



PARKSIDE
SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

w/c Monday 13th October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

PARENT / CARER EVENINGS

This fortnight is a very busy one for events that open our doors to Parents/Carers, both current and prospective.

A couple of weeks ago we held our Open Evening for Parents Carers for prospective Year 7 students for September 2026. It was an evening where we were able to showcase our wonderful students and speak about the work that is ongoing to improve the school further. What I was very pleased about was the number of students who wanted to support the school in all sorts of different ways. We had Isla, Ava (both Year 9), Hollie and Charlie (both Year 10) who performed during the Welcome Presentation (brilliantly supported by Alex doing the audio) whilst Olivia (Year 8), Will (Year 10), Mimi and Zack (both Year 7) spoke in those presentations to, literally, hundreds of people across the evening. A large number of students were guides who showed our visitors around the school and there were also subject area ambassadors who were showcasing the work they do 'live' during the evening.

We asked those who attended to provide some feedback on their experiences. It was universally positive. I wanted to share some of the written feedback that we had.

The students involved were great, very kind to the kids looking around and gave a good insight to their experiences at Parkside.

Such a lovely atmosphere to the school, my daughter really enjoyed it

Staff were very welcoming, and answered all our questions well (especially regarding pastoral care). Nice to have pupils there who were very friendly and spoke to our son with confidence. Definitely our first choice.

We thought the whole evening, from the opening speech up to the time we left, was done brilliantly. I loved the enthusiasm the whole faculty showed. We spoke to many teachers and received good responses. This school in my opinion is up and coming so it will only get better. Thank you for allowing us to see the school and meet your staff and present pupils.

I thought the student engagement in each classroom was fantastic.

Seeing the children be quite passionate was a really nice touch.

Last week we held our **Year 7 Information evening**, the first time that we have done so. It focussed on the importance of the Home - School partnership and aimed to provide useful information that can help Parents/Carers to support your child achieve outcomes for life in partnership with us at school. If you attended the evening, thank you for your support and engagement.

Tomorrow night (Tuesday), we have our first **Year 11 Information Evening between 6.00 and 7.00 pm**. If you are a Year 11 Parent/Carer please do attend. You can confirm your attendance via the Arbor App (it

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is showing under Clubs); however, this is to help provide a guide so please do attend even if you haven't been able to confirm.

On Thursday night we have the **Year 13 Parents' Evening**. If you have yet to make your appointments, please do so via the Arbor App / Parent Portal.

Finally, next week on **Thursday 23rd October between 5pm and 7pm**, we have our annual Careers Fair.

We have now opened it up to Year 9, in addition to Years 10, 11 and 13. It is the largest event in the region and it is very important to help promote an understanding of the different range of careers and options in the future. Students in all schools often find it hard to visualise and understand what routes and jobs may be available to them after school and the careers fair provides a unique opportunity to speak to employers and higher education providers, whilst also considering how outcomes in school feed into these.

A future date for the diary is the first **Meet Your Coach Evening on Thursday 13th November**. Please can you 'save the date' for this evening.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

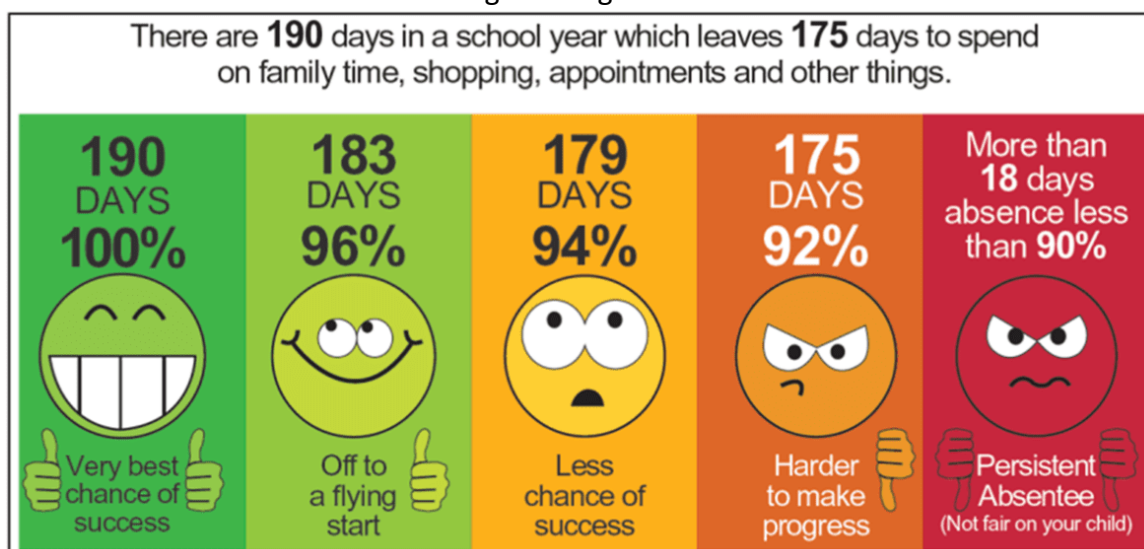
We are now going to inform Parents/Carers via email **every time** your child is late to a lesson. Currently this happens when a threshold has been reached (3 times in a week); however, it is so important that lost learning is reduced that we will be communicating with you each time this occurs going forwards. If you do receive an email about this, then please ensure that you speak with your child. There is no reason why any child should arrive at a lesson late, whether straight after break and lunch when the register is taken straight away, or during other periods where it is taken 5 minutes into the lesson. A further email is sent if there are more than 3 lates in a week, and this still results in a breaktime detention.

In terms of attendance to school, we focus on 'streaks' within Coaching which is the total number of uninterrupted days of attendance - aiming for the longest 'streak' possible helps ensure that learning time is not lost so students can work to reach their potential. Filling in gaps in learning created by not attending school is hard and, therefore, supporting children to be in school as much as possible is vital. The infographic below helps remind us all about the proportion of time that school is open, compared to the time in the year (or outside of the school day) where other activities can happen.

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As part of our review of rewards and incentives, there will be an enhanced offer launched in the next half term to continue our focus on maximising learning time.



PARENTS DROPPING OFF / PICKING UP

A reminder that Parents/Carers who drop students off for school should do so on Greenside Lane and ensure this is done in good time to allow them to be onsite by 8.25 am (8.35 on a Monday). Please do not drive down Parkside Terrace. The area outside of school must be a safe place for students to cross and shortly before the start of school it is very busy indeed. A combination of cars and pedestrians crossing the road is unhelpful so please do not drop off outside of the gates. Please do also take care when picking up on Greenside Lane as this area is also very busy particularly at the end of school and so we ask that Parents/Carers are vigilant to the volume of pedestrians at pick up times.

STUDENT ARBOR APP

There have been a couple of issues from Arbor related to student logins which have slightly delayed the launch of the Arbor Student App. This should now be resolved and students have received an email to their school email address, informing them on how to log in. This means that students can see the key information, including their timetable (calendar), on the App. Your child needs to check this routinely, for example the night before or in the morning, for the lessons they have that day. Student Reception is also open before school, at breaktime and lunchtime, if a student does need a reminder during the day.

ARBOR APP / PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal / Arbor App will now show 'Incidents'. This means that you can see the positives that have been rewarded to your child through Arbor, and also a record of any negatives also. This provides a good point of conversation with your child to congratulate them where things have gone well, and also to challenge and support them if there are times where they haven't got it right.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING - PROGRESS REPORTS

This year we are making some changes to the way we report home to families about how pupils are doing in their learning at Parkside. We want to ensure the reports you receive are timely, useful and support you and your child to focus on specific areas to develop moving forward. For this reason, you will now receive a Progress Report for your child five times per year. This Report will give information on how your child is doing under four headings across all academic subject areas:

- Progress
- Effort

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- Independence
- Resilience

This will be on a four-point scale:

- Exceeding (1)
- Expected (2)
- Reflection (3)
- Immediate Focus (4).

We will also be collecting information about how children are doing in Coaching, with a focus on

- Influence,
- Relationships
- Communication;

all key skills that will support pupils to be successful both in Coaching and in the wider school community.

The criteria staff will use to enter their Progress Report information will be attached to your child's Progress Report when you receive this via Arbor and these will also be shared with children ahead of information being collected for our first Progress Reports towards the end of this half-term.

Your child's Progress Report will also be available to your child's Coach ahead of **Meet Your Coach Evening on Thursday 13th November**.

HOME LEARNING

Following the launch of Google Classroom as the platform where home learning is set and signposted, well done to all those students who have successfully engaged with the platform. Staff are recording Homework Positives onto Arbor. If your child is having any issues with logging into the Seneca platform (which a number of subjects use), then please support them to do the following things:

Login to Seneca using their school email address as the username.

All passwords were reset to **Parkside25**, so if your child is having difficulty with this section, please try that.

Please always click '**continue with email**' when you get to this screen (*not* Continue with Google).

There is information on **Seneca account adaptations** for students with dyslexia on the Home Learning section of the website. You can navigate to the final drop down by following this link:

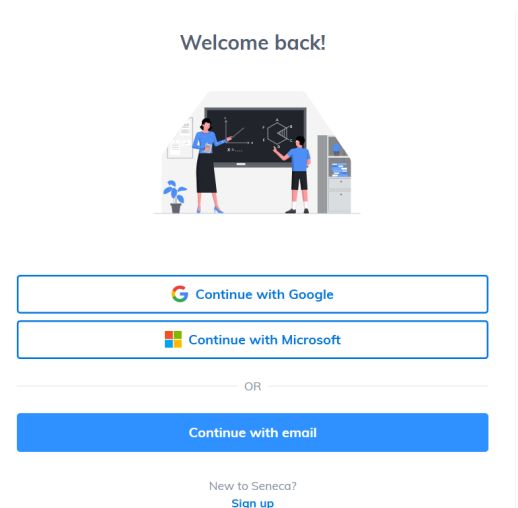
<https://www.parksideschool.net/curriculum/expert-learners-homework/>

If you do continue to have difficulties please contact school for the attention of your child's coach - either direct to their email if you know it, or via mail@parksideschool.net.

EXTRA CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT

The Autumn Term extra curricular timetable is on the website and our instagram now:

<https://www.parksideschool.net/extra-curricular/>



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It has been shared with students via Coaching, but please do encourage them to come along to the activities that are available to them during the coming weeks.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Last week, a group of year 10 Science students had the opportunity to visit **Solenis**. The students participated in a Q&A session with a panel of staff covering various roles. The students asked numerous questions including querying pathways they took to get into their jobs and their favourite lessons at school.

There were two team workshops. The first was to explore inventing a machine using lego that could be used to solve a world problem, or make a family member's jobs easier. Each team then presented their ideas and answered questions from the others. We were presented with three fabulous ideas, one being to send homeless people into Mars to start a new colony and feed them cheese which resulted in an extremely interesting interactive debate with the Solenis team about how the problems could be resolved using physics!

The second workshop was to build a lego model (client brief) following a design template. A discussion was then held around surplus material, costs incurred due to errors and how a client brief had to be an exact outcome.

Finally, students rotated around three presentations from departments within the company from research & development, testing, supply chain & engineering.

Upon leaving, a board member said our students were extremely polite and were a credit to us.

PwC Career Ready programme 2025. This is a bespoke programme created with PwC for our students and is now in its third year. The first of the workshops was last week.

The students were asked to prepare and deliver a short presentation about themselves for the group. Three of the students wanted to be a part of this programme in order that they could build their self confidence and they certainly started that path today. They were all excellent, immediately getting up to deliver without prompting.

They learnt more about what the programme would cover and how they would develop their employability and personal skills. In addition, this year we have built in an exercise on CV's and they will all have a short interview to prepare them for their careers PSHE day in March when they will hold mock interviews with other employers. It was a great start and they all thoroughly enjoyed it.



As mentioned earlier, the **Careers Fair for Years 9 to 13** is on **Thursday 23rd October between 5pm and 7pm**. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible for this excellent event.

Kind regards

Robin Ghosal
Principal