



5th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We sincerely hope that you enjoyed the festive period and we return really looking forward to another positive term. We continue to have high expectations of all of our students and are keen to ensure all are supported to continue making personal and academic progress.

Core Values

Last term we introduced our new core values of Motivated, Respectful and Successful. We began the school year with a key focus on supporting our students to be respectful. It was fantastic to see students being acknowledged for displaying those respectful behaviours throughout the school day and also seeing students winning some fantastic prizes in the end of term reward assemblies for earning respect vouchers.

This term the core value we will be focussing on is being motivated. We will be looking for students to demonstrate that they are:

- organised
- inquisitive learners
- resilient
- ambitious

As an example, in terms of our basic expectations, students can demonstrate that they are organised by:

- Attending on time and be consistently punctual
- Wearing the correct uniform
- Having the correct equipment
- Completing homework on time

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that students endeavour to have an excellent level of attendance in school so that they can be supported to make the required level of academic progress. It is also important that students understand the importance of being punctual to school and to all lessons, as to not have any disruptions to their learning or to disrupt others.

With this in mind, we have explained to students that our expectation is that they are on the school site at least by the first school bell which rings at 8:25am. Students should then be in their tutor room at 8:30am to be registered by their tutor. The school gates will be closed from 8:25am other than a single central pedestrian gate which will be manned by our Attendance Officer. Any students who arrive after 8:25am will be classed as late (unless there are extenuating circumstances). Students who are late will be sanctioned with an early morning detention which will take place on Friday mornings, and will run from 7.45am. Any sanctions will be communicated home. This change comes into effect from Monday 8th January 2024.

Students who are not punctual to lessons, will continue to be sanctioned by the class teacher. Some students may be place don attendance/punctuality report.

Uniform

It is imperative that students arrive at school wearing the correct Mark Rutherford School uniform. If there are any issues with uniform, please contact the year team of your child who will look to support. Please find a reminder of our uniform policy below and the mandatory items:

- Sky blue polo shirt with blue school crest to be worn all year round.
- Black V-neck jumper with the school crest. The jumper is compulsory from September to Easter unless the school emails parents/carers in the event of warm weather.
- Plain black trousers; these cannot be jeans, leggings, jeggings, cropped, jogging bottoms or cargo style.
- Plain black skirt; these must be plain black skirt which is of an appropriate length and close to the knee - this cannot be lycra or contour in style.

Shoes:

These must be suitable for school (trainers may only be worn for PE), no plimsolls or trainers that look like shoes are permitted.

Outdoor coat:

We would expect all students to wear a coat outside when the weather is cold. No hoodies, sports sweatshirts or zipped sports tops are to be brought on to and/or worn on the school site.

Makeup and nail varnish:

Makeup and nail varnish may be worn for school but it must be discrete and in keeping with a working environment. Nails must be of a practical length to comply with health and safety regulations. False or acrylic nails are not permitted to be worn in school.

Jewellery:

Students may wear a watch and a small pair of stud earrings. Students will be asked to remove earrings which hang below the ear. A necklace may be worn provided it is tucked inside of the shirt. Students are permitted to wear one small stud nose piercing. Other facial piercings and tattoos are not permitted. Other items of jewellery are not permitted when in school. Students will be asked to remove jewellery that breaks this rule. All jewellery must be removed for PE.

Hairstyles:

Students' hairstyles should be neat and practical for school and should be a natural hair colour. Extremes of style, patterns and tracks will not be permitted. This includes complete shaving of one side of hair and dip dyeing the hair.

Students should not be wearing items which breach the uniform policy and students will be challenged by staff if this were to happen. Excess jewellery items (rings, earrings, bracelets), hoodies, etc. may be confiscated by staff and passed to the relevant Year Office to be collected by parents/carers if they are worn.

If you have any questions surrounding any of the topics discussed in this correspondence, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance. We would like to thank you in continuing to support us in maintaining the high expectations we have of our students.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Tyler
Deputy Headteacher