

## THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

An Ofsted Graded Good School

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

20th October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to address an important matter regarding our school's toilet facilities.

Throughout this term, we have made sincere efforts to operate the toilet system that we have previously communicated to you. We have implemented various measures to ensure the cleanliness, safety and availability of our School's toilets for our students. However, despite our best intentions, we have encountered ongoing challenges that are impacting both staff productivity and the educational environment for our students.

We have noticed that many students are using the toilets far too often when it is not absolutely necessary. This frequent use has, regrettably, been consuming an excessive amount of staff time and resources, which could otherwise be dedicated to their primary roles in ensuring the wellbeing and education of your children.

In order to maintain the improved cleanliness, safety, and functionality of our toilet facilities, we find it necessary to take further steps. Starting from 31<sup>st</sup> October, students will no longer have access to the toilets during lesson times, unless they possess a valid medical card. This includes both long standing medical cards as well as temporary ones issued for various reasons.

If you believe your child requires a temporary medical card for any reason, please email <u>medical@buckinghamschool.org</u> or have your child visit the Medical Room to request one from our Medical Officer, Mrs. Brookfield, which will be issued for a fixed period of time, depending on the need. We will have one toilet open, located next to the Medical Room, for the exclusive use of students with valid medical cards and will be accessible to them all day.

We understand that this decision may be disappointing, but it aligns with measures taken by many local schools facing similar challenges. Our primary goal is to maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all students and these steps are essential to achieving that.

We sincerely hope that, by taking these measures, we can continue to provide a clean, safe, and functional toilet environment for our students, while also allowing our staff to focus on their core responsibilities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Yours faithfully,

<u>Mrs E Curtis</u> Assistant Headteacher

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 finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.