

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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Dear Parents and Carers

A warm Parkside welcome back as we commence the new school year. I am delighted to report that students have returned to us dressed smartly in their uniform and motivated to learn; it's been a pleasure to see them after the summer break. Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school, every day, ready to learn. This will ensure that they have the very best chance of school success and gaining the positive life chances that we want for them.

Head of Year introduction

As we start a new academic year, I wanted to inform you of some key pastoral changes that have been made to strengthen our current systems and support your child. Each year group has now been designated a Head of Year. I am delighted to introduce the Head of Year Team below:

- Miss N Raynes - Head of Y7
- Miss E Huddleston - Head of Y8 and Y9
- Mr Gould - Head of Y10 and Y11

The Head of Years will oversee all aspects of the educational journeys of all students within their year group and ensure that everyone is supported to be the best version of themselves. They will lead assemblies and our team of Mentors through our comprehensive Active Mentor Programme during mentor time. They will be a vital point of contact for parents and carers.

At Parkside every student belongs to a mentor group, led by a member of Parkside staff who is their Mentor. Mentor time takes place first thing every morning after students arrive at 8.25am. This time is absolutely critical as students follow a structured programme of activities, assemblies and daily key messages within it.

Mentors discuss student behaviour and rewards, ensure students have the relevant equipment for learning, and check their wellbeing. Ultimately, they set up your child to have a successful day. The close relationships that the Mentor has with their students means that they will naturally become one of your child's most trusted adults within school. The Mentor is your first point of contact as a parent/carer if you have any queries concerning your child's education at Parkside.

We are very excited by this additional layer of pastoral support for students and wish Miss Raynes, Miss Huddleston and Mr Gould the best of luck in their new Head of Year roles.

Humanutopia Year 11: 29 September

We are incredibly lucky to welcome Humanutopia to Parkside this week to work with our Year 11 students. Humanutopia run motivational, life-changing courses for students in schools that are designed to improve mental health and wellbeing. Friday's session has been designed to specifically resonate with the challenges faced by Year 11 this year as they head towards their exams. We are acutely aware of the pressure Year 11 students may feel. Humanutopia will help students to express then rationalise any fears and worries they may have in a fresh and highly relevant way. Students will then be encouraged to reassess their priorities and set new and achievable goals. This day is a MUST to help motivate and inspire Year 11 students so please ensure your child attends. For more information on Humanutopia please follow this link <https://www.humanutopia.com/>

Year 5/6 Open Evening Monday 30 September 2024 5pm-7pm

I am delighted to invite all prospective Year 5/6 students and their parents/carers to this year's Open Evening. It has been a privilege to lead our school since November 2023; I discovered very quickly that Parkside is truly a special place with fantastic students. There is so much to show them! We welcome all parents/carers who have an older sibling currently at Parkside; it would be great to see you.

Extra-curricular clubs

The first of our extra-curricular clubs commenced last week; it was fantastic to see over 40 new netballers on Tuesday. Please see below the first clubs that have been launched with much more to come over the next few weeks.

Tuesday	Club	Venue
After School	Netball - all years	Tennis Courts
After School	Creative Imedia	C4
Wednesday		
Lunchtime	Reading club	Library
After School	Football - all years	School Field
Thursday		
After School	Creative Imedia	C4
After School	Chess Club	Library
Friday		
After School	Photography	B4

Dates for your diary:

Monday 4 November – INSET Day – school closed to students

Wednesday 4 December – Flu Vaccinations – whole school

Thank you for your support this year. Working in partnership with our parents and carers enables us to provide the very best school experience for your child. As always if you have any questions, please get in touch with us by calling our reception or emailing info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk.

For more information on the great things that happen at our school please visit our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher