

17th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Safeguarding, Attendance & Behaviour Update Term 2

We have had a busy term raising student's awareness of the importance of staying safe & taking responsibility for themselves and others in our school community. We had a successful week celebrating the national anti-bullying campaign last month with dedicated respect walls across the school and guest speakers who discussed online health and wellbeing. On the back of the findings from the week, we have had 12 anti-bullying ambassadors nominated who attended a training day led by the Diana Trust to help support our ongoing work on anti-bullying. Next term we are looking forward to inviting in a company called Prison a Reality who educate students about youth crime & the justice system. If you would like to find out more then please check out their website at www.prisonareality.co.uk. Furthermore, all learn for life lessons will have a focus on safeguarding. More information will be sent out as the content delivered will be year group specific and age appropriate.

Whole school attendance is currently **95.4%** just short of our target of 96%, but still an improvement from the same time last year. We are tracking attendance very carefully and working closely with the Educational Welfare Officer. Having excellent attendance (above 96%) gives your child the very best chances of success in the future. Research suggests that just 17 days missed from school can equate to dropping a GCSE grade so it really is as simple as **attend today to achieve tomorrow**.

Punctuality is also a key focus for us along with improving whole school attendance. Unfortunately a number of students choose to arrive late into school and miss valuable learning time. The bell to signal students to move to lesson 1 rings at 8.47am so registration and then lessons can start promptly at 8.50am. From January, our gates will be secured from **8.47am** and late gate will commence at this time. Sanctions will be actioned for students who are persistently late. Please support us by ensuring your child is on time to start learning.

Finally, we are continuing to set the bar high with regards to basic expectations around uniform, behaviour and attitude to learning. We are pleased that most students seem to be rising to the challenge and taking pride in their appearance, however a small minority are really letting the side down. Please can you support us by ensuring that your child has the correct uniform that adheres to our policy. This includes school trousers (not legging or jeans), school shoes (not trainers) and skirts that are an appropriate length. One of our jobs is to prepare students for the wider world of work where dress codes may well have to be followed. It is also frustrating that staff have to take up valuable teaching time when confronted with students who choose not to comply with the simple expectations of uniform. This also extends to excessive make up, jewellery and facial piercings (which are not permitted and must be removed or covered up at all times).



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We are very fortunate to have a behaviour team in school working with students to reduce the frequency of any issues which may disrupt learning. Students are fully aware of the schools consequences and sanctions system and are required to follow these rules at all times. This allows lessons to focus on learning and teachers attentions to be concentrated on supporting each and every student to reach their potential. Behaviour that affects the learning of others will be treated very seriously and simply will not be tolerated.

If you wish to discuss any areas outlined in this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school and I would be happy to help.

I hope you and your families have a peaceful and merry Christmas & the very best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry York

Miss Kerry York

Assistant Head Teacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead