



3rd June 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Start of New Half term / Student Expectations / Zoning in unstructured times, BREAK Time

This morning in assembly I spoke about mutual respect and the warm, welcoming and friendly school we are striving to be - where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

At the start of this half term we have introduced a change to how students are located during unstructured times, with different zones, for different year groups, at break and lunch time. I wrote to parents outlining the plans before half term and tutors spoke to students about it before the break too, but this morning, in assemblies we reiterated the reasons for this change, that I know will be difficult for some to adjust to.

Primarily, it is in response to the voice of the students, which has repeatedly said that at break and lunchtimes, at times, students do not feel safe – and particularly younger students in the same areas as the older students. Giving separate spaces for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 supports this, but also, as has been the case in the mornings at the start of the day, the students in specified area, with greater numbers of duty staff will also mean that students can access support more readily when they need it and staff can intervene more quickly if, as on occasion, can be the case, students come into conflict with each other. This has also been an opportunity to reiterate what our expectations are of students during break time.

- B – BOUNDARIES: respect personal boundaries. No unnecessary physical contact. We leave space between us in the queue.
- R – RESPECT: we have respectful conversations that are polite and considerate of the wishes of all those who can hear us.
- E – ENVIRONMENT: we clean, respect and tidy our school environment
- A – ACCEPTANCE: we accept other people have different opinions, manners and approaches. We do not create conflict and drama.
- K – KINDNESS: we include all students including those who are new, shy or alone. We smile: we are warm, welcoming and friendly in body language, tone of voice and facial expression.

TIME: we are on time for our next lesson.

Toilets

As well as this change, we will shortly be opening our new Toilets in B Block. These are also in response to student voice and part of our action to provide better facilities for the students to go to the toilet, facilities that are clean and where students feel safe. We will be explaining the expectations for their use before they are opened so they can positively impact upon the students experience of school.

We will still be using the other toilet facilities around the school – these are an addition to what is already in place as oppose to a replacement.

Parental engagement- Parent Forums, PTA, Concerts, Parents Evenings etc.

I have talked a lot to our students lately about our community, our respect for each other and our shared values and I wanted to start this half term again, talking to you as key members of that school community. It has been great to meet some of you at parents evenings, parent forums, concerts and events like the PTA quiz before half term however, I do want to invite you to engage with us more and not just when things are not going to plan, when there is an issue or concern, but to also engage when there isn't. When there are successes to be shared and celebrated, or community events like Warlstock, our summer music festival for parents/carers and students to get involved in! Despite there being parents forums on a regular basis, turnout has not been high and I would like to hear your views and answer your questions, so please get in touch and let us know what you think might support more parents coming into the school to engage with us.

Finally from me, a plea in the current economic climate, not all students have access to laptops or other methods of accessing the Internet, which is a significant and important part of the way students develop as young people these days. We have been looking at how digital poverty impacts on students, with the aim of providing those in need laptops where we can. If you have a laptop that you could donate to the school so that it could be repurposed for engagement and use from a student, then we would be grateful if you would consider donating it to the school. Any donations would be very welcome and appreciated. If you are part of a company or business that are upgrading their IT hardware and are happy to donate old laptops to us, there would be very gratefully received, in order to support those students in our community who don't have access to laptops and the digital world that is so important for their learning and future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Foster

Headteacher