

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families enjoyed a relaxing Bank Holiday weekend.

Since returning from the Easter break, the last two weeks have been extremely positive. Our students have settled back into school routines exceptionally well and have demonstrated excellent behaviour, focus and commitment to their learning. I would like to thank families for the continued support you provide, which makes such a strong difference.

Year 11 – Exam Season

Examinations for our Year 11 students have now officially begun, and I would like to wish them the very best of luck. All students have received their individual exam timetables, along with details of the intervention sessions that take place before exams. Attendance at these sessions is expected, as they provide vital last-minute preparation and subject support.

Students sitting exams in the morning should arrive at school from 8.00am, where revision sessions alongside light breakfast refreshments will be provided to help them start the day calmly and positively.

How families can help in the morning:

- Encourage an early night and a calm start to the day
- Ensure students eat breakfast, even if it is light
- Offer reassurance and positive encouragement
- Contact the school if you have any concerns or queries

When the examination period comes to an end, we very much look forward to celebrating Year 11's achievements together. One of the highlights will be the Year 11 Prom on Friday 3 July. This year we are once again running our Prom Pop-Up Shop. This offers over one hundred beautiful dresses and suits, completely free of charge. It has been fantastic over the past week to see so many Year 11 students benefiting from this initiative. For further information, please contact Mrs Bover.

Equipment Reminder for All Students

A reminder to families about the importance of students being fully equipped for learning every day. In particular, a whiteboard and whiteboard pen are essential in every lesson, as they are used regularly to support learning, practice and assessment. Please take a moment to speak to your child about arriving at school prepared each day.

Year 9 Madrid Trip

Our Year 9 students returned safely from their Madrid trip on Friday, accompanied by Mr Nolan and Ms Matkin. Highlights included a visit to Real Madrid's famous Bernabéu stadium and time spent at a local Spanish school, where our students confidently used their Spanish to communicate and make new friends. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented Parkside.

Our Commitment to Equality and Protected Characteristics

As a school, we remain fully committed to promoting equality, respect and inclusion for all members of our community. Protected characteristics form an important part of this work, and further information about our approach can be found on our website:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/protected-characteristics/>

Staying Connected

Please continue to keep up to date with school news, reminders and celebrations via our social media channels, where we regularly share highlights from across our school community.

Dates for diary

22 May – last day of term

1 June – students return, 8.25am

26 June – INSET day – school closed to students

3 July – Y9 HPV catch up vaccinations / Y11 Prom

7 July – Y8 HPV Vaccinations

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. I hope you enjoy the remainder of the week and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information.

Best regards,

Andy Kelly

Headteacher

Parkside Community School