



21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we are busily planning changes which will aim to continue to address the concerns that we have all shared, regarding behaviour this year. We are on the cusp of great things as a School and this is a key focus for next year. Ofsted were so pleased with the School overall and highly impressed with our plans to restore behaviour to the levels that we had started to become used to.

As we focus on behaviour and safe routines in September 2023, there are some headlines that I would like to draw your attention to.

### **Uniform for September 2023**

New Year 7 and Year 8 students will be wearing the new Uniform in full.

Years 9 - 11 will be allowed to wear any existing items of uniform for as long as they fit and are in good condition. This is because of the need to avoid wasting money and environmental responsibility.

All unbranded items must follow the Uniform Policy; the most obvious change is skirts must be pleated, knee length and worn to the knee.

See <https://www.buckinghamsschool.org/ouruniform>

### **Incorrect Uniform**

The School has a wide range of strategies for students who do not have the correct uniform. We expect home-school partnership on uniform matters and good communication about issues that your child may have with uniform. As part of our focus on standards, we are deploying new systems which will monitor uniform far more rigorously than ever before.

See <https://www.buckinghamsschool.org/ouruniform>

### **Behaviour Policy**

There are substantial planned changes to our Behaviour Policy, including our daily routines. These are the result of feedback gathered over the last twelve months from students, staff, parents and external evaluation (including Ofsted).

The students are being briefed on an overview of the changes before the summer. We will need to have the Policy formally approved by our Governors, before we can share it with you.

### **Student Toilet Use**

We have introduced "toilet cards" this term and this has had a significant impact on the safe running of our School day. However, we wish to provide our students with clean and well-maintained toilets. Therefore, we will be controlling carefully which toilets students can access during lesson times.

## **Student Morning Briefings**

Every day, School gates will close at 8.30am. After this time, your child will need to enter via Student Reception. Lateness to School will be monitored closely.

Every morning, at 8.35am, students will attend a morning Student Briefing, led by their Head of Year, Mrs Curtis or myself. During this briefing they will be kept up to date with what is happening in School, the highlights of the previous day, changes to the current day (such as absent teachers) and more.

## **Consistency**

As a school, we recognise that the way in which we deal with students and events in the School day could be more consistent. Consistency supports our students in being successful. We are working hard as a school to ensure the expectations are the same across the whole School day, including a great deal of staff training. What staff will see as consistency, students will see as fairness.

## **Unacceptable Parental Behaviour**

The majority of our community have offered us tremendous support, throughout an incredibly challenging year. However, a small but growing number of incidents of unacceptable behaviour and role-modelling have taken place this year.

Our new Communications Policy, which is due to be agreed with Governors in September, clarifies with staff that it is their right to terminate meetings and telephone calls during which they are not being afforded the respect that they deserve. I am asking staff to forward all rude/abusive emails to me.

We have a duty to respond to your concerns or complaints. The nature of complaints is that they are often made in circumstances which are upsetting for families. However, the whole community are expected to model to our Virtues of Ambition, Confidence, Curiosity, Empathy, Integrity, Resilience and Respect.

## **Finally**

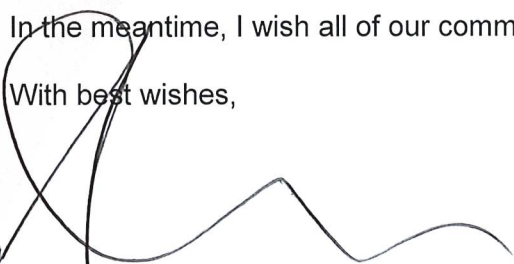
We haven't been graded Ofsted Good three times in a row by accident. These judgements are hard won and are the result of consistent year on year improvement. However, please do not think for a second that the School believes that its journey is completed.

We are committed to delivering your child an incredible year of education and opportunity in 2023/24, delivered in a calm and purposeful environment. We have worked incredibly hard to give our School firm foundations and the capacity to fly.

Next year, we will fly.

In the meantime, I wish all of our community a safe and happy summer.

With best wishes,



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

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