

18 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic year at Parkside and to thank you for your ongoing support.

First and foremost, I would like to say how incredibly proud I am of our students. They have demonstrated our school values of resilience, respect, responsibility, and community to the highest level throughout the year. Their commitment to learning and their contribution to the wider school community has been nothing short of brilliant.

Just last week, our Year 10 students completed their work experience placements, and we were blown away by the positive feedback from employers - many commented on how mature, hardworking, and polite our students were. A huge well done to Year 10!

We also welcomed our new Year 6 pupils during transition days, and our current students truly shone as ambassadors for Parkside. Their warm welcome and support helped make our newest members of the school family feel right at home. We can't wait to officially welcome them in September.

Yesterday, we held our Celebration Event for students who had earned 'Best in Lesson' praise points throughout the year and traded these in for raffle tickets for a grand prize draw. The atmosphere was electric as students won prizes including scooters, AirPods, shopping vouchers and chocolate hampers! It was a joy to celebrate their hard work and positive attitude.

Today, many of our students are off to Alton Towers on our reward trip - an exciting end to the year for those who qualified. We are proud of the culture we've built at Parkside, where recognising students who consistently "get it right" is a priority. Next year, we will continue to reward effort, kindness and achievement - and we have some exciting new developments around this to share with students in September.

We have an incredibly exciting final week of term ahead:

- **Tuesday 22 July – Sports Day** (weather dependent): If we need to cancel due to weather, students will attend normal lessons.
- **Wednesday 23 July – Culture Day**: A celebration of the rich cultural diversity at Parkside, with themed lessons, food and activities. Students may come to school in non-uniform that reflects their family heritage.
- **Thursday 24 July – Last Day of Term**: Non-uniform day. Donation of a food item to support Gussie's kitchen or a £1 donation via the Arbor parent app. School will finish early at **12:30pm** on this day and students should eat their main meal at brunchtime.

As we look ahead, a few important reminders for the start of the new school year:

- **Uniform:** In September, all students are expected to return in full school uniform: black shoes, trousers or a knee-length pleated skirt with tights, white shirt, tie, and school blazer. A black jumper is optional.  
If your child requires a new blazer or PE kit, please visit our website for details of how to order. <https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/index.php/parkside-support-centre/uniform>
- **Appearance:** As per our policy, students must return with *natural nails*. Please ensure this is adhered to before the start of term.
- **Equipment:** All students should be fully equipped for learning with a black pen, green pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, and a suitable school bag.
- **Arbor App:** This continues to be our key method of communication with parents/carers. If you need support accessing the Arbor app, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to welcoming all students back for the new school year on **Monday 8 September at 8:25am**.

### Parental Information Evenings – Monday 8 September

We warmly invite all parents and carers to attend our **Parental Information Evening on Monday 8 September**. There will be two sessions and these will be a valuable opportunity to hear directly from Parkside staff about the year ahead and how we will support your child to thrive both academically and personally.

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)** – 5:00pm
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)** – 6:00pm

During these sessions, we will share key updates on our curriculum, pastoral support, and enrichment opportunities, as well as practical information on how you can best support your child's progress throughout the year. We strongly encourage all families to attend. Your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success at Parkside.

### Stay Connected – Follow Us on Social Media

Stay connected with everything happening at Parkside Community School by following our official social media channels. From student achievements to key events and daily highlights, our platforms offer a glimpse into school life and celebrate the successes of our vibrant school community all year round.

You can find us on Facebook, Twitter/X and Instagram.

### Reminder of dates for your diary

- Tuesday 22 July - Sports day
- Wednesday 23 July - Culture day
- Thursday 24 July - Last day – students dismissed at 12.30pm
- Monday 8 September 2025 – all students return to school – gates open at 8.25am

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break when we get there. We look forward to seeing our students back in September, refreshed and ready for another fantastic year at Parkside.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly  
Headteacher