

3 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family had a positive break. Our students returned to us positively today to start the final half term of the school year. It is always great to welcome them back looking so smart and ready to learn. Many students now have new bronze, silver and gold badges on their blazers after accumulating more Parkside Praise Points in their lessons. We celebrated the success of our students in the reward assemblies during the last week before the May break; massive congratulations to all of the new badge winners!

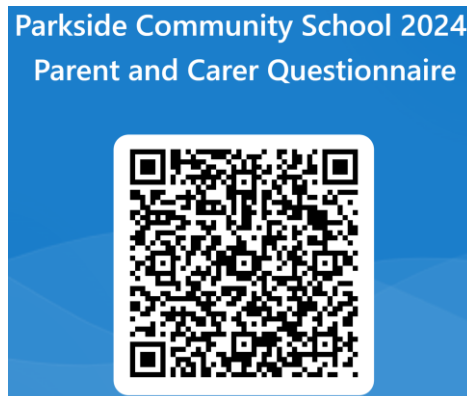
Parental Questionnaire

Parkside is proud to be a part of the Embark Federation whose vision is to create 'stand out' schools at the heart of their communities. This week all Embark schools will send their parents/carers a short questionnaire. Your opinion matters as the results will support our drive to ensure that we provide the very best for your child.

Within the survey there is a question on bullying. When commenting on this you should consider that bullying is not just an argument or fallout between children, or someone being mean to another child on one occasion. Bullying is deemed to be repeated and deliberate unkind behaviours.

If all parents and carers could complete this questionnaire by the deadline of Sunday 23rd June it would be much appreciated. Thank you for in advance for taking the time to do this.

To access the questionnaire please use the QR code or link below:



<https://forms.office.com/e/SeJRjrvkPP>

Attendance

Your child's attendance is of paramount importance to your child's education. If attendance is poor it results in underachievement and seriously affects their life chances. Please do speak to your child about the importance of attending school on time every day; feeling tired or a little 'under weather' is not a reason to miss school. If we are able to provide further help with your child's attendance please get in touch. Thank you for your support in this area.

Road Safety

I have been lucky enough to have had several conversations with supportive parents/carers regarding the decision to use the bottom gate only for entering and exiting Parkside. What is clear is that this change has affected the route to school for some students. With this in mind we spent the last week of half term promoting road safety activities with all students in morning mentor time and assemblies. Road safety is an essential life skill for all of our children and will be revisited again during their time at Parkside.

In order to further support an orderly exit, and in respect of our neighbours, please can I ask that no parents park outside of school on the yellow lines, across resident's driveways or in local pub car parks. The school has received reports that a handful of parents/carers are congesting the junction of Boythorpe Avenue and Boythorpe Mount from 2.30pm. Please could parents/carers who pick up their children at the end of school arrive no earlier than 2.55pm and park in an appropriate area that allows parking. Your support is much appreciated.

Summer Uniform – Half Term 6

During Half Term 6 we give students the option to wear an alternative summer uniform. This is outlined below:

- 1- Knee length pleated skirts can be worn with either black or white ankle socks (no need for tights)
- 2- Tailored shorts (knee length and made of the same material as school trousers) may be worn. Socks should be either black or white
- 3- Black school shoes must always be worn – no trainers
- 4- Blazers must be worn

If the temperatures become extremely high, the school will decide whether to make further adjustments to the uniform. Adjustments will include the removal of the school blazer and in extreme weather the school tie. This decision will be communicated via text message to all families before 8am on the day or in advance where possible. Please note that normal uniform expectations will be back in place for September. Thank you for supporting our high standards of student uniform at Parkside.

Year 11 exams

The exam period continues for our Year 11s. Our students have been excellent and our brilliant staff continue to work incredibly hard to support them during this stressful period. Please ensure your child attends school every day even when they do not have exams. Their teachers have prepared critical learning for them that is essential for exam success. If you have any questions, concerns or feel your child requires any further support, please get in touch with us.

Summer Concert

The Parkside summer concert is scheduled for the evening of 4 July. This will be an opportunity to showcase the student talent we have at Parkside; if you were able to attend the Christmas concert, you'll know that we are in for a treat! It promises to be a fantastic event with more information to follow.

Parent forum

The next parent forum is scheduled for 3 July 9.30am-10.30am. If you'd like to attend this event, please email Sarah Russell srussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk at Parkside.

Parkside social media

Please keep up to date with Parkside news through our social media outlets – Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.

Dates for your diary:

- Y10 mock exams – 17-28 June
- INSET Day - 24 June (students not on site)
- Y8 HPV Vaccinations - 2 July
- Parent forum - 3 July
- Summer Concert - 4 July
- Culture Celebration Day - 16 July
- Last day of school before the summer break - 19 July (students finish at 12.45pm)

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any queries, please get in touch with us at info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk. We're always happy to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher