

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

Parkside Community School
Boythorpe Avenue, Chesterfield
Derbyshire S40 2NS

Tel: 01246 273458

Email: info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk

Web: www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk

9 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our latest Headteacher letter. It has been a pleasure observing our students in their lessons this half term; their focus and determination is impressive. Please keep up to date with Parkside news through our social media outlets – Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram. The updates shared on these platforms give a flavour of some of the fantastic things that occur day to day at our school.

Entrance to school - Top gate

We recently contacted all parents/carers regarding the gate at the top of the school grounds as it had broken. This meant that all students have had to enter through our bottom pedestrian entrance for the last 2 weeks. Having this one gate arrival has enabled us to observe many benefits and the decision has been made to continue this arrangement for this school year. A one gate arrival has enabled more staff to welcome and support our students on their arrival; I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and greeting every student as they have entered the school. The bottom gate entrance has also promoted a safer arrival for our students without the need to cross a busy road or access a narrow pavement that is shared with primary parents and their children. Thank you for your support of this arrangement.

Attendance

Your child's attendance is of paramount importance to us at Parkside Community School. If attendance is poor it results in the following:

- A student who has 90% attendance misses 28 school days across the year. This equates to missing 168 lessons which is a huge amount of learning lost
- Poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable

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 please get in touch. Thank you to all parents/carers for their support in this area.

Summer uniform – Half Term 6

Many parents/carers will be aware that the school has a summer uniform. The plan is for this to be implemented half term 6. If we do experience hot weather before this time, the school will make necessary changes to ensure that students and staff are comfortable in their uniform/dress. On these occasions the school will contact parents/carers directly. Until then students will be expected to wear full uniform this half term. Thank you for supporting our high standards of student uniform at Parkside.

Year 11 exams

The exam period for our Year 11s has officially begun; the very best of luck to all of our students. You can do it! Please ensure your child attends school every day with the best learning intentions; every lesson counts! After school revision continues with Parkside staff working hard to support exam success. If you have any questions, concerns or feel your child requires any further support, please get in touch with us.

Summer Mock Examinations Year 10

After the Year 11 exam period our Year 10 students will start their mock examinations. More information on how students can prepare for these, how you can support your child as a parent/carer, and the steps we are taking as a school to support your child in reaching their full potential will be shared soon.

Parent forum

On 1 May we hosted our first parent forum meeting at Parkside Community School. During the meeting Anna Upton (Deputy Trust Leader from Embark Federation), David Mills (Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo) as well as myself presented to parents/carers and answered any questions. It was a great opportunity to meet parents/carers as we strive to work closely in partnership with them to positively shape their child's education. 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.

Girlguiding in Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire

Angela Nightingale, a representative of Growing Guiding Chesterfield, has asked us to share information relating to Girl Guides for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. Please see the following link for more information <https://bit.ly/4biQsZ4>

Dates for your diary:

- INSET Day – 24 June
- Y8 HPV Vaccinations – 2 July
- Parent forum 3 July 2024

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any queries, please get in touch with us at info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher