

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

30 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

As we approach the final few weeks of the academic year, I want to begin by commending all of our students for the positive attitudes, excellent behaviour, and commitment to learning they have demonstrated so far this half term. Despite the challenges brought by the recent high temperatures, our students have remained resilient, respectful, and responsible - a reflection of the strong values we continue to foster at Parkside Community School.

Year 10 Work Experience

From Monday 7 July, our Year 10 students will begin their week-long work experience placements. This is an exciting opportunity for students to gain valuable insight into the world of work and develop key skills that will serve them well in the future. We wish all our students the very best for the week and look forward to hearing about their experiences upon their return.

Year 10 Mock Exams

Over the past two weeks, our Year 10 students have been sitting their mock examinations, and I would like to take a moment to recognise how well they have conducted themselves throughout this period. They have approached the exams with maturity and a strong work ethic. These qualities will serve them well as they move into Year 11 and begin preparing for their final GCSEs. We are very proud of their efforts and the positive example they have set for younger students.

Student Appearance Expectations – From Monday 7 July

At Parkside Community School, we remain committed to creating an environment that supports every student's ability to focus, feel proud of their school, and reach their full potential. In line with this, I must remind parents/carers of the expectations around student appearance that will be reinforced from Monday 7 July.

Nail Appearance

All students must have natural nails. This means:

- No coloured nail polish (including clear polish)
- No acrylic or gel nails
- No nail extensions or decorative enhancements

Jewellery

Students may wear stud earrings only. The following will not be permitted:

- Dangling or hoop earrings
- Nose rings or studs (unless they are transparent retainers)
- Nose septum piercings of any kind
- Visible necklaces or chains (these must be worn under clothing and out of sight)

We know that self-expression is important, and we encourage it through creativity in learning, extracurricular activities, and respectful dialogue. However, in school, uniformity in appearance plays a key role in reinforcing positive behaviour, inclusion, and the high standards we set for all.

Why Are We Reinforcing These Expectations?

These expectations form part of our wider commitment to a distraction-free learning environment and are grounded in our values of equality, safety, and professionalism. Specifically, they aim to:

- Encourage greater focus in the classroom by reducing visual and social distractions
- Maintain health and safety standards, particularly in practical subjects such as PE and Technology
- Help prepare students for the expectations of professional environments and future employment
- Support consistency and fairness, helping all students to feel part of the school community

Support and Queries

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or myself directly.

Year 6 Transition Days

We are delighted to be welcoming our new cohort of Year 6 pupils for their transition days from Tuesday 8 July to Thursday 10 July. These days are designed to help our future Year 7 students familiarise themselves with the school, meet their teachers, and begin forming new friendships, ensuring a smooth and confident start to their secondary school journey.

Community Cupboard – Every Tuesday at 2:45pm

We would also like to remind families about our Community Cupboard, which takes place every Tuesday at 2:45pm at the school gate. This is an opportunity for parents/carers, and families to access a wide range of free food items, made available to support our school community.

Everyone is welcome—no referral is needed—and we encourage you to make use of this offer if it would be helpful to you or someone you know. It's one small way we can support each other and promote kindness and care across our Parkside community.

Stay Connected – Follow Us on Social Media

To keep up to date with the latest news, achievements, and events at Parkside Community School, we encourage you to follow our official social media channels. These platforms provide a window into school life and celebrate the successes of our students and staff throughout the year.

You can find us on Facebook, Twitter/X and Instagram.

Reminder of dates for your diary

- Y8 Immunisations – 8 July
- Alton Towers reward trip - 18 July 18
- Sports day – 22 July
- Culture day – 23 July
- Last day arrangements 24 July, students dismissed at 12.45pm

Once again, thank you for your continued support. It plays a vital role in everything we do here at Parkside. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable end to the term, and we look forward to finishing the academic year together on a high. There's a lot to look forward to!

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher