



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

20 January 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to you with a very brief update, after our first full week back after the Christmas break.

Hopefully you will have heard from your child that we have raised the bar on standards yet higher. That said, we reflected towards the end of last term that basic standards of behaviour had declined a little and that some work would be needed to reiterate expectations and reassure our community of our ambitious intentions.

Staff received training before this term started, during which our expectations were re-emphasised and methods for responding to poor behaviour far more quickly were put into place. Furthermore, last term we introduced far better systems for tackling uniform issues and clamped down on the use of mobile phones during the school day. We do not believe in a zero tolerance mentality; far from it, but we do believe in our wonderful students' ability to get it right most of the time. In fact, for many, to get it right all of the time.

We really do hope that your child is saying one of two things, or even both:

- "School is really strict", or
- "lessons are miles better"

Every student in the School has raised their own standards this term. Every year group was congratulated in assemblies last week and we have asked students to give careful thought to what they are most proud of. Positive behaviours are a keen focus for the School and we truly believe by developing our key virtues and instilling these behaviours into our students, they will undoubtedly be successful in their futures. This is why we are working hard to continue to develop our house-based reward point system: we recognise our students every day and they receive eight times as many house points (HP) compared to sanctions (B). Your support in this would be very welcome; many of our students are far too modest!

The School's journey of improvement has been rapid. The previous Headteacher, Angela Wells, and her team did some fantastic work in putting some urgently needed basics into place. The current team of staff have the privilege of cementing those improvements, and taking the School even further forward.

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*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at [kbones@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:kbones@buckinghamsschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



We are so proud of our School, and we are looking forward to the School's growth (in every sense) continuing to be acknowledged by our fantastic community. It is good to be able to say that the future of Buckingham is safe in the hands of the young people we have the privilege of working with!

Your continued support of the School, as we strive to constantly raise standards is valued very much indeed. Success is for ALL.

Yours faithfully



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

[aallen@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:aallen@buckinghamschool.org)

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