Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to everyone, following our ‘delayed’ start to the new academic year. Could I start by thanking each and every one of you for your patience and understanding with regard to the issue and reassure you that everyone here at Parkside is working to make sure students are not disadvantaged by something completely out of our control.

Here at Parkside School, it has still been an excellent start to the new academic year, with both staff and students ‘hitting the ground running’ and continuing all the positivity and improvement seen over the last few academic years.

We are once again delighted with our exam results and the continued improvement in student outcomes. This reflects the hard work of the students and staff; higher expectations of teaching and learning and attitude to learning being 2 key areas of focus.

Curriculum change, new staff, higher aspirations and expectations, alongside the strong results over the last few years, mean we have an even stronger foundation to continue to move forward and improve.

This relentless drive for success and improvement continues and linked to this is the ‘Attitude to Learning’ of our students. We continue to have high expectations of your child and do not apologise for this and we ask for your support in continuing to embed the skills, attitudes and moral values that will ultimately lead to their success and development as a positive member of our community and society in general.

The expansion of the School is now nearly complete. The expansion will allow us to have improved facilities for our students and following the completion it is planned to ‘uplift’ the remaining areas of the school, giving us a school to be proud of in every aspect.

As a school we were delighted to see the additional places in our Year 7 filled and numbers in our 6th Form, whilst currently smaller than we would wish to be, are increasing significantly. 6th Form students now come to us from other schools as well as returning to us from Year 11 and return to us after initially starting elsewhere.

The proposed move into partnership with Northern Star Academies Trust has (as was outlined at the end of last year) unfortunately not progressed. Despite the work undertaken by all parties concerned it was decided that it was not in the best interests of all to proceed. This gives us an opportunity to look again at other ‘partnerships’ that may help, support and enhance Parkside School and the education we give our students, whilst we retain the ‘earned autonomy’ of deciding what we believe is in the best interests of our students.

As you have come to expect, we do not stand still and I am delighted to report that during this academic year we will be able to further enhance the education of our students through;

- Aspire 2b programme; a career/IAG opportunity for students across all year groups in school.
- Partnership with Leeds Beckett University; a programme which helps students aspire to achieve/attend college/university.
- Health ICE (Industrial Centre of Excellence) Programme; As one of the lead schools in Bradford, through delivery of Health & Social curriculum we are partnering with the LA to offer opportunities within the Health and Social care sector to our students. This could be in the form of lectures/visits/careers info/work experience.

As usual, there will be a whole host of activities both internal and external for your child to participate in and we would highly recommend that they take up the vast array of opportunities on offer to them.

Finally, could I ask Parents who drop off / pick up their children from school to continue to support the local residents / school by utilising the drop off area and roads at the top of Parkside Terrace, thus voiding unnecessary congestion on the terrace and the safety implications / issues this brings.

We look forward to an exciting new year and once again thank you for your continued support

Andy Taylor Headteacher
**Umph Competition**
Some Year 12 students took part in the Umph enterprise competition. They heard talks from famous entrepreneurs such as Julian Kynaston, founder of Illamasqua makeup and also the founder of Boost Energy Drinks. They also took part in an Enterprise challenge and nearly finished in the top 2 schools. However there was another prize for the most Enterprising student on the day which Chloe Carr won taking home £25 in cash, £25 Amazon vouchers and a book.

All students were a credit to the school on the day.
Pictured are: Chloe Carr, James Bairstow, Courtney Jones and Harvey Wynn.

**Marcus Isherwood Head of Applied Studies**

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**Chloe Greenwood**
Year 13 students Kendall Philipson and Chloe Greenwood attended a 3 day SPRUCE (Student Pre University Court Exposure) course in Bradford.

The course objective was to look at the Framework of the Law in England and Wales, including: Criminal Law, Equality and Diversity, The Lawyer in Business, Crown Prosecution Service, Pro-Bono and The Citizens’ Advice Bureau, Civil Law and Family Law and observing a Crown Court in Action. As part of SPRUCE 2017 students were fortunate to have the opportunity to enter a competition to win work experience with Nicola Briggs of Switalski Solicitors, by answering a problem concerning a Will.

Chloe Greenwood from Parkside was the runner up, Nicola was so impressed with Chloe’s work as well as the winner that she very generously agreed to host both students for work experience.

**Well Done Chloe!**
Lane Fox Challenge

Some of our Duke of Edinburgh students had a very successful day at the Lane Fox Challenge competition. The students were amazing and did the school proud. The day consisted of a number of team building challenges which tested them physically and mentally. Although they finished very muddy and wet they were in high spirits the whole time, and we are delighted to announce that we came second to a Sixth Form team and we won the award for “Best Effort and Determination”

Hayley Evans and James Windle DofE Co-ordinators

McMillan Coffee Morning 2017

Thank you to all Sixth Form students and staff who took part in our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September. In total we raised £266. All sixth formers wore green for the day

UCAS & Student Finance Talk

Rob Rattray from Leeds Beckett University came into school to deliver a talk to sixth Form students and their parents, on UCAS and Student Finance.

This time of year can quite daunting with decisions being made regarding which route to take on completion of A Levels so it was really important for Rob to meet with students and parents to talk through and answer any questions.

Phil Logan Progress Leader Sixth Form
At GCSE we have experienced the introduction of the new 9-1 grade scale for English and Maths this year, where grade 4 is a standard pass and grade 5 a strong pass. All other subjects remain on the A*-G system at GCSE and Distinction* - Pass on vocational courses.

At Parkside there was a substantial uplift in the GCSE results this year with English and Maths combined (Basics) improving from 59% in 2016 to 68% in 2017. Eight students achieved the new highly acclaimed grade 9 putting them in line with the highest achieving students in the country: Four in English; Maryam Butt, Maddi Day, Maisie Deacon and Eve Mitchell and 4 in Maths; Poppy Ballantine, Emily Harman, Josie Llewellyn and Keir Welch. There was considerable improvement in maths, rising from 62 to 78% at grades 9-4. English continued to improve, increasing from 73 to 77% at grades 9-4. Significantly, 22% of students achieved a grade 7 or better in English. In addition, improvements were made in science, humanities, languages, the arts, technology and PE.

We are extremely proud of our students and staff for their hard work, dedication, determination and resilience which produced such pleasing results.

Ruth Thackray Deputy Headteacher
A Level Success

On 17th August students celebrated their success after completion of their Level 3 courses. Following weeks of anticipation students received confirmation of places at Universities and of future employment.

We wish them every success in their next steps.

Victoria Limbert Head of sixth Form
Last term we had a fantastically healthy week

There were 5 challenges

Starting on Monday 12th July the students were encouraged to make sure they drank at least 8 glasses of water per day, and tick them off in their planners. Sales of water increased in the canteen.

On Tuesday we had a ‘try some exotic fruit’ tasting at break time. Students were keen to try figs, passion fruit, avocado, pineapple, stone fruit, pelpino and water melon, sharon fruit, pomegranate, kiwi, aubergine, mango, flat peaches. The canteen also introduced houmous with vegetable dips and quickly sold out, this is now going to be offered regularly! Students also bought fruit pots as part of a healthy breakfast.

On Wednesday, the emphasis was on having a healthy breakfast. The canteen offered a healthy, fruity flapjack breakfast bar, which was popular. Also because some students were fasting during this period of Ramadan, interesting form time discussions took place about whether they got up before sunrise to have breakfast, and whether they still were able to have their 5-a-day after sunset.

On Thursday, with the help of year 8 chopping the vegetables, Mrs Trowers, Mrs Gilmartin and Mrs Osgerby were busy preparing huge batches of Thai Green Curry, Lentil, Sweet potato & Chickpea Curry, and Spanish Paella. There were even some healthy carrot & beetroot muffins with cream cheese frosting. At least 90 students came for what was in effect ‘A FREE LUNCH’! (Who said there was no such thing?) Not surprisingly, some staff turned up to support the tasting with eagerness!

Friday break time, the PE department ran a ‘Get Active’ session at lunch time.

None of this would have been possible without the fundraising efforts of the Parkside Parents Association. So thank you to them for supporting this week and funding the cost of the ingredients.

Sarah Trowers Teacher of Food
English Schools Fell Championships Settle

Three students took part in the English Schools Fell Race that was hosted by Giggleswick School in Settle this year. Alicia Kerman undertook the year 7 course which was a tough 2 miles with 109m of ascent. She completed the course in a time of 22 minutes and 3 seconds, placed 101st overall and 41st girl.

Tilly Labbett and Rebecca Kerman, both in year 8, took on the year 8/9 race this was a gruelling 3 mile route which had 135m of ascent. The girls battled bravely with Rebecca coming across the finish line in 28 minutes 57 seconds which was 157th overall and 63rd girl, Tilly crossed the line in 29 minutes and 9 seconds which placed her 159th overall and 64th girl.

Bingley Harriers Schools Cross Country Challenge

This annual event heralds the start of the cross-country season and four students represented Parkside at this event. In the year 7/8 race the girls team were placed 6th, theirs was a 1.5 mile course and comprised of 3 half mile laps. Individual results

11th Rebecca Kerman 11.03  25th Tilly Labbett 12.11
34th Alicia Kerman 13.15  There were 42 runners.

In the year 11, 12 & 13 race, Eliza Findlay represented Parkside running her 4 lap 2 mile course. Eliza had a super run to finish 1st in a time of 13.47. (Photos courtesy of Geoff Thompson)
Auditions have already taken place for Little shop of Horrors. The musical will be performed by students and staff and will take place during December.

Under 13s and Under 15s Netball success

After entering the U13 and U15 2016-17 Bradford Netball League both teams finished in the top 2 which meant they were selected to represent Bradford in the West Yorkshire Tournament. The tournament took place on Saturday 16th September in Wakefield.

All the matches were extremely competitive and although we did not manage to get through to the semi-finals, the girls played fantastic netball and learnt so much. Mrs Sykes (U13) and Mrs Mayho (U15) were incredibly proud of their achievement and are now looking forward to the season ahead. Congratulations to the following girls:

**U13 Squad**  Emily Tidswell (Capt), Holly Eagle, Rebecca Harman, Kia Sollitt, Anna Dale, Rowan Freear, Tilly Twigg, Ruby Schofield

**U15 Squad**  Megan Ellis, Morgan Myers, Holly Heyes, Holly Moulden, Anna Delilah, Maisie Wharton, Maisie Ellis-Gunnell, Erin Collingwood, Millie Rhodes, Tia Thompson, Aleigha Barlow

Helen Mayho Assistant Head of PE

**Tia Thompson – Year 9**

Since being sent for trials in September 2016, Tia was successfully selected and has played for the U13 Bradford Schools Squad for the 2016/17 season. Tia had a fantastic season and was then sent for further trials for the West Yorkshire Satellite Squad. Huge congratulations to Tia who has been selected for West Yorkshire Satellite Two Squad. This is a fantastic opportunity for Tia and involves additional training sessions and play days. Well done Tia!  **Emma Morton Progress leader and Teacher of PE**

End of Term Reward

School was finally out at Parkside in July when all the students who had achieved 100% attendance throughout the year were treated to an ice cream!

We arranged for the van to come playing its tune, all the 100% attendees had been given a voucher for their 99's. We also gave vouchers to the teachers to distribute in their classes as prizes for the last day's activities which included quizzes and other competitions.

Everyone said it was a great success, and this is the second year we have done this and we will definitely be doing it again next year!