



Part of the Greater Manchester Learning Trust  
**BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED**  
Parrs Wood High School Wilmslow Road East Didsbury Manchester M20 5PG  
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24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The term dates for academic year 2018-2019 have now been published on our website. You will see there is an additional training day to be scheduled into the calendar during the Spring Term.

Parrs Wood Environmental Centre (next to Barlow Croft & Travelodge)

The Parrswood Environmental Centre are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 12:00 noon – 3:00pm. There will be charity stalls, cards, gifts, raffles, floral art, aloe vera xmas gifts, local history books and maps, plants, logs, jams chutneys honey and refreshments. Please support.

Please note we are running 'Active Parents Get Cooking' on every Thursday 9.15am-10.40am. Please contact Jo Mannion for further details or to book a place on 01614458786 [j.mannion@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:j.mannion@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk)

Sixth Form Interviews

Can Year 11 students who have not applied to Parrs Wood Sixth Form, please complete application forms and return to the main office. Forthcoming interview dates are 7<sup>th</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> January. Should you require any assistance or have questions regarding the sixth form please see Mr. Waites or Ms Bryson.

A Message from you school librarians

A warm welcome to all our parents/carers and students From your School Librarians, Ms P Arden and Mr P McKrell.

We have a very welcoming and well stocked school library to which all our students have access during the school day. All students have a library account and can borrow up to 2 books at any one time for a period of 3 weeks with a maximum of 3 renewals per loan.

Currently we have in excess of 300 non returned books outstanding on student accounts. To help alleviate the cost of replacing stock we have initiated a 'return' or 'replace' policy on lost or long overdue books and would ask for your support in helping the students to retrieve any school library books and return them to school.

As always the school appreciates your support in helping us to maintain a well stocked library for the benefit of our students.

Community Involvement

Key 103 Mission Christmas – Parents and Students are invited to drop off presents by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Can we please ask you to focus on gifts for teenagers.

We are holding a coffee and mince pie morning for all parents on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 09:30-11:00am.



There will be more fund-raising events which will be advertised on the school website.

### Parrs Wood Christmas Card Competition for Keystage 3 students

Design a christmas card to be used for the official school Christmas card. The winner will also receive a gift voucher. The deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please hand into Mr Davison from the Art Department.

### Message from the Head of Learning for Year 7 – Mr Cooper

The year 7s continue to be at the top of the leader board when it comes to attendance. They are regularly achieving 97-98% attendance which is really pleasing and sets a great standard for their time at secondary school. It was 7JKPs turn to benefit from the rewards breakfast for 100% attendance last week. On another note can I please ask for parents and carers to continue supporting the pupils by checking their planners weekly. They are a really important tool in helping us with communication and form tutors are asked to look at these on Mondays during PDC (form) time. It is important to make sure pupils are recording their homework on a daily basis and also completing their 'learning logs' on Thursdays to review what they have been doing. Well done to all those pupils who have been involved with 'Bikeability' which develops their cycle skills and levels of safety when they are out on the roads. Finally I would like to thank our music department and congratulate all the year 7 choir who gave up their time to support this year's Children In Need. Once again they represented the school and the year group fantastically well and it was wonderful to see them get the recognition on national and regional TV.

### Message from the Head of Learning for Year 8 – Mr McLynn

Parents Evening for Year 8 is on Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 until 7:00. This will be a good chance for you to talk to all of your child's teachers about their progress over the previous term and any concerns that you have. Please can you encourage your child to start making appointments with all of their teachers as early as possible. If you have any concerns over this or wish to make an appointment with me then please get in touch. I hope to see all of you there on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

You will be receiving the first Year 8 progress review in the next couple of weeks. This will give you an overview of how your child is progressing academically in each subject area and the band that they are currently performing. The current bands are based on an accumulation of their assessments through this term. The Minimum Expected Band is the standard that we would like them to reach as a minimum by the end of the year. You will also be able to see how much effort they are putting into their work and how positive we feel their behaviour and attitude is. This can be a bit of a daunting document, so if you want help or advice on how to analyse it then please contact the school. In light of all of this, I would recommend that you speak to your child and remind them of your expectations for them in school.

### Message from the Head of Learning for Year 9 – Mr Heron

It has been a busy month as the first set of assessments have been taken. These will form the basis of the autumn screenings which will be sent home towards the end of the term. Recently all the students in Y9 took part in a workshop by professional actors which was centred on hate crime. The first part of the workshop was a play followed by a discussion where stereotypes and generalisation were challenged and students were educated around matters such as homophobia, xenophobia and racism amongst other topics.

The G&T students are to be involved in a mock trial which will take place in the coming weeks. This will consist of working with students from other schools as they will play out a real court case.

#### Message from the Head of Learning for Year 10 – Ms Catterall

We are fast approaching the end of term and whilst the majority of students in Y10 are working hard in lessons, a small minority of students aren't as focused as they should be. On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, students will be sitting their English Literature exams and regardless of the band they achieve, will not be given the opportunity to re-sit in Y11. Therefore it is imperative that students are turning up to their lessons on time, equipped and ready to learn. Revision sessions will begin in February, but more information on this will be provided nearer the time. May I also ask for your support in ensuring your child's planner is signed every week. This will give you a good idea of the homework your child has to do and a firm understanding of when it needs to be handed in. If you have any concerns about homework, please contact your child's subject teacher.

#### Message from the Head of Learning for year 11 – Ms Hawksley

After a very busy term preparing CV's, applying to colleges and attending Future Choices interviews, the pupils finally involved in either a week's work experience or an enterprise event where they were able to test their employability skills and learn from practical experiences. The pupils had all prepared well for the experience and the positive feedback was exactly what they deserved. It can be summarised by the following quote from an employer "Over the years we have had dozens and dozens of work placement students. I would just like to let you know that x was head and shoulders above all those that have gone before him. He proved himself to be of an exceptional standard and ability, and is a true credit to your school."

The Pre Public Examinations series (mocks) commences on 4<sup>th</sup> December until 13<sup>th</sup> December and the pupils all have timetables for this period so they can plan their revision schedule ahead. Screenings are also in progress so by the end of January the pupils should have a clear idea of their present achievement levels and clear goals of how to make further progress. Some important dates for diaries are 6<sup>th</sup> form Interview Evening on 7<sup>th</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> January, Mock Results Day on 12<sup>th</sup> January and Parent's Evening on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Message from the Head of Learning for Year 12 – Mr Blackburn

It's getting very close to Christmas! Which means our plans are well underway for our annual Christmas Party for local Senior Citizens. Organised and run by our Year 12 students this is a great event for our community, giving us the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and talents of our students. We will be collecting gifts for our visitors so we would be very grateful for any donations from parents and carers. Shortly we will be completing a full Progress Review for our Year 12 students which will give you a clear picture about Behaviour, Effort, Attendance and progress towards Target grades. Apologies for referring to next year already, but please note that all subjects will holding complete mock examinations in January. Attendance is still a concern with too many students thinking that form time and Assembly are optional. I would appreciate your support in making sure that students meet their full timetable commitment. All students have signed an agreement to attend all lessons with an understanding that poor attendance could mean they pay for their exam entries in the summer. Let's focus on having a positive end to what has been a very long term.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 13 – Mr Crickett

It was great to see so many at Year 13 Parents Evening; which for some of you would have been your 7<sup>th</sup> and final one! It is important now that the action points discussed during the evening are now put into place to ensure they have a positive impact on the upcoming mocks, which take place during the first week back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. This year, to support students with their revision, we are organising a Revision Skills Day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, to give the students the skills to tackle their revision over the holidays. This means that for that day lessons will be suspended, but will be back on for their final day of the term on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Just a reminder as we start to approach the deadline for University applications that all personal references should be now completed; if there are any concerns about the application please see your tutor asap.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in what will be a hectic final 5 months of college!!

Yours sincerely



Mark McElwee  
Headteacher