

20 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing the newsletter slightly earlier in the week than normal as there are a number of matters to update you on.

Strike Action

Members of the NEU will be taking strike action on two dates currently announced:

Thursday 27 April : Years 7 and 11 will be in school Tuesday 2 May : Years 8 and 11 will be in school

As on previous strike days there will be an alternative timetable emailed to students whose teacher is not available either for lessons on Synergy or in class.

Please contact school if your child is entitled to free school meals and you would like to order a packed lunch to be collected on the day.

Bank Holidays

Monday 1 May and Monday 8 May are both Bank Holidays and school will be closed.

SEN Drop-In Clinic

The next drop-in clinic is 4 May from 3.20 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Please make an appointment through reception.

Yesterday we had assemblies with year groups to reinforce standards at the start of a term as we always do. There are a few changes to address the poor choices a minority of students are making with regard to uniform/appearance and behaviour. There are 4 areas we focused on and I attach the presentation from the assembly. In summary, this is all about high expectations and standards.

a) Classroom Behaviour

Students should be in silence entering the room and during the lesson unless asking/answering questions; taking part in group work; reading out loud. Independent work is silent work. Staff will work through the behaviour stages for those disrupting the learning of others — everyone has a right to learn. Those few timed out receive a same day detention and if anyone is timed out more than once in a day they will go into exclusion — they lose their right to learn with their peers.

b) <u>Toilets</u>

Students tell us these are often an area of concern and so we have increased staffing at break and lunchtimes to supervise and ensure a one-in, one-out policy to prevent groups congregating in the toilets. This is a safeguarding matter – we want students to be able to go to the toilet without any concerns.













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Headteacher Mr A Waller, MA, BA Hons Deputy Headteacher Miss A Jordinson, BSc Hons

c) Uniform and Appearance

Most of our students look really smart and take pride in their appearance. Some try to push boundaries and do so repeatedly.

- Uniform will be checked at the line up in a morning;
- Where there is an issue that can be corrected it should be done so immediately. After this students can expect to receive same day detentions anytime on the day uniform is not correct;
- Where an issue can be corrected but a student refuses to, they will be taken out of circulation for the whole day;
- Where an issue cannot be corrected (e.g. hair colour, fake tan, false nails) then the student
 will be kept out of circulation at break and lunchtime and have same day after school
 detention for the rest of the week until it is rectified. If it goes into a second week, students
 will be in exclusion and after that redirected to another school for a period of time;
- Hoodies are not allowed;
- The uniform policy is attached.

We want to concentrate on learning in an environment where all students respect the uniform expectations. It is not fair to the vast majority who get it right not to challenge and sanction those who do not and by being a member of our school all students (and parents/carers) are accepting the expectations.

d) Respect

Everything said so far is really about respect for self, for learning etc. but we will continue to challenge any behaviours which show a lack of respect for others. This includes poor punctuality to lessons or to school in a morning.

High standards and expectations are a sign of care by school and parents/carers. I would ask for your support in all of this.

Parking

We have received complaints from some residents of Carrwood Drive in Kirkham about parents parking across their driveways when collecting students after school, which restricts them leaving or entering their properties. Could I ask parents to be mindful of this when collecting their children.

Finally

Many congratulations to Kobi in Year 7 who walked Coast to Coast (192 miles) to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice. What a fantastic achievement and a wonderful way to spend the Easter holidays.

Congratulations also to Daniel in Year 11 who has been offered a place at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music. Daniel played Trombone for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain over Easter.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Waller

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Headteacher