

Parkwood

6th form

A-LEVEL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Parkwood pages! Once again an opportunity for us to celebrate all that is outstanding here at Parkwood.

We have started the academic year welcoming our new year 12 students to the Parkwood fold! This year has seen a significant increase in the number of students attending Parkwood 6th Form for their A Level studies. News of the success of our A level courses has travelled across Hastings and Rother, and indeed even internationally, and so enrolment day was an opportunity to meet new people and forge new friendships. A warm welcome to you all - we look forward to celebrating your success both next summer at AS Level but most importantly in two years time with wonderful A2 results.

The articles in this edition will give you a real flavour for the variety of 6th form experience we offer. From a good luck message to all students as they commence their AS and A2 courses, to an invitation to sample Glyndebourne Young Voices we ensure that both work and play keeps our students fully engaged and enthralled in their 6th form experience. We do sometimes wonder whether students will have time to cram in all that we offer, but their ongoing success and enthusiasm tells us that not only does it fit - but it serves to build wonderfully committed members of our local community.

At the point of writing Y13 students are busy writing their UCAS applications and choosing their next steps. In a time when they know that an increase in university tuition fees means a greater financial investment in their futures, we are encouraged that this has led to an even greater student focus on the choice of university. To paraphrase one of our Y13 students: if I'm going to spend £9000 a year on fees, I want to make sure that I get the very best experience at university! Parkwood 6th Form is committed to ensuring that every student has a choice of the best universities by achieving outstanding results at A Level. If you too want outstanding results - come and see what Parkwood 6th Form has to offer you!

Parkwood 6th Form - A Level Centre of Excellence

Congratulations Jack



Jack Ames

Jack Ames was diagnosed with dyslexia at an early age, and was told by specialists at the age of ten that he would never be able to read fluently.

Despite these setbacks he went on to learn to read and against all odds to gain his GCSE qualifications which secured his place at Parkwood 6th Form. Jack really enjoyed his A Levels and was surprised and delighted at his results, successfully passing his Physics, Biology and Maths A Levels. Jack says his best moment at Parkwood was "finding out his results" and knowing he had "made it through." He said that all his teachers had been really supportive and that he felt inspired to go on learning. Jack is just about to start his degree in Physics and is excited about his future and the opportunities awaiting him. Congratulations Jack, your success is an inspiration to us all!

An update on... Kabubbu

Dedicated students at Parkwood have been working hard on developments for their Kabubbu, Uganda project.

Approximately £6000 has been raised so far but they need another £16,000 to reach their goal of £22,000! The team



are currently contacting local businesses to sponsor them and / or make donations. This is a very worthwhile cause so please do not hesitate to contact Parkwood 6th Form if you would like to make a donation!!

All the money raised will go towards building new houses and providing local families with essential resources for survival, such as farming equipment and mosquito nets. Small groups of teachers and students will visit families to build relationships and assess need, and then buy in the appropriate equipment.

Once in Kabubbu, Parkwood students will also be hosting assemblies in local schools designed to promote the idea of



local students working with and teaching younger pupils - for example, music students will be encouraged to take guitars and other instruments into schools to provide opportunities and inspiration for younger children.

Dr Sengupta and a team of medical students acting as assistants will be joining the trip which will provide a unique and very worthwhile work experience placement.

Keep a look out for other fundraising events - your support is needed!

Team Building Parkwood provides a soft landing for new Year 7 students at William Parker

Year 13 Parkwood students who are considering becoming teachers have been working with Year 7 developing team building skills and ways of learning to learn.

The aim of "Learning to Learn" is to develop personal, learning and thinking skills necessary for academic success and preparation for a future beyond school. For Parkwood students this provides a wonderful opportunity to be role models and work with younger students. Lawrence, Year 7, had this to

say "It was interactive and it was good to work together, especially with the Parkwood students who were very tall and helpful!"

This dedicated team of teachers and Parkwood 6th Form students, delivered their first session on "Collaborative Learning" this week, where students took part in an activity to help them reflect on their own team work



skills. Further sessions are planned for the year ahead covering creative thinking, reflective learning, independence, self-management and participating effectively.

My first day at Parkwood...

I am writing this on my first day at Parkwood and I am already loving every second of it. The atmosphere is really happy and I'm settling in a lot quicker than most of my peers at other colleges. It's made me actually enjoy education in some ways! I joined from Filsham Valley school. When the time came for me to start applying for colleges I knew, due to my personality, I needed to feel safe and comfortable to be happy. I had to make the right

choice for me. Parkwood at first view had a brilliant atmosphere and I knew that's where I belonged. After successfully completing my exams and passing everything I'm now looking forward to experiencing the next two years of my education at 6th form, making new friends and studying English literature, Art and Sociology knowing I've made the right choice.

Cheyenne Mischewski
Year 12 Parkwood



Cheyenne Mischewski



97.4% A Level pass rate
9% achieving A* grade
28% achieved A* - A grade
72% achieved A* - C grade
which makes Parkwood competitive with the Financial Times top 500 independent schools



Good luck to all students starting new courses

Many students from Parkwood 6th Form are already celebrating their first week at university.

With more students than ever before applying to university, competition in the race for top university places was intense. Parkwood students gained places across the country including Oxford and Cambridge, Plymouth and Portsmouth, Liverpool and Loughborough.

Harry Bristow, our literary critic from a previous edition of these pages, is about to study English at Christchurch Canterbury. He says "the experience of 6th form, particularly in the last year

has opened my eyes to new ways of thinking and seeing the world and has given me the confidence and self-belief to know that I will succeed at university"

Competition for places to study at Parkwood has been equally intense with over 170 students starting A Level courses this year.

Lucy Monk and John Court (Joint Headteachers of Parkwood 6th Form) extend their congratulations and wish all students every success as they move into their next phase of education or employment!"

Glyndebourne Young Voices

Parkwood students became the first group to work with the world renowned Glyndebourne Opera Company.

William Parker was successful in it's bid to become a part of Glyndebourne's prestigious Young Voices scheme. Parkwood students had a chance to take the lead in the taster sessions and students of all ages will be involved in a series of auditions and creative workshops over forthcoming weeks.

Watch this space for future news on the collaboration between Glyndebourne, Parkwood 6th Form and William Parker Sports College.



What do you think about the move from GCSE to A Level?

It feels more independent but a lot more pressure. That is good though because it's better that we've chosen our subjects and things we really want to do. I'm studying Dance, Business, Sociology and IT. The other students have been really nice and I was lucky because I came from Helenswood School anyway. I know

a couple of students who didn't come from Helenswood and they seem to be getting on well too.

I've only had a couple of lessons so far but I really like it here at Parkwood. I came from Claverham so I don't know that many people but everyone is friendly and there are a few people from Claverham. I was also allowed to change form tutors so I could be in a group with more people I know. I'm happy about that. I'm studying Chemistry, Psychology, Biology and Maths.

Lily Kirkwood
Year 12 Parkwood
Kayleigh Currie
Year 12 Parkwood



Kayleigh Currie



Parkwood Student Union

The Parkwood Student Union meets regularly and organises charity and social events for the 6th form.

Jasmine, President of the SU has this to say "The Parkwood Student Union are funny, friendly people who represent the sixth form through various activities and events. So far a 'Social' has been organised, and is an exceptional way to bond the Parkwood community in a non-threatening environment, where everyone can get to know each other and have a really good night. The number of those people buying tickets for our social is astounding - which shows the welcoming nature of the sixth form and how everyone wants

to be a part of the family here at Parkwood.

"Speed-friending" has also been planned to get the possibly awkward first conversations out of the way so friendships can begin to form and it allows everyone to have talked to everyone! It's a good chance to get a flavour of people in the year above and also the rest of your year if you've come from another college - it's all to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible and introduce sixth form as a home and place of security and understanding. Over the coming months we are looking forward to being involved in the local community and being a voice for students."



A 3am start to walk over 12 miles and raise over £600!

Former students from Rye College; Hugo Dawson, Charlie Mills, Daisy Jarvis, Winni Jarvis and Tony Sims walked over 12 miles to Parkwood 6th Form to raise funds for Kabubbu, a village in Uganda.

They left Rye at 3am in order to arrive at Parkwood in time for their lessons. The students said "it was a long and painful walk but it was worth it as we raised over £600 and saw a beautiful sun rise". All money raised will go towards the work they will do in Kabubbu which includes teaching in schools, helping individual families and a building project to help the local community.

www.parkwood6th.co.uk

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Parkwood 6th Form is based at Helenswood and William Parker Sites in Hastings