

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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Dear Parent/Carer

A Brilliant Term

It has been a truly exceptional term at Parkside, with our students demonstrating incredible resilience, respect, and responsibility in all that they do. I am incredibly proud of the progress and achievements of our young people. Their dedication to their learning and their positive contribution to our school community have been truly inspiring.

Year 11 Mock Exams

I would like to take this moment to commend our Year 11 students who have been exceptional during their recent mock examinations. The examinations continue this week and their hard work, determination, and focus has been truly admirable. I am confident that they are well on their way to achieving great success in their final GCSE examinations.

Booking Meetings

Please remember that all parents and carers must book a meeting with the appropriate member of staff before attending the school site. This helps us to ensure that we can provide you with the attention and support you deserve. To book a meeting, please contact the school office.

Christmas Break

As we look forward to the Christmas break, I would like to remind you that our school will be closed from 1pm on Friday 20 December 2024. Friday will be a non-uniform day; students may choose to wear a Christmas jumper if they would like to do so, but this is certainly not a requirement. We are asking parents and carers if they could kindly donate an item of food, this can be a tin, box or packet. All food items can be brought to the school's reception and will be collected by Gussies Kitchen to support the work they do for our families and community. On Friday students will be dismissed at 12.30pm and are expected to eat during the school's morning brunch session. Monday 6 January 2025 is a school INSET day so all students will be expected back at Parkside at 8.25am on Tuesday 7 January 2025 in full uniform and ready to learn.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and partnership in 2024. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of our young people, and I am excited to see what 2025 has in store for Parkside Community School.

Whilst the holidays are typically a happy time, there may be the need to get in touch with someone to access support if you are experiencing any difficulties, with that in mind, please find overleaf contact details for some key agencies which provide support throughout the year including over the holidays.

Please see some information below from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and some further support services available to families during the festive period.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher

Reminder of dates for your diary

- Monday 6 January – INSET Day
- Tuesday 7 January – All students return - Please ensure your child returns to school properly equipped with a school bag and in full school uniform, including a Parkside tie and black shoes
- Wednesday 8 January – Y7 Parents' Evening

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts, is asking you to help shape the future of local policing.

As she prepares the budget for 2025-26, she wants to know how much you're willing to contribute towards making your community safer.

If you haven't already had your say please take a minute to complete the survey and let Nicolle know how you want to support the Police and protect your community.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

Social Media

SNAPCHAT in conjunction with charity ChildNet, have issued a parental online safety guide which can be accessed here: [Online Safety](#)

Emotional wellbeing: Support Services / Further Information (Websites & Helplines)

Young Minds is a national charity aimed at improving the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people, and has a website for young people: www.youngminds.org.uk - There is also a helpline for parents and others concerned about a young person: **0808 802 5544**

Childline gives comfort, advice and protection to children and young people who are worried about any problem. They provide phone and text helplines, and resources are available through their website: www.childline.org.uk / Helpline: **0800 1111** (open 24 hours)

PAPYRUS exists to help prevent young suicide and provides support to young people who might be at risk of suicide; and to those who live, care for, or work with them: www.papyrus-uk.org / phone **01282 432 555**

PAPYRUS also hosts **HOPELineUK** – a confidential helpline service that offers support, practical advice and information to anyone concerned about themselves or a young person they know who may be at risk: Helpline: **0800 068 4141** (Mon–Fri 10am–10pm; Sat-Sun 2pm to 10pm); Text **07786 209697**

The **National Self Harm Network** offers help and advice for people who injure or self-harm as a way of coping, including downloadable information sheets and an online forum: <http://www.nshn.co.uk>

Harmless is a user-led organisation that provides a range of services about self harm including support, information, training and consultancy to people who self harm, their friends and families and professionals: www.harmless.org.uk / **0115 934 8445**

Mind works for a better life for everyone with experience of mental distress. Their website contains useful information and resources, including an 'understanding self-harm' booklet: www.mind.org.uk
Mind info-line: **0845 766 0163**

Samaritans provide confidential emotional support for those experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. They also have an outreach service that can give talks to a variety of organisations, including schools: www.samaritans.org Helpline: **116 123** (open 24 hours) / Email: jo@samaritans.org

BEAT provides helplines, online support and a network of UK-wide self-help groups to help adults and young people in the UK beat their eating disorders: www.b-eat.co.uk / Helpline **0845 634 1414** / Youthline **0845 634 7650**

LifeSigns provides self-injury guidance and network support. Their website includes guidance for friends, family, teachers and carers, including factsheets to download: www.lifesigns.org.uk

CASS Self Injury Helpline provides confidential, non-judgemental emotional support around self-injury on 0808 800 8088 FREE Monday to Thursday evenings from 7-10pm www.selfinjurysupport.org.uk

Call Derbyshire

If you are concerned that a child is suffering or is at risk of significant harm please contact Call Derbyshire on tel: 01629 533190 immediately

Urgent Care Team – CAMHS

For serious self harm, active suicidal thoughts/behaviours and acute mental health concerns, the please telephone The Den, Chesterfield Royal Hospital – 10am-10pm, 7 days a week 07901 330724