

15 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the Christmas holiday and the end of term I wanted to write to you to thank you again for your continued support and to update you on a few things ahead of the new year.

Student Standards

On the whole, student standards are exemplary within our academy. On the rare occasions where high expectations inside lessons and within break and lunch times are not met, I would like to remind parents of the process of detentions.

- A 30-minute detention for not meeting academy expectations will be issued by the teaching member of staff and sat after school in the same day its issued within the academy.
- For an incident of a more severe nature a 1-hour detention will be issued on the same evening with a phone call / text message home to explain this.
- If a student fails to attend (FTA) a detention of any length, then the following evening the student is issued a detention for 1 hour and completes this detention with a member of leadership. You will be telephoned informing you of this.
- For a second FTA the student will be kept with a senior member of staff for the day and will stay until 5pm that evening. You will be telephoned informing you of this and you will be invited into a meeting to discuss the next steps in your child's behaviour.

I thank all parents and carers for your support in advance of these measures in place.

Rewards

This week we have held rewards assemblies with all year groups. This has been an opportunity to reward the students who have shown excellent effort, attendance and attitude to learning so far this term. All students have the opportunity to receive rewards each half term by working hard and ensuring they fulfil our academy values of 'Thinking Big', 'Doing the Right Thing' and 'Showing Team Spirit'.

Uniform

As with student standards, the vast majority of our students wear the correct NBA uniform every day to the academy and are ready to learn. If you are considering changing your child's footwear over the Christmas holiday then please ensure that the replacement pair is a shoe. High street shops often place black training shoes in the back to school sections, however these are not allowed to be worn and only black shoes will be accepted. If your child attends in trainers, they will



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be asked to go home change into their shoes or if they do not have a suitable pair, we will loan them a pair of school shoes for the day. This will be non-negotiable.

A reminder of our uniform and standards expected are below:

- Full school uniform must be worn every day
- Black school shoes.
- No outdoor coats, hats, scarfs worn inside the academy building
- No mobile 'phones visible/switched on
- No eating or drinking on corridors or in classrooms
- Full equipment on desk, including planner
- Bags tucked under desks
- Sit up straight in lessons
- (Covid-19 Specific) Masks on in communal areas

Home Communication

In order to support your child as best that we can it is important that we have clear lines of communication between home and the academy. In the event that we need to contact you in an emergency it is vital that we have an accurate contact telephone number and that a response is made. Thank you to the parents/carers who ensure these things are already in place and are working with us in the best interests of your child. If you know that you have or are changing your contact details then please contact and reception and let us know your new details.

In addition, and in support of improving the home to academy communication we are going to putting more of a focus on the student planner from January onwards. All students received a student planner in September and we have more for January for any students who have misplaced theirs. Information being recorded in the planner will enable you to see each week your child's attendance figures, along with the number of negatives (behaviour points) and the number of positives (reward points) your child receives on a weekly basis. We ask that you take the time to review your child's planner each week, discuss the information with them and sign in the relevant section. Your child's form tutor will be doing the same every week and will contact you to discuss this on a regular basis.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance to school is of paramount importance. I am pleased to report that overall attendance is way above national average figures for the period from September to December 2021. On a similar note being punctual to school in the morning and to lessons is important too. Please speak to your child about attendance and punctuality as this is something that we will be doing too, rewarding the students that continue to get this right and ensuring students are deliberately late to lessons receive a detention.



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January Reopening Plan

I have already communicated separately regarding what days and times students will return in January, however please be aware again that in order to ensure the safe return of all students and staff in January we will need to do this in a staggered approach. All students and staff should be tested prior to starting back full time and only do so once a negative lateral flow test result is confirmed. On returning to the academy all staff and students must wear a face covering when in communal areas such as corridors and hallways. Any changes to the guidance over the holiday will be communicated separately.

Year group	Tuesday 4/1/2022	Wednesday 5/1/2022	Thursday 6/1/2022	Friday 7/1/22
11	TESTING 9am- 11.30am	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons
12, 13	TESTING 1pm- 3.30pm	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons
7	Not in school	TESTING 9am- 11.30am	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons
10	Not in school	TESTING 1pm-3.30pm	In school normal lessons	In school normal lessons
8	Not in school	Not in school	TESTING 9am- 11.30am	In school normal lessons
9	Not in school	Not in school	TESTING 1pm- 3.30pm	In school normal lessons

Once again thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a nice Christmas and I look forward to catching up with you all in the new year.

Yours sincerely



Mr R McGinty

Headteacher



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