

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

4 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you and your family well. As always, thank you for your continued support of Parkside Community School. It has been a fantastic start to 2026 in school, and I want to take a moment to recognise just how brilliant our students have been — showing maturity, kindness, and a real commitment to their learning.

Lockdown Drill – Monday 9 February 2025 at 12.00pm

I am writing to inform you that our next lockdown drill will take place on Monday 9 February at 12.00pm. This is a routine safety procedure, similar to a fire drill, and forms an important part of our safeguarding practice.

A lockdown is used when students and staff need to stay inside the building to remain safe, for example in the extremely unlikely event of a hostile intruder, terrorist incident, or other criminal activity in the vicinity.

To ensure students feel calm and confident, staff will talk through the arrangements with them beforehand. Students with SEND will receive an additional briefing from the SEND Team as required.

During the drill, the following steps will be rehearsed:

- Staff will direct students inside immediately via the nearest entry point.
- All exterior doors will be closed and locked.
- Windows will be secured and blinds fully closed.
- Students will move away from doors and windows.
- Staff will reassure students throughout the procedure.
- No one will enter or exit any building for the duration of the drill.

It is essential that we practise this procedure so that, in the unlikely event of a real emergency, all members of our school community understand their roles and responsibilities and we can identify any areas for improvement. We sincerely hope that we will never need to enact a real lockdown, but preparation is vital.

Thank you for your continued support of our safeguarding protocols.

Important Communication Update – Moving Away from Text Messages

After February half term, the school will no longer use text messages as part of our communication system. We will move fully to email and the Arbor platform for all routine messages, updates, and notifications.

Please ensure we have your most up-to-date email address. If you need to check or update your contact details, please contact the school office at your earliest convenience.

Year 11 – Final 10 School Weeks Before Exams

We are now approaching a crucial period for our Year 11 students, with only 10 school weeks remaining before GCSE examinations begin.

You will be aware of the messages we have already shared with the year group about expectations, revision, and readiness. At this stage, Year 11 students should be revising at home every weekday evening and at weekends. Small, regular study sessions now will make a significant difference in the summer.

Our structured after-school revision sessions begin next week. Students will receive a new timetable at the end of this week, outlining all additional learning opportunities available. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions. Our teachers are working incredibly hard to provide targeted support to help students strengthen their knowledge, boost confidence, and improve their final grades.

Thank you to all Year 11 parents and carers who attended last week's Parents' Evening. It was fantastic to speak with so many of you and to have such positive, supportive conversations about your child's progress. Your encouragement at home is vital — this is the time when Year 11 truly need to step up their effort.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance continues to be one of the strongest predictors of achievement. Every day in school matters. Strong attendance supports your child to:

- Keep up with learning and avoid knowledge gaps
- Build positive routines and resilience
- Maintain friendships and feel part of our school community
- Improve wellbeing through structure and belonging
- Access the full curriculum and enrichment opportunities
- Maximise their chances of academic success

Please continue to support your child in maintaining excellent attendance. If you need guidance or support, our attendance and pastoral teams are here to help.

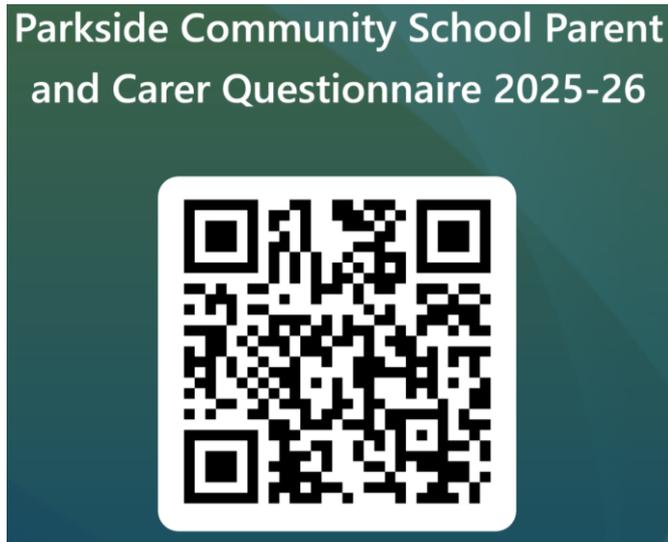
Embark Parent Engagement Survey – We Need Your Voice

Thank you to everyone who has already completed this year's Embark Parent Engagement Survey. If you haven't yet had the chance, we warmly encourage you to take a few minutes to share your views.

We want every child and every family at Parkside to feel heard, valued, and included. Your feedback helps us understand what is working well and where we can improve—particularly around communication, behaviour, inclusion, and how supported your child feels in school. Last year's responses led to meaningful improvements, and we are committed to continuing this positive work.

Please complete a separate form for each child and submit your responses by 27 March 2026.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=WX6mqeSaW0mXxyQ3O_5uLhhN6F--ptMlg3IlikS6nRUODBKQzYwODUwM01ZRTRVVVpSTEpRV1RLMy4u&origin=QRCode&route=shorturl



Please note:

This survey is not intended for complaints. If you wish to raise a serious concern, please follow the school's complaints process via our website or contact the school office.

Thank you, as always, for your support, partnership, and trust. Working together, we can ensure the very best outcomes for all our students.

Stay Connected with Parkside

There's always plenty to celebrate here at Parkside! To stay connected with our latest news, student achievements, and upcoming events, make sure you're following us on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) by searching *Parkside Community School Chesterfield*. It's a great way to keep updated and share in the fantastic successes of our students and staff.

Dates for diary

13 February – Last day of term

23 February – School returns

9 March – Y9 Parents' Evening, including Options

13 March – Y10 History Trip

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions or need anything from us, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully
Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher