PARKSIDE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Small School • Strong Values • Great Experiences

Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to Half Term 2, and it has been great to welcome everyone back to Parkside. I've already heard lots of positive comments about our students and the way they have approached the new half term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Attendance: Be Here or Miss Out!
Good attendance really does matter. Every day in school gives our children the best possible chance to learn, achieve and improve their future life chances. Missing school means missing learning, experiences and opportunities that cannot always be recreated.

Our Fun Day Friday initiative continues this half term, helping us celebrate and encourage strong attendance right through to the end of the week. Today, every student who is in school will receive a free hot chocolate at brunch as a little thank you and well done! This is alongside the usual activities and opportunities taking place at brunch and lunchtime.

Our message remains simple: Be here or miss out!

Canteen Prices
I was made aware on Monday that there had been some changes to canteen prices for this half term. Unfortunately, these changes were not communicated to me by our catering provider before they were introduced. I will be meeting with the Regional Manager of the catering provider next week to discuss this and ensure that communication with school is improved moving forward.

As a reminder, a meal deal costs £3.55, which includes a hot main meal or sandwich, a pudding and a drink. This remains within the Free School Meals daily allowance.

Nearly New Sale: Supporting Parkside Families at Christmas
Following the success of last year, we will once again be holding our Nearly New Sale on 24 November to support Parkside families in the run-up to Christmas.

Last year, families were able to access a range of items completely free of charge, including toys, baby items and other gifts. We hope to make this year's event just as successful. More information will follow nearer the time. In the meantime, if you have good-quality items that you would like to donate, particularly toys or potential Christmas gifts, please contact school. Your support would be very much appreciated.

Developing Great Teachers: IRIS Technology
We are always looking at ways to invest in our teachers and help them to be the very best they can be for our students. This half term, some of our teachers, particularly those earlier in their careers, will begin using IRIS camera technology as part of their professional development.

IRIS enables a teacher to record aspects of their own classroom practice so that they can reflect on their teaching, identify strengths and consider where they can develop further. Video is a powerful professional development tool because it allows teachers to see their practice for themselves, rather than relying solely on someone else observing and feeding back to them. The focus of any recording will be the teacher and their professional practice, not the students. Recordings will be used solely for professional development purposes, with appropriate controls around their use and access. Clips will not be published or shared publicly. Used appropriately, this can help teachers:

- reflect objectively on their own classroom practice
- identify what is working particularly well
- develop areas such as explanations, questioning, classroom routines and student engagement
- work with experienced colleagues to improve practice
- build confidence and accelerate professional development, particularly early in their careers

Ultimately, the purpose is straightforward: better professional development for our teachers means even better teaching and learning for our students.

If you would like to discuss the use of IRIS further, please contact the school.

Detentions: A Reminder
A quick reminder about after-school detentions. If your child cannot attend a scheduled detention or you need to request that it is rearranged, please contact Reception before 2.40pm on the day of the detention. Reception will pass the information to the appropriate member of the pastoral team, who can then arrange an alternative date where appropriate. We appreciate your support in helping us keep this process clear and manageable.

Goodbye and Good Luck, Mrs Bover!
Finally, today we say a temporary goodbye and a huge good luck to Mrs Bover, who begins her maternity leave.

Mrs Bover has made a fantastic contribution to Parkside and is hugely committed to our students, families and staff. I know everyone at Parkside will join me in wishing her and her family all the very best for the exciting months ahead. Thankfully, it isn't goodbye for too long, and we look forward to welcoming her back later in this academic year.

For the remainder of the year, Mr New Mills will take on the role of Assistant Headteacher for Student Culture, leading our work around behaviour and attendance.

Keep Up With Parkside
There is always lots happening at Parkside, so please keep an eye on our social media channels to see the latest events, activities, achievements and opportunities involving our students. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a great start to the half term, and I'm looking forward to another busy and successful few weeks ahead.

Dates for diary
9 November – Y11 Parents' Evening
30 November – Y7 Parents' Evening
30 November – Y11 Mock Exams begin
7 December – Y11 Mock Exams continue
18 December – School closes for Christmas – students finish at 12.30pm

Yours faithfully

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher