

10 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A Happy New Year to all members of our school community! I hope that the festive period was a positive one for you. I am delighted to report that students have returned at the start of 2024 dressed smartly in their uniform and motivated to learn; it's been a pleasure to welcome them back to their school. Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school, every day, ready to learn. This will ensure that they have the very best chance of school success and gaining the positive life chances that we want for them.

School Values

In my letter to parents and carers in December 2023 I shared a parental questionnaire. Many thanks to those of you who completed this; this feedback is vital in ensuring that we provide the very best for the children that we serve. At the same time students, staff and governors were also consulted through similar questionnaires. An important part of this work was the rebranding of the school's values. The votes are in and I am pleased to share that Parkside Community School's Values are now: Resilience, Respect, Responsibility and Community:



- **RESILIENCE**
The ability to recover quickly from difficult conditions and succeed
- **RESPECT**
Showing consideration and positive regard for others.
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
The act of being accountable for actions and being in charge of learning.
- **COMMUNITY**
Working together for great educational experiences.

**SCHOOL
VALUES
WHO WE ARE**

Our values share our expectations for everyone in our school community; it's how we do things at Parkside. They will ensure that every child who attends our school is aware of what aims we have for them and help us all live our ethos – *caring about the choices that affect our future*. As a proud member of the Embark Federation of schools we closely align with the Trust's core purpose and shared vision in our pursuit of being a 'stand out' school at the heart of our community. Our new school values play a vital role within this and dictate the behaviours that we expect all members of our school to demonstrate.

Positive Behaviour and Reward Systems

This week we also launched updated whole school positive behaviour and rewards systems. These were introduced to students in my 'welcome back' assemblies on Tuesday 9 January. The aim is to ensure that students are rewarded for positive behaviour, they are aware of their responsibilities and are supported to make any improvements needed. To further develop our culture of celebration for students we have introduced a variety of new rewards that centre around rewarding students who 'get it right' every single day. These include:

- Daily positive praise points (that culminate in bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards)
- Weekly prize draws for students whose work has been nominated for exceptional effort in quality, quantity or presentation (this will be known as the QQP raffle)
- An end of year raffle with significant voucher prizes (for those who have achieved bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards over the school year)

We are incredibly lucky to have so many students who consistently demonstrate their best effort and it is important that they are rewarded for meeting our school expectations.

Conversely, where students do not meet our behavioural expectations there is a system of consequence. At a low-level students will be reminded, supported and then given a verbal warning (C1) in lessons if their behaviour does not improve. At a more serious level, sanctions may include removal from lessons (C2 on-call) to work in our Reflection Centre with a senior member of staff, and same day after school detentions. Parents and carers will be notified if their child has received a C2 on-call or a detention.

It is important that all members of our school support and follow these systems so that the Parkside community operates effectively for everyone's benefit. Thank you in advance for your support to ensure the highest standards of behaviour are maintained and celebrated at our school.

Parkside Praise Pass

You will remember that I wrote to parents and carers at the end of last half term to share information relating to the Parkside Praise Pass. This was trialed for the last 2 weeks of term in order to further capture the positive conduct that students demonstrate around our school. This physical card was given to your child by their mentor. Within it there were 10 positive conduct boxes that staff could sign if they saw good manners, politeness, helpful behaviour or anything else brilliant outside of lessons. The challenge for students was to see if anyone can fill these 10 boxes in the last 10 days of the half term. I am pleased to report that a number of students completed this successfully with their achievements celebrated in our last day of rewards assemblies before Christmas.

On the back of the Parkside Praise Pass there was a section for toilet usage. It is incredibly important that students are given access to toilets throughout the school day but we must limit this use in lesson time as it has a significant effect on your child's learning and future exam outcomes. Students were given 5 opportunities to access toilets throughout the school day – before mentor time starts, during brunch, during lunch, after school and once in lesson time. The latter was the change to the normal ways of working and I thank parents and carers for their support of this. Of course, those students with medical toilet passes are exempt from the one a day lesson time toilet use and are able to access toilets whenever needed.

The feedback from students and staff on the Parkside Praise Pass was overwhelmingly positive and the decision has been made for this to continue. Please do ask to see your child's Parkside Praise Pass so that you can see how many positive conduct boxes they achieve this term. Those students who complete all 10 boxes must give their pass into their mentor so they are entered in a prize raffle.

Parental meetings

A polite reminder to all parents/carers to book any meetings they wish to have with our staff in advance. If parents/carers arrive at the school without an appointment we cannot guarantee that the member of staff you would like to meet with, will be free to see you. Thank you for your support in this area.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 15 January – Y11 Parents' Evening – further details will be sent at a later date
Monday 12 February – Y10 Parents' Evening - further details will be sent at a later date
Monday 18 March – Rescheduled Y7 Parents' Evening

Thank you for your ongoing support of myself and the staff at Parkside. Working in partnership with our parents and carers enables us to provide the very best school experience for your child.

As always if you have any questions, please get in touch with us by calling our reception or emailing info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk. For more information on the great things that happen at our school please visit our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

Hoping that 2024 is a happy and healthy year for all.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher