

BRI/SRU

15 July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

I am writing to provide you with details of arrangements for the last day of the summer term, the start of the Autumn term in September, and some important changes we are making to the curriculum and the organization of the school day for the 2021-22 academic year.

1. Arrangements for the last day of the summer term

Next Thursday 22 July is the last day of the summer term and the 2020-21 academic year. Pupils should come to school as normal in the morning, and the day will end at the times specified below to enable staggered departures at normal exit gates:

Year groups	School Day end time
7 and 8	12.45pm
9 and 10	1pm

The day will be a non-uniform day to raise funds for two wonderful local charities supported by The Mayor of Chesterfield for 2020/22, Councillor Glenys Falconer - The Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Volunteer Centre and the local branch of the Samaritans. Pupils will be able to make a voluntary contribution of £1 to support the work of these charities if they choose to do so.

2. Arrangements for the start of the Autumn term in September

As you may be aware, secondary schools will be required to conduct rapid testing with pupils upon their return to school in September following the summer break. As such, arrangements for the testing and return to school for lessons are as below:

Year Group	1 st Rapid Test	2 nd Rapid Test	Return to school for lessons
7	Weds 1 Sept	Mon 6 Sept	Tues 7 Sept
8	Thurs 2 Sept	Tues 7 Sept	Weds 8 Sept
9	Fri 3 Sept	Weds 8 Sept	Thurs 9 Sept
10	Fri 3 Sept	Weds 8 Sept	Thurs 9 Sept
11	Thurs 2 Sept	Tues 7 Sept	Weds 8 Sept

As arrangements for testing in school will be the same as during the Autumn 2020 term, we will not require additional consent for those pupils for whom we already have it. Testing will, of course, be optional for pupils, though we would strongly advise it. Pupils will be allocated 15-minute time slots to arrive at school in order to be tested on the dates above – details of arrangements will follow next week.

For detailed information on Rapid Testing in school, please visit the school website:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/index.php/key-information/our-school/news-events/covid-19-guidance/104-rapid-testing-in-school>

If you have not yet given consent for your child to be tested in school, but would like to do so, please complete the consent form below:

[Testing consent form for pupils aged under 16](#)

Uniform and equipment expectations

Pupils will not be required to wear uniform when coming to school to undertake testing prior to their first day of lessons, and will not require any equipment.

We will expect pupils to be in full school uniform for their first normal school day in September. Please support us by ensuring that your child comes to school in full uniform, and does not have any facial or ear piercing, excessive makeup or false nails, or extreme hair style and/or unnatural hair dye. Full details of the school's uniform requirements can be found on the school website, here:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/index.php/parkside-support-centre/uniform>

On their first day of normal lessons in September, all pupils will be issued with an equipment pack, which will contain the essential classroom equipment that pupils will need day-to-day. Pupils will be expected to look after their equipment packs, and replace any lost or damaged items of essential school equipment as they would be required to in any normal school year 'pre-Covid'.

3. The organisation of the curriculum and the school day for the 2021-22 academic year

Following extensive work throughout this term, we have undertaken planning to adjust the curriculum and the school day for the 2021-22 academic year. In short, we will be moving from the current 5 lesson per day model to a model involving 6 slightly shorter lessons per day. The main reasons for this change are to ensure:

- That we can provide a broad, balanced and high-quality curriculum
- That pupils have enough time learning in each subject area
- That pupils have lessons in each subject at the right frequency, enabling them to learn and revisit key ideas often to support mastery and fluency
- Time spent at school maximises learning and development

For 2021-22, we have moved to 6x55-minute lessons per day. This will mean that pupils will receive an additional 30 minutes per day of learning across all of their subject areas. Over the course of the year, pupils in Year 7-10 will therefore benefit from an additional 95 hours of learning, when compared to a standard 5x60-minute or 6x50-minute model. We feel strongly that these changes will, over time, be extremely beneficial to all Parkside pupils.

Our experience throughout this academic year has included enjoying the benefits of staggered social times. Benefits include providing sufficient time and space for pupils to enjoy food and drink in the canteen or hall, and enabling a calm atmosphere and less crowded use of spaces. As such, we will be continuing to operate staggered social times during the next academic year.

Timings for the start and end of the school day will, however, return to being at the same time for pupils in all year groups. The timings of the school day, which will take effect from September 2021 are as below:

Years 7&8

Mentor Time	8:30am - 8:40am
Period 1	8:40am - 9:35am
Period 2	9:35am - 10:30am
Period 3 Part 1	10:30am - 11:00am
Brunch	11:00am - 11:20am
Period 3 Part 2	11:20am - 11:45am
Period 4	11:45am - 12:40pm
Period 5 Part 1	12:40pm - 1:10pm
Lunch	1:10pm - 1:40pm
Period 5 Part 2	1:40pm - 2:05pm
Period 6	2:05pm - 3:00pm

Years 9, 10 & 11

Mentor Time	8:30am - 8:40am
Period 1	8:40am - 9:35am
Period 2	9:35am - 10:30am
Brunch	10:30am - 10:50am
Period 3	10:50am - 11:45am
Period 4	11:45am - 12:40pm
Lunch	12:40pm - 1:10pm
Period 5	1:10pm - 2:05pm
Period 6	2:05pm - 3:00pm

For full details of the Parkside Community School Curriculum for 2021-22, please see our 2021-22 curriculum information report on the school website:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/PDF/curriculum/PCS%20Curriculum%20information%20report.pdf>

As advertised in last week's school update, we are running an information session for parents and carers on changes to the curriculum and the organization of the school day at 5pm this evening, Thursday 15 July. The session will be held online, and can be accessed using the link below on any internet-enabled device:

[Parkside Community School Curriculum and School Day 2021-22 – Information session for Parents and Carers](#)

We will be speaking with pupils in school about these changes over the next few days.

We are excited about the changes we are making for the new school year, and have every confidence in our school community to rise to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

If you would like to provide feedback on arrangements for the 2021-22 academic year, you can do so by:

Contacting us at school by telephone (01246 273458) or email (info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk),

or

Completing a short feedback form: [2021-22 Curriculum and School Day - feedback](#).

Thank you for your continued support for the school, and I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Best wishes

Ben Riggott
Headteacher