

21 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Parkside Community School. It has been a year filled with achievement, hard work and memorable experiences for our students, and I am incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished.

This year has been particularly significant for our school following our recent Ofsted inspection. As outlined in my letter to parents published on 17 July, inspectors recognised the considerable strengths of Parkside and the significant improvements made in recent years. The report reflects what we see every day: a highly effective school where students feel safe, behave well, learn successfully and benefit from a wide range of opportunities. Thank you for the part you have played in helping us achieve this success.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited about the year to come and will be hosting Parental Information Evenings in the school hall:

- Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9): Thursday 10 September 2026 at 5.00pm
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11): Thursday 10 September 2026 at 6.00pm

These sessions will provide an opportunity to hear about our priorities for the year ahead, curriculum developments, support available to students and how parents/carers can work in partnership with us to ensure every child is successful. I strongly encourage families to attend.

Summer holiday activities

Families may also be interested in the It's About Me (IAM) programme, which provides holiday activities and healthy meals for eligible children across Derbyshire during school holidays. Further information can be found at <https://itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk/>

Children's Commissioner Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England is currently inviting young people to share their views about their future through The Big Future Survey. This is an excellent opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard on issues that matter to them. Further information can be found at <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Looking ahead to September

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would be grateful if families could support us with a few important reminders:

Uniform and presentation

Please ensure that students return in September wearing the correct school uniform (including blazers) and with appropriate plain black school shoes. We will also continue to expect:

- Natural hair colours only
- Nails that are natural (no coloured, false or acrylic nails)
- Jewellery in line with our published uniform policy (studs only in ears and clear retainers for any facial piercings)

Equipment

Students should arrive each day fully equipped for learning, including:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- A school bag

Starting lessons well prepared supports good learning habits and ensures students are ready to succeed from the first day back.

Attendance

Excellent attendance remains one of the most significant factors in student achievement. Every lesson matters and students make the greatest progress when they attend school regularly and punctually. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so.

Year 11 GCSE Results Day – Thursday 20 August

For our Year 11 students and families, GCSE Results Day will take place during the summer holiday. Students should arrive at school between 9am and 11am to collect their results and celebrate their achievements with staff and friends. We look forward to sharing this important milestone with them.

Canteen accounts

As we approach the end of term, I would be grateful if parents and carers could check their child's school meal account and ensure that any outstanding canteen debt is cleared before the summer holidays. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Stay connected

We are proud to share the many achievements, opportunities and experiences that make Parkside such a vibrant school community. To keep up to date with the latest news, student successes, key information and upcoming events, please follow our social media channels. They provide a great insight into daily life at Parkside and help celebrate the fantastic accomplishments of our students throughout the year.

Dates for diary

23 July – last day. 12.30pm finish

20 August – GCSE Results Day (9am-11am)

8 September 8.25am – all students return to school

10 September – parental information evening in the school hall: 5pm Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9).

6pm Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

18 September – school photographs

23 September – Whole school flu immunisations – further information will be shared in September.

Finally, I would like to thank our students for their hard work, resilience and contribution to school life this year. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff whose commitment and care make Parkside such a special place to learn.

I hope you and your family have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting and successful year.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher