

CREATIVITY NEWSLETTER

**NEMO SIBI NASCITUR: OUR VALUES OF COMMUNITY,
ASPIRATION AND OPPORTUNITY ALLOW EVERY
INDIVIDUAL TO GROW AND FLOURISH**

SPRING 2025



**WELCOME TO THE CREATIVITY NEWSLETTER FOR SPRING 2025!
READ ON TO DISCOVER THE FANTASTIC EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THIS TERM!**



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FOREWORD

Welcome to the first edition of the Creativity Committee Termly Newsletter for the spring term of this academic year - your place to go for an informative termly update on all things Music, Drama and the Arts, which are integral parts of our flourishing school.

Here we recognise and celebrate the amazing communities and opportunities the Arts have provided that help our students thrive at Parmiter's. This newsletter is part of the ongoing work of the Creativity Committee!

EDITORIAL BOARD:



YUSUPH CHOUDHURY



SURANI PERERA



ERNO THORP

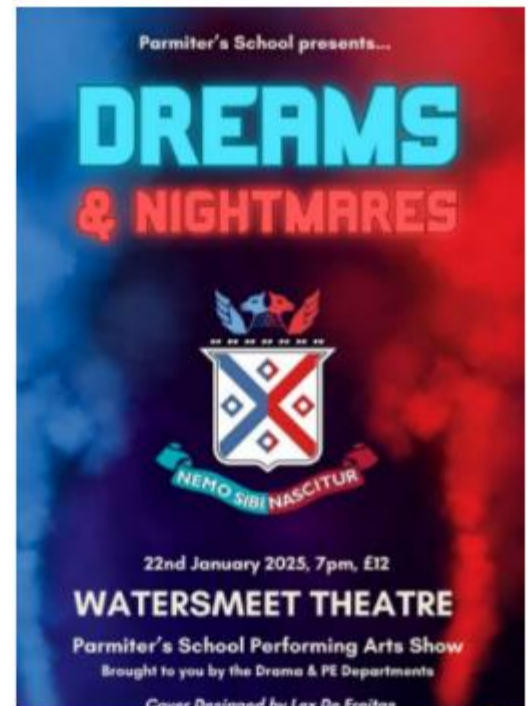
PERFORMING ARTS SHOW

On the 22nd January 2025, a large group of Parmiter's students performed to a venue of hundreds of parents at Watersmeet Theatre, showcasing their outstanding drama and dance skills. Participating students prepared for several months, giving up many breaks and lunchtimes, all to produce this spectacular performance. As part of this student body myself, I would like to note how hard the teachers, especially Miss Burnham, Miss Windmill and Miss Thomas, plus all of the sixth form students, who directed all of the drama scenes and ran the clubs needed to create the wonderful dances, worked to provide an opportunity we will never forget - despite this, the students were just as important in making the show become the spectacular event that it was!

Speaking to other students, I can say all of them agree; Neriah Oyekan in 8NRA says, "The show was absolutely amazing - I can't believe we pulled off such a high-quality event."

Dancers and performers were able to not only improve their skills, but also form new friendships during these lunchtime sessions throughout the term. As a dancer in the production, it was incredible to collaborate with people I had not known before, all while working towards something truly enjoyable. In the past, some of the club leaders have served as role models for me and helped me discover my passion for dance.

Students from all sorts of backgrounds performed all sorts of different pieces, showing their culture in a fantastic way and celebrating how diverse and inclusive a community Parmiter's School is.



Lex also won the house competition to design the poster for the Performing Arts Show - well done!

Lex De Freitas, Zara Nikitas



BACKSTAGE PERSPECTIVE

I was fortunate to be backstage to see this performance unwind. The amount of effort put into this show was phenomenal and there was a really electric energy amongst all the dancers and actors.

The quality of the show was spectacular and it left all members of the audience spellbound. All together, it represented the elements of dreams and nightmares very well with a combination of drama and dance interpreting stories through both dialogue and movement.

Backstage, the atmosphere was buzzing. There were a lot of people there but not so much that it became overcrowded. Most of the teachers there were from the PE department, filming for social media. However, there was also a sense of nerves from the performers before they took to the stage but in general the vibes were very positive. The most stressful bit was during the interval, I had to very speedily move some of the mats to the floor of the stage for cheerleading and then take them off even quicker once they'd completed their master-performance.

Elwood Plumb

INTERSCHOOL DANCE COMPETITION

On the 10th of March, a select group of students participated in a dance competition with other schools, led by Ms. Burnham and Ms. Pettengell. This event provided a fantastic opportunity to enhance performance skills and experience the competitive side of dancing. The students performed exceptionally well, placing 5th in Key Stage 4/5 out of 25 performances and 6th overall. Despite tough competition, they truly shone during their performance.

In the months leading up to the competition, Ms. Burnham choreographed a piece that highlighted how the media can undermine successful and independent women. Although the dance did not win first place, it made a lasting impression on the audience with its powerful message. This piece was also showcased in the dance show before the competition.

As a dancer in the piece, I found it exhilarating to compete alongside other dancers and schools. Performing in front of a large audience is always nerve-wracking, especially with the pressure to win and perform seamlessly. Hopefully, more opportunities like this will be available for more aspiring dancers in the future.

Zara Nikitas



PLUGGED IN 2: TURN IT UP

The second Plugged In concert took place on the 7th March 2025 and was a huge success, with over 200 people attending, not including the many students who performed and worked behind the scenes. It was the result of months of hard work and practice from every student involved.

Plugged In II was run by Xander Pearce in year 12, with help from Yusuph Choudhury (who originally came up with the idea of Plugged In, an entirely student-led concert, last year). Xander also had help from the Frontier, all the members of Band Development Programme (BDP) and numerous members of the Creativity committee. The concert itself acted as a showcase for the work of the Band Development Programme. Over the past year, students who wished to form a band together, could turn to the BDP for advice and guidance. It was created by Yusuph Choudhury as a foundation for older students to support younger ones in their journey, allowing them to share their knowledge gained through first-hand experience. And through persistent dedication and hard work, the bands were able to rapidly improve their playing, until it all culminated in some of their first concerts.



As well as this, the concert featured many other creative and musical acts. Several students collaborated on duets throughout the evening: Bronwyn Bates was accompanied by Natesinee Piper on the piano, and Thomas Kin & Aviv Panicker played a guitar duet. Amidst band performances, many other students played solos, some singing and some playing an instrument. Finally, in addition to this, two larger percussion ensembles performed, one even being completely student led!

The show itself was presented by Lucy Filippini, a student in year 11 who eagerly stepped up to the position. She was both enthusiastic and entertaining, keeping the flow of the concert smooth throughout, and is very welcome to host future events!

Backstage, all the work was also done by students. This included setting the stage for each act, ensuring all equipment worked properly, and operating curtains. At points during the performance things didn't go exactly as planned and so it became a bit stressful backstage. However overall, all the stagehands said that they really enjoyed the experience - and the close up seat they got to all the amazing performances!

Mandy Lawlor, Evie Ash, Claudia Dean

BACKSTAGE

From the refreshments stall, we could see the concert while also selling cookies, drinks and other items. The crowd was having a really fun night out, cheering and whooping after each song, and clapping along to the beats of a few different numbers here and there. The energy in the room was absolutely electric, from not just the audience, but obviously from the wonderfully talented singers and bands, who didn't hold back and completely owned the stage, pouring in their absolute all, radiating waves of electric energy, and endless excitement, which in turn bounced off onto the audience. Everybody here did an amazing job at creating this truly wonderful, diverse and inclusive concert, a concert which became more than just a 'concert', and instead became an event, a celebration of togetherness and of everything that Parmiter's stands for; Nemo Sibi Nascitur (no one is an island). It is the hard work and dedication of Yusuph Choudhry and Xander Pearce that got this event to the amazing final result it truly was, and will surely be remembered as one of the greatest events in Parmiter's 300-year history!

Jacob Lo, Jacob Healey

PLUGGED IN 2: PERFORMERS

Percussion Ensemble (Mr Lawrence)
Nivany (Dance)
Dineth (Solo)
VIM
Thomas Kin & Aviv Panicker (Duet)
String Quartet
Lily Sharman (Solo)
Stage Revolution
Bronwyn & Jas (Duet)
Hannah (Solo)

Out of Time
Fenner, Xander & Claudia
Xander (solo)
Percussion (student)
Anupriya (dance)
Claudia (solo)
Zausc
Hyperion
Surprise Act
Elliot (solo)
Frontier Band



FRONTIER: YR7 ASSEMBLY

On Monday 3rd March, students in Year 7 and 8 started their school day by listening to Parmiter's oldest surviving band: The Frontier.

They performed the song Counting Stars by OneRepublic which sounded exceptional like all of their previous performances. The vibe in the hall was brilliant; you could tell that people were enjoying listening to the music. This particular performance was to advertise the upcoming Plugged In II: Turn It Up event. It made a lot of students interested and loads of Year 7s and 8s bought tickets to the main event, which was a huge success!

This performance showed very well what Plugged In II would have to offer and most importantly the pupils enjoyed it and it brightened up their Monday morning.

Elwood Plumb



SPRING LEAVERS CONCERT

We were sat in the audience or performing, and what an awesome show it was! Students from all walks of school life, coming together, putting on a phenomenal show and just generally being amazing!

Our favourite part of the show came later on in the evening: the senior choir sang three songs conducted by Dr Tyack. Brown Eyes Blue; Control; and Make Your Own Kind of Music. The former got everyone smiling in the audience with its upbeat and catchy tune. The rendition of Control was amazing due to its deeply resonant lyrics. All of the harmonies blended together beautifully, with the piano played by the wonderful Miss Birley. All in all, it was a display of sheer talent and hard work displayed by the senior choir.

It was also a wonderful way to see off the leaving Year 13s. With a plethora of pathways for their futures, the Music department will certainly miss them! They are: Katie Ball, James Beasley, Lawrence Chang, Mel Gourlay, Jenee Jayakumar, Joshua Jones, Dev Kotecha, Sara Kulkarni, Ellen Latham, Kari Layson, Ava Lehner, Zara Simon, Michael Tawfik, Rosie Thomas and Amelia Watson. Their final performance was a rendition of 'National Express' by Mr Bates' own, The Divine Comedy. I think they enjoyed it almost as much as he did!

They also got some lovely presents for the Music department staff, including Miss Birley's favourite cereal, Honey Cheerios. I sure hope they'll help with her possible concussion, after Benedict Moriarty's drumstick snapped in two, with one half flying straight towards her head!

Thanks must also go to the PCA for providing refreshments during the interval, and Lucy Filippini and Bronwyn Bates (Year 11) for helping on the door. A sensational night!

Erno Thorp, Trinetra Garge, Kishan Aheer



CHAMBER CHOIR: EVENSONG

The Parmiter's Chamber Choir was invited to sing at King's College Chapel in London in March.

When we first entered, many of us were amazed at the beautiful architecture of the chapel. Shortly after arriving, members of the Parmiter's choir were distributed among the King's College students, so we could get a feel for how they did their weekly Evensong rehearsals. It was great to talk to the students – one mentioned how she would sometimes be doing Evensong performances around three times a week!

During the rehearsal, we took note of the fast pace of these practices – and also the incredible acoustics of the chapel. Then, in the performance, it was interesting for us to see how each part of the service worked and also to sing with an audience in the chapel. We saw how the singing was separated by bible readings; some by King's College students, another done by a Parmiter's Chamber Choir singer, Benedict Moriarty.



At the end of the service, our choir took some photos in the chapel to remember our time singing there. Overall, it was an incredible experience for which our Chamber Choir is so grateful. We thank the music department for this amazing opportunity.
Lily Sharman, Alma Nunez Debretzeni

WATFORD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA

In March two of our choirs competed at the Watford Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. Their outstanding performances were the result of great commitment over the weeks before.

Parmiter's Barbershop Quartet, competing for the first time, went head to head against several highly experienced adult groups. Although they did not come away with a trophy, their performance was of top quality and was very well received by a large audience. Well done to all four of them.

Earlier in the day, 49 members of Junior Choir had competed. Performing music by cutting-edge contemporary classical composers Cecilia McDowall and Nico Muhly, they were commended for their "precise rhythmic singing" and their "good sound", and they won their class.

Dr Tyack



PARMITER'S SCHOOL CREATIVITY NEWSLETTER



CHOIRS AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL

On Sunday 23 March 2025, 46 singers from Junior and Senior Choir travelled to the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in the heart of London to take part in the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala. This is a biennial event which marked its 30th anniversary with the theme "For The Record", representing a wide selection of music spanning genres and generations.

We performed in the afternoon concert alongside the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra as well as other primary and secondary schools. Performing in the afternoon concert, the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala began at 1.45pm, welcoming a large audience. The programme commenced with a thrilling orchestral rendition of 'Also Sprach Zarathustra - Sunrise, Op. 30' by Richard Strauss, before the massed choirs joined in with 'If I Had Words' by Camille Saint-Saëns. From there, a range of other songs were also performed, including but not limited to: Cass Elliott's song "Make Your Own Kind Of Music"; "Control" by Zoe Wees; and a fantastic finale based on John Farnham's song "You're The Voice" which featured the massed choirs, the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra, drummers, the HMS Steel Orchestra, and dancers.



Being part of a massive group of musicians across Hertfordshire was a phenomenal experience, celebrating such musical diversity with an uplifting and upbeat atmosphere and at such a special venue.

Thank you to the Music Department for providing this opportunity!

Natesinee Piper, Surani Perera

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Returning for its fourth year, the Model United Nations club, led by Mr Adaci of the History & Politics department, has had its most successful year yet. With over 60 students attending some sessions, resulting in a temporary room change, we have been fortunate enough to participate in 2 major conferences over the last term. For those who don't know what MUN is, students will play the role of a country's representative in a political summit, and will work with students from other schools to form a resolution (solving a given issue) that the majority of member parties are happy with.

In February, a group of Year 10 and 12 students attended the Oxford NoviceNations event, one of the largest in the UK. This brought major success, with five awards being given to Parmiter's students. This was followed by even more success at the London YouthMUN at the London School of Economics in March, with 9 awards being given out to Parmiterians - as a result, we were awarded Best Large Delegation out of all of the schools who attended the conference - including prestigious schools such as Eton! Overall MUN has been hugely successful this year, and will restart in the Autumn term - watch out for notices!

Thanks must of course go to Mr Adaci, Mr Jones and Ms McPherson, who accompanied and supervised these students at the respective events. We couldn't have done it without you!

Erno Thorp



WORLD BOOK WEEK

World Book Week 2025 was a thriving week of young writers, readers, and literary enthusiasts, all striving for the golden ticket. The golden ticket allows you and seven friends to enjoy the library side of the LRC, with biscuits and entertainment. There were several things you could get this for, such as:

- A story dice competition that tested your writing skills under pressure
- A 'Redesign a Book Cover' competition to see what people can do with premade concepts
- A book trivia competition, testing your knowledge of books
- Make a bookmark day, to show your artistic skills
- The Harry Potter-themed 'escape the library' challenge that tests your wits with hard questions and anagrams
- Daily quizzes that make you think very hard about the pictograms
- A Bookopoly reading challenge for every form

These would all not be possible without LRC staff (led by Mrs Mullett and Mrs Faisal) and the librarians who contributed greatly to the week!

Clem Edwards

CAROLINE BOXALL VISIT

On the 3rd and 4th of March, Year 7 were treated to a talk with a local author, Caroline Boxall. She showed all the students a captivating presentation that ignited their passions for reading and writing. Within the presentation, there was a fun quiz and she taught the students about a charity that she greatly cares for and supports called Railway Children.

She told the devastating tale of the street children in India and the dangers they have to face when they have nowhere to go due to neglect. Railway Children try to help and provide support to as many children living in poverty on the streets as possible before they fall into the hands of an abuser.

She also spoke about the books that she has written- The Secret children of India Series (about street children in India trying to escape poverty) and The Ember Enigma Series (A Russian spy story for young teens with powerful messages about dementia, PTSD, and stroke).



As well as this, she got many students excited about her creative writing competition. You would write a short story with a theme of 'courage' and send it to her for a chance to become a published author in one of her books. She recommended to people who wanted to participate to buy her 'Crazy Creatives' book which contains a short story writing course. Hiding inside one of her books she was selling was a golden ticket and if you won it, you would gain free access to her book!

Elwood Plumb



HACKATHON

The Hackathon was an exciting coding event which was led by passionate 6th formers (William Taylor and Kai Young). There were three main coding/hacking-based challenges the attendees took part in: one which involved reverse engineering (breaking up the code of a program to see how it works) a computer program made in the Python coding language; another where students found the answers to web-based quizzes by looking at the source code (the code a programmer writes); and a final challenge where attendees hacked into a web application using a strategy used by real hackers: 'SQL injection'.

There were attendees from Parmiter's, Merchant Taylors', Rickmansworth, Watford Girls and Queens'. Each school was represented by a team of five people: one from key stage five, two from key stage four and two from key stage three. At the end of the event, individual prizes were awarded. Can you guess which school won the overall competition? Correct, it was Parmiter's! Our school came in 0th place (in Computer Science, you always start counting from 0).

As if the 6th formers hadn't already done enough, the software that allowed attendees to take part in the challenges was all hand-coded. Overall, the Hackathon event was another huge success to join the long list of huge successes at our school!

Nico Passan, William Taylor



LANGUAGES WEEK

The annual event led by the MFL department saw many participants giving presentations about their languages and the culture that surrounds them. Due to the school's diverse range of national identities, students had a wide selection of presentations to attend, in Gujarati, Mandarin, Farsi, and Polish.

These presentations involved students finding creative ways to demonstrate the features and customs surrounding their languages, whether it be through getting the audience to pronounce words, how to spell basic phrases, or even a Chinese name generation website (which I must admit I have spent a bit too much time on).

The Mandarin session was led by Tilly Chan, Sheryl Su and Yanyi Lu. There was a classroom full of participants, who were all active and engaged with the presentation. Basic phrases were covered, such as Hello (你好), Goodbye (再见), Thank you (谢谢). Interactive activities were utilised frequently, for example, participants were encouraged to repeat back phrases said to practice their pronunciation and speaking skills. There was also a fun (but unofficial) Chinese Name Generator used, found with this link:

<https://www.lingobright.com/tools/chinese-name-converter/>

Participants had fun inputting their names and finding their names in Chinese, but did need some help on the pronunciation. The rest of the presentation included basic phrases you learn in French and Spanish/German in your first year of learning at Parmiter's, such as your age and your nationality. Something else unique added nearer to the end of our presentation was the Chinese Zodiac animals, where your animal is decided on your birth year and the cycle of animals repeats every twelve years- for example, 2025 is the Year of the Snake.

The session wrapped up well as lunch ended, and the participants seemed satisfied with the Mandarin Taster Session.

As you can see, there are many different people who were able to express their identities through the language they speak. This goes to show how wonderful an occasion Parmiter's Languages Week truly is; may next year's be just as brilliant!

Yanyi Lu, Elliot Bond



BAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Band Development Programme (BDP) is the music department's newest addition to their numerous student opportunities here at Parmiter's. The program was started by Yusuph Choudhury, and his band 'The Frontier', as their contribution to the progressive creativity of the younger years. It has the aim of helping each of the enlisted bands' progress to reach their full potential and perform their music in the BDP's signature "Plugged In" concerts, as well as in their practices, to allow them to flourish to the highest level of musicians. Working tirelessly inside and outside of school, the BDP team has already put on 2 concerts this year, and are planning a third in the summer for their year 7 bands. We also aim to host another in the autumn term of next year for all bands.



These concerts have proved to be an excellent place for many acts to perform, with the last concert consisting of an arrangement of bands, duets, solos, and dancers, allowing for as many people to play to the 120+ audience members and get performance practice.

But, the band development program isn't just about performing within the band's comfort zone: the BDP team works with the individual members of each band to help them improve at their chosen instrument as well as expand their musical repertoire and try different styles of playing and different cultures. We are extremely proud of the diversity of bands throughout the BDP, because it allows us to encourage learning from one another and mixing of tastes in music and styles of play.

As of early March, leadership of the BDP has transitioned from Yusuph to Claudia Dean (Lead Singer of The Frontier) and Natesinee Piper (Lead Pianist & Head of Compositions of The Frontier). Together, these Year 11s are dedicated to helping each band reach its full potential while maintaining the high standards set by the program. Their combined expertise in performance, composition, and musical direction ensures that every band continues to grow and thrive under their guidance.

To enhance the efficiency of band rehearsals, they have teamed up with Xander Pearce (Solo Bassist) to develop a structured roster for the Band Crate—the shipping containers outside the history block equipped with a variety of instruments. This new system ensures fair access to equipment, allowing bands to maximize their practice time and refine their performances. Their leadership marks the beginning of a more streamlined and collaborative approach within the BDP, fostering creativity and musical excellence.

The future of the Band Development Programme looks brighter than ever, with a strong foundation built on passion, collaboration, and a commitment to musical growth. Under the new leadership and continuous mentoring from 'The Frontier', the BDP continues to evolve, providing students with the tools, guidance, and performance opportunities they need to develop as musicians. As the programme expands, so does its impact—encouraging creativity, confidence, and a deep appreciation for music across all year groups. With more concerts, new initiatives, and fresh talent emerging, the BDP is set to inspire the next generation of musicians at Parmiter's for years to come.

Xander Pearce, Natesinee Piper

UPCOMING EVENTS

Active Lives Week (from 09/06)

The PE department's annual celebration event returns this year, with a wide variety of activities available to participate in. Details will be revealed soon!

Open Day/Creativity Exhibition (26/06)

Come along to the annual Creativity Exhibition, where the Art, D&T, Music and Drama departments will be showing recent student work. This is hosted in conjunction with the Open Day for prospective Year 7 parents - a great way to see what Parmiter's is all about!

Enrichment Week (from 30/06)

The biennial Enrichment Week will celebrate everything life has to offer, with many students taking part in trips such as Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, the French trip to Normandy, the History trip to Belgium, and the Physics trip to Switzerland. For those staying at school, many opportunities will be offered, such as a 'Build a Meal Deal' challenge (hosted by Tesco) and a Lego tower construction challenge.

Parmiter's Fringe (07/07)

It's back again! Returning for the first time since 2022, Parmiter's Fringe celebrates everything creativity has to offer, such as drama performances, music, comedy, and interactive education sessions. Fun for all!

Parmiter's Got Talent (09/07)

The annual talent show returns - with a wide variety of talents on display this year, who will take home the victory? More details to follow!

Summer Picnic Concert (15/07)

An informal family-oriented evening of light music in The Plaza (weather permitting?!) led by the specially formed Parmiter's Sunshine Orchestra, alongside the lower years' Friday Band and others. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own food and drink to enjoy while being entertained by our brilliant young musicians. Grab a table outside from 6:00pm, and the music will start at 6:30pm prompt...tickets on sale nearer the time.

School trips

Year 8 workshop - Renae Cotton (14/05)

Reading Champions - National Competition Final (21/05)

Year 12 Sociology trip to the Museum in Liverpool (05/06)

Year 7 trips to Natural History & Science Museums (10-11/06)

Year 12 trip to Six: The Musical (12/06)

Year 8 trips to National Museum of Computing (16,17,19/06)

Year 12 Art trip to Paris (10-12/07)

