

26th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Parents and Carers for their support in matters of attendance, uniform and home learning. Parental support is invaluable. I will take this opportunity to explain to Parents and Carers, a key aspect of our detention system. Interactions between staff and students are to be underpinned by respect and forgiveness. These values are reflected in the implementation of our behaviour policy. If children disrupt learning, they are issued a *B1 Warning* and receive no sanction. Students are able to correct any behaviour that hinder progress. Should the disruption continue, this would result in a *B2 Teacher Sanction*. In the unlikely event of persistent disruption, the student would receive a *B3 lesson removal* and a placement into another classroom. If a student receives a B3 this will result in a 30-minute afterschool detention with the Heads of Learning or Senior Leadership Team. During this detention staff will visit the detention to have a crucial restorative conversation allowing a fresh start the following lesson. The vast majority of our students get it right day in day out. Students who fail to meet our standards will be sanctioned in line with school policy. As we progress into this academic year the focus on rewards will further embed into school life, ensuring that our students are awarded the recognition they deserve.

Key reminders

As the weather deteriorates, coats and outdoor wear are of course allowed but I ask that students remove them upon entering the building, including in the dining room. Our school building is warm, and coats are not needed due to our new boiler. Removing coats indoors also allows staff to differentiate between year groups when moving around the Academy.

Attendance

For a second week running, well done to Year 8 who achieved 100% on Thursday. They are the year group to beat. Students will be recording their weekly and cumulative attendance in their planners.

Upcoming events

There are many activities happening in area of our academy from cross country events to in school events. However, I would like to flag a number of key events that are planned.

This coming week we are delighted to welcome our representatives from all main local colleges. Year 11 students will have a presentation from each college, who will outline courses available and the application process.

Year 7 and 8 will receive a literacy show called the 'Punctuation show' this week. This is a free interactive show for all of Year 7 on Wednesday, and Year 8 on Thursday.

We open our school to prospective students and parents at our open evening on **Thursday 12th October**. This event is promoted with Year 6 students, but we extend the invitation to families of those in Year 5.

A 'Welcome Mass' which will be led by Father Gerry, will take place at school for our Year 7 students towards the end of their first half term on **Thursday 19th October at 1.30pm**. Parents and carers will be invited. Further information will follow, but please save the date.



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The school immunisation team will be in school on **Tuesday 10th October** for Flu Vaccinations. If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school, please follow this link to complete an online consent form; <https://nhsimms.azurewebsites.net/session/e0516443> The link will close on the 5th October 2023. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone **0333 358 3397** option 5.

Leadership opportunities for Year 11

Year 11 students have been given letters which outline a range of leadership opportunities including senior leadership, deputy roles, prefects, prom committee and chaplaincy lead. The process, along with the role itself, will allow students to gain experience which will serve them well in future endeavours. Once the prom committee is appointed further details relating to The Prom will be released. All leadership applications are to be handed in by the end of Monday 25th September.

As you are aware a significant area of focus for our school is to ensure that we are meeting the need for all of our learners. In order to strengthen our provision in SEND, we welcome Mrs Francesca Cuthbert to our team. Mrs Cuthbert has been working as a SENCO and Specialist Assessor, for just over 5 years, working with children aged 3 to 18. In that time, she has built a wealth of experience in observing and understanding how quality first teaching is adapted to ensure pupils with special educational needs become independent and resilient learners. Mrs Cuthbert has also been a Secondary Head of Drama, a Lead Teacher for whole school Gifted & Talented and is an experienced English Teacher. She will be tracking the progress and support of our students with individual needs.

I would like to wish all members of our school community a pleasant week.



Mrs Sarah Lancett
Acting Head of School



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