

Headteacher's message



A Season of Growth and Opportunity

As we complete the first half term of 2026, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on the sheer vibrancy of life at Parmiter's School. Our school motto, Nemo sibi nascitur ("No one is born unto themselves

alone"), continues to be the heartbeat of our community, guiding our students as they embrace the values of Community, Aspiration and Opportunity.

It has been a busy term of connection, beginning with our Year 12 Consultation Evening and the milestone of the Year 7s' very first Consultation Evening. We hosted an insightful Apprenticeship Awareness Evening, ensuring our students are well-equipped to navigate the diverse pathways available to them.

Academic Excellence and Aspiration

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students have demonstrated incredible diligence. I am thrilled to share that over 200 UCAS applications were submitted before the Christmas break, a monumental task made possible by the tireless support of Mrs Zanetti, Mrs Smith and our Year 13 Tutor team. The results of this hard work are already bearing fruit, with students securing offers from a number of prestigious universities and apprenticeships, including a staggering 12 Oxbridge offers.

A huge well done is due to our Year 11 and Year 13 students for completing their trial exams. Now is the time to lean into your Parmiter's Learner Traits alongside the advice contained within The Parmiter's Learner manual [here](#), using these results as a springboard to reach your full potential this summer. The manual includes advice useful to all our students on:

- Getting organised
- How to revise
- How to do your best at tests and,
- Reducing test stress

The Stage and Field: Co-Curricular Highlights

Our Performing Arts Show at Watersmeet Theatre was nothing short of phenomenal. Over 200 students across all year groups took to the stage, showcasing breathtaking talent in Dance, Drama and Cheerleading, including several impressive student-led performances.

This spirit of creativity was matched by our Music department's fabulous, informal Winter Picnic Concert, a wonderful evening for the whole community.

In the world of sport, our students continue to excel, with successes in the Table Tennis Regional Finals and the Athletics National Finals as well as a number of regular sporting fixtures.

Our Co-Curricular Guide remains packed with fixtures, practices, activities and societies across every subject in the school that foster resilience and teamwork, allowing our students to find their passion. You can find out more about what is on offer [here](#).

Exploration and Beyond

Travel remains a vital part of the Parmiter's experience. This term, our Design and Technology students travelled to Disneyland Paris to go "behind the scenes" and explore the fascinating engineering behind the theme park and its associated displays. You can see pictures from this and other adventures in the [Gallery](#) on our website. For a full view of our upcoming trips, please see our Trips and Visits Summary [here](#) which will help you to plan for the future trips you may wish for your child to attend.

Our Stronger Community

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who completed the school survey in December. We value your feedback immensely and will communicate the specific actions we are taking as a result early in the second half of the term. We are incredibly proud that our previous community feedback has helped us be recognised as one of the safest, happiest and best-behaved schools in the country. We aim to keep this momentum going by ensuring Ofsted has an up-to-date reflection of our parents' views. If you have a few moments, we would be very grateful if you could share your experience directly with Ofsted [here](#).

Our thanks also go to the Parents' and Carers' Association (PCA) for their unwavering support. From the successful second-hand uniform sale to ongoing fundraising, their efforts directly enable our students to succeed. I encourage you to read the report from their Chairman, Greg Longmore, on the following page and take up the challenge of getting involved in the PCA's activities. Whether that be by attending an event or being part of its organisation, every contribution is beneficial.

And finally, to the entire Parmiter's Family, our parents, carers, staff, students and wider Parmiter's Family, thank you for your continued support. Together, we ensure that every individual has the opportunity to grow and flourish.

This time though, a particular thank you must go to those who have passed 20 years service at Parmiter's School and were recognised at a celebration event by The Parmiter's Foundation on Friday 16 January. My sincerest of thanks for being the core on which our wonderful school and wider community is built go to:

Mr Henson, Head of Sixth Form
Mrs Pottle, Head of English
Miss Bliss, Second in English
Mrs Cordell, Design and Technology Technician
Mr Francis, Peripatetic Music Teacher
Mrs Ellis, Language Assistant
Mr Hughes, Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Kosky, Design and Technology Teacher
Mr Lavin, Science Teacher
Mrs Carroll, Finance Administrator to the Foundation
Mr Poulton, Teacher of RS and Head of Year 8
Mr Tamsitt, Groundsman

Finally, we wish Mrs Murray a long and happy retirement as she leaves us after 10 years teaching in the Science department. We are grateful to her for her commitment and support of our school and students. We welcome back Dr Boorman, who resumes her role as Head of the Science Faculty following her maternity leave and thank Mr Silvester who has led the department during her absence.

Safe travels to all our students and colleagues who set off on Saturday for this year's ski trip to Austria.

I wish you a restful February half term. I am already excited to see what we will achieve together in the second half of this academic year.

Nemo Sibi Nascitur!



Mr A Smith
Headteacher

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Monday 23 February:

INSET Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 24 February:

Students in school (Week 1)

Friday 27 March:

End of Spring Term (Midday)

Monday 13 April:

Summer Term begins (Week 2)

Friday 22 May:

First Half ends - Half Term

Monday 1 June:

INSET Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 2 June:

Students in school (Week 2)

Free School Meal Vouchers for school holidays

A message from Herts County Council

Since December 2020, the Local Authority has been able to provide supermarket vouchers to families, supported through government funding streams. From October 2021 onwards, this was funded through the Household Support Fund, a national programme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) designed to help households with the cost of living.

The government has now confirmed that the Household Support Fund will come to an end in 2025. Unfortunately, this means we will no longer be able to issue vouchers to children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals for the holiday periods.

We understand that this change may be difficult for some families, and we want to reassure you that support is still available. If you feel you may need additional help, we encourage you to visit the Hertfordshire County Council ['Cost of Living Support'](#) pages on the council website, where you can find information about a range of services and assistance options.



Parents' and Carers' Association

Since my last report in early December, it has been genuinely encouraging to see the continued strength of the Parmiter's community and the positive impact the PCA has across the school.

In recent months, we have supported the Christmas Carol Service, held another successful Second-Hand Uniform Sale, raising over **£300**, and taken time as a committee to reflect on what worked well at the Christmas Fair and, just as importantly, what we can do even better next time. Some of those improvements are already shaping plans for the year ahead.



Quiz Night – Friday 25 April

Fancy putting your general knowledge to the test? Or simply keen to prove that someone at your table really does know the capital of everything?

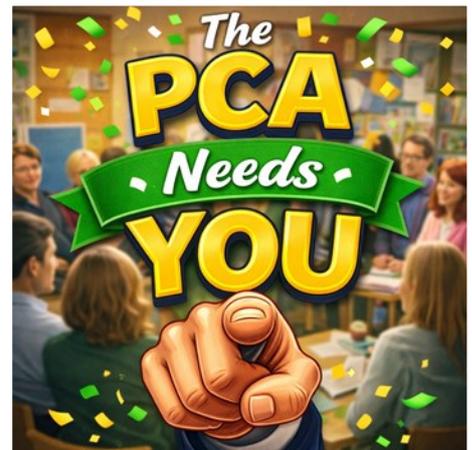


Our Quiz Night on **Saturday 25 April** promises an evening of lively competition, good humour and the sort of friendly debate that only a quiz question can inspire. Expect laughter, head scratching, confident wrong answers and the inevitable claim that the quizmaster was being far too strict.

Whether you come determined to win or just to enjoy the atmosphere, Quiz Night is a brilliant way to connect with other parents and carers while supporting the PCA and, ultimately, the school. Gather a team, bring your competitive spirit, and join us for what is always one of the most enjoyable evenings in the PCA calendar.

Now for an **important message**, one that matters to every parent and carer in our community.

The PCA exists to support all our children, and the outcomes of that support are visible across the school. Recent contributions include the new **Snack Shack**, additional **benches in the Plaza to encourage community interaction** and **Smart Screens to enhance learning experiences** in classrooms, to name just a few. These are not extras for some; they are investments that benefit every student, every day.



Parmiter's has over 1,200 parents and carers, yet the PCA is currently run by a very small core group of volunteers. As some long standing members have stepped down following their children leaving the school, the group has become even smaller. All current committee members work full time and many are also involved in other commitments, such as being governors, coaches, or supporting wider community activities.

Put simply, the PCA does brilliant things for our children, but it cannot keep going if the same small group carries it year after year.

This is not a call for you to give up your evenings and weekends. It is an invitation to be part of something that genuinely makes a difference. The PCA thrives on community, connection, and parents and carers stepping forward together, whether you are new to Parmiter's or have been part of the journey for years.

There is no set level of commitment, just people helping when they can.

The PCA only works because parents and carers step up. Join us at the next PCA meeting in the LRC on **Thursday 16 April at 7.30pm** and help keep the PCA thriving for all our children.



Opportunities offered by Degree Apprenticeships

As the option of a degree apprenticeship is explored by more and more of our students each year, the Sixth Form team has introduced its own Apprenticeship Support Programme.



The programme started in October with an Apprenticeship Interview Preparation session with ex-student and Old Parmiterian, Katherine Bunting, who shared her experiences of high level technical recruitment. This reinforced other presentations and workshops that Year 12 students had previously attended during the Futures Days in July. We also recommend that students join the Apprenticeship Academy online programme if they are considering this option.

In November, as well as offering students the opportunity to undertake a Mock Interview with an expert/specialist, we hosted a Mock Assessment Centre with Suzy Ross from FutureSmartCareers. This was a fantastic opportunity for both Year 12 and Year 13 students to engage in a simulated Assessment Centre and learn first hand what employees and recruiters are looking for.

Students have also benefitted from additional apprenticeships support and tips on how to search for, apply and prepare for online assessment and interviews with Mrs Smith and Mrs Zanetti, through networking with some of our brilliant ex-students.

The Amazing Apprenticeship Higher and Degree Listing is one of the best places to see what is on offer and, as UCAS seeks to also share apprenticeship opportunities with students, for the first time this year, students searching for courses in the UCAS hub saw both University courses and possible apprenticeship options. UCAS have also developed some really excellent Apprenticeship Guides for the major career sectors.



Apprenticeships Awareness Evening

Another successful evening, on 28 January, saw a number of Old Parmiterians return to their school to present to students, parents and carers about their own apprenticeship experiences.

From a broad variety of sectors, including Bedfordshire Police, Watford Community Housing, JPMorganChase, Lambert Smith Hampton and The Grove, the informative presentations were food for thought for all our current students considering an apprenticeship when they finish at Parmiter's.



Charity

Turning back the clock for a moment, to a charity event held at the end of last term. A big **Thank You** to all the students who supported or ran stalls/activities at the Festive Charity Event on 17 December, hosted by the Community Committee, and special thanks to the amazing string quartet who performed throughout the event.

£392 was raised on this day and an additional £1,632 from the festive non-uniform day, which was held the following day. All donations will be split equally between the Keech Hospice and Mencap, the two charities we are supporting this academic year.

At the event, students enjoyed sweet treats, donuts, cupcakes and festive sparkle drinks. They were able to enjoy the snowball challenge, get glitter tattoos, have fun in the photo booth, play some festive speed bingo and do some fantastic crafts including mug and jar decorating and snowman paintings. Other stalls included festive gifts, accessories, 3D printed items made by DT students and crochet items.

Winners of the Quizzes - Elf Quiz winner - Tobias in 8JHO (students had to identify where the 'Naughty Elf' was around the school, there was even one of the elf in the Headteacher's chair!) Prizes also went to Poorani, Hanuska and Calista in Year 7 who all worked together on the answers. Festive Quiz 1 winner - Lily, 10SRA and Festive Quiz 2 winner - Zara, 8KPO.

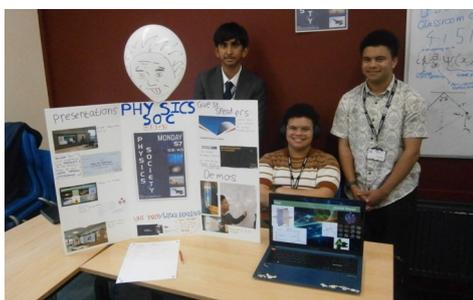
Year 9 students have already raised an incredible amount through their charity project stalls in the Autumn. In March, Year 8 are planning a Bake sale and there will be further charity events hosted by the student Community committee in the summer term.

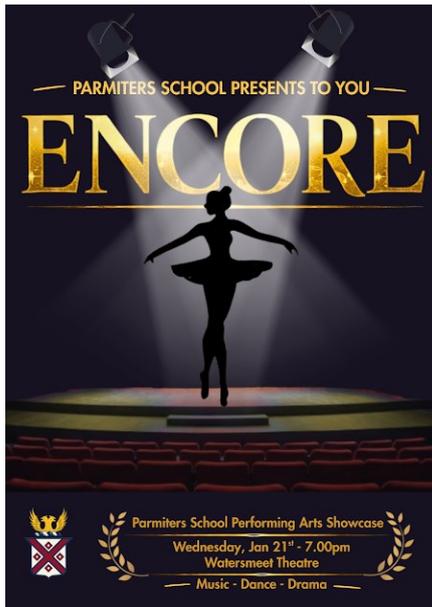


Societies

Our Sixth Form societies keep expanding into new areas and this year it's been great to see some of our new Year 12 students start their own new societies in the Autumn term. New Societies for this year, are Cooking & Baking, Song Writing, Embroidery, Poster Design, Sleep, Acute Medicine, Medscope, Karaoke, Arts and Crafts, Video Games and Environmental Awareness.

We have always encouraged students to run and participate in the large number of thriving clubs and societies we have on offer each year, which extend beyond the curriculum. Students take part for their own personal development, developing their people and leadership skills and preparing for life after A levels. There is something for everyone and we are always excited to see what new societies are around the corner!





Wednesday 21 January saw the return of our annual Performing Arts Show at Watersmeet Theatre. This year we were transported to a star studded movie awards show - **'Encore'**.

The audience was wowed by exceptional dance, gymnastics, cheerleading and drama performances by students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13, with a total of over 200 students taking part. Highlights of the night included final performances from Year 13 students Skye and Holly who, along with several others, have been part of the annual shows since they joined in Year 7, and the introduction of some new pieces including Kpop, Classical Indian, Latin and an incredible tribute to the LEGO Movie from our Year 12 dancers.

Parents and teachers were impressed by every student's maturity and professionalism as they worked tirelessly to learn, rehearse and choreograph for months to create such a high quality performance. As always, we were inundated with students wanting to choreograph and lead groups for this year's show. Without this student leadership, we would not be able to make these performances such impressive events.

In March, our Cheerleading team will enter a competition for the first time and both our Junior and Senior Dance Companies will, once again, compete in the Great Big Dance Off. Some of our gymnasts will also be entering a district competition. We wish them all the best of luck!

Miss Burnham



Opportunity

Design, Drones and Disney Magic

On the 1 - 3 February, 37 Year 10 Design and Technology students traded the classroom for Disneyland Paris. They explored the parks to find inspiration in everything from high-speed engineering to sustainable style.

The educational heart of the trip was a conference featuring three industry leaders:

BBC2's Jude Pullen (The Big Life Fix) discussed his transition from crafting with cardboard aged 10 to engineering for Lego and Dyson. He recently introduced an innovative tool, using Ai to reorganise products for packaging and posting to minimise environmental impact and packaging waste.

Ben Spalding, the lead drone show creator has worked at Disney for 30 years. Ben revealed the drone choreography and tech behind the night-time spectacles. Students later watched the fireworks and drone show through a much more technical lens.

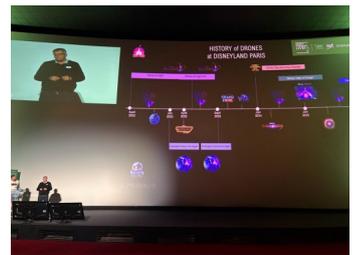
Lydia Bolton (Sustainable Fashion Designer) challenged "fast fashion" by showcasing her "slow-fashion" label built from unwanted textiles. Her statistics on global clothing waste were a powerful eye-opener.

Beyond technical specs, the speakers offered modern career advice, emphasising social media as a tool for showcasing creative passion. Our students impressed the experts with their thoughtful questions, absorbing insights that will surely influence their future workshop projects.

The trip focused on "Daring" as much as "Design." Many students showed incredible bravery tackling their first roller coasters, while new friendships were forged.

One student summed the trip up perfectly: "This is one of the best school trips I've ever been on." Thank you to the staff and students who made this journey so successful. We look forward to seeing how the students' trip research translates into the Disney themed projects they have been working on within the classroom and workshop.

Mrs Fielding



Football

The football season has continued at pace after Christmas, with a busy fixture schedule across all year groups. We have enjoyed strong representation in the later stages of County competitions, with both the 7A and 7B boys' teams reaching the quarter-finals before being beaten by strong Kings Langley sides. There is still plenty to play for, with the Year 11 boys progressing to the County Plate quarter-final and the 1st XI girls reaching the semi-final of the County Plate. A fantastic achievement for all involved.

Indoor Athletics

Year 7 boys and girls competed in a well-contested District indoor athletics competition. It was an excellent evening of athletics, with plenty of promising performances that bodes well for the summer season. The boys' team finished in an impressive second place.

Badminton

The U14 boys' badminton team narrowly missed out in the Regional Final against Loughborough School after an excellent run. The girls' badminton season finished strongly, with both the U13 and U15 teams recording wins against Queenswood. This success reflects the great commitment shown to training and fixtures throughout the year.

Netball

It has been a brilliant half term for netball, with nine fixtures played across all year groups and an outstanding return of eight wins. Once again, the performances were matched by a clear commitment to improvement at training, which continues to shine through on match days.

Rugby

The boys' rugby season is now underway, with two Saturday morning block fixtures played. The standout performance came from the Year 9 team, who defeated a strong Rickmansworth side, showing real skill and maturity. The girls also played Rickmansworth in horrendous weather conditions, but the match was hotly contested, with superb performances from all players on both sides.

Table Tennis

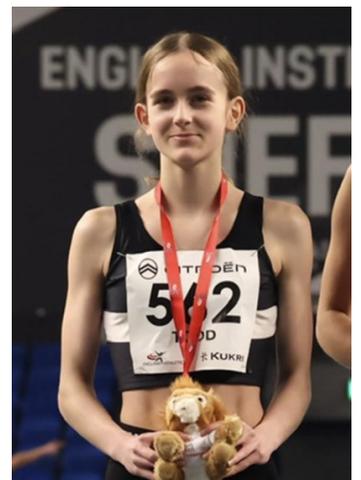
U13 and U16 boys competed in the Eastern Regional Finals, producing a fantastic display of table tennis. The standard of play was of the highest quality throughout the competition. A big thank you to Mrs Jetha for her support and commitment in taking the teams.

Athletics - National Championships



Huge congratulations to Ramsey Gill (pictured left), who competed in the National Indoor Championships, clearing an outstanding 4.10m in the pole vault. Although he finished second on countback, this was the highest height cleared and places Ramsey as number two in the country - an incredible achievement.

On the same weekend, Emily Todd (pictured right) competed in the indoor 60m hurdles and finished first, making her the fastest U14 hurdler in the country. An exceptional performance and a fantastic achievement.





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