

13 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It has been fantastic to welcome our students back, and I am delighted to say they have returned brilliantly. Their attitude, energy, and commitment to learning have been excellent, and it's great to see them settling back into routines so positively.

### **January joy at Parkside**

We know that January can feel like a long, challenging month for many families - with short days, cold weather, and added pressures. At Parkside Community School, we want to do something small but meaningful to brighten your weekends and bring a little joy.

Each Friday throughout January, parents and carers will receive an Arbor message inviting them to enter our Parkside January Joy Raffle. By taking part, families will have the chance to win a variety of weekend treats and activities - such as a family roast dinner, vouchers for local restaurants, and board games to enjoy together at home.

This initiative is our way of saying thank you for your continued support and helping to make January weekends something to look forward to.

### **Embark Swimming Masterclass with Adam Peaty**

Last week, some of our students had an incredible experience at an Embark swimming masterclass, which was attended by Olympic champion Adam Peaty. It was inspiring for the students to learn from such a world-class athlete, and we are proud of the way they represented our school.

### **Weather and School Opening**

As we move into this half term, quite often there are times when the forecast suggests we may experience some poor weather. Please be assured that we keep a close watch on conditions. In extreme circumstances, any decisions regarding school opening will be made as early as possible, with the safety of students and staff as our top priority. We will take into account travel to and from school and the condition of the school site before making any decisions. Updates will be communicated promptly through the Arbor app, email, and our social media channels, so please keep an eye out for messages on these platforms.

## **Medical Appointments**

We understand that arranging medical appointments can sometimes be challenging, and that they don't always fall outside the school day. Please be assured that we are here to support families while also helping students maintain the best possible attendance.

Where possible, we kindly encourage parents and carers to bring their child into school as normal, take them out for the appointment, and then return them to school afterwards. This approach ensures your child receives an 'M' mark for medical absence, rather than being recorded as absent for the whole morning.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact our Attendance Team - they'll be happy to help.

## **Join Our Breakfast Club!**

Start the day the right way at Parkside! Our Breakfast Club runs every weekday from 8:00am, offering a welcoming space for students to enjoy a healthy start before lessons. We provide toast, cereal, and a drink - a great way to fuel up for learning and spend time with friends.

If you'd like your child to attend, please contact us at [Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:Info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk). We'd love to see them there!

## **Attendance Matters**

We continue to emphasise the importance of excellent attendance. Good attendance is vital for learning and progress, and we are pleased to see so many students achieving high attendance rates. This half term, we will once again be rewarding students with top attendance, so please encourage your child to be in school every day.

## **Parental Communications in 2026**

As mentioned previously, in early 2026 we will be moving away from text messages as a regular communication tool. Instead, all school communication will be via the Arbor Parent App and email. Please ensure you are signed up to Arbor and contact the school if your email address needs updating. I will share the transition dates shortly.

## **Stay Connected with Parkside**

There's always something to celebrate at Parkside! Keep up to date with the latest news, achievements, and events by following us on social media.

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

## **Dates for diary**

29 January – Y11 Parents' Evening

29 January – Y9 DPT/MEN Vaccinations – the link has been sent to Y9 parents

10 February – Y10 Parents' Evening

13 February – Last day of term

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully  
Mr Andy Kelly  
Headteacher