



PRINCIPAL'S PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

w/c Monday 22nd September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 6 INTO 7 PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS - SEPT 2026 INTAKE

Our annual Open Evening for Year 7 September 2026 intake will be happening on Thursday 2nd October between 4.30 and 7.00 pm. The evening will place our students front and centre, to showcase their respect, kindness and participation in school life. Thank you in advance for your support for this if your child is requested by staff members to support during the evening. If you have a child in Year 6, or you know families that do, then please do pass on the details. There will be three welcome talks from myself at 4.40 pm, 5.20 pm and 6.00 pm alongside the opportunity for prospective Parents/Carers and Year 6 students to visit subject areas across the school.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

I am pleased that punctuality first thing in the morning has significantly improved at the start of this year, when compared to the summer term. As we have previously explained, we have communicated clearly to students about the importance of maximising learning time. On arrival at school, students are straight into lessons and learning time, whether that be in Coaching on a Monday or subject lessons Tuesday to Friday. Students are expected to be in the school building 5 minutes before the start of the first period. As there is no requirement for movement time, registers are taken promptly at 8.40 on Monday and 8.30 on a Tuesday. The pedestrian gate is staffed and closed promptly to indicate that after these times, students are late to school. Please ensure that you support your child to know that if they are arriving at the school gate at 8.40 Monday or 8.30 Tuesday, then they are late as they must be in their classroom by this time. If you are dropping your child off, please remember that this should be at the drop off point at the top of Parkside Terrace and, therefore, sufficient time should be allowed for them to walk down the road and enter the school grounds 5 minutes before the start of the first lesson. Cars should not be coming down Parkside Terrace to simply drop students off. This is to help the safety of our students who are walking, but also out of consideration to the local residents.

STUDENT ARBOR APP / TIMETABLES

We are intending on rolling out password information for student Arbor App access in the coming fortnight. This will allow them to easily check timetables themselves the night before, or on the morning for their lessons on that day. Students were provided with a printed copy of their timetable at the start of the year and they can access Student Reception before the start of school, at breaktime and at lunchtime should they need a reminder of their lessons for the day. During the period of the roll out, please do ensure that your child knows their lessons for the coming day by using the Arbor Parent App / Portal to help their organisation whilst they become used to their new timetable. This will also help to ensure that there is no issue with attending lessons on time during the school day, nor using mobile phones during the school day.

MOBILE PHONES

There has been a significant shift in the approach to mobile phones in school by students since the start of term and we are very pleased with how they have responded to a reinforcement of the policy and guidelines around this. Students have been reminded about the research that indicates the reasons why

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mobile phones are typically not allowed to be used within schools. Where students do not follow the rules, phones are being confiscated and phone contracts being put into place where required. We have not banned mobile phones in school as we know that students often have their bus passes, as an example, on them. But phones or earphones are not allowed to be visible, or used within the school day. We are currently looking at the next stage of our plans to support students in this and will communicate as appropriate in due course.

UNIFORM AND FOOTWEAR

Thank you for your support in improving the standards of footwear in the school ensuring that your child is wearing footwear that meets the published policy. Where this is not the case, work is ongoing to ensure that students are adhering to this. A school bag is part of the expected uniform, and it is the case that all children should have a school bag with them to hold their equipment, materials relevant to lessons or to store their mobile phone during the day. Please ensure that your child is properly equipped for school.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning is Parkside's approach to homework. Following review last year, we are adjusting the way that Home Learning is set this year. Home Learning supports children to embed learning outside of the classroom and to know and remember more over time. When Home Learning is set, it will have one of three main purposes:

- Recall and retrieve knowledge or practise skills so learning isn't forgotten.
- Embed current learning through practice so learning sticks and deepens.
- Develop core literacy skills, particularly in reading, that are beneficial in all subject areas.

As previously communicated, we will be using Google Classroom to set and signpost Home Learning. Whilst it will be communicated via Google Classroom, the Home Learning set may require students to work on paper/other online platforms, such as Seneca.

Attached to the email that has sent this Parent Briefing, is an overview of the approach to Home Learning. This will be communicated to students this week, with Google Classroom being introduced to them during Coaching. It also provides an indication of the typical frequency, type of task and length of Home Learning activities. As you will appreciate, this is a guide and may fluctuate during the school year in different subject areas.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Attached to the email that has sent this week's Parent Briefing are a number of documents for Parents/Carers related to our excellent Careers and Employability offer. There is an introductory letter from Mrs Stewart our Careers Leader which provides a summary of the key aspects of our offer and also some important dates.

Also attached is the overview of our Careers Programme for Years 7 to 11. Year 13 also have a comprehensive programme that includes 1-1 careers interview with a Level 6 qualified Careers Advisor, application support, Apprenticeship workshops with application support, the Parkside careers fair and continuing the development of employability skills through our PSHE & coaching careers programme.

For Parents/Carers of students in Year 11, there is a list of Open events for Post 16 providers within the wider area. We will be continuing to work very hard with our Year 11 students to ensure that they are able to move on to appropriate next steps and are informed and considered in their applications. Part of

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this is the opportunity to have a look at the different types of providers available and understand which ones may best suit their preferred options. Please ensure that these dates are in your diary.

A note that the **Careers Fair for Years 10 to 13** is on **Thursday 23rd October between 5pm and 7pm**.

There was a typo on a previously circulated communication about this event. The above date and time are correct. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible for this excellent event.

PHOTOGRAPHS - YEARS 7 and 10

Tempest visited school earlier in the term to take photos of our Year 7 and Year 10 students. The closing date for free delivery back to school is this Thursday (25th September 2025). Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

FLU VACCINE

We have been contacted by Bradford NHS Team regarding the Flu Vaccine, not only in Parkside, but local Primary schools too. Please read the information below from the team and pay attention to the reasons indicated for providing consent. As we know, it is important that children are at school as often as possible to minimise lost learning. The flu vaccine can help support this.

Please click the following link to complete an E-Consent form for your child to receive this vaccination:

www.bradfordschoolimmunisations.co.uk/forms/Flu .

The Parkside school code you will need is: **BF132217**

The online consent form link will close **3 working days** before our school's session date on **10th December 2025**.

The School Immunisation team will be in school soon to vaccinate children from Reception to Year 11 against flu. Your child will not receive the vaccine if you have not given your consent so, "Yes" or "No", the School Immunisation team needs you to please fill in the consent form which will be sent to you from school.

The flu vaccine is slightly different each year due to different strains of flu, so even if your child was vaccinated last year, they need the vaccine again this year and your consent is required.

Flu is not "just a bad cold", it is a nasty illness that can be very unpleasant for children and can also cause serious problems, such as pneumonia.

Symptoms can come on quickly. They can include a sudden high temperature, an aching body, cough, sore throat, loss of appetite, pain in the ear, diarrhoea or tummy pain, feeling and being sick and difficulty sleeping. Children will also appear less active.

Each winter thousands of children who do not have a health condition need hospital care because of flu. Because children catch and spread flu easily, they can also pass it to people in your family or community who are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu, such as babies, anyone who's pregnant and older people.



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Most children are offered the nasal spray flu vaccine. It contains a small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine). A flu vaccine injection is available that does not contain gelatine. If you do not want your child to have the nasal spray vaccine, please ask for the flu vaccine injection on the school consent form.

[Find out more about the children's flu vaccine and giving your consent](#) on Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust's Family Health Services website.

*Read what the [British Islamic Medical Association](#) and [British Fatwa Council](#) say about the flu vaccine. **All consent forms returned by Thursday 30 October will be entered into a draw to win one of 30 shopping vouchers worth £30 or two worth £100.***

Throughout flu we offer clinics in various locations over the school holidays and some Saturdays. If we missed your child in school or you prefer a clinic appointment you can contact the team on 01274 221269 to book an appointment. Depending on the number outstanding in schools we will try and offer a catch-up session within school.

Kind regards

Robin Ghosal
Principal