

18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A fantastic start to the new school year

I would like to begin by congratulating our students on the fantastic start they have made to the new academic year. It has been wonderful to see them return to school looking smart, ready to learn and demonstrating such positive attitudes in lessons and around the school. Thank you to all our parents and carers for the important role you have played in supporting this successful start. Your encouragement at home, together with your support for our expectations around attendance, punctuality, uniform, equipment and reading, makes a significant difference to their success.

The importance of excellent attendance

Regular attendance is essential if students are to make strong academic progress, develop positive routines and benefit fully from everything Parkside has to offer. Every lesson matters, and even occasional absence can result in students missing important knowledge that makes future learning more difficult. We ask parents and carers to continue supporting us by ensuring that students attend school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. Students should arrive on time and be ready to begin the school day positively. Whenever attendance concerns arise, our staff will work with families to understand the circumstances and provide appropriate support.

Thank you for making attendance a priority and helping us give every student the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

We are delighted to invite prospective students and their families to our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening on Monday 28 September, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

The evening will provide families with an opportunity to tour the school, visit different subject areas, meet our staff and students, and discover the wide range of learning experiences and opportunities available at Parkside. It is the perfect opportunity to see our school in action and find out more about what makes Parkside such a positive and exciting place to learn. We are also pleased that Aspens, our new catering provider, will be serving food for families in the school canteen. Come along, explore the Parkside offer and enjoy your tea with us!

Please share the details of our Open Evening with any family or friends who have children currently in Years 5 or 6. We look forward to welcoming as many families as possible.

Celebrating life at Parkside

There has already been so much to celebrate this term. Preparations are underway for our forthcoming school production of Oliver! It has been excellent to see so many students auditioning and showing the confidence to get involved. We are incredibly excited to see the production develop and look forward to sharing further details with families.

We are also extremely proud to have achieved the Quality in Careers Standard Gold Award. This is a fantastic recognition of the quality of our careers education and our commitment to raising aspirations, broadening horizons and preparing students for their next steps.

This week, students also took part enthusiastically in National Fitness Day. At break and lunchtime, they competed in a range of activities, including a squat challenge, plank-off, skipping challenge and speed bounce. Their effort, energy and encouragement for one another were excellent, and it was brilliant to see so many students getting involved.

Today, we have also celebrated Fun Day Friday, providing another positive and enjoyable end to an excellent week at Parkside.

Follow us on social media

We regularly share photographs, celebrations, achievements and updates from across the school on our social media channels. Please follow our pages on Facebook and Instagram to see more of the fantastic things our students are doing each week and to keep up to date with life at Parkside.

Dates for diary

23 September – Flu Immunisations

23 October – INSET Day

Thank you again for your continued support. We are extremely proud of the way our students have started the year and look forward to building on this positive beginning throughout the term.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher