

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

14 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to Parkside Community School after the Christmas break! I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Last week's closure due to snow and ice

Thank you to parents and carers for their support at the start of last week when I took the difficult decision to shut the school. This was due to the site being significantly affected by snow and ice. Shutting the school is always the last option and not a decision taken lightly, but student and staff safety will always remain our number one priority. As you know our school site is on a hill which means icy conditions make this area incredibly dangerous. Despite the best efforts of our site team (working from the early hours) we could not secure safe conditions. In the true spirit of Parkside our staff spent the day on Tuesday clearing the site (with a little help from a tractor!). It was a tremendous effort by all as we were desperate to see our students in the building in 2025. We have been thrilled to welcome them back!

New staff

I am pleased to welcome three new members of staff to our team: Mr Siviter (Teacher of Mathematics), Miss Crowther (Teacher of English), and Miss Platts (Pastoral Officer). Please join me in welcoming them to Parkside Community School.

Attendance and "attendance advent"

Student attendance is a key priority, and we are excited to launch our 'attendance advent' initiative. Each week, 10 randomly picked students with 100% attendance will be able to select a prize from a lucky dip bag. These include vouchers, chocolate, stationery, and more. We believe that recognising and rewarding good attendance is crucial for your child's academic success. Please ensure your child attends school on time, every day. Thank you for your support in this area.

Behaviour and rewards

We have updated our behaviour policy to ensure a consistent approach across the school. Poor behaviour outside of the classroom, such as defiance, rudeness, mobile phone use, or chewing gum, will result in negative points. Students who accumulate 6 or more negative points in a week will receive an after-school detention on the Friday with the Senior Leadership Team. In class, sanctions now go up to a C3 before a student is removed from the lesson. A C3 would give a student a same day 15-minute detention.

On a positive note, we are excited to grow our rewards programme to now include praise postcards, and best in lesson awards. Student who receive these will earn 5 extra positive praise points. Students will be able to trade in their positive praise points for prizes, which will be decided by our Parkside Parliament.

Learning journeys for this term

The learning journey for each subject this term can be found on our school website:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/subject-learning-journeys>

Please take some time to review these with your child, as they provide valuable information about the topics and skills they will be covering.

Arbor parent app

I strongly encourage all parents and carers to sign up for the Arbor parent app, which provides easy access to your child's attendance, behaviour, and academic information. If you haven't already done so, please use the two links below to access user guides for the Arbor Parent App:

https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360034515714-What-are-the-Parent-Portal-and-Parent-App#h_01H90T7S6TNS7N2D12G6286WZD

<https://arbor-education.com/blog-the-arbor-app-is-here/>

Year 11 updates

Our Year 11 students performed exceptionally well in their recent mock exams, and we look forward to sharing their results with you at the upcoming parents' evening on 30 January 2025. We also have some exciting events planned for Year 11, including the return of Humanutopia on 29 January 2025 and a session with Maximise Your Potential on 26 February 2025 to support their revision strategies.

Reminder of dates for your diary

- Derbyshire police and crime commissioner visit – 15 January
- Year 9 Immunisations – 30 January
- Year 11 parents' evening – 30 January
- Year 10 parents' evening – 10 February

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to working with you and your child this term to ensure their success and well-being.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher