

**Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly**

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14 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds our families well as we commence the final 2 weeks of this half term. Our students continue to do brilliant things at Parkside. I have welcomed numerous visitors to our school this half term who I always encourage to walk lessons and social times. Without exception all have commented on the calm, purposeful learning alongside how friendly and polite our students are. These comments make us feel incredibly proud and lucky to work with your brilliant children every day.

Please note that our students will break up for the October half term on Friday 25 October at the normal time of 3.05pm. They will return to us on Tuesday 5 November due to an INSET day on Monday 4 November.

### **Parental Questionnaire**

You may remember that Embark Federation (the Trust who supports Parkside) launched a parental survey for all its school at the end of the last school year. Your opinion always matters to us; parental voice informs our drive to ensure that we provide the very best for our children. Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to complete the survey. The top results and our next steps are below:

Areas of strength highlighted by parents/carers:

- 1. The school makes sure its pupils are behaved*
- 2. The school has high expectations for my child*
- 3. I feel my child does well at this school*
- 4. There are a good range of subjects*
- 5. The school benefits from being a member of Embark*

Areas for further development as highlighted by parents/carers (our next steps are outlined under each of these):

- 1. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year*

Each of our subjects at Parkside have a learning journey. This outlines what your child will learn in each year group and at each point of the year. This information can be found on our website via this link

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

If you have any further queries regarding what your child will learn at Parkside, please get in touch with us.

## 2. Communication with the school

It's incredibly important that parents and carers contact us if they have any queries or concerns. The best way to do so is to ring our school reception or to email us via [Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk). Your query will then be sent to the relevant member of Parkside staff who will get back in touch.

## 3. SEND information for my child

In order to further support parents/carers of students with additional needs we plan to host a parental information event. This will be led by our SENCO David Mills (Deputy Headteacher) and Helen Spencer (SEND Manager). More information on this will be shared next half term.

## 4. The school lets me know how my child is doing

In September we launched Arbor (a cloud-based Management Information System) in school to support our daily admin. We will be sending parents/carers information on how to sign up to the new Arbor system and access its parental app. The app will allow parents/carers to access all of their child's school information including their attainment, attendance, homework, rewards, timetable, plus much more. We are excited to bring this update to you next half term.

## 5. My child can take part in clubs and activities at school

The extra-curricular schedule for this half term is below. New clubs and activities will continue to be added throughout the year and shared with students every morning in the student briefing. All students are welcome!

<b>Extra-Curricular Activities / Intervention Sessions</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>		
Mentor Time	Choir practice	A13
Lunchtime	Quiet reading	Library
After School	Netball - all years	Tennis courts
After School	Creative Imedia R097 catch up	C4
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Mentor Time	Windband	A13
After School	Football - all years	School field
<b>Thursday</b>		
Lunchtime	Quiet reading	Library
After School	Creative Imedia R097 catch up	C4
After School	Chess club	Library
After School	Awesome art club	B1
After School	Y7 drama club	Hall
<b>Friday</b>		
After School	GCSE photography	B4
After School	Duke of Edinburgh drop in	A19

## **Parkside Parent Forum**

The year's first Parent Forum meeting will be on Thursday 17 October at 9.10am. We encourage any parents/carers who would like to learn more about the school's offer to attend. We are excited to build on last year's work so please come along, everyone is welcome! If you are interested, please email Sarah Russell on [rsRussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:rsRussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk) to book your place.

## **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.

## **Students' exit from school**

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 further reports that a handful of parents/carers are congesting the junction of Boythorpe Avenue and Boythorpe Mount from 2.45pm. 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 a natural flow of traffic in this area. Your support is much appreciated.

## **Y9 Castleton Residential**

We are incredibly lucky to have secured funding to support the costs of a Y9 residential to Castleton in early 2025. There are 30 spaces available and students will be set criteria on their attendance, behaviour, Parkside Praise Points in order to qualify. Those students who meet this criterion will be 'drawn out of the hat' to ensure a fair process as to who will attend. Further information will be shared with students in their assembly with a further letter coming to parents/carers.

## **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:**

- Parent forum - 17 October
- INSET Day - 4 November (students not on site)

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

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly  
Headteacher