

26 February 2024

**Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly**

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Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you on our first day after the February break. Students look smart and ready to learn; it's been wonderful to welcome them back. I am excited at the prospect of the wonderful things they'll achieve this half term.

### **Punctuality to lessons**

This morning I led assemblies to all year groups to wish them well for half term 4. It was also an opportunity for me to further congratulate the many students who were celebrated in February's reward assemblies. Today I spoke to our students about our school ethos (*caring about the choices that affect your future*), our high expectations and the school's values (*Resilience, Respect, Responsibility and Community*). We know that when students follow these closely, they achieve to the best of their ability. Therefore, they are more likely to leave us at the end of Year 11 with the best life chances. I also highlighted the importance of punctuality to lessons and the negative impact this has on learning. Although punctuality to lessons is not an issue for the vast majority of our students, lessons can be disturbed if a young person arrives late. Punctuality enables lessons to start sharply and allow Parkside staff to teach to the best of their ability.

Students have 5 minutes to arrive to their next lesson after the bell signals. From next week (Monday 4 March) students will be given a 15-minute same day detention after school if they arrive late to a lesson (after 5 minutes). Students will receive a 15-minute detention for every lesson they are late to that day. For example, if a student is late to two lessons in a day, they will receive a 30-minute (2 x 15-minutes) same day after school detention. It is important that students make the most of every minute available to them as we work hard to support your child to the best version of themselves. I thank all parents and carers for their support in this important area.

### **Careers Made in Chesterfield**

On Thursday 15 February all Year 9 students took part in a Careers Made in Chesterfield event. Local businesses and external partners worked with our young people to share a range of careers across our locality. This was a highly inspirational event that showcased the very best opportunities from a range of future employers. It was fantastic to hear students speaking openly about career aspirations and their upcoming GCSE option choices. As you'd expect the feedback we received from these visitors was glowing, with one remarking that Parkside students were 'exceptional' (very proud Headteacher moment!). Well done Year 9!

### **Year 11 revision afternoon**

On Friday 1 March, all Year 11 students will be taking part in an exam revision session at Parkside. The aim of the session is to provide our students with the most effective revision strategies available to support their learning at home. Parkside teachers will share key techniques so that students feel equipped to manage the revision requirements for exam success. The tips shared will also become prevalent in Year 11 lessons as we quickly lead up to the exam period in May. This is an essential session for all Year 11 students. There is a parental evening planned for later this term on how best to support your child and their exams. More information to follow from Mrs Asher.

### **Jewellery expectations – nose piercings**

A polite reminder to all parents and carers of our jewellery expectations in the link below.

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/PDF/policies/Behaviour%20Policy%20Appendix%204b.pdf>

In particular please could I highlight our expectations on nose piercings which are not allowed at Parkside. If your child has had this piercing, we ask that they remove this whilst they attend school or they wear a clear nose retainer in its place. Thank you for your support.

### **Parkside social media**

Please keep track of the latest goings on at our school through our social media outlets – Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram. Latest updates include winter photography winners, Spiderman sculptures and some very creative Mottle and Bailey Castles. Please log on and keep yourself updated on all things Parkside!

### **Dates for your diary:**

- Tuesday 27 February (9.30am - 10.30am) - Parental coffee morning at Parkside Community School (please contact Miss S Russell if you would to attend ([sruessell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:srussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk)))
- Monday 4 March – Y9 Parents' Evening/Options Evening
- Monday 18 March – Y7 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 19 March - Y9 Booster Vaccinations - <https://bit.ly/3umDPfy>
- Thursday 28 March – last day of term – 12.45 finish for students

Thank you as always for your support. If you have any queries, please get in touch with us at [Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly  
Headteacher