



IN THE COMMUNITY

It's been a busy few months for sport in the sun with our 1ACE students.

Rock climbing at the new YMCA provision in Taunton has proven a big hit, with some students attending weekly sessions throughout the summer term.

For those who prefer a less adventurous pace, golf, French cricket and fishing have been on offer thanks to our brilliant PE lead, Nick. Finally, a pool tournament, organised by the students, has been underway, with some complex scoring and a winner on the horizon!

A NOTE FROM SALLY,

As we reach the end of another successful summer term, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that our students have achieved. This term has been a mixture of outdoor learning, Duke of Edinburgh, creative art projects, work experience opportunities, fishing activities, assessments and, of course, plenty of academic challenge.

Our students have much to be proud of, the progress they have made, both academically and personally, is a testament to their hard work and the dedication of our staff team. Together, we provide the encouragement and opportunities that enable our young people to thrive and they in turn, seize those opportunities – developing practical life skills, building confidence and supporting one another. Please do have a restful summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September fully refreshed. - Sally Pitkin

PARK HOUSE

An off timetable arts day at the beginning of the term got us off to a flying start and provided some colourful interior updates for Park House School! Assemblies have continued to form an essential part of our weekly rhythm, topics have included wonders of the world, online safety and an anti bullying workshop. Engagement in these online sessions has been very good and it's lovely to bring the whole school together. Exams are now well underway and our KS4 students are working hard towards their targets; whether that is a route towards traineeships, apprenticeships or further education.



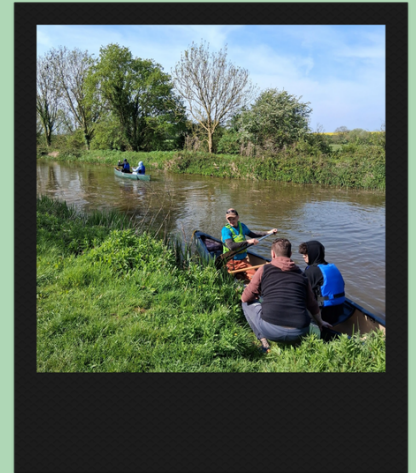
MIDDLEZOY

Students and teacher have been making the most of the outdoor space at Middlezoy during this sweltering weather! The undercover outdoor classroom has provided a great space for group art sessions. Group PE sessions have remained popular, providing excellent social opportunities for our students to work with their peers, play collaboratively and enjoy a little competition.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Watersport sessions have been in full swing throughout the summer term at the Boat Centre in North Newton. For the first few weeks, students concentrated on tandem canoeing and as the weather warmed up they moved on to paddleboarding, kayaking and a bit of wild swimming (although that wasn't part of the lesson plan!). Otter, the spaniel, made a surprise appearance for one session and proved quite handy in a canoe! For those that prefer dry land, an orienteering course was organised at Fyne Court in June and teams competed to complete the course with the lowest time. The record was set at just under 25 minutes!



WHO'S WHO



Hi I'm Lisa,
I've been an HLTA at Park House for 5 years. My favourite subject at school was childcare. If I had a super power it would be teleportation. In my free time I like to run and go to the gym. An interesting fact about me is I used to be a bricklayer!



Hi, I'm Steph, Assistant Headteacher and creative therapist at Park House and have worked here for 9 years. My favourite subject at school was art. If I had a super power I would like to fly like a bird. My favourite thing to do is canoeing!

THIS TERM WE'RE CELEBRATING!

"OUR BRILIANT YEAR 10 STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKING WORK EXPERIENCE; FEEDING LAMBS, CLEANING KENNELS AND WALKING RESCUE DOGS!"



"TWO FAB SCHOOL TRIPS - THE FIRST TO BRISTOL ZOO AND MOST RECENTLY TO SHEPTON MALLET PRISON, BOTH SUPER FUN DAYS OUT!"





SMSC SUMMER TERM

19/03/2026 Eid-Al-Fitr (Muslim)
22/04/2026 World Earth Day
1-9th April Passover (Judaism)
22/05/2026 Manchester Arena memorial day
June 2026 Pride month
20/06/2026 World Refugee Day

PSHE SUMMER TOPICS

KS2 Physical health and mental wellbeing
Growing and changing, Keeping safe
KS3/4 Living in the wider world

KEY DATES

17/07/2026 - Last day of term
20/07/2026-21/07/2026 - INSET DAYS
03/09/2026-04/09/2026 - INSET DAYS
07/09/2026 - First day back at school
26/10/2026-30/10/2026 - Half term
02/11/2026 - INSET DAY

SMSC AUTUMN TERM 2026

15/09/2026 International day of democracy
10/2026 Black History Month
10/10/2026 National Hate Crime awareness week

PROJECT WORK - WONDERS OF THE WORLD!



During the first half of the term students learnt all about crime and punishment throughout the ages, culminating in a school trip to visit Shepton Mallet Prison! Everyone had lots of fun and our students enjoyed an opportunity to put the staff 'behind bars'.

The second half of the summer term has seen students exploring ancient and modern wonders of the world, from the Great Pyramids and statue of Zeus to the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China. Art projects, science experiments, history and geography intertwine to make project work rich, broad and engaging for our students.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is our number one priority at Park House School, IACE. If you need to contact the safeguarding team please email phsafeguardingleads@five-rivers.org Alternatively you can call us:

Molly Roberts (Designated Safeguarding Lead) 07759836052

Sally Pitkin (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) 07715196777

Steph Burton (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) 07715522109

A parents and carers' guide to knife crime

What are the signs? What can you do?

What signs should parents look for if they suspect their child is involved in knife crime:

Is anything missing from your knife block, kitchen drawer or garden shed?

Approximately 74% of knives used in crime are domestic kitchen knives.

- Does your child have any unexplained injuries that they are trying to hide from you? How could these have happened and why is the child trying to hide them?
- Does your child appear nervous or fearful when they are going out? What could they be scared of and why?
- Is there a reluctance to say where they are going and who they are going out with? Could this be to somewhere they know you wouldn't approve of within a peer group who are a negative influence?
- Be aware of what online activity your child is involved in. Most people now research things online first, before they do anything. Has your child been searching online for questions about knives or places to buy them?

Consequences of carrying a knife

There are many potential consequences, some more serious than others.

If a young person is caught with a knife at school they run a real risk of being permanently excluded as well as getting a criminal record.

The young person could hurt someone else and be hurt themselves – badly and even fatally.

This could limit career options, holiday destinations, relationships with family and friends.

If a young person uses a knife in an offence, for example a street robbery, then as well as a criminal record, a prison sentence is highly likely, regardless of if this is a first offence.

If a young person stabs someone then there is the potential for life imprisonment, regardless of whether it is a fatal stabbing or not.

There is no safe place to stab someone – any part of the body could result in a fatal or life changing injury.

A parents and carers' guide to knife crime

VIOLENCE & VULNERABILITY

UNIT



Protection, fear, the – false – belief everyone else is carrying, peer pressure from friends.

How can you help keep your child safe?

As parents and carers we play an important role in protecting young people but it can be difficult to know how. The most important way is to maintain a close relationship with your child and keep talking. Having that close relationship will help you recognise any changes in their behaviour and their activities. Don't be afraid to have a conversation about knives at an early age.

Why do young people carry knives?

There are many reasons why young people may carry a knife. The most common reasons are Peer pressure from friends and associates, because they believe everyone is doing it or to be accepted by the group

For protection or out of genuine fear due to being targeted or bullied. There is a strongly held belief amongst young people that carrying a knife makes them safer. Actually, carrying a knife makes them far more likely to be stabbed themselves

Rebelling against parental/family principles or risk taking behaviour – sometimes young people want to establish their own identity and do things that are against the beliefs of their family

A desire to be seen as bigger, stronger or tougher than the next person. To be the leader you have to bring something that no one else does, that could be carrying a knife or some other weapon that makes them stand out from the crowd

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VIOLENCE & VULNERABILITY

UNIT

What can you do?

Talking and listening

The most important thing is to encourage your child to talk to you and to both listen to each other. Share with them your concerns and highlight the risks of carrying a knife so that they can understand. Encourage them not to associate with people who carry knives.

Get to know your child's friends

When young people start to feel pressure to use drugs, drink alcohol or carry knives, it can come from their friends.

Know what they are doing online

Communicate with your child about the potential negative consequences of online activity, including what he or she may post online.

Spend time online with your child. Ask them to show you his or her favourite online activities, sites and online contacts. Show an interest in their online world – what they watch, what they play, what they listen to.

Peer pressure

Help the child practice simple ways to respond to peer pressure. For example, if your child was challenged by a peer who says, 'if you were my friend you would' your child can respond with, 'if you were my friend, you wouldn't ask.' Then he or she can walk away.

Find out what they know

Find a way to talk about knives directly. If it helps, use reports in the news or storylines on television programmes as a starting point. Your child may know more than you think and will have opinions.

Offer encouragement, don't judge

Remember that they are growing up in a different time from you, facing unique challenges. Discuss their hopes and aspirations as well as their fears and worries. Praise them for their achievements and make sure they know you are always there for them.

Take time out together, make time to eat meals together and have fun together.

Your child could go to jail for up to 4 years if they're found in possession of a knife.

Help is available

For further information regarding knife crime please visit the suggested organisations below:

The Ben Kinsella Trust – a website set up after the murder of Ben Kinsella to educate society about knife crime – www.benkinsella.org.uk

Fearless, guidance about all kinds of crime that affects young people. Aimed at professionals, parents and young persons – www.fearless.org

No Knives, Better Lives – a program devised by the Scottish Government to educate about knife crime. Suitable for professionals, parents and young persons – www.noknivesbetterlives.com

NSPCC's helpline offers advice to parents, carers and professionals – **0808 800 5000**
www.nspcc.org.uk

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September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
M			7	14	21	28	Mo			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
T		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	T		3	10	17	24	
W		2	9	16	23	30	We			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		Fr		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	S		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		S	1	8	15	22	29	
December 2026							January 2027							February 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25	M			1	8	15	22
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu			2	9	16	23
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27	W			3	10	17	24
Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28	Th			4	11	18	25
F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29	F			5	12	19	26
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa			6	13	20	27
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su			7	14	21	28
March 2027							April 2027							May 2027						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	2	9	16	23	30	
June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1:	03September–23October2026(37 days)
Term 2:	02November–18December2026 (35 days)
Term 3:	04January–12February2027(30 days)
Term 4:	22February–25March2027(24days)
Term 5:	12 April – 28 May 2027 (34 days)
Term 6:	07 June – 23 July 2027 (35 days)
TOTAL = 195	

Bank and public holidays 2026/27

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2026	Easter Monday	29 March 2027
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2026*	May Day Bank Holiday	03 May 2027
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2027	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2027
Good Friday	26 March 2027	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2027

*Replacement Bank Holiday when Bank Holidays falls on a weekend.

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.