

20 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Half-Term 5, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on another productive and positive term at Parkside Community School. It has been a busy period for all and as always, the students have been a pleasure!

Year 11 – Halfway through the exams!

Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to our Year 11 students, who have shown great determination, maturity, and resilience as they sit their GCSE exams.

As we now reach the midway point of the exam period, I want to stress how important it is that all Year 11 students continue to attend all timetabled lessons, even after they have completed some of their exams. These lessons are designed to support their preparation for the remaining exams and provide focused revision sessions led by their teachers. Every single lesson counts at this stage, and students who remain engaged are giving themselves the best chance of success.

It is also essential that Year 11 continue to wear the correct uniform right up until their final day in school. Maintaining our high standards helps promote a sense of pride and unity across the school community, particularly as our younger students look up to them as role models.

We encourage all Year 11s to use the half-term break wisely – rest and recharge, of course, but also take time to revise and consolidate knowledge. Keep going – you're nearly there! We are all rooting for you as you complete your final exams.

Our School Values

At Parkside Community School, our four core values underpin everything we do:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Community

These values are not just words on a wall; they are the foundation of school life at Parkside and guide the decisions we make, the behaviour we expect, and the culture we continue to build.

We know that many of you are already reinforcing these values at home, and we are grateful for your support. Encouraging your child to take responsibility for their learning, to treat others with kindness and respect, and to bounce back from setbacks will help prepare them for life beyond school. We encourage you to discuss these values with your children regularly. By working together – school and home – we can ensure that Parkside continues to be a place where every student feels safe, supported, and inspired to achieve their best.

Summer Uniform – Half-Term 6

As we transition into the warmer months, we would like to remind parents and carers of the summer uniform options available for students. Our aim is to ensure that all students remain comfortable while maintaining the high standards of presentation expected at Parkside Community School. Our black shoe, white shirt and school tie expectations continue as ever with the alternative summer uniform options for half term 6 below:

Blazers

During half term 6, blazers will be optional. All other aspects of the school uniform must still be worn correctly and smartly. **Please note all students will be expected to wear their blazer in September.** If you feel a new blazer will be required for your child for September, please order this now at <https://just-schoolwear.co.uk/school/parkside-community-school/>

Tailored Shorts

Students may wear **tailored** black school shorts. Tailored black trousers or knee-length pleated skirts must be worn if a student does not wish to wear shorts. Please note that shorts must not be:

- Tight-fitting or lycra
- Sports shorts or hot pants
- Denim or crochet

Examples of appropriate girls' tailored shorts that meet the school's expectations include:

- [Example 1](#)
- [Example 2](#)
- [Example 3](#)

We appreciate your continued support in maintaining the high standards of appearance that reflect the pride we all share in Parkside Community School.

Embark Trust Parent/Carer Survey – Have Your Say

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently inviting feedback through the Embark Trust Parent/Carer Survey. This is your chance to share your views about your child's experience at Parkside and help us identify strengths and areas for development.

The survey was launched on Friday 9 May and will remain open until Friday 23 May. We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it using the link below:

[Embark Parent/Carer Survey](#)

DANCOP DISCOVER Programme – New Opportunities for Families

We are excited to share details of the DANCOP DISCOVER Programme, a fantastic initiative developed in partnership with Joined Up Care Derbyshire. This programme offers engaging opportunities for students and families to explore careers, post-16 options, and higher education pathways, with a focus on raising aspirations and widening access. A flyer with full details is at the end of this letter and a QR code is here.



Stay Connected – Follow Us on Social Media

To stay up to date with the latest news, achievements, and events from around the school, make sure you're following us on our social media platforms. From classroom highlights to sports successes and student celebrations, it's the best way to see what life at Parkside is really like.

You can follow us here:

Twitter/X: @ParksideSch

Facebook: @ParksideSch

Instagram: @ParksideSch

Future Communications

This will be the final letter we send via link in a text message as we are changing the way in which letters will be sent. Future letters (and some other communications) will be sent by email so please ensure your contact details are kept up to date. This can be done through the Arbor app or by contacting info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Reminder of dates for your diary

- School INSET day Monday 23 June (students not in school on this date)
- Y8 HPV Immunisations 8 July
- Alton Towers reward trip 18 July

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are proud of our school community and the incredible students we work with every day.

Wishing you and your families a safe, restful, and enjoyable half-term when you get there.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher



Joined Up Care
Derbyshire



DISCOVER

...the Health & Social Care Sector

In partnership with Joined Up Care Derbyshire and The University of Derby, the DISCOVER programme offers care-experienced learners an opportunity to explore a broad range of different career pathways in the Health & Social Care sector through employers such as the NHS, East Midlands Ambulance Service and Derbyshire County Council. The programme offers group and individual activities, in person and online support to learners in Years 7-13 from Derby and Derbyshire.

**350 different roles to explore
such as:**

Pharmacist
Health Care Scientist
Digital Support Technician
Catering Assistant
Clinical Support Worker
Phlebotomist
Administrator
Communications Assistant
Porter
Network Engineer
Registered Nurse

Skills
Development
Workshops

Mentoring

Career
Pathways
Workshops

Job
Application &
Interview
Support

Signposting
to Wider
Support

Social
Activities

College &
University
Campus
Visits

Group Activity Dates



18th July 21st July 5th August

12th August 19th August 20th August

**Register your interest
for a place on this
programme here:**



dancop@derby.ac.uk



www.teamdancop.co.uk



Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
Collaborative Outreach
Partnership

Office for
Students

EMBARK
FEDERATION

