

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

AKE/SRU

19 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I'd like to express my sincere thanks for your support in my first six weeks as Headteacher at Parkside. It has been a pleasure to observe our students' hard work in their lessons; they have been brilliant. From the parental information evenings in November to the recent Christmas Market, it has been a joy to see so many of you engaging in your children's school life. I look forward to working in partnership with all parents and carers in 2024.

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that Friday 22 December will be our last day before the Christmas break. Students will be dismissed at 12.45pm so are therefore expected to eat during brunch. Friday will also be a non-uniform day. Students may choose to wear a Christmas jumper if they would like to do so, but this is certainly not a requirement. Instead of the normal request for £1, we are asking parents and carers if they could kindly donate an item of food. This can be a tin, box or packet. All food items can be brought to reception and will be collected by Gussies Kitchen to support the work they do for our families and the community.

Parkside Praise Pass

On Monday 11 December all students were given a physical Parkside Praise Pass by their mentor. Within it there are 10 positive conduct boxes that staff can sign if they see good manners, politeness, helpful behaviour or anything else brilliant outside of lessons. The challenge for students is to see if anyone can fill these 10 boxes in the last 10 days of this half term as this warrants a reward. I am delighted to report that we have a number of students who have now completed this challenge and are on their second Praise Pass! Please do ask to see your child's Parkside Praise Pass so that you can see how many positive conduct points they get.

January 2024 rewards and sanctions

When students return to us from their Christmas break on Tuesday 9 January, they will receive key messaging regarding new reward and sanction systems. As part of our commitment to a culture of celebration at Parkside we will share with students the new reward initiatives that catch them 'getting it right'. We are incredibly lucky to have so many students who do this every single day; it is those students who I am keen to reward.

All detentions will be served on the same day as the behaviour infringements. In these situations, parents and carers will be notified of a detention via a text message (please ensure that the school office have your latest contact details). More information will be shared with parents and carers in January; thank you in advance for your support in this area.

Attendance

Thank you for supporting your child's attendance to school. A child with 96% or higher attendance increases their chances of making strong academic progress and reaching their full potential. We appreciate you speaking to your child about the importance of attending school on time every day and ask that you get in touch if there is anything we can do to support in this area.

Questionnaire results

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the recent parental questionnaire; your opinions really do matter. I will analyse the results of this alongside those that come from the students and staff questionnaires and report back the key findings in January.

Reminder of dates for your diary

- Monday 8 January – Staff INSET Day
- Tuesday 9 January – All students' return at 8.30am - Please ensure your child returns to school properly equipped with a school bag and in full school uniform, including a Parkside tie.
- Monday 15 January – Y11 Parents' Evening
- Monday 12 February – Y10 Parents' Evening
- Monday 4 March – Y9 Options and Parents' Evening
- Monday 18 March – Rescheduled Y7 Parents' Evening

Whilst the holidays are typically a happy time, there may be the need to get in touch with someone to access support if you are experiencing any difficulties. With that in mind, please find overleaf contact details for some key agencies which provide support throughout the year including over the holidays.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school at 8.30am on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher

Emotional wellbeing: Support Services / Further Information (Websites & Helplines)

Young Minds is a national charity aimed at improving the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people, and has a website for young people: www.youngminds.org.uk - There is also a helpline for parents and others concerned about a young person: **0808 802 5544**

Childline gives comfort, advice and protection to children and young people who are worried about any problem. They provide phone and text helplines, and resources are available through their website: www.childline.org.uk / Helpline: **0800 1111** (open 24 hours)

PAPYRUS exists to help prevent young suicide and provides support to young people who might be at risk of suicide; and to those who live, care for, or work with them: www.papyrus-uk.org / phone **01282 432 555**

PAPYRUS also hosts **HOPELineUK** – a confidential helpline service that offers support, practical advice and information to anyone concerned about themselves or a young person they know who may be at risk: Helpline: **0800 068 4141** (Mon–Fri 10am–10pm; Sat-Sun 2pm to 10pm); Text **07786 209697**

The **National Self Harm Network** offers help and advice for people who injure or self-harm as a way of coping, including downloadable information sheets and an online forum: <http://www.nshn.co.uk>

The **Young People and Self Harm** website is a key information resource for young people who self-harm, their friends, families, and for professionals working with them: www.selfharm.org.uk

Harmless is a user-led organisation that provides a range of services about self harm including support, information, training and consultancy to people who self harm, their friends and families and professionals: www.harmless.org.uk / **0115 934 8445**

Mind works for a better life for everyone with experience of mental distress. Their website contains useful information and resources, including an 'understanding self-harm' booklet: www.mind.org.uk
Mind info-line: **0845 766 0163**

Samaritans provide confidential emotional support for those experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. They also have an outreach service that can give talks to a variety of organisations, including schools: www.samaritans.org Helpline: **116 123** (open 24 hours) / Email: jo@samaritans.org

BEAT provides helplines, online support and a network of UK-wide self-help groups to help adults and young people in the UK beat their eating disorders: www.b-eat.co.uk / Helpline **0845 634 1414** / Youthline **0845 634 7650**

LifeSigns provides self-injury guidance and network support. Their website includes guidance for friends, family, teachers and carers, including factsheets to download: www.lifesigns.org.uk

CASS Self Injury Helpline provides confidential, non-judgemental emotional support around self-injury on 0808 800 8088 FREE Monday to Thursday evenings from 7-10pm www.selfinjurysupport.org.uk

Call Derbyshire

If you are concerned that a child is suffering or is at risk of significant harm please contact Call Derbyshire on tel: 01629 533190 immediately

Urgent Care Team – CAMHS

For serious self harm, active suicidal thoughts/behaviours and acute mental health concerns, the please telephone The Den, Chesterfield Royal Hospital – 10am-10pm, 7 days a week 07901 330724