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17 June 2025

Subject: Student Appearance Expectations – From Monday 7 July

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

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 am writing to inform you of some updates and clarifications to our expectations around student appearance that will be reinforced from **Monday 7 July**.

Nail Appearance

All students must have natural nails, which 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:

- Ears - dangling or hoop earrings
- Nose - rings or studs that are not transparent retainers
- Nose septum piercings of any kind are not allowed
- Visible necklaces or chains – these must be worn under clothing and out of sight

Why Are We Reinforcing These Expectations?

These expectations are part of our wider commitment to ensuring a distraction-free learning environment and to promote equality, safety, and professionalism. Specifically, this approach will:

- Encourage greater focus in the classroom by reducing visual and social distractions
- Maintain health and safety standards (please note that in practical subjects such as PE and Technology all visible jewellery must be removed and nails must be natural)
- 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

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.

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.

We are proud of our students and the high standards they represent in our community. With your continued partnership, we can ensure that Parkside Community School remains a place where students are equipped to thrive, both academically and personally.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Witney Bover

Assistant Headteacher – Student Culture
Parkside Community School