



Parkside Academy
Educational Excellence



‘Your child
is our child’

Welcome to Parkside Academy



“Students are empowered to develop leadership skills, through a variety of opportunities which impact positively on students learning and overall wellbeing.”

WELLBEING AWARD



Parkside is an outstanding school which prides itself on being consistently one of the most successful schools within County Durham. Our students are at the heart of everything that we do.

All staff are dedicated to delivering an outstanding quality of education for each individual student. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school exemplifying our ethos of aspiration, hard work and achievement. This is achieved through students being valued, understood and celebrated.

In order for all students to be successful they must feel safe and cared for. To achieve this, we operate a culture of high expectations and standards for all students. We instil traditional values of personal organisation and respect for all members of the Academy and within the wider community. We pride ourselves on securing educational excellence for all students in our care. Our students are smart, polite, reliable and enthusiastic and leave us as successful, high achieving young people.

As a school we will provide your child with broad educational experiences alongside personalised support, to secure both academic development and to support overall student wellbeing. As parents and carers, we want the absolute best for our children, and choosing the right school is amongst one of the most important decisions of our lives.

We continue to develop this outstanding school into an exceptional one by ensuring our students are provided with the opportunities to become successful, high achieving young people.

“The school have demonstrated significant engagement with the STEM Ambassador programme through their varied programme of STEM enrichment and engagement. This level of additional support will impact their students in the educational and life choices they are making.”

INSPIRING STEM

Educational Excellence

"All members of the school community are working at their full potential because they are inspired, encouraged and their contributions are recognised."

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS

At Parkside Academy we are committed to ensuring that all of our students experience educational excellence daily through a broad education. This is designed to ensure that every student in our care makes exceptional rates of progress and is able to fulfil their full potential.

Our ethos is shared across the Advance Learning Partnership and is founded on the following principle **'Your Child is Our Child'**.

We are committed to:

- Creating a safe, secure and caring learning environment to allow our students to thrive;
- Providing educational excellence in every classroom;
- Extending students' opportunities through providing access to a wide range of educational experiences to develop the whole child.

Our aim is for all of our students to be confident, respectful and ambitious citizens. This is underpinned by the belief that all students can achieve beyond their expectations through hard work, determination and continually striving for excellence.



Success through Partnerships



"Parkside is an outstanding school that puts the needs of the students at the heart of everything it does."

OFSTED

The involvement of parents and carers in the education of children is widely recognised as one of the most beneficial ways to enhance success in school.

We welcome and encourage all aspects of communication between the Academy and parents and carers. We place great value on individual and regular contact. Our home/school agreement ensures that we achieve our targets in standards of work, behaviour and attendance.

In addition, consultation evenings, email/text updates and termly reports keep you informed of your child's progress and welfare.

TRANSITION

We pride ourselves on our welcoming environment easing the transition from primary school, which we know can be a daunting prospect for some children. Parkside Academy has developed excellent links with local primary schools to ensure that pupils enjoy a smooth transition into secondary school.

It is likely your child has already attended and enjoyed our Schemes of Experience programme, Multi-skills Days or Summer School and is comfortable and familiar with the school, staff and older students.

Other strategies to ensure easy integration include:

- Induction programme for new students;
- 'Moving Up' information evening;
- 'Schemes of Experience' programme;
- Extensive primary liaison programme co-ordinated by a Transition leader;
- Additional parents evening in Year 7;
- Parent and student master classes run throughout the year.



Parental Engagement



Parkside understands and values the vital role that parents play in their child's education. We believe that education is a partnership of parents, students and teachers.

Parkside Academy's vast parental engagement programme seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to parents. There is a bespoke programme of parental engagement for all students from Years 7–11. As an Academy we aim to be a school at the heart of the wider community.

Detailed information on the school and curriculum can be accessed on the school's website: parksideacademy.org.uk to keep you up to date with Parkside news.



"Parkside is an outstanding school that puts the needs of the students at the heart of everything it does."

OFSTED




Supporting your child

We are proud of our reputation as a caring school that provides a secure and happy learning environment for every child.

Our pastoral system is led by a Deputy Headteacher, two Key Stage Leads and five Year Leaders under the principles of our **Attend, Behave and Engage** (ABE) ethos. All the children belong to a mixed ability tutor group, although they are set by ability for most subject teaching.

The Form Tutor's daily contact with students plays an essential role in ensuring that everyone achieves their true potential. Tutors perform regular parental engagement, promote our ABE ethos, monitor attendance, punctuality and their general progress through school. Student wellbeing is a core priority within the school. The school has an integrated programme of education, events and staff support focused on promoting and supporting the mental and emotional wellbeing of your child.



"The Academy environment of shared values, fairness, and trust, with ethical role models at all levels of the organisation allows all students to flourish."

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS



High Expectations

Parkside places great value on ensuring students become responsible and conscientious adults. Our code of conduct, drawn up in consultation with students, outlines our high expectations with regard to teaching and learning, behaviour and appearance.

Students are required to wear the official school uniform and take pride in themselves at all times. Parkside's aim for each student is to ensure that they will make the most of their individual abilities. Our highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers and support staff are dedicated to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential, whilst a varied and balanced curriculum challenges and inspires students to achieve their best.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At Parkside Academy we believe it's extremely important to give our students the opportunity to develop as leaders as soon as they join us in year seven. Throughout their time at school, students will be presented with many leadership opportunities, such

as becoming Student Ambassadors, becoming Valued Voice members or even becoming part of the Student Leadership Team. Alongside those opportunities, we also have many other roles where students will be given the chance to lead including becoming subject ambassadors e.g. Maths, P.E etc. These roles will help students learn how to work collaboratively with one another whilst gaining confidence and developing their leadership skills. This can be done by setting up fundraising events and liaising with outside providers to make the school a more inclusive place. These Student Leadership structures, allow students the chance to grow as individuals and help them cultivate life-long skills which will benefit them both in the Academy and in their future endeavors.



"The evidence that Parkside included showed a huge amount and range of activities taking place in the school throughout the academic year rather than concentrated into a week. Evidence shows that this consistent and wide-spread approach is the most effective approach to ensuring an impactful STEM programme."

INSPIRING STEM

"Staff have successfully created an outstanding network of care, guidance and support for the students at Parkside."

OFSTED

A curriculum and teaching to **challenge** and **inspire**



"The curriculum is tailored exceptionally well to meet the needs of all learners."

OFSTED

CURRICULUM

Parkside Academy provides opportunities for all through educational excellence. Our intent is to ensure that all students make outstanding progress and that our curriculum will remove any barriers that may affect their learning.

Subject-specifically, the curriculum is built around a progression model that ensures students incrementally gain deep knowledge and skills that are fundamental to each subject. Purposeful assessment is integral to the curriculum to ensure knowledge is fully embedded and highlights areas for development.

Throughout the curriculum there is a strong emphasis on developing:

- a 'love of learning';
- resilience, independence and becoming creative, critical thinkers;
- the skills required to be a productive member a diverse 21st century society;
- an understanding of 'British Values' and the implications for life in modern day Britain;
- students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning;
- an understanding, through the careers programme, of the opportunities available to students once they leave school.

At the heart of the school is the focus on broadening students' cultural horizons to ensure they are able to continue to the next stage of their educational journey.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our highly skilled, enthusiastic teachers make learning stimulating and engaging for all students within the Academy. A rigorous assessment system, alongside individual support and encouragement, guarantee that students within the Academy are able to meet their full potential. We pride ourselves on facilitating meaningful learning experiences for all of our students within the Academy.



A culture of support and respect

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Parkside places a great emphasis on developing each child as an individual. Students access personalised support and encouragement to ensure they are able to exceed their targets. Guidance and support is provided by a range of staff who ensure that your child has access to academic support through intervention to help them to reach their full potential.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

We have confidence in all of our students to fulfil their potential. Central to that is that drive to create students that have high levels of commitment to their own learning, whether in the form of homework tasks or independent study. Students, irrespective of their background and ability, benefit from the exceptional and wide range of independent learning activities offered. Our students are encouraged to participate in our Extend and Explore programme, which caters for a wide range of interests. There is a real sense of creative freedom and opportunities exist for each individual to explore their own passions. Our students do this with exceptional skills, imagination, enthusiasm and enjoyment, so that they acquire the skills and resilience to become successful, cultured and well-rounded individuals that are ready for the challenges of a modern and rapidly changing world.



"Parkside is a calm and purposeful school where students can learn without hindrance."

OFSTED

Recognition and Awards

The Academy has been recognised for education excellence in the following areas:

World Class Schools Award: the World Class Schools Quality Mark is the new standard in education for schools who have moved beyond outstanding.

Wellbeing Award: in recognition for changing the long-term culture of a school, and embedding an ethos where mental health is regarded as the responsibility of all.

Investors in People: this accreditation reflects the latest workplace trends, leading practices and employee conditions required to create outperforming teams.

Investing in Children Award: for promoting the rights of children and young people.

Educate and Celebrate Award: for the implementation of an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum to eradicate homophobia.

SMSC Gold Award: in recognition of the provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in preparation for life in modern Britain.

NACE Challenge Award: for a consistent commitment to the provision for more able and talented students in school.

International Schools Award: for outstanding development of the international dimension of the curriculum.

"The Academy has a firm belief in valuing and positively empowering the young people in their care."

INVESTORS IN CHILDREN



Enriching your child

Parkside academy has an excellent programme of activities which take place both in and out of the classroom.

At Parkside Academy, we want to extend and enhance the curriculum beyond the academic, supporting students personal development and character.

Enrichment is key in ensuring students have the best experience during their time at Parkside Academy. Clubs and events help to form new friendships with common interests and allows students to develop their existing skills.

SPORT

Parkside has a reputation for sporting excellence; we are dedicated to encouraging young people to adopt healthy lifestyles. This means that we have a strong emphasis on the importance of regular exercise coupled with good nutrition. Students have opportunities to develop their leadership skills by being part of the Sports Leaders team who will help support and train other students.

STEM

Parkside has an active STEM programme which aims to ignite students' interest in Science, Technology and Maths. It provides students with an opportunity to explore STEM subjects in exciting and innovative ways outside of the classroom.

"This level of additional support will impact their students in the educational and life choices they are making."

INSPIRING STEM AWARD

MUSIC

At Parkside, music is used as a medium to develop students' confidence and skills. We offer an array of opportunities for students to develop their musical skills and we pride ourselves on giving students the opportunity to take part in musical performances to enrich their experiences beyond the classroom.



LITERACY

Parkside has a broad literacy enrichment programme which aims to develop student confidence and nurture new talents. Students are given the opportunity to take part in national events as well as our own public speaking programme.

NUMERACY

Students at Parkside Academy have the opportunity to access a rich numeracy programme which aims to support, challenge and develop their numeracy skills. Students have the opportunity to access both national and inter-school Math's challenge events.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Student in year 9 and 10 are given the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award, to help students gain skills and open opportunities outside of school in volunteering and ensuring our students have gained organisational skills and life skills to be successful once they leave the classroom.

"The wide and varied range of internal and external provision for students to support their wellbeing is exceptional."

WELLBEING AWARD

Learning without limits

The Challenge Programme at Parkside Academy has been developed to embed quality teaching and learning strategies that effectively meet the needs of students. This is done by providing individualised challenge of all abilities across the entire curriculum.

Additionally, Parkside students will be presented with opportunities to work alongside external providers, such as the 'Brilliant Club' and 'Future Me'. This will allow students the chance to work on projects with PhD lecturers from Oxford, Cambridge and local Universities. Alongside this, students will also have the chance to partake in additional opportunities, such as becoming involved in enterprise events, mentoring programmes, personalised challenge tasks set from their teachers and termly challenge bulletins which include challenge

tasks from across the curriculum. The outcome is to promote further progress for all across all year groups.

The Challenge Programme aims to encourage students to work at a higher cognitive level to develop and draw out the skills and knowledge needed to allow them to achieve the top grades within their programme of study. It is also focused on preparing students for the next stage in their education and life beyond Parkside.

The overall programme has a stepped approach to ensure that through every year group your child is challenged and inspired.

"The Academy allows students to exercise intellectual curiosity, and work independently, creatively and inventively."

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS



*"Securing **Excellent Education** through **Collaboration.**"*

ADVANCE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



Parkside Academy
Educational Excellence

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**ADVANCE
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**