



PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

STOURBRIDGE ROAD, BROMSGROVE
B61 0AH

Headteacher
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4th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to inform you that, following on from a successful launch last year, we will be extending our current Peer Mentor Programme at Parkside Middle School and we would very much like to open invitations to our current year 7 pupils to apply for the role of a Peer Mentor, who will work predominantly with our Year 5 pupils. Mrs Persich leads the initiative and will oversee the application and subsequent interview process.

Peer Mentors can play an important role in supporting peers to build positive relationships and get the most out of school life. It is a proven, pupil-led programme already being used in thousands of schools throughout the UK. Sustainable and effective, it can be used to support transition, attainment, attendance, behaviour and it can also help address friendship difficulties.

Research has shown that young people predominantly turn to their peers when facing difficulties rather than adults. A Peer Mentoring Programme **does not replace** the role of professionals and adults in the young person's environment; it does however provide an invaluable support mechanism for young people experiencing difficulties who are in need of some advice, particularly those who feel uncomfortable and nervous speaking to an adult.

"To be peer accountable has a far greater impact on some young people than the disapproval of an adult in authority"

The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation

In order to become a Peer Mentor, our students will go through a proper recruitment process. This includes submitting a written application form, asking a member of staff to write a reference, and then going for an interview with our Peer Mentor Lead, Mrs. Persich and our Senior Deputy Head, Mrs. Jenkin.

During this recruitment process, the skills, and qualities we look for are:

- Being able to develop and maintain positive relationships with a range of different people
- Having a good attitude to learning and be self-motivated
- Having good school attendance and a positive behaviour record
- Be willing to share ideas and demonstrate good inter-personal and communication skills
- Being able to work independently but also as part of a team
- Showing commitment to the initiative
- Be a positive role model for peers



As a school we establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are listened to and encouraged to talk.

During the Peer Mentoring Programme, our Mentors are expected to:

- Undertake a training course that develops the skills that are needed to be a good Peer Mentor
- Checking with Mentees at regular intervals throughout the week and feedback any concerns to the Peer Mentor Lead
- Be available for some break and lunchtimes to support peers

From **Monday 7th November**, any pupils interested in applying should collect an application form from Mrs. Persich. The closing date for applications is the **18th November 2022**. With regret, any applications handed in after this date will not be accepted.

We are actively encouraging our pupils to apply for this role if it is something that interests them. However, it is important for pupils and families to recognise that there is a selection process, and not all applicants may be successful. It would be helpful if you could discuss this with your child. Feedback on applications will be offered by Mrs. Persich if the pupils would like this opportunity.

Mrs. Persich will offer a pupil application support session, that pupils are welcome to attend, in order to help them with their applications.

Once the selection process has been completed, you will be informed if your child is successful. Parental/Carer consent will be needed at this stage for the pupils to undertake the programme.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Persich via the school office.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. R Jenkin
Senior Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. S Persich
Pastoral Manager