 3. Lee 4. Carter 5. Renvoize 6. Woolley	1. Beven 2. Carter 3. Woolley 4. Renvoize 5. Mayhew 6. Lee	1. Mayhew 2. Woolley 3. Beven 4. Carter 5. Renvoize 6. Lee
10	1. Carter 2. Lee 3. Mayhew 4. Woolley 5. Renvoize 6. Beven	1. Lee 2. Woolley 3. Beven 4. Mayhew 5. Carter	



English Schools National Semi-Final

Despite the national restrictions and limitations on School Sport, last year's Year 7 team were able to complete their season, albeit with an unfortunate defeat, in the English Schools National Semi-Final.

Having had to postpone in March because of COVID-19, the boys were ready and raring to go after a hiatus of over 6 months. Whitgift School were our opponents and we knew it was going to be a tough game. The game began evenly with both teams having their fair share of possession and a couple of chances each. It was Whitgift who took the lead shortly before half time and went into the break 1-0 up. The game remained in the balance throughout the second half and, with 15 seconds left of the 60 minutes, an in-swinging corner resulted in the ball being fumbled in the goal by the Whitgift defender. Shortly after the celebrations had ended, the referee blew for full time and extra time ensued. The 14 minutes of extra time failed to yield anymore goals and the game was to be decided on penalties. The boys held their nerve with every member of the team taking their kick and only one being unsuccessful. Sudden death decided the game which unfortunately went against us with a 9-8 loss.

It was a truly fantastic spectacle for school sport. The boy's attitude and commitment were truly phenomenal and they should be commended on the great achievement of reaching a National Semi-Final.

Mr T Clark
Director of Sport

