

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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28 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of another term at Parkside Community School, I am writing to provide you with an update on the progress and activities of our students.

It has been a busy and productive term, with our students demonstrating their commitment to their studies and engaging enthusiastically in the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to them. I am pleased to report that our academic results continue to be strong, with many of our students making excellent progress across their subjects.

Beyond the classroom, our students have been actively involved in a variety of enrichment activities, including sports teams, music and drama performances, and various clubs and societies. These experiences not only enhance their personal development but also foster a sense of community and belonging within our school. Please view our social media outlets to see the fantastic things our students have been up to – Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.

Cashless school update

This week we were informed that a change in the Derbyshire County Council catering contract with the school means that they will no longer be offering a facility to take cash payments through the canteen. This means that from Monday 31 March, students will be unable to top up their meal balances with cash, making us a cashless school. From this point onwards **all payments for your child's food and drink at school must be made electronically through the Arbor parent app**. Information on how to sign up to the Arbor parent app is below.

Arbor parent app payments and school payments

Please see a timeline below that reiterates points made in my previous letter regarding the Arbor parent app and school payments:

- Sunday 30 March will be the last time parents/carers can top-up school meal accounts with Parent Pay
- Tuesday 1 April will be the first day that Arbor Payments on the Arbor parent App can be used to top-up your child's account
- Any existing balances from Parent Pay will be moved over to your Arbor Parent account on Tuesday 1 April

The following two help guides show how to make school meal payments through the Arbor.

Parent Portal: <https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/22123135039773-Top-up-accounts-and-viewing-payments-in-the-Parent-Portal>

Parent App: <https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/22123188173853-Top-up-accounts-and-viewing-payments-in-the-Arbor-Parent-App>

If you have downloaded and are using the Arbor parent app on your phone, you will also have the option to pay through Apple Pay or Google Wallet.

Arbor Parent Drop-In

If you have not been able to register/log in to your Arbor parent account, please contact the school via info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk so that we can send out an invite link.

If you would like help to set up Arbor, or have any questions regarding the app, we will be running an Arbor parent/carer drop-in session on Tuesday 1 April 2025, from 3.30pm until 5.00pm in the school library. We look forward to seeing you there!

Last day of term arrangements

The last day of term is Friday 4 April; this will be a non-uniform day. We kindly ask that students bring a food donation for our local charity, Gussie's Kitchen. This supports families within our community. School will finish at 12.30pm on this day, and students will be expected to leave the site promptly having taken any meals they require at brunch.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 22 April. As they return, I would like to take this opportunity to politely remind you of our uniform expectations; all students must wear black shoes, and hoodies are not permitted. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for the school day.

A huge thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support and partnership as we approach the Easter break. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for our students.

Wishing all our families a fantastic Easter when they get there!

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher

Reminder of dates for your diary

- 4 April: last day of school (students to leave school at 12.30pm)
- 22 April: students to return to school
- 5 May: Bank Holiday
- 6 May: GCSE's begin