

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that you receive this newsletter in good health, as we ease into the summer holiday period. I am sure that pupils, staff, parents and carers will appreciate the break and enjoy the timely opportunity to relax, reflect on the school year and think ahead to the next one.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and involvement in your children's education. Your partnership with our staff has been invaluable in fostering a nurturing and stimulating environment where pupils can thrive both academically and personally.

As always, the Summer term has been extremely busy. Our school mission, 'Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures' is woven throughout our school's enrichment and extra-curricular provision. We have seen our pupils engage in our annual Culture Week; many of our Year 6 and 8 pupils successfully participated in their residential trips; drama workshops, reward trips and competitions.

Our Sports Department is central to our extra-curricular programme; we take pride in enabling all pupils to be successful in sports and promoting active lifestyles. We were all thrilled to see the relaunch of our School Houses that allowed pupils to participate in a range of activities that promote teamwork and resilience.

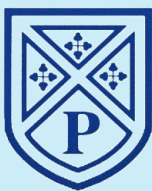
Our Music Department have hosted a Summer Concert and it was an enormous success. We are also delighted to see the development of our Parkside Music department with musicians and vocal group who now perform regularly in our Pride of Parkside assemblies.

Finally, thank you to our Year 8 pupils. They have been a credit to the school and we will miss them very much. Wishing them all the best in their new high schools.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mancini



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

Congratulations to the pupils who have earned a Pride of Parkside certificate this half term. These pupils are:



Elliot H	Cara S-W	Sophie H	Jeffrey A	Anaya S	Liam DW	Noah L	Jamie M
Harry S	Mia M	Milo D	Aaron C	Aivah B	Isabelle H	Eve U	Isla S
William B	Zeke A-W	Elliot T	Florence P	Ruby P	Sapphire O	Logan D	Aila-Honey H
Aiden L	Samuel L	Joseph H	Amilie-Lou C	Thomas C	Betsy P	Dexter Y	Charlie B
Millie C	Bella E	Lizzie J					

ACHIEVEMENT POINT REVIEW

As we wrap up another academic year, we're thrilled to share this year's incredible achievement point total 213,376– an all-time high of points!

This fantastic milestone reflects the dedication, effort and teamwork of our entire school community. A huge well done to everyone at Parkside!

A special congratulations to Esmae P (Year 6), who topped the leaderboard with an outstanding 827 achievement points– an amazing accomplishment!



Interhouse Competition Week

On Monday 7th July, Parkside began it's first ever Interhouse Competition week.

Malvern, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester went head to head in a battle of the houses. They competed across all subjects on the curriculum, sports day and even a staff rounders competition.



Students engaged brilliantly during the week and completed a number of different competitions, including making models, designing apps, writing stories, quizzes and many other creative tasks.

In the Interhouse results assembly, students were presented with individual medals if they had won their subject competition, as well as the winners being announced for each subject and year group.

The results are as follows:

Year 5 Winners: **Malvern**

Year 6 Winners: **Worcester**

Year 7 Winners: **Gloucester**

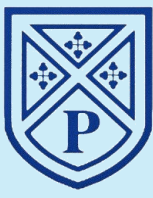
Year 8 Winners: **Malvern**



Whilst these were the year group winners, there had to be one overall winner! To work this out, all of the points were collated, including points from sports day, staff rounders and the tokens that students had been collecting all week.

I am thrilled to announce that the whole school Interhouse Champions for 2025 are **MALVERN!**

The House Captains were presented with the winning shield in assembly. A huge well done to everyone who took part and showed brilliant teamwork throughout the week.



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

READING

Parkside have had another successful year with our reading achievements.

The totals for the school this year:



Individual commendation must go to our top readers within the school. The following pupils have all become 'Word Millionaires' this year:

Tom H	Ella P	Lewis E	Mia M-S	Harmony-Jade B	Phoebe H	Toby S	Immy P
Anna D	Bronte L						

A particular congratulations to Amelia T who has read a phenomenal 2,570,885 words!

Remember to keep reading over the summer and to use our local town library—All Year 7 have their membership! Pupils also have the National Read Aloud Challenge that Parkside has signed up for—offering lots of free books to read over the summer.



To sign up, please use our personalised link: [National Read Aloud Challenge](#)



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

CULTURE WEEK

Our annual Culture Week this year was a huge success, offering all pupils an opportunity to learn about not only our own culture, but of another that is different to our own. Year 5 had great fun learning about Indian culture - through learning about traditional stories, music, religions and beliefs, as well as trying a bit of Bhangra dancing and learning about foods. Year 6 learned about Greek culture and the impact that it has had and continues to have on our lives, building up to a wonderful Olympic afternoon and the residential trip to Oaker Wood. Year 7 also learned about the famous Shakespeare play, 'The Tempest' and designed some wonderful stage designs; working in groups to recreate the shipwreck scene - some included LED lights and even a captain duck! They then went on to learn about Chinese culture - with a wealth of activities including learning about Chinese history, language, sports, food and even how to use chopsticks! Year 8 engaged in the Spanish culture, learning some key phrases, famous artists and locations and a residential trip to Bushcraft.



YEAR 5 RLM PARTY

On Friday 27th June, Year 5 celebrated their learning with a fantastic Real-Life Maths Party! After weeks of preparation, pupils applied their knowledge through a variety of hands-on activities involving ratio, volume, perimeter, area, and creating compound shapes. The event was a fun and practical way to explore how maths is used in everyday life. From solving real-world problems to working collaboratively, pupils demonstrated confidence and creativity throughout the afternoon. It was a brilliant celebration of their hard work and a reminder that maths can be both meaningful and exciting. Well done, Year 5!



STEM KNEX FINAL

Two pupils proudly represented Parkside at the annual STEM KNEX Challenge, competing against schools from across the region. They showed great *resilience* and *teamwork*—key Parkside Standards—while tackling a tough engineering task with creativity and enthusiasm. Although they didn't win, we are incredibly proud of their efforts and positive attitude throughout the event. They also demonstrated *kindness* by congratulating the winners, showing true sportsmanship. Well done to our pupils for being fantastic ambassadors for Parkside and embracing the spirit of STEM learning!



RECORDING STUDIO VISIT

On Tuesday 24th June, our Year 8 musicians went to North Bromsgrove High School to use the recording studio. The singers performed Blackbird by the Beatles and the guitarists, pianists and drummer recorded Another One Bites the dust by Queen. Two students, who have helped produce the teach in our concerts and assemblies came to learn about the recording elements and assisted in the studio.

The students really enjoyed the experience and we hope will continue their love of music having seen the amazing facilities at North!





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

SCHOOL GARDENS

Our school allotment continues to thrive thanks to the hard work of our Gardening Club and pupils taking part in intervention sessions. This term, we've been successfully growing a range of crops including carrots, leeks, tomatoes, corn on the cob, and potatoes. Just before the holidays, we proudly harvested our potatoes and carrots—and they looked fantastic! The children have enjoyed getting involved, learning about how food grows, and working together outdoors. We're looking forward to returning after the break to see how the rest of our crops are doing and to enjoy even more harvests.

SUMMER CONCERT

On Tuesday 8th July, over 90 students took part in the Summer Spectacular Arts Concert. There was music, drama, dance and artwork on show with families of participants enjoying the performances. Our Year 8 leavers took to the stage performing some of their favourite pieces while we also had music from students who had recently taken exams. The Drama Club performed a sketch based on a fairy tale court room and the Dance Club rocked to This Is Me while Mrs Cheuk had displayed artwork from students across the school. Mrs Williams, Miss Gilyead, Miss Salkeld, Mrs Foreman and Miss Fletcher were very proud of all involved.



WORLD MUSIC DAY

On Friday 20th June, we celebrated World Music Day with a variety of activities! At break, our singers performed Hit the Road Jack on the playground and Millie sang Popular from Wicked.

During form time, our classes looked at inspiring stories where music has been invaluable to different people with dementia or in recovery.

At lunchtime, students had an opportunity to try out the drums, ukulele and glockenspiels earning themselves house points for the riffs and beats that they played.



SUPPORTING THE REES FOUNDATION

One of our Year 7 pupils did a fantastic job organising a fundraising event in support of the Rees Foundation, a charity that provides vital help and guidance to care leavers.

Pupils took part in a variety of sports activities and ran laps around the field to raise funds, showing great enthusiasm and community spirit. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the school raised an impressive £336!

We were delighted to receive this message from Melody Douglas, CEO of the Rees Foundation:

"A big thank you to everyone at Parkside Middle School for supporting the Rees Foundation's Stride For Success Campaign! Your kindness is helping care leavers feel supported and reach their dreams."

— *Melody Douglas, CEO, Rees Foundation*





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

DRAMA WORKSHOP

During their second week back to school Year 8 participated in a drama workshop hosted by Mr Fletcher. They acted out a scene from Romeo and Juliet where a deadly duel results in the death of the rival Capulet: Tybalt, and Romeo's closest friend: Mercutio. The Year 8's practised both the delivery of their lines, making sure it was rich with emotion and intensity, as well as putting together a stage combat choreography that had purpose and drama.

A number of pupils were brave enough to perform in front of their peers and some even knew their lines off by heart, with under an hour to practise, this was serious-impressive!



MATHS ESCAPE ROOM EVENT

On Tuesday 17th June, a group of 8 Year 8 students took on an escape room challenge competing against teams from Aston Fields and St Johns Middle Schools. There were a variety of maths-based challenges, piecing together information that they had been given and from their surroundings to break into different padlocks. This got them a key to be able to escape from the school. Split into boys against girls, our teams of 4 worked together, using skills they have developed in only 70 minutes. The students represented the school with pride, and we were delighted that the girls group escaped the room and won the trophy!



ART WORK

A huge well done to our Parkside pupils for their creative art talent! In our Interhouse competition - our Art department asked pupils to make sculptures from newspaper. They had 40 minutes, a huge pile of newspaper and a topic relating to their sports house. Gloucester team had to build cathedrals. Worcester had to build dragons, Malvern built pear trees and Hereford built the famous bull!

It was a really successful and fun activity. An extra well done to our team winners!



YEAR 8 CELEBRATION PARTY

On Wednesday 16th July, Year 8s marked the end of their time at Parkside with a party. There was music, mocktails, photos and dancing. It was a great way to send off our leavers and celebrate their success. There were some incredible outfits and fun song requests!

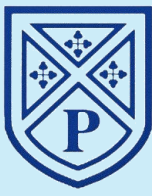
YEAR 8 FAREWELL

Well done Year 8 on a brilliant last week. It was lovely to see you all enjoying inflatable day and taking part in Presentation Afternoon.

As we wave goodbye to our wonderful Year 8s, we want to say a massive well done for an incredible four years and thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

We wish you every success in the future Year 8. Good luck in year 9.





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

BUSHCRAFT

Our recent Year 8 residential to Badminton Woods was an unforgettable adventure filled with challenge, laughter and growth.

Over the course of the trip, pupils demonstrated incredible respect, teamwork and resilience in every activity. Learning vital survival skills, students stepped out of their comfort zones and embraced the outdoor environment with enthusiasm.



Evenings brought the excitement of a giant sleepover under the stars, creating fantastic memories and stronger friendships.

The experience offered a unique chance to connect with nature, develop life skills and build confidence - an inspiring way to end the term on a high.



OAKERWOOD

Our Year 6 residential trip was a great success, with pupils showing resilience, teamwork, and all the qualities of the Parkside Standards.

Throughout the trip, they took part in exciting activities including zip wire, monkey climb, low ropes, woodland team-building challenges, and paint-balling. Every child faced challenges with determination and supported their peers along the way.

They also applied valuable life skills — taking care of themselves, washing up, and helping to keep the camp tidy. It was fantastic to see them work so well together in every aspect of camp life.



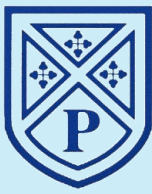
In the evenings, we gathered around the campfire for hot chocolate and marshmallows, sharing stories and enjoying each other's company.

It was a trip full of fun, growth, and friendship — an experience packed with memories they'll never forget!



Year 6 had a wonderful time at Parkside during the Residential Week, packed with lots of fun activities. Highlights were working as small teams to design our own skate parks, trying out tech decks on them, and making our own emoji movie character biscuits.





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL

On Thursday 10th July, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year reward trip to Hollywood Bowl. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all their hard work and achievements this year.

From the moment we arrived, the children were full of excitement and energy. They thoroughly enjoyed their bowling games, cheering each other on and celebrating every strike and spare. It was brilliant to see so much teamwork, encouragement, and laughter throughout the day.

Staff at Hollywood Bowl were full of praise for our pupils, who showed impeccable behaviour and outstanding manners. Their politeness, positive attitude, and enthusiasm truly stood out and made all of us incredibly proud. Well done, Year 5 – you represented our school brilliantly and ended the year on a high!



RUSH TRAMPOLINE PARK

To round off a fantastic school year, our Year 7 pupils enjoyed an action-packed trip to RUSH Trampoline Park—and what a day it was! The students were amazing throughout, a real credit to the school with their exemplary manners and positive attitude. From bouncing fun to friendly competitions, there were plenty of smiling (and slightly red!) faces all around.

A highlight of the day was the Battle Beam challenge, where many bravely stepped up to take on Mr Durnall—only to be outmatched by the surprise champion of the day, Mrs Rea!



It was a brilliant way to end the year, full of laughter, energy and unforgettable memories. Well done, Year 7!





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

SPORT FIXTURES

YEAR 6 OLYMPIC AFTERNOON

On Wednesday the 21st May, the Year 8 Sports Leaders helped to organise and deliver the Year 6 Olympic Afternoon. The pupils were responsible for a variety of activities and focussed on lots of different skills.

The pupils showed outstanding leadership and all acted as role models for younger pupils.



YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS

On Monday 19th May, a group of Year 8 boys played in a round robin table tennis tournament against pupils from Alvechurch Middle School. We came up against some very strong opposition and unfortunately lost the majority of our games.

However, it was great to see pupils engaging in some competitive table tennis that we have not done before.

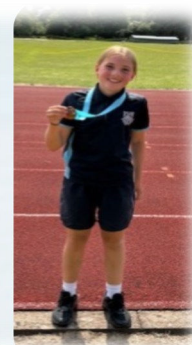
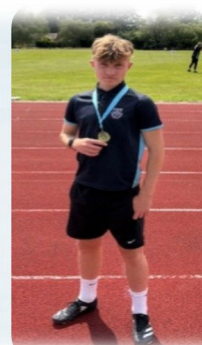


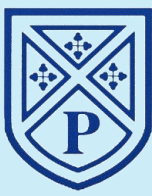
DISTRICT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

On Tuesday 10th June pupils from Parkside competed in the District Athletics Championship at The Ryland Centre.

Our pupils returned with an impressive haul of 8 medals including 4 Golds.

The pupils' behaviour was exceptional and the effort and attitudes they demonstrated were amazing to see!





ATTENDANCE

Moments matter; attendance counts!

As we wrap up another fantastic school year, we'd like to take a moment to highlight the importance of regular school attendance and punctuality. Consistent attendance plays a vital role in every child's academic progress, social development, and overall success. Arriving on time each day helps children start their learning calmly and confidently alongside their peers.



If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Harper, our Attendance Officer, who is always happy to offer support and guidance.

We're also incredibly proud to celebrate our students who have shown outstanding commitment to their learning through excellent attendance. Congratulations to all those who achieved 100% attendance this year—a fantastic accomplishment!

Charlie B	Sam D	Tom H	Jeffrey A	Benjamin D	Henry L-S	Aiden M	Courtney S
Alana A	Sebastian C	Emily D	Dylan M	Luca W	Samuel C-F	Leo E	Toby S
Jacob B	Lewis E	Esme H-S	Harvey A	Dylan B	Bessie F	Jake M	Stanley R
Elliott H	Megan J	Faith A	Isabelle C	Sky D	Adele C	Mia M	Joshua H
Theo P	Jessica D	Edie F	Flynn P	Swaran D	Samuel L	Kenzo P	Marin A

100% ATTENDANCE

A special mention goes to four of our Year 8 leavers who have achieved something truly exceptional: 100% attendance throughout their entire time at school. What an amazing achievement—well done!

Kenzo P

Marin A

Samuel L

Swaran D

Let's continue to work together to make every school day count.





SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

It is hard to believe that this academic year is ending. While the summer break offers a welcome break for many, it can also bring its own challenges.

For many children the holiday period can bring about a shift in children's routines, leading to more time spent online and more social interactions, both in-person and virtual. This unstructured time, while offering opportunities for creativity and rest, also comes with potential risks such as:

- **Increased screen time** without clear boundaries or supervision.
- **Exposure to online risks**, including cyberbullying, inappropriate content, or contact with strangers.
- **Social pressures** and conflicts, especially during gatherings or on social media.
- **Lack of emotional support**, since teachers and school staff aren't as readily available to notice and address issues.

Some pupils might be feeling as the end of term approaches.

We have to remind pupils of the following:

- Who they can talk to in school if they need help or support, or have worries about the upcoming holidays.
 - Where they can go for help or support during the school holidays:
- Anyone under 19 can call **Childline** on 0800 1111 or use Childline's **1-2-1 counsellor chat**, anytime, day or night.
- **Shout** (in partnership with **Place2Be**) provides free, confidential text messaging for young people and parents/carers. Just text 'Shout' to 85258
- They can call 999 if they have serious safety concern or in an emergency.

Here are a few proactive strategies to help safeguard children's wellbeing during the holidays:

- Set clear boundaries around screen time and online activity.
- Have open conversations about internet safety and respectful online behaviour.
- Encourage offline activities, like reading, sports, or creative hobbies.
- Stay involved by checking in regularly about how children are spending their time and who they're interacting with.

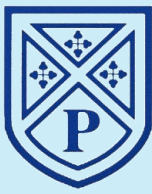
Useful resource: [App Reviews, Kids Apps | Common Sense Media](#)

For some, the summer holidays will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and play their favourite games.

Sit down together

For parents, the summer holidays are a great chance to sit down with your children. Together you can visit their favourite sites and play their favourite games, this is a great way to stay up to date with online lives and show them that you're interested in what they are doing.

The holidays are also a good opportunity to have positive conversations about the internet, so if something ever does upset your child online, they would feel more confident in confiding in you.



Social media and staying in touch

During the summer holidays, young people may want to keep in touch with their friends through social networking sites or games. It's a good time to ask them about what sites they use and check any age requirements as many social media sites require users to be at least 13-years-old.

Encourage your children to use the privacy tools on the services they use, so that the content they post is only available to people they know and trust in real life.

You can also download the UK Safer Internet Centre's safety checklists for popular sites such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Talking about their time online

The holidays are also a good opportunity to talk to your children about their online friendships, the sites they use and encourage best practices online.

Sharing holiday pictures

Some children may want to share photos and videos of what they are getting up to in their summer holidays online. Talk to your children about what types of photos are appropriate to share, and who they are okay to share with. Photos can hold cues that give away personal information. For example, if you share a selfie of you and friends, are there any landmarks or street signs that give away your location? This is true for photos you might share of your children too! It's always worth asking children if they are happy with an image you want to share online.

The Safer Internet Day research found that 2 in 5 (40%) of 8-17s said that in the last year their parents or carers have posted a photo of them that embarrassed them, rising from 34% of 8-12s to 46% of 13-17s.

Making a family agreement

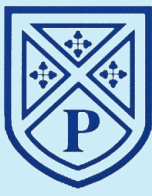
A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet and discuss together how to behave in a positive way when online at home, at school or at a friend's house. The agreement involves generating promises, these are positive statements about how your family want to look after each other online and how you should treat others online. The summer can be one of the best times to sit down as a family and agree these promises together.

As pupils spend more time out and about in the local community during the summer, it is helpful to consider contextual risks so that we help young people stay safer in less supervised environments. The support safety in the community, I have attached some useful resources that may be helpful:

Promoting railway safety: [Safety in the community - Network Rail](#)

Open Water Swimming: [The Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#)





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

S&H Schoolwear and Sports offer a flexible “Put By” scheme to help budget for uniform purchases and also hold the Autism Friendly Award, offering autism friendly appointments in a calm, quiet environment for those who need it.



We also have uniform available at the Age UK shop on Broad Street and NewStarts on Sherwood Road if you would like some ‘pre-loved’ items. They also welcome donations of uniform in good, clean condition.

PARKING

Our main car park gates close between 8:40am and 9:15am and 3:00pm and 3:30pm each day.

Please can we also remind parents and carers to be mindful that the car park is for staff, visitor use and drop off only.

ROAD SAFETY

Please may we remind pupils of road safety and sensible conduct on the way to and from school, remembering to use the zebra/pelican crossings when arriving/leaving school. Local residents have raised concerns wanting our pupils to stay safe.

BICYCLES

If your child wishes to cycle to school, please ensure they follow the highway code. When arriving at school pupils can lock the bicycle away safely in the bike shed. When leaving school, please can all pupils push their bike until off the school site before cycling away safely to protect Parkside and Meadows pupils and parents.

MEDICATION

Should pupils require medication in school, a medical consent form should be completed and signed by parents and carers. Please note we are unable to give medication unless it is in the original packaging with instructions. We keep a small amount of Calpol in school for emergencies. If you know your child may require Calpol in school, please bring in a supply for us to use. If your child has pierced ears, please can we ask that you supply tape for them to use in PE for health and safety reasons.



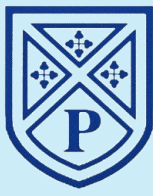
LUNCHTIME

From September, Lunchtime meals will now be £2.73, pupils can also buy a drink to go with their meal at an additional cost.

If pupils are bringing their own sandwiches, please remember to bring in a drink. If you are entitled to FSM, please apply even if your child does not want the meals, as additional funding is made available for the school for other purposes, which will benefit your child.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Can we remind Parents/Carers that school finishes at 3:15pm. For safeguarding reasons, if you are unable to collect your children at the end of the school day, please make alternative arrangements for them to be picked up at this time or use Castle Kids Care Club. Our staff are not in a position to be able to supervise your children after school, and it is not appropriate for them to be sat waiting in reception.



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

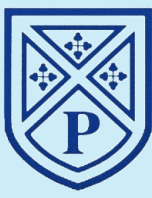
AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1st September	School closed – TE day
Tuesday 2nd September	School closed – TE day
Wednesday 3rd September	School to Year 5 pupils only
Thursday 4th September	School reopens to all years
Friday 24th October	School closes for half term
Monday 3rd November	School reopens
Friday 19th December	School closes for Christmas holidays

EQUIPMENT LIST

Blue handwriting pen	Whiteboard pen (Dry wipe)
Pencil	Pencil crayons
Ruler (cm/mm)	Glue stick
Rubber	Pencil case (small)
Pencil sharpener	Highlighter
Green pen	Wired headphones for Computing
Scientific calculator (KS3 only) – these can be purchased from the school via ParentPay.	

We hope everyone has a great summer!



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

THE HUB

Summer Holiday Camp

For ages 8 -13 years

Week 1:

Tues 23rd July -
Fri 26th July

Week 3:

Mon 5th Aug -
Thurs 8th Aug

Week 2:

Mon 29th July -
Thurs 1st Aug

Week 4:

Mon 12th Aug -
Thurs 15th Aug

**9.30am - 3.30pm at St John's
Middle School, B61 7DH**

Enjoy fun activities including

- Sports
- Arts
- Games
- Food related activities
- External provider workshops
- Trips out
- and much more!



Prices: £15 per individual day or £45 per week, per young person.

Entire 16 days is £180 per young person.

FREE spaces for young people in receipt of school meals through HAF.

To book, please Email Dan Owen on Do@thehubbromsgrove.org

