

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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12 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been a fantastic start to the second half of the autumn term, and I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support.

Our students have returned with real purpose and positivity. Year 11 have made an excellent start to their English and maths mock exams this week, and we are proud of the focus and maturity they've shown. Further mock exams will continue throughout December, and we'll be working closely with students to ensure they feel confident and well-prepared.

This week is also Anti-Bullying Week, and it's been brilliant to see so many students and staff getting involved. Monday's Odd Socks Day was a colourful celebration of individuality, and Positive Noticing Day today has brought a real buzz of encouragement and kindness across the school.

Supporting Year 11 – A Community Call

You may have seen our recent appeal for former teachers to volunteer their time to support small groups of Year 11 students in the lead-up to their GCSEs. This initiative is about drawing on the wealth of experience in our local community to provide additional, optional support outside of core lesson time.

I want to reassure all families that our core GCSE provision remains strong and well-led. This initiative is not a response to any shortfall, but a proactive step to explore how we can go even further in supporting our students. All volunteers will go through our full safer recruitment process, including enhanced DBS and barring list checks, and their work will be overseen by our subject leaders to ensure alignment with our curriculum.

If you or someone you know is a former teacher and would like to get involved, please contact srussell@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk or call 01246 273458. Your time and expertise could make a real difference.

SEND Information and Guidance Meeting – Tuesday 18 November 2025

Following our previous communication, we'd like to remind you about our upcoming SEND Information and Guidance Meeting on Tuesday 18 November, 6:00–7:00pm at Parkside Community School. This is the first of three termly sessions aimed at strengthening our shared understanding of how best to support children with suspected or confirmed SEND.

This session will cover:

- Key aspects of the SEND Code of Practice
- Support available through Parkside, Embark Federation, Derbyshire's Local Offer, and diagnostic services
- Opportunities to ask questions and connect with other families

To book your place, please use the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EVNSwdBpFUi-1eH7jMouRilyS78EazxNps5quuhATC9UQzg0UFZYNIBPM0VDOERRMVhQMFFVNFdVMS4u>

We look forward to welcoming you.

Student Toilet Strategy – Parent/Carer Information

We are currently reviewing our student toilet access policy to ensure that learning is protected, students' needs are met, and staff are supported in applying a consistent approach.

While we understand that sometimes there are genuine needs for students to leave lessons to use the toilet, we also want to make sure that learning time is maximised and that all students are safe and supervised. Frequent lesson-time toilet visits can have a significant impact on learning, wellbeing, and the classroom environment. Here are some of the key reasons behind this review:

Your Learning

- Missing learning during lessons is as disruptive as being absent from school
- Lost learning over time can lead to a drop in academic performance, which affects future success and life chances

Mental Health

- Missing parts of lessons can increase anxiety, as students often feel more stressed when they return and realise they've fallen behind

Impact on Others

- Leaving lessons interrupts the flow of teaching and learning, which can affect the progress of other students and cause frustration for staff

Ultimately, unnecessary toilet breaks make life harder for everyone — and we don't want that for our students because we care about their success and wellbeing.

During the week commencing Monday 17 November, we will be holding student assemblies to explain the reasons for this review and to gather their views. We'll also be running student voice activities to ensure their feedback shapes our final strategy.

If you would like to share your thoughts, please email us at info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk. We are also hosting a Parent/Carer Information Evening on Thursday 4 December to discuss the final proposal and answer any questions you may have.

Our aim is to create a fair and supportive approach that helps students succeed in their learning, feel safe, and have their wellbeing needs met.

New Partnership with Chesterfield Football Club

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Chesterfield Football Club, whose coaches will be visiting the school weekly to support our pastoral programme. They'll be working with selected students to provide a safe and supportive space to talk, build resilience, and develop social and emotional skills. We're proud to be working with a local organisation that shares our values and commitment to young people.

Christmas Community Dinner – 19 December

We're delighted to invite families to our Christmas Community Dinner on Thursday 19 December during the school day. For just £5 per person, you'll enjoy a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, dessert, and a drink. Payment can be made via Arbor. Children on free school meals, eat for free. The deadline for signing up is Friday 14 November. We hope to see many of you there for what promises to be a joyful and festive occasion.

Stay Connected with Parkside

There's so much to celebrate at Parkside every day — from student achievements to exciting events and moments of joy across our school community. To stay up to date with the latest news, highlights, and celebrations, follow us on social media.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) by searching for Parkside Community School Chesterfield. It's a great way to stay informed and share in the successes of our students and staff.

Dates for diary

Choir singing at the Crooked Spire – 18 November

Flu Immunisations – 27 November

Y7 Parents' Evening – 1 December

Choir singing at St Augustine's – 9 December

Community Christmas Dinner - 19 December, 11.15am arrival

Last day of term – 19 December – students dismissed at 12.30pm

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we are creating a school community where our students feel supported, challenged, and inspired to be their very best version of themselves.

We're looking forward to the rest of this half term and all the opportunities it brings. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's anything we can help with.

Yours faithfully
Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher