



29th March 2018

## Dear Parents and Carers

Although this half term has been short, it has felt long in terms of the challenges with severe weather. The final week of term is always a pleasure for me as we issue students with rewards in assemblies and acknowledge those who have our school values at their core.

This half term has been an exciting milestone for our school and a huge step in ensuring the very best environment for our learners. Following your valuable feedback stating the need to tackle behaviour in the December parent voice, we have responded by implementing the Assertive Discipline systems and structures to ensure more time is spent on education and less on dealing with disruptive behaviour.

As expected, the vast majority of our learners have recognised and welcomed the more structured approach and this has already had an overwhelming impact of the quality of lessons your child receives and has been a pleasure to watch. School is calm, students have a newfound and increasing love for learning and the school is calm and orderly. 100% of staff say that teaching has improved due to the clearer systems and this is exciting news for the progress and quality of education your child receives. Students have been supplied with brand new ties to signify a new beginning and, for some, a fresh start. Our learners look exemplary in their new ties, giving ownership and belonging to their year group.

As expected, there has been some who have found the mobile phone ban difficult to adhere to and it is important to understand and recognise the reasons behind this implementation. Although we understand the benefits of current technology, mobile phones previously caused many interruptions to learning and posed safeguarding risks through inappropriate use of social media and camera functions. Parents are reminded to complete a special request form, as stated in the policy if there is a valid and urgent need to have a mobile phone. The online policy can be located [here](#). We have had valuable feedback from students asking for a safe drop-off point to leave their mobile phone at the beginning of the day. From the start of next term we will offer this service to students.

We are now in the run up to Y11 exam season and many staff are giving up their time to run revision sessions over the Easter holidays. Please visit our website to see these sessions. A huge well done to our Y11 students taking their mock exam - they have been sitting more mock GCSE exams to better prepare them for the real thing.



We realise the need to drastically improve the attendance and punctuality of our students and we thank parents and carers for supporting us so far this term and sending their child to school on time and prepared for learning. You may have seen some of our staff members meeting and greeting students on the school entrances ensuring a prompt start to Form Time. Students should be ready to enter their form groups by 8.45am. We urge parents and carers to reinforce the importance of attendance and the impact this has on their learning. This can also lead to disadvantages when gaining University or College places after Year 11.

I have been asked on a few occasions during recent parental meetings about the plans to convert to an academy. The decision has been made that we continue as a Local Authority school. There are now no plans to convert.

The need to further improve communication has also been noted in recent meetings and this is very high on my agenda. We have had a number of changes to the administration team and the new student reception but we still use our website as the main source of information. I am committed to ensuring you feel both supported and listened to by the school and hope you see improvements over the coming weeks. Parent feedback is extremely important and ask that you take a few moments to answer 3 questions to support our future development by clicking [here](#). The link is also located on the homepage.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter and look forward to welcoming our learners back to school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Watkin', written in a cursive style.

Mr Dean Watkin  
Headteacher