



PRINCIPAL'S PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

w/c Monday 24th November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

MEET YOUR COACH EVENING

It was wonderful to see so many of you attending the first Meet Your Coach evening of the academic year. The structure has evolved from last year's events, with information shared with Parents/Carers and linked to the new progress and monitoring reports, along with a focus on GROW targets.

We always evaluate our events to consider how to further evolve them to ensure they best focus on their intended purpose. If you do have any thoughts, please do make contact with school with them, whether they are around the timings, logistics or structure. The atmosphere through the evening was extremely positive with purposeful conversations occurring with the core focus on supporting our students to reflect, develop and recognise the key part they play in their success. The staff Coaching body enjoyed continuing to build the community aspects that are so important to the home school partnership.

Thank you, also, to those Parents/Carers who completed the Parent Survey for the Autumn term that was available on the evening. It presented a very positive picture recognising the journey of continued improvement we are fully focussed on. As I shared in my parental communication welcome letter on the the evening, there have been a number of areas that the previous survey helped us to develop further and I was able to share examples of this. This survey will continue to feed into this.

A big thank you, also, to those of you that purchased any items in the Book Fair held in the main reception. Over £420 was raised, which earned us £167 in free books for the library. Thank you so much for your support and the benefit that this activity had for our students.

YEAR 11 AND 13 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

I want to extend a congratulations on the way that Year 11 and 13 have approached their Mocks examinations last week and this. With Year 11, we focussed on ensuring that the routines and expectations around the Mocks examinations were known and understood. Practicing this means that students can focus on the assessment and application of their learning, rather than being concerned about the environment or where they are sitting, things that can distract and take up brain space. Students have responded magnificently to this approach and it will help them as they go forward. Year 11 will have further, formal assessments, in the Spring term to support a focus on preparation for the summer examination periods. Ahead of this, mock exam results will be revealed to them in a very similar way to the real thing, to help ensure that they get a sense of how they will feel on results day.

YEAR 9 / YEAR 7 MID TERM ASSESSMENTS

We have changed our approach to assessments this year, and this means that all year groups will have the opportunity to sit formal assessments to help their preparation for the future. Students in Key stage 3 will have two sets of exams this year: Midterm exams and Final exams. The first of these year groups will be Year 9 who have their mid-term assessments which begin next week. Some of these assessments will take place, formally, in our exam hall and will mimic that which Year 11 have been used to. Students will be allocated a seat and they will have a walk through this week of the processes that sit around the assessments.

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There have also been conversations in Coaching groups to help students understand the purpose and importance of these assessments and this approach. The Year 9 mid term assessments will be assessed against Age Related Expectations, which is another change that we have made this year. More information on this can be found on our website. The Parents' Evening for Year 9 will follow in the new year following the completion of these assessments in the first week back after Christmas. More detailed information about these assessments was sent via email to Year 9 Parents/Carers last week.

Year 7 mid term assessments will be taking place in lessons during the first week back after Christmas. More information to be shared with children in assembly and there will be specific communications to families next week.

CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

This year's Christmas Music Showcase is happening on **Friday 5th December**. It would be fantastic to see as many of you as possible at the event which includes contributions from students right across the age groups. Tickets are now available to purchase via the details below. You can also currently access this via the landing page of our website.

ADVANCED NOTICE - END OF TERM / START OF TERM

Please note that, as usual, school will close for the Christmas holidays at **12.10 on Friday 19th December**.

Please be aware that **Monday 5th January is a Training Day** and, therefore, school will be closed to all students.

SNOW / INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we approach the winter season, it is important to understand some of the principles that will feed into any decision over the closure of school due to snow / inclement weather.

Messaging regarding any decision will be circulated by text (**please do check that your number is up to date on Arbor**), the Bradford Council School closures page and via our Instagram page.

Any decision to close, fully or partially, is never made lightly but is in response to a range of information. This includes updates from the bus company which monitor reports from the early drivers out on the roads first thing in the morning, the conditions on the ground at school, travel and transport updates and other details such as the levels of staffing available within the school. We will always aim to make the decision as timely as possible, but there are many variables involved.

The safety of staff and students will always be the top priority.

If we do decide that we cannot open, then we would intend to communicate work that should be done remotely via Google Classroom.



YEAR GROUP BY YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Following the Parent Voice in the summer term, we have been looking to make adjustments to the information that is available and shared with Parents/Carers to support you to know what your child(ren) is learning about during each half term to enable you to support them in their learning. We are currently putting this together in a coherent way and intend to share this information year group by year group and to hold it on our website. Key Stage 3 is now available and we expect to complete Key Stage 4 shortly. We hope that this action to receive feedback will ultimately strengthen the partnership that we have and support an insight to what is being taught in school.

MOBILE PHONES AND SAFEGUARDING

There has been ongoing coverage in the media about the risks to safeguarding that mobile phones bring to both schools and students within them. As well as being a distraction to learning, mobile phones do not support students to develop important social skills and, potentially, can be used in inappropriate ways both in and out of school which affect the building of positive relationships. As with all schools, there are examples of where activity using phones at home and in the wider community result in conflict and disagreement within school. We always take action when we are made aware of this, whether this be through the involvement of our Safeguarding team, Pastoral team or Safer Schools Police Officer. As Parents/Carers, it is important that you also monitor your child's use of mobile phones and support and promote safe use. Whilst mobile phones do have many positive and functional uses, the reason for them not being allowed to be seen in school (or the associated equipment, such as ear phones) is clear and repeated to students and confiscation will continue to occur to promote adherence to this.

We will be looking to make some adjustments to our approach to this in coming weeks to further strengthen this policy and we will communicate about this in due course.

CAREERS, EMPLOYABILITY AND COMMUNITY

In the last Parent Briefing I wrote to you about the **Channel 4** comedy script writing workshop in the style of Gogglebox which was undertaken by a group of Year 10 students. I am pleased to say that Parkside School was one of the winners of the competition! Channel 4 representatives wrote this about our students: *[They are] already very engaged with the work of C4 and the broader industry. Confident, charismatic, willing and able to get out of their comfort zone and learn. Very high levels of engagement from all students with the content of the session.* As a consequence, a TV production company will be coming into school in December for a morning workshop with the students. The company work on programmes and channels such as CBBC, Blue Peter and Milkshake. They will be bringing in equipment to create a video of work to be added onto social media. There will be camera, lighting, microphones, rigging everything required to create a professional TV production. The students will have various roles which will enable them to learn more about all areas of production. It all sounds very exciting and well done to all students involved in stage 1!

I am also really pleased to announce that following the in school heats for the **Future Chef** competition, Olivia H in Year 10 won the next stage at Craven College. The chefs were wowed by her sticky chicken with rice and vegetables. Olivia has now been given a mentor chef who she will work with leading up to the regional final on the 4th February. This takes place at Sheffield Hallam Uni. Well done Olivia, a fantastic achievement already.



Are you a
FutureChef?

Where might entering
this competition
take you?

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Year 10 Speak Out! Twenty-two Year 10 students took part in our annual competition championing oracy at Parkside School, the Speak Out Challenge. Students took part in sessions with public speaking expert, Jeanette Percival. Beginning with introducing themselves in front of a group, the students worked hard on thinking about and then planning a speech topic to deliver by the end of the day. There were some exceptional speeches delivered about a range of topics. Special mentions go to Oliver N, Beau M, Myah M and Max M for their efforts and delivery of their speeches. The following students will move forward to a Parkside School Final, where they will work on their speech further, and deliver it to a Year 10 Assembly next month: William J; Sophie H; Lewis H



Well done to all.

Kind regards

Robin Ghosal
Principal