



# PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

**Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly**

Parkside Community School  
Boythorpe Avenue, Chesterfield  
Derbyshire S40 2NS

Tel: 01246 273458

Email: [info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Web: [www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well. We've had a fantastic start to Half Term 4, and I want to thank all our students for returning with such positivity, focus and determination. The atmosphere around school has been excellent, and it's great to see so many young people striving to do their best.

### **World Book Day at Parkside**

Today we are celebrating World Book Day across the school, and there has been a wonderful buzz in the building from the moment students arrived. Staff have embraced the day by dressing up as a whole range of book characters, and a variety of activities are taking place to promote the joy of reading.

We always see World Book Day as an opportunity not only to celebrate stories, but also to remind students of the importance and pleasure of reading regularly. Throughout the day, classes will be taking part in reading-focused sessions, discussions, and creative activities designed to inspire a love of books.

To enjoy some of the fun and see our staff in costume, please take a look at our school social media channels.

### **Year 9 Options & Parents' Evening**

Year 9 students have begun their options process for Year 10 – an important stage in their school journey. To support students making informed and confident decisions, we will be holding our Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening on Monday 9 March. At this event, you will be able to:

- Attend a presentation in the hall explaining the options process
- Have an appointment with your Maths, English and Science teachers (please book these on school cloud)
- Visit all subject areas to explore the full range of options available

Attendance is essential, as teachers will provide personalised advice to help guide option choices. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Year 11 – The Final Push (7 School Weeks to Go!)**

Year 11 now have just seven school weeks before their GCSE exams begin. This is a crucial time, and we are impressed by the hard work many students are already showing.

Over the coming weeks, it is essential that students:

- Attend school every day
- Attend after-school interventions led by our staff
- Complete homework on time
- Engage in a structured revision routine

If you need any support with revision planning, resources, wellbeing, or anything else, please reach out to us. We are here to support both you and your child.

The next Year 11 Parents' Evening is Tuesday 14 April. We strongly encourage all families to attend in order to support exam success.

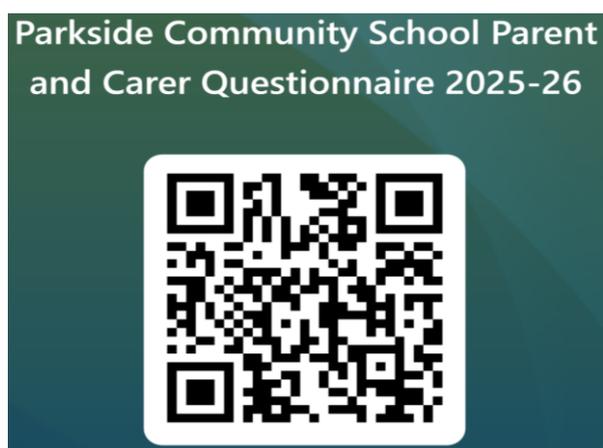
## **Embark Parent Engagement Survey**

We want every child and every family in Parkside's school community to feel listened to and valued. That's why we're inviting all parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete this year's Embark Parent Engagement Survey.

Your feedback really matters. It helps us understand:

- What's going well
- Where we can improve
- How effectively we communicate
- How supported your child feels
- How well we are meeting needs around inclusion, behaviour and overall school experience

Last year's responses led to positive changes, and we want to continue building on that. Please complete one form per child and submit by 27 March 2026 using the link or QR code below:



[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=WX6mqeSaW0mXxyQ3O\\_5uLhhN6F--ptMlg3IlikS6nRUODBKQzYwODUwM01ZRTRVVVpSTEpRV1RLMy4u&origin=QRCode&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=WX6mqeSaW0mXxyQ3O_5uLhhN6F--ptMlg3IlikS6nRUODBKQzYwODUwM01ZRTRVVVpSTEpRV1RLMy4u&origin=QRCode&route=shorturl)

Thank you in advance for helping us shape the future of our school.

## **Attendance Matters**

I'd like to raise a very important reminder about attendance. We are seeing a pattern of some students missing school on Fridays, and I want to emphasise how much impact this has. Every day in school truly counts.

*Why attendance is so important:*

- Learning is built lesson by lesson – missing even one day creates gaps that are hard to fill
- Good attendance is strongly linked to better progress and stronger grades
- Routine matters: consistent attendance supports wellbeing, friendships and confidence
- Teachers plan lessons sequentially – Friday learning is just as important as Monday learning
- Missing Fridays often means missing key assessments, practical work, revision sessions and feedback
- Employers and colleges take attendance seriously; habits formed now carry forward

Please support us in ensuring your child is in school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. If there are barriers that make attendance difficult, please contact us – we are here to help.

## **Year 9 Boys' Football Success**

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 boys' football team, who secured a fantastic win against Heanor Gate in the quarter finals of the Derbyshire County Cup. They now progress into the semi-finals, which is a brilliant achievement.

A massive well done to the team and to Mr Barnston and Miss Rose for their ongoing coaching and support. We are incredibly proud of them all.

## **Stay Connected**

For updates, celebrations and important information, please follow our official social media channels. Staying connected helps ensure you never miss key announcements and allows you to share in the many successes of our students and staff.

## **Dates for diary**

9 March – Y9 Parents' and Options Evening

13 March – Y10 History Trip London

27 March – Last day of school – early finish, students leave at 12.45pm

13 April – School returns

14 April – Y11 Parents' Evening

Thank you for your ongoing support. Parkside continues to thrive because of our strong relationships with families and our shared commitment to every child's success.

Warm regards,

Andy Kelly

Headteacher, Parkside Community School