



# PRINCIPAL'S PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

## w/c Monday 2nd February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

### **PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT EVENINGS**

Thank you to all Parents/Carers for their attendance at the Year 11 Parents' Evening a couple of weeks ago. The atmosphere was purposeful, positive and supportive with conversations around the room focussed on how to support students maximise their outcomes.

This week on Thursday is the Year 7 Parents' Evening, with bookings still open on Arbor if you are yet to have made appointments.

After half term, there is the Year 9 Options Evening. This is a key evening as part of the transition from Key Stage 3 to 4 and it is important that all Parents/Carers and students from Year 9 attend. There have been separate details sent about the evening, and overview of the process is also included below.

### **MOBILE PHONES, PHONE POUCHES AND SAFEGUARDING**

You should have received a letter via email about the changes we are making to strengthen our approach to mobile phones. There has been no change in policy over mobile phones in school which states that they (and associated paraphernalia such as headphones), should not be visible on school site.

From next Monday (9th February), we will be introducing phone pouches to support our approach. The letter has provided a set of FAQs about this change, and these will be updated as required in due course.

Whilst we have been planning to implement this change over the recent weeks, there has also been considerable communication in the last month from the Government outlining their expectations of schools and mobile phones. We are pleased that our approach comfortably aligns with this view.

Students have been having assemblies in Coaching last week and this, explaining the changes to them. It is important for parents/carers to understand that students will be responsible for their own pouches and should they damage or lose them, then you would be required to purchase a replacement at a cost of £20.

The negative impacts of irresponsible mobile phone use, for example when related to safeguarding and social media, are a key reason for this strengthening. If students do need to make contact home urgently during the day, then we continue to have simple ways for this to occur at breaktime and lunchtime. There are almost no reasons why this would need to be the case during lesson time. Likewise, you may choose to message your child during the school day, knowing that they will be able to receive and respond to these messages at the end of the school day when their pouch is unlocked. For urgent situations, you can contact the school for a message to be passed on if it cannot wait for the child to view their phone at the end of the school day.

### **MID TERMS AND INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS**

Year 8 have had their Mid terms, in classrooms, last week and following the marking of these there will be progress reports to Parents/Carers outlining how students have achieved against the Age Related Expectations.

## **Parkside School**

Parkside Terrace, Cullingworth, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 5AD

Next week, Year 10 have their first set of internal examinations. These will be done, formally, in the school hall running in the same way as external examinations. Parents/Carers received information about these a couple of weeks ago. These will be the first set of exams for Year 10, with a second set later in the academic year. It is, of course, vital that students recognise that the purpose of internal examinations is to provide a fair assessment of the security of their understanding, alongside the chance to know how well they can apply this to examination questions in a formal examination environment.

### **KEY STAGE 4 REVISION HUB**

With Year 10 examinations beginning next week, and with Year 11 preparing for the next round of Mocks later in the Spring term ahead of the final examinations, please do ensure that you have looked with your child at the Key Stage 4 Revision Hub. It is accessed via the main school website, click on Key Apps and Choose KS4 Revision Hub and login with the child's school Google account. The site was developed in response to both student and parent feedback as a way to help students approach their revision purposefully and with a range of effective strategies. For students to be successful, work needs to be done out of school at home during evenings and weekends, and it is important that this is structured, purposeful and monitored. Each subject has useful information about the content and specification and, therefore, is a useful starting point.

In addition, Year 11 Parents/Carers have received an updated Intervention and Revision timetable via email. This outlines the range of support sessions that are currently running in school across a wide range of subjects. To support accessibility, there are sessions run at both lunchtime and after school. It is clear, to date, that we are seeing a positive impact on students from attendance to these sessions.

### **YEAR 9 CURRICULUM AND CHOICES 2026-2028**

Parents/Carers of Year 9 students have received, this week, information about the process. The communications included a Parent/Carer Briefing about the process, alongside a booklet which explains the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Choices for the current year group.

Information about the process is being shared with students through lessons and Coaching, but a very important part of it is the Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 26th February, between 5.00 and 7.00pm.

The email includes an Eventbrite link on the email, that is now open, which requests that Parents/Carers book your preferred information session. These are:

- Main Hall Sessions: 5.00pm or 5:45pm
- Sensory-Friendly Sessions: 4:30pm or 5:15pm (in the Resourced Provision - please use the RP's dedicated entrance to access the information session)

*Our Sensory-Friendly sessions are designed for students with sensory needs. They feature a smaller number of attendees and reduced lighting. As capacity is limited to 11 families per session, we kindly ask that these are reserved for those who require a quieter environment, such as those with autism or a speech, language & communication need.*

The school website also now includes the relevant information:

<https://www.parksideschool.net/curriculum/ks4-curriculum-and-options/>

### **HOUSE SYSTEM**

Over the coming couple of weeks, students will learn of the chosen individuals who will be the names of our new House system. Before Christmas, students and staff worked to come up with a long list of individuals, all focussed around local and regional people who represent the characteristics and

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attributes that we wish for our Parkside students. Once the names have been revealed to staff and students, we shall inform Parents/Carers. The House system will provide the framework for wide elements of school life and will help connect together families of Coaching groups. A key focus in school is developing and building a sense of belonging and community, and a House structure will help this significantly. For example, there have already been some events that show how this can develop, such as Friday afternoon Dodgeball competitions, all designed to connect students together and show that school is a place for community which all helps to support build positive relationships, improve attendance and behaviour and, ultimately, happiness and outcomes.

## **SEN TERMLY REVIEWS**

During the past year, we have updated the way that we communicate and connect with Parents/Carers through our SEN Termly Reviews. This is an important part of our home-school partnership. There will be a Google Form that will be coming out to relevant Parents/Carers - please do complete the return on this.

## **SCHOOL BUSES**

We have previously written about the work that we do with the bus company to support students' experience to and from school. It is important that students share their experiences so that, if there are issues, we can work with the bus company to respond to these. We have already helped a push on ensuring students have their passes with them (no pass, no travel). Our updated Relationships and Behaviour policy (available on the website), also now includes a Bus travel section which helps us respond to issues when they are reported to us.

## **CAREERS, EMPLOYABILITY AND COMMUNITY**

There have, once again, been a huge number of activities occurring recently to develop the breadth of curriculum experience in school. This week we had a group of students who attended the Yorkshire Building Society Immersion Day. Last Friday a number of our Year 11 students attended the Craven College Taster Day. We also supported some of our younger students with a visit there, to help provide support and guidance with what pathways are open Post 16 for them. It was clear that those who attended gained a good deal from the experience.

February half term is an exciting time for the group of students who are visiting New York on a residential run through the Performing Arts team. The itinerary is jam packed, and it promises to be a truly memorable experience for those attending. We will share the details with Parents/Carers on their return!

## **FRIDAY 13th TRAINING DAY**

A reminder that **Friday 13th February is a Training Day** and, therefore, school will be closed to all students.

School reopens to students after the holiday, at the normal time on Monday 23rd February. This will be a timetable Week B.

Kind regards

**Robin Ghosal**  
**Principal**