



9th September 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians

It's been a pleasure to welcome our students back into school this week. All of our cohorts have had a positive return to school and have really hit the ground running, in terms of their work and the focus and energy they are showing in lessons.

We would like to make particular note of how well our Year 7 and Year 12 students have transitioned. Year 7 have settled very well and have created an excellent first impression. Our Year 12 students have made an excellent start to their A Level studies.

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have commenced the year with study skills sessions delivered by an external organisation 'Elevate'. The attitude to these sessions has been excellent and will hopefully further equip our students with the tools to make the very most of their independent study and homework.

We also began the school year with assemblies both in school and at church. We would like to share with you the key messages from this week, so that you can reiterate these to your children and support them to continue to maintain the excellent start that they have made.

No Replacement for Hard Work

Much of our messaging this week has been based around the idea that we achieve very little without hard work. We have reminded students of this throughout the week.

Expectations

We have laboured to all students the fundamentals that we expect them to get right all the time. It is essential that our students are aware of our expectations and understand that they will be applied rigorously and consistently across the whole school. We as a staff group have spent some of our training time working to ensure that we have a consistent set of expectations that are upheld universally in all areas of the school. Therefore, can you please discuss with your child the following expectations:

- *Punctuality to school* - students are expected to be inside the school gates by 8:40am, those who arrive after this time will receive a lunchtime detention.
- *Punctuality to lessons* - students are expected to be in lessons on time. After break and lunch there is no excuse for any lateness. For periods 1, 2 and 5 we expect students to arrive within 3 minutes of the bell, this transition time is sufficient for students to make their way from one class to another.
- *Uniform* - students are expected to adhere to uniform expectations at all times. We have moved to a three strikes rule. Students will be challenged on any uniform infringement, as the rule suggests, the third infringement will result in an M30 detention.
- *Planners* - we have moved this year to smaller student planners that can fit in blazer pockets. It is the expectation that all students have their planner on them at all times.



If your child needs a replacement planner, please ask them to contact Mr King (P2 office); you will need to purchase a new one, via ParentPay, at a cost of £3.00.

Prohibited items

It goes without saying that in order to maintain a safe environment for everyone we have to ensure that prohibited items do not enter the school premises. We have reminded students of this fact, particularly the fact that possession of any drugs, alcohol, knives or any other offensive weapon will result in a permanent exclusion.

We have also reminded students that the possession of vapes is not permitted in school and that if students are caught with a vape, they will be suspended.

We would appreciate you reinforcing these messages with your children.

Knife Crime

Sadly, the summer has seen the news continue to be littered with stories of knife crime and the senseless loss of life of young people. We have worked very hard over the last few years to educate our students regarding the risks and dangers of knife crime. That work will of course continue this year, with upcoming events including a knife arch, as we have used previously with the Police, and also the delivery of workshops and assemblies by external speakers.

Open Evening

We look forward to showcasing our school at our upcoming Open Evening on Thursday 29th September 2022. We will shortly be asking our students to become involved with this event in a variety of different roles. Please encourage your children to get involved; we are always overwhelmed by the number of students who volunteer. We like to showcase as many of our students as possible during the Open Evening as they are, after all, the best ambassadors of our school.

Finally, I would like to advise our Condensed Days when the students finish at 2:15pm:

- Thursday 29th September - Open Evening
- Thursday 13th October - Y11 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 3rd November - Y13 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 24th November - Y10 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 2nd February - Y11 Parent Consultations (2nd)
- Thursday 9th February - Y7 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 2nd March - Y9 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 9th March - Y12 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 23rd March - Y8 Parent Consultations

Sadly, since drafting this letter, we have now all heard the very sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Today we have addressed this with students in assemblies and we will consider forthcoming activities and arrangements in the coming days.

Many thanks for your support. Again, it really has been a pleasure to see our students back in school with their friends and our staff enjoying school life.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher