

## Headteacher's message



### **A Half-Term of Exceptional Achievement!**

Welcome to our latest newsletter, marking the end of the first half term of the year. We hit the ground running, and I am bursting with pride at the sheer volume and quality of experiences our students have

been immersed in from day one of their return in September. The energy and ambition within our community are truly remarkable.

### **Expanding Horizons: Trips and Expeditions Galore**

The past few months have seen our students collecting stamps in their passports and expanding their worldviews, thanks to the commitment of our staff. Our language students have enjoyed culturally rich expeditions, with groups travelling to Valencia and the Rhineland. Meanwhile, Art students found inspiration on their trip to Cornwall, and our Geographers gained vital practical experience on their field trip to the Jurassic Coast. Other highlights include the Freud Museum trip, Art Gallery visits, the New Scientist Live Exhibition, Theatre trips and the powerful production of *The Women in Black*. Our younger students got hands-on with nature during the Year 7 Root'd Trips and enjoyed a fantastic Year 7 Musical Theatre trip to help them settle into life as part of The Parmiter's Family immersing themselves in their new community, raising their aspirations and taking advantage of the many, many opportunities on offer here.

A huge thank you must go to all the staff who create these incredible learning opportunities and experiences for the students to enjoy. As we look ahead to the break, we wish safe travels and a fantastic time to the groups departing for the truly exciting Iceland and Washington Trips over half term!

### **Celebrating Excellence:**

#### **The Stage, The Pitch, and The Mind**

We have celebrated some truly impressive achievements already this year including Senior Speech Night which was a spectacular event, with

guest speaker James Fisher innovatively sharing his experience and insights into the future of innovation, particularly around sustainable housing and building projects. This focus is hugely relevant as we continually strive to meet our own sustainability goals as a school.

In Science, students attended an inspiring Royal Society of Biologists talk, our musicians delighted audiences with both a wonderful Guitar Recital and the exquisite Singers and Piano Recital last night. In the sporting arena, our commitment to excellence paid off, with the team becoming Champions at the Ski Race Regional Championships! Our impressive sports fixtures list and results across all sports show the depth of talent and dedication among our athletes all captured uniquely in our 'From The Pitch to The Pod' podcast which you can find on Spotify if you are not signed up already. The mind was sharp too, with students tackling the demanding challenges of the UKMT Maths Challenge and as part of our commitment to student welfare First Aid for Schools visited to deliver comprehensive First Aid Training for all students in Years 9 and 10.

### **Giving Back and Looking Forward**

Our students have truly lived our values by organising fantastic Charity Events to support various good causes, including dedicated work for The Stargardts Charity. Meanwhile, our Sixth Form enjoyed a well-deserved, fun-filled evenings of bowling and Ninja Warrior.

We have been busy introducing prospective families to our vibrant community through our recent Open Mornings and the Sixth Form Open Evening. During these events, I always enjoy promoting the incredible value and support provided by the Parents' and Carers' Association (PCA) and hope many of you will consider joining and getting involved. Please join us at The Christmas Gift Fair on Saturday 15 November!

### **An Ofsted Visit to Remember!**

Finally, I must share the details of our recent Ofsted visit where they were trialling their new inspection toolkit.

While there will be no report written about the school this time, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, validating the dedication of our students, staff, and entire community. In fact, we received one of the highest compliments a school could hope for: One of the inspectors loved the school so much they openly expressed they would like to work here! It is a wonderful external affirmation of the truly special environment we foster at the school.

I can only share the highlights here and I hope you enjoy reading more about everything that has been happening at school this half term in this publication. I would also like to congratulate your children for how they embrace the opportunities that are available to them here, as demonstrated in the image opposite from SOCS, and couple that with a diligent approach to their studies. Thanks of course to the teachers and support staff across the school for creating such a wonderful and positive learning environment to experience here every single day.

Have a restful and rejuvenating half-term break and we look forward to seeing you when you return ready to learn and embrace the opportunities on the horizon in the run up to Christmas as we continue to grow and flourish together!

*Anthony Smith*

Nemo sibi nascitur!

A Smith  
Headteacher

## Admissions Arrangements for September 2027

Parmiter's is consulting on its Admissions Arrangements for September 2027. All relevant information and documentation can be found on our website [here](#).

## Autumn Term, Second Half

**Monday 3 November:** Back to school

**Saturday 15 November:** Christmas Gift Fair

**Thursday 20 November:** Condensed Day (school finishes at 2pm today)

**Friday 21 November:** Queen's Holiday (School closed)

**Thursday 27 - Saturday 29 November:** School Production 'Twelfth Night'

**Thursday 11 and Friday 12 December:** Christmas Festival Concerts

**Tuesday 16 December:** Carol Service (St Luke's Church, Watford)

**Wednesday 17 December:** *Beauty & The Beast, Pantomime, Watersmeet Theatre* (Tickets on WisePay)

**Friday 19 December:** End of Term (Midday)

**The Spring Term starts on Monday 5 January 2026**

## Co-Curricular Report Oct 25

Total Clubs  
**170**

Total Engagement  
**985 students**

Engagement Rate  
**65.7%**

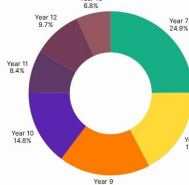
Events  
**1045**

### Highest Club Attendance

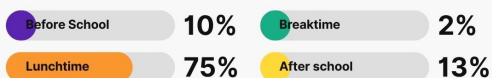
|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Football Frenzy | 104 |
| MUN             | 96  |
| Attenborough    | 80  |
| Orchestra       | 54  |



### Events attended by Year Group



### Timing of Co-Curricular Clubs



### Summary

A brilliant first half term using SOCS to track our co-curricular provision. From sports, to music, performing arts to academic clubs there is something for everyone. When clubs range from Dissection Society, to Trading Cards to Attenborough Club, we are so proud of the provision we offer the students. Please take these opportunities become an integrated part of the **community** and **aspire** to be the very best version of you as a Parmiterian.



## Autum Term Update

As the leaves turn and we settle into the new school year, the **PCA team** has been hard at work behind the scenes making this term one to remember! We started things off in true Parmiter's fashion with our **Year 7 Cheese & Wine Evening**, a brilliant night filled with laughter, conversation, and plenty of generous spirits (literally!). A huge thank you to all the parents who donated bottles, they'll be put to excellent use in our ever-popular **Christmas Gift Fair Bottle Tombola!** Soon after came our **Second-Hand Uniform Sale**, which raised just under **£700** — a fantastic effort!

Every penny helps fund projects that directly benefit our students. Speaking of which, one of our biggest upcoming contributions is the brand-new **Food Pod**, set to open next term. This will help ease lunchtime congestion and make sure our hungry students are well-fed and happy which is a **huge** win for everyone!

We also held our **Annual AGM**, where the current committee was re-elected (thank you for your continued support!). We're now looking for a **Vice Chair** to work alongside the wonderful Tina Canning before she hands over the reins at the end of the 2026 school year. If you're up for a challenge that's rewarding, energising, and truly makes a difference, please get in touch! Many of our committee members work full-time, so yes, it really is possible to balance both.

## The Countdown Is On

### The Parmiter's Christmas Gift Fair!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, 15th November**. The **biggest PCA event of the year** is nearly here!

Expect 40+ stalls, delicious food, mulled wine, mince pies, cakes galore, and a joyful atmosphere that brings our community together.

Our legendary **Grand Prize Draw is back**, featuring some amazing prizes:

- £150 cash prize (which increases as ticket sales grow!)
- A Glasshouse meal for two at The Grove
- A family ticket to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour
- Plus many more still to be announced!

To make this event a success, we need more volunteers, whether you can spare 30 minutes, an hour, or a couple of hours. We especially need help with:

- The kitchen team (serving refreshments and cakes)
- Stall helpers (raffles, tombolas, and games)
- Setup the night before and takedown after the event
- Running or co-leading a stall or activity

If you love getting stuck in and bringing people together, this is the event for you!

## Why Get Involved and How You Can Help

None of these events would be possible without our amazing committee and volunteers — the people who quietly (and tirelessly) plan, sort, organise, and make the magic happen. Your dedication and teamwork are truly inspiring. A very **BIG thank you!** To one and all.

But here's the thing, we want you to join in too! The PCA is about more than fundraising; it's about building community, having fun, and making a difference for our children.



## Here's how you can help keep the momentum going



**Join the Team:** We're continuing to build a stronger PCA — the more parents and carers who get involved, the stronger we become.

**Bring Fresh Ideas:** Got a knack for organising? Fancy running an event? We'd love to hear your ideas and help you make them happen.

**Social Connection Matters:** We all need a bit of "me time" — so we're also building more social opportunities for parents to connect and relax. After all, all work and no play makes the PCA a very dull bunch!

**Support Fundraising:** Attend our events, donate, or check if your employer offers match funding to double your impact.

**Other Easy Ways to Help:** Easyfundraising. Sign up here: [Easyfundraising](#)

## *We're collecting items now for the Christmas Fair:*

**Adult Gift Tombola** – new or unused gifts, toiletries, or gift sets

**Children's Gift Tombola** – toys, puzzles, and games (8+ to teens, excellent condition)

**Bottle Tombola** – alcoholic and non-alcoholic bottles of any kind

**Chocolate Tombola** – all chocolate donations welcome!

[Amazon Gift List](#) - in case you like to do it online.

**Donations can be dropped into the Christmas collection box in Reception.**



Please share the date with friends & family & your local community

These are just some of the simple ways to support us all year round.

## How To Stay Connected

CLASSLIST – Look for your invite, or email: [admin@parmiters.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

FACEBOOK – Parmiter's Parents & Carers Association - Follow Parmiter's PCA for news, photos, and prize announcements

WHATSAPP – Join our friendly volunteers group!

SCHOOL WEBSITE – See Parents section and calendar

EMAIL: [pa@parmiters.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pa@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

WhatsApp Groups: Keep an eye out for volunteer calls and reminders

Together, we can achieve extraordinary things, one event, one idea, and one generous parent at a time. Thank you for being part of what makes Parmiter's such a special community.

Warm regards,

**Greg Longmore (Chairman) and the Parmiter's Parents & Carers Association Team**

Wishing our Parmiter's community a wonderful autumn leading into a bright and cheerful festive season

## Sixth Form Charity Work

The Sixth Form, once again, held a fun fund-raising event in support of Stargardt's Connected charity.

On 24 September, the Sixth Form Council and Year 13 Form Representatives organised a great range of stalls over a festival-style lunch time. The range of activities included a Tombola, Cookie & Sweets Sale, Face Paint, Glitter and Henna Tattoos, Bottle Flip, Blind Pong, Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar and Balloon Modelling.

Students were encouraged to wear hats and sunglasses and some fabulous variations were spotted around the school throughout the day. Even Mr Smith and Mr Henson joined in the fun!

Over £1,400 pounds was raised from the event and donations are still being counted.

**Thank you to all who supported this great afternoon.**

More about the charity ~



Stargardt's connected is a UK based charity that aims to raise awareness, give support and to seek a cure. Founded in 2019 by Bhavna Tailor after her son Ethan's diagnosis in 2015.

Stargardt's disease is an inherited eye condition that causes vision loss, often beginning in childhood or the teen years. It mainly affects central vision, making it hard to read, see details or recognise faces, while peripheral vision tends to not be as severe

Stargarddt's Connected raises awareness, offers resources, and creates connections so no one feels alone. Money raised goes towards research projects, support programs, family events and conferences.

Look out for Ethan and his Mum on BBC's The One Show next week!

*Community*



## Year 10 Art and Textiles Trip to Cornwall

The Year 10 Art and Textiles class set off on a journey to Cornwall, kicking things off with travel on Wednesday, 17th of September. After a long day, they arrived at the Blue Room Hostel in Newquay around 10 PM and rested for the day of activities ahead.

### Day 2: The Eden Project

Bright and early the next day, they headed to the Eden Project. The biomes were stunning and bursting with plant life focused on sustainability.

The students split into smaller groups to dive into what the Eden Project had to offer. Inside the Rainforest Biome, the warm, humid air surrounded them, and they pulled out their sketchbooks and drew a variety of plants. With approximately 15 minutes for each task, they sketched everything from hanging vines to vibrant orchids and cocoa plants.

Next stop was the Mediterranean Biome. There, the students got to explore herbs and veggies, sketching everything from peppers to pumpkins. Each of them picked one to focus on and created detailed drawings. It was a great opportunity to improve their sketching skills on organic subjects while learning about how important these plants are for our planet.

After a morning of art and creativity, they treated themselves to some ice cream at the café. Lunch included more sketching and wandering around, taking in all the sights. They had a chance to shop for some sustainable goodies like herbal teas and beeswax wraps in the Eden Project gift shop.

Dinner that night was at a homely Italian restaurant. They enjoyed garlic bread, fresh pizza, and rich pasta, chosen in class the week before. It was the perfect way to unwind and enjoy each other's company after a busy day.

Back at the Blue Room, the students spent the evening refining their artwork and rested for the next day, which had the most packed itinerary yet.

### Day 3: Explorations in St. Ives

On Day 3, they traveled to St. Ives, a coastal town known for its art scene and beautiful beaches. Their first stop was the Barbara Hepworth Museum, where her stunning sculptures and peaceful garden inspired them to sketch her unique works. Next, they visited Naomi Frears' studio. It was fascinating to see her creative process and hear her insights about making art.

Afterwards, the students regrouped in St. Ives' town center for (you guessed it) more ice cream. They headed to the beach, where the ocean provided the perfect backdrop for more sketching. The sea made it easy to experiment with various materials, from watercolors to pens, to capture the landscape in any way possible.

That night back at the hostel, they stayed up late, fully immersed in their art projects and packing for the following day's departure.

### Day 4: Goodbye and Trebah Gardens

On their last day, the students checked out and headed to Trebah Gardens, a beautiful subtropical paradise. They took in all the breathtaking scenery and snapped tons of photos! The views were just incredible.

They wrapped things up at a nearby beach, enjoying more ice cream, skipping stones, and collecting seashells. A group photo captured their happy faces, and with keepsakes in hand, they boarded the coach for the journey home.

This trip to Cornwall was an incredible experience for everyone. It mixed art, nature, and inspiration into a journey they'll never forget.



By Sisi Bademosi 10MKO



## Valencia 2025

After landing in Valencia, we went on a nice walk along the shore to a local supermarket and then a really nice local beach and lots of us played sports or had some peaceful time to relax in the sun.

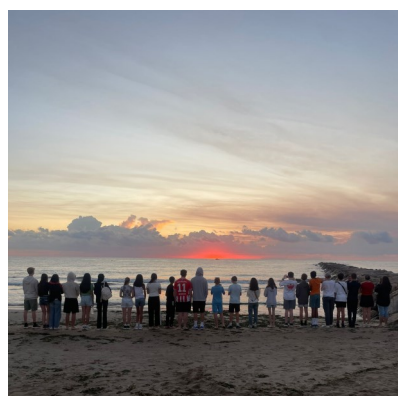
The next day, we explored the historic Valencia 'Old Town' where we saw lots of old Spanish architecture and narrow winding streets. After getting lunch we went to Valencia cathedral, built during the 13th and 15th centuries and saw many old carvings, beautifully painted stained glass windows and gothic architecture. After exploring the cathedral, we went bowling against our friends and it was quite fun!

The next morning, we headed to 'Oceanogràfic' which is the largest aquarium in the whole of Europe and houses many exotic animals such as dolphins, beluga whales, seahorses, penguins, flamingos and many more! The highlight of the visit was the dolphinarium where we saw many dolphins perform incredible tricks. After, we went to a shopping centre for lunch and after had a nice walk to the 'Museu de les Ciències Príncep Felipe' which was an Arts and Science museum where we interacted with lots of fun experiments and saw many beautiful exhibits. In the evening we went to a restaurant and had tapas (a series of little Spanish dishes).

On the last morning, a group of us woke up and went to watch the sunrise at the beachfront and then headed off to Bioparc Valencia where you could see many different rare animals such as meerkats, cobras, hippos and lots more! My personal favourite was the 'African Savannah' area as I saw a few animals I had never seen before. After the Bioparc, we went to another shopping centre to relax for a bit before heading off on a flight back to Heathrow.

I am really thankful for Miss Taylor and the teachers for making this trip possible and I learnt a lot about Spain and Spanish culture during this trip.

Arjun Giri  
9RLE



*Opportunity*



## Year 7 Teambuilding



Our intrepid Year 7 students ventured into the great outdoors at the beginning of October as they enjoyed two days of team-building activities and an overnight stay under canvas in Phasels Wood. Friendships were forged as the students worked together to collect wood for fires that they built and lit to roast marshmallows. Other activities included whittling tent pegs, buggy building, camouflage and concealment and then a 'Rootd's Got Talent' show! The camp had a visit from Mr Smith on the second day but, not all visitors were as welcome - namely the eight-legged ones that hid themselves in the creases of the tents during the day, ready to come out to play at night! Thanks to all the staff who arranged and supported the students on their first Parmiter's trip - a great time was had by all!



At Parmiter's, we are fortunate to have a community of parents and carers who play a vital role in helping the school continue to thrive. The partnership between families and the school enhances every student's experience, from upgraded classrooms and improved facilities to memorable events and opportunities beyond the classroom.

There are many ways you can get involved and make a meaningful contribution:

### 1. Join the Parents and Carers Association (PCA)

The [Parents and Carers Association \(PCA\)](#) is at the heart of our school community. It's a friendly, welcoming group of parents and carers who work closely with the school to raise funds and organise events that enrich student life. Whether you can commit to attending meetings, help at events, or simply share your ideas, every contribution is valued. Being part of the PCA is also a great way to meet other families and feel more connected to the life of the school.

### 2. Support PCA Events

Throughout the year, the PCA organises a range of events from quiz nights and raffles to Christmas fairs and second hand uniform sales. These events not only raise essential funds but also bring our community together. Attending, volunteering, or even donating raffle prizes are all fantastic ways to show your support.

### 3. Sign Up to EasyFundraising

Did you know you can raise money for Parmiter's every time you shop online at no extra cost to you?

By signing up to [EasyFundraising](#), you can help generate donations from over 7,000 retailers, including major names like Amazon, John Lewis and Tesco. It's simple, quick, and a brilliant way to support the school all year round.

### 4. Donate Directly to the School

For parents and carers who wish to make a more direct contribution, donations to the school can be made through one-off payments or regular monthly direct debits via our secure [GoodHub page](#). Every penny raised goes directly towards enhancing learning spaces, upgrading equipment, and funding projects that benefit all students. Regular giving helps us plan long-term improvements with confidence and consistency. And don't forget if you're a UK taxpayer, your donation can attract Gift Aid, adding 25% to the value of your contribution at no extra cost to you.

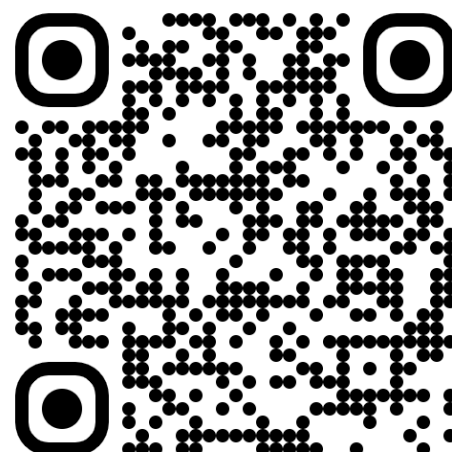
### 5. Support Ongoing Fundraising Projects

The PCA is continuously fundraising for specific projects that make a lasting impact, such as upgrading classrooms and improving learning environments across the school. They are currently raising funds for new classroom furniture and interactive screens, helping to create modern, engaging spaces for all students. Other recent projects include funding a catering pod in the playground, outdoor basketball hoops, interactive screens in Art and DT, study skills programmes for students. They are currently running an [Amazon wish list](#) in support of the Christmas Gift Fair.

### Every Contribution Counts

Whether you give time, attend an event, or set up a monthly donation, your support makes a real difference. Together, we can ensure that Parmiter's continues to provide the best possible opportunities for all our students — now and in the future.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact the PCA at [pa@parmiters.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pa@parmiters.herts.sch.uk) for more information or visit the [PCA webpage](#) to learn more.



It's been a busy and exciting half term for sport at Parmiter's, with students representing the school across a wide range of fixtures, tournaments, and competitions. From football and rugby to netball and badminton, the levels of enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment have been fantastic to see.

## Football

It's been a fantastic and action-packed half term for football, with over 50 fixtures played across our boys' and girls' teams. Results have been mixed, but the commitment and enthusiasm shown at training and matches has been outstanding. A special mention goes to the Year 8A team and the 1st XI, who have both made impressive starts to their seasons and demonstrated excellent teamwork and determination.



## Badminton

Our badminton squads have hit the ground running once again this year, boosted by a new wave of talented Year 7 players. Both boys' and girls' teams have been competing in league and district tournaments, showing great skill and sportsmanship. Congratulations to the U14 Boys, U16 Boys, and U16 Girls, who all won their district tournaments and have qualified for the County Finals later this term - an outstanding achievement!



## Netball

The netball season is off to a strong start, with 27 fixtures already played and an impressive 17 victories recorded. Our A and B teams have represented the school brilliantly in league and district competitions. The Year 11A and 11B teams deserve special recognition for their fantastic performances in the District Tournament, where both teams came away as champions!



## Rugby

Although rugby is not yet in full season, several fixtures have taken place this half term. The 1st XV put in strong performances in two competitive matches against Sandringham and Chesham, while the U14s enjoyed a convincing win in the first round of the National Cup before being well beaten by St Columba's in the second round. A great effort all round and a solid platform to build on for the main rugby season.

## Football Tour Launch

We were delighted to welcome InspireSport into school this half term to officially launch our Football Tour to Portugal in Easter 2027. During the trip, students will have the incredible opportunity to train at FC Porto's world-class facilities and experience life at one of Europe's top football clubs. The launch evening was very well attended, with strong initial interest from players and parents alike - a fantastic start to what promises to be an unforgettable sporting experience!

**inspiresport™**

*Tours to Inspire the Next Generation*

The PE department would like to thank all students who have taken part in training and fixtures so far this year. Your effort, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm continue to make us proud. We look forward to another successful half term of sport ahead!

Mr Swaile



Thomas Parmiter  
Sports Centre

## Did you know you can hire facilities at the school?

We offer a wide variety of facilities, and are able to accommodate an array of different bookings:

- Conferences
- Religious Gatherings
- Kids Parties
- Holiday Camps
- Sporting Bookings
- Tuition Groups
- Exercise Classes
- Yoga & Pilates

### One-Off Bookings

You can hire our facilities for special events such as kids parties, conferences, religious events etc

### Regular Bookings

We can also offer the space as a continuous regular booking

01923 682 805

k.kurlansky@parmiters.herts.sch.uk



## CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE

MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> - FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Which House can donate the most chocolate for the Christmas Fair's Chocolate Tombola?

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO RECEPTION AND PLACE IN YOUR ALLOCATED HOUSE BOX

HOUSE POINTS UP FOR GRABS! THE WINNING HOUSE WILL RECEIVE 100 HOUSE POINTS!

PARMITER'S SCHOOL  
PARENTS' & CARERS' ASSOCIATION

# CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

11AM - 3PM

ENTRY £1.50 ❄️ STUDENTS FREE

High Elms Lane | Garston | Herts | WD25 0UU

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