



InForm

NEWSLETTER

Headmaster's message



A very Happy Easter greeting to you all as a term overshadowed by lockdown finally comes to an end. I am delighted to note that we have enjoyed three very successful weeks with the full complement of students back on site. As we had anticipated, in spite of the disruption, the

students are back engaging with lessons and school life as eagerly as ever. We now look forward to a Summer term that will be full of all the sports, extra-curricular activities and creativity we are used to enjoying at Parmiter's. Their return also coincided with our coronavirus testing programme with which they engaged so well. I trust students, parents and carers will continue to manage home testing over the holiday period, as this plays such a key part in ensuring that we are all being mindful of preventing further transmission of the virus.

Special mention must go to our Year 11 and 13 cohorts as they embark on their final holiday prior to their GCSE and A Level assessment opportunities that will run over the course of the next half term. I am extremely proud of how hard my Leadership Team, curriculum leaders and all teachers have worked to plan a manageable series of assessment opportunities to support every student to produce their very best work. I am just as proud of the students across both these year groups who are showing such resilience, determination and commitment to their courses. Communication is critical to ensure that every student is fully prepared for each opportunity, so I do encourage students, parents and carers across Years 11 and 13 to keep your eyes peeled for further communication as and when further information arrives during the course of the next two weeks.

Staffing

Mrs Clark, Head of Geography, has returned from maternity leave. After Easter, Mrs Clark will be taking over the teaching of some groups across Years 7 to 10. We thank Mrs Everitt for leading the department over the last year.

I wish all of you an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing students on their return to school on Monday 12th April.

Michael Jones
Headmaster

Changes to the school calendar

I am sure you are all aware that, following the cancellation of public exams this summer, schools are responsible for the process of grading of GCSE and A Levels. Ensuring a fair and accurate assessment process is essential to ensure our Year 11 and 13 students receive the grades they deserve. In order to support this, please note the following changes to the school calendar:

Thursday 27 May and Friday 28 May will be condensed days. Students will have five 45 minute lessons, meaning the school day will finish at 1.00pm. **The school buses will leave at 1.10pm on these days.**

Monday 7 June will be a home learning day for Years 7 to 10. Students will be set work on Google Classroom for each of their timetabled lessons that day. Year 12 students will be sitting exams that day and will be expected to attend if they have an exam. Arrangements for Years 11 & 13 will be confirmed nearer to the time, once we are further through the assessment process. The assessment schedule also necessitates a change to the school lunch hour. Students will have 3 lessons before lunch. Lunch will then run from 12.20pm - 1.20pm. Periods 4 and 5 will take place after lunch. The school day will still finish at 3.20pm.

Parmiter's Parents' Association

Thank you to Mr Hughes who attended our meeting on 8 March. He shared a video prepared by Mr Cummings which demonstrated the functions of the BenQ interactive screens that have been selected for use in the 12 laboratories in the new Science block. The members present at the meeting were pleased to approve the funds required to buy the boards and delighted to be part of this exciting project. Keep an eye open for our weekly quiz on a Thursday evening!

**Our next meeting is on
Tuesday 4 May at 7.30pm
All 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.

Stay connected with the PA social apps:

parent.classlist.com

Parmiters School Parents Association

@parmiterspa

PA@parmiters.herts.sch.uk



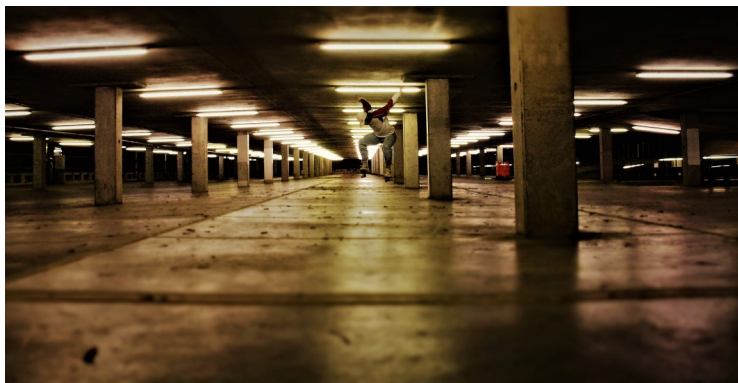
Photography Competition - 'Change'



Nyah Patel



Isla Baillie



Ollie Arnold



Iorwen Ellis

Proudly displayed in the Boardroom are the winners (above) from the most recent photography competition for students in Years 7 to 11.

Students were asked to respond to the word 'Change' in a photograph. The images were able to be edited and entries were judged on composition, idea and focus.

All entries and other competitions are available to view on this site:
<https://sites.google.com/parmiters.herts.sch.uk/artphotographycompetitions/home>



Towards the end of last half term, I asked for your feedback on our remote provision and was thrilled to have received over 700 responses from you. Your comments and observations are - and always will be - crucial in helping us to understand and evaluate the impact we're having on our students. To that end, your responses, alongside those of staff and students, were analysed and shared with the governors in a full governing body meeting on Thursday 18 March.

So what did you have to say about our remote provision? Well, the feedback was extremely positive, especially when compared with the provision in the first lockdown. 86% of you either agreed or strongly agreed that you were happy with the provision this time around and 80% were happy with the way lessons were being delivered in the majority of subjects.

Our biggest successes were our communication with you (90% of you felt we had shared our plans effectively) and the support from school staff (79% of you felt your child/ren could access subject and/or form tutors).

However, your responses highlighted some challenges too. There was a very strong feeling that we needed to be delivering more live lessons and we continue to review this from a variety of perspectives. In the meantime, if you're interested in understanding the rationale for our approach in the first instance then please take a look at [this document](#), which is available on our website under Parents > Remote Learning Provision.

A number of you also expressed concerns that your child/ren was/were falling behind either academically or in terms of their confidence levels. On an individual level, I hope that the recent run of parents' evenings (and those to come) have given/will give you the opportunity to ask these questions of their teachers. But I'd like to assure you that both of these concerns have been a whole-school focus since the start of this academic year. Staff have been working hard to adapt their curriculums and teaching in a variety of ways and we certainly take comfort from the incredibly positive return of the majority of students back in September and also the strong set of Year 11 trial exam results. Certainly, the early signs from the last couple of weeks of this term are that we can expect to see the same this time around.

If you have any further questions about the survey or its results, please do get in touch with me (n.davison@parmiters.herts.sch.uk). Otherwise, I'd like to extend an enormous thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Watch out for more opportunities to do so next term!

House News

House Sport Week #3

Years 7 & 8 students participated in House Netball and Football tournaments during the week commencing 22nd March. 91 students from Year 7 and 92 students from Year 8 took part. Year 7 Netball and Year 8 Football was won by Carter. A great evening for Carter, well done!



Dance off Challenge

Students were asked to choreograph a short dance based on the theme of Joy. We were really impressed by the quality of all the entries. Congratulations to the following students:

1st D James (Carter), 2nd C Pearson (Renvoize)
3rd S Lopez Marty (Beven).

The House Quiz of the Week continues to be part of the weekly routine, with around 250 participants each week. This half term, Carter won the first Quiz of 2021, but since then Mayhew have won it every week, boosting their score by 40 House Points in the process!

Home Court Challenges week

During remote learning, the PE Department decided to hold a **House** challenge across KS3 in a number of different events. The event was held on an app called **HomeCourt**. This is an app that is designed to test your skills in a range of activities, including agility, reaction time and your general fitness. The engagement from students was fantastic and congratulations to all students who placed in the top 6. Please click the link to see the results: [Home Court Results](#)



Fitness Suite

In January, our Fitness Suite underwent a major refurbishment, kindly funded by the Parmiter's Foundation.

Working collaboratively with GymGearUK, we discussed, designed and agreed a new state of the art fitness area which includes a combination of cardiovascular machines, resistance machines and free weights. We are excited to use the fitness suite when restrictions allow.

This newly refurbished area will benefit the whole Parmiter's community and we would like to thank the trustees of the Foundation for supporting our ambition.

Fitness Suite membership will be available for our older students, their families and staff. There will be further announcements regarding how to join at the start of the summer term.

