

19 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the start of half term 5; I am excited at the prospect of the wonderful things our students will achieve this half term. I hope all of our families had a fantastic Easter break.

Punctuality to school

On Monday I led assemblies to all year groups to welcome our students back to Parkside after the Easter holidays. It was also an opportunity for me to further congratulate the many students who were celebrated in last half term's reward assemblies. It has been brilliant this week to see so many of our students proudly wearing bronze, silver and gold badges for their exceptional effort in lessons. During Monday's assemblies I spoke to our young people about our school's values (*Resilience, Respect, Responsibility and Community*). These are the values that define who we are. As a student and staff team we follow them together as we know that they support us to be the best version of ourselves and increase our chances of school success.

Within the assemblies I also highlighted to students the importance of being on time to school. Although lateness to school is not an issue for the vast majority of our students, lessons can be disturbed if a young person arrives late. Lateness has a negative impact on everyone's learning. Punctual students enable lessons to start sharply and allow staff to teach to the best of their ability. The school expects all students to arrive every day at 8.30am (when the school gates are opened). Mentor time starts at 8.40am. From Monday 22 April any student who arrives to the school gate after 8.40am will incur a same day 30 minute after school detention. The top gate is currently out of order so **all students must enter through the bottom gate for the foreseeable future.** I thank all parents and carers for their support in this important area.

Please note that there are a small number of students who have alternative arrangements around their arrival to school; they will not face a consequence if their agreed arrangement is to arrive after 8.40am

Year 11 exams

The exam period for our Year 11s begins on Tuesday 7 May. This is an incredibly stressful time for our students but our brilliant staff are working incredibly hard to support them in their preparations. Please ensure your child attends every day with the best learning intentions; every lesson counts!

After school revision continues this half term; it is imperative that your child attends these sessions as they hugely support exam success. We will be sending out further information on the exams to parents/carers over the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or feel your child requires any further support, please get in touch with us. We are incredibly proud of our students as they embark on this final push to the exam period. You can do it!

Parent forum: Wednesday 1 May

I am incredibly excited to host my first parent forum meeting at Parkside Community School on Wednesday 1 May at 9.30am-10.30am. During the meeting Jean Horton (Chair of Governors), David Mills (Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo) as well as myself will present to parents/carers before answering any questions. Anna Upton (Deputy Trust Leader from Embark Federation) will also be in attendance. The parent forum was formed at our last coffee morning. It will be a great opportunity to meet key members of staff and work in partnership with them to positively shape your child's education. If you would like to attend this event, please email Sarah Russell srussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Parkside social media

Please keep up to date with Parkside news through our social media outlets – Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram. Latest updates share some of the brilliant goings on at our school.

Dates for your diary:

- Year 8 parents' evening Monday 22 April
- Year 11 exams commence Tuesday 7 May
- Friday 24 May – last day of term
- Monday 3 June – school returns
- Monday 24 June – INSET day – school closed to students
- Tuesday 2 July – HPV Vaccinations for Y8 students – further details to follow

I thank all parents/carers for their 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