

24th March 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

Principal's Newsletter

The Spring term is always quite a short one in schools and the timing of Easter this year means that this term has been an even shorter one than usual. It has however been an extremely busy one across both Phoenix Park Academy and Sevenhills Academy. In the last couple of weeks, I was proud of all our students and staff who were involved in fund raising events for Sport Relief. Sevenhills Academy put on a fantastic community day which featured incredible performances from Thomas Cook, who sang, acted and DJ'ed throughout the afternoon, a very popular cake stall and an incredible raffle. There was a tremendous turnout from parents, carers, governors and the local community and I would like to thank all those that took part. The event managed to raise over £150 for charity and towards funding an educational visit later in the year.



Phoenix Park Academy students at Park House spent Sport Relief day cycling the 170 miles or so to London without actually leaving the site. They did this by taking it in turns to peddle like mad on exercise bikes and adding up the "distance" they covered between them. This amazing team effort comfortably covered the distance and at the same time raised over £100 for Sport Relief. There was also a "Bake off" style competition, in which there were many very competitive participants. The Grimsby Telegraph were there to capture the moment and pictures can be seen on their website.



We were delighted last month to welcome David Mills to our leadership team at Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academy. David is joining us to lead on Special Educational Needs and also to take responsibility for children and young people who are looked after by the local authority. David has many years of experience working as a Senior Leader in the Grimsby area and brings all that experience and knowledge to his new role with us. There is a message from David later in this newsletter

After Easter, there will be another new addition to our leadership team. Neil Swain will be joining us to help provide extra leadership capacity whilst the Head of Centre at Sevenhills, Jenny Smith, is on maternity leave. Jenny will be leaving us to have her baby soon after Easter and we are delighted that Neil will be helping us out during that time. Neil is another very experienced Senior Leader who has worked in the Grimsby area for many years and we are delighted to have him on board. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Neil and Jenny the very best of luck.



Sadly, we have a departure to announce as well as some new arrivals. Luke Campbell, who has been with us for the last twelve months as an admin apprentice, is moving on to a new post. If you have been to Park House or called in the last year or so, chances are you will have met Luke or spoken to him on the phone. Luke has made tremendous progress during the time he has spent with us and I would like to thank him for his hard work and wish him well in his future career.



I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend our Review Days over the last few days. I was so pleased to meet so many of you and to hear your views and opinions of the Academy and the education and support we give to your children. The turnout at this round of reviews was good, both in terms of parents and the mainstream schools who attended. I hope that you found it a worthwhile experience. I was delighted to read the feedback we received from the parents and carers who attended through the survey we asked you to complete, the time you took to complete it is much appreciated. I will send a summary of the survey's findings to you in the new year so you can see the details.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's education or progress, we want to hear from you. Please do not feel that you have to wait until Review Days for this. I encourage all my staff to try and call when things are going well as well as when we have issues we wish to make you aware of. We are always looking to improve our communications with home and to that end, our websites will soon be getting an overhaul. Find them at: <http://sevenhillsacademy.co.uk/> and <http://phoenixparkacademy.co.uk/>

This term we marked Safer Internet Day across all our sites in Grimsby by doing activities learning the very important lesson of how to keep safe on line. As the parent of a teenage daughter myself, I know that Internet safety is a big worry for many of us and we take it very, very seriously. On Safer Internet Day we worked with our young people on issues such as cyber bullying how to protect your personal information on social media and the dangers of sharing inappropriate information on line. If you would like further information about online safety for young people, please visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



I am sure that many of you are aware that your children have important exams coming up after the Easter break. Some of our younger students will be doing SATs tests at Phoenix House, whilst older students at Park House and Sevenhills have GCSEs on the horizon. It is more important than ever that you do your best to help your child to attend school regularly and on time. There will be important revision and booster sessions on in all our schools and it's vital that your child attends so that they can make the most of them. You will be contacted soon after the holiday with a full schedule of when tests and exams will take place.

Next term promises to be as busy as the last so here are some important dates for your diary in the coming weeks:

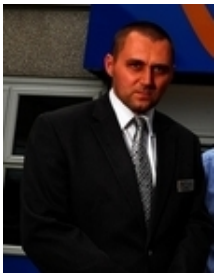
April 12th – Schools reopen (please note, this is a **Tuesday**)

May 4th – School Photographer Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academy

Week beginning May 9th – KS2 SATs week

Week beginning June 27th – Reviews at Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academy

An Introduction to David Mills – our new SENCO



I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the families of all Phoenix Park Academy and Sevenhills Academy students. My name is David Mills and my role is designated SENCO and LAC Co-ordinator. That means that I am responsible for special needs provision and looked after children across both academy sites. I am in the really fortunate position of knowing many students attending both academies from previous roles in and around the town and I am excited to continue to support them in this newly created position.

Currently I am busy getting to know all students and the routines of the separate sites that the students attend. I must say that I've been very impressed with what I have seen to date and all of the staff and students have been very welcoming – I've even been on a 6.5 mile hike with the Sevenhills Academy students as initiation and survived!

I am here to help your child and work with you to support their time in school so don't be surprised if I telephone you for a chat or invite you to a meeting. You will find that I am very welcoming and approachable. Likewise, if you have any questions about the provision we offer your child or the education landscape regarding special education and looked after children, please give me a call.

If you would like to speak to David please call the Centre that your child attends and leave a message. He will be in touch as soon as possible. The numbers are on the bottom of each page of this newsletter.

Head of Centre Update:

This has been a very short term but Sevenhills staff and students have managed to pack a considerable amount into just a few weeks.



In acknowledgment of Internet Safety Day, our local Community Police Officers were invited to present an informative session to both KS3 and KS4 pupils to highlight how our students can keep themselves safe when accessing the internet. A valuable and worthwhile morning and we are grateful for the input from April Hayes and Jenny Goodman.

Our Community Day was a fantastic success with £169 raised for Sports Relief. Staff and students alike pulled out all the stops with a home-made photo booth, a raffle, cake stall, biscuit decorating, mask design and even live entertainment for the talented Thomas Cook in year 9.

Governors, community police officers, parents and a local primary school all enjoyed the great atmosphere and the exceedingly good cakes.



Sevenhills students supporting and working with children from a local Primary School on Community day



Sue Warner, our 'in-house' advocate of fresh air and exercise organised a 'Muddy Walk' for students which certainly seemed to live up to its name. The students returned from the 6.5 mile walk from Irby to Sevenhills rosy cheeked, happy and...muddy. It seems like a good time was had by all.



A long and muddy walk but all in a good cause



Academically, students have already been sitting final examinations and have achieved some spectacular results. Donna Hilton has reported five 'A' grades, 2 B's and a C at GCSE level in Finance with 4 A's, 3 B's and a further 4 C's expected in the next exam. Four students have already passed Health and Social Care with one student achieving the highest ever score in this subject.

As relief for students sitting their Functional Skills exams, staff organised an Easter egg hunt for Year 11s who were definitely not too old to believe in the Easter Bunny for an afternoon.

Many students have enjoyed various reward trips this term which celebrate their impressive behaviour and attendance. Go-Karting is a firm favourite and our Personalised Learning Group, led by Mark Heaton and Kelly Spence had a fun afternoon on the track.



The term has been finished off with a trip to Xscape to burn some energy on the snow slopes and a Science trip to Magna for those students not involved in examinations.

All that's left is to wish all students and parents a Happy Easter and to thank you for your continued support.

Jenny Smith
Head of Centre

And finally

We will see all pupils back at school on **Tuesday 12th April.**

Have a happy and peaceful Easter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Jacques".

Scott Jacques
Executive Principal
Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academy