



12th September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Just a brief message from me for today with more to come later this week and next week.

I have concentrated on a number of key messages in assemblies this week, including how we demonstrate genuine mutual respect. By using **STEPS**, Miss, or a name, thank you, excuse me, please. To being warm, welcoming and friendly in our body language, our tone of voice, our facial expressions, which students have been doing fantastically this week. It been a real pleasure to welcome them back to school and to see students displaying these behaviours. But also how we give 100% focus, making sure we **SLANT**, we **Sit up**, we **Listen**, we **Ask** and **Answer** questions, we **Never** interrupt and we **Track** the speaker. When **MOVING WELL** around the school, we make sure we are punctual, when we **Walk**, we keep our **Eyes** to the front, noise to a **Low level** when we stay to the **Left** so that everybody gets to where they need to be safely, comfortably and on time.

As well as those reminders to students, I have also talked about the importance of attendance. We have just had a set of results for our Year 11 and Year 13 students and the biggest factor in the success of students in terms of their attainment across the board, has been their attendance figure.

We know that students who attend school, who are in lessons and who are there on time and focused on their learning, are achieving superbly well. I have talked to students about how important it is that they make sure that they do everything they can to be in school, to be on time, to focus in their learning so that they too can experience the success that a number of our students did this coming summer, setting themselves up for an excellent future.

I've also finally talked in the in assemblies about **SHAPE**. I have spoken about shape with students before, but for those parents who are new to the school, **SHAPE** stands for using full **Sentences**, keeping our **Hands** out of pockets and away from our mouths, when we speak, we **Articulate** our words as clearly as we can, **Projecting** our voices confidently as we can, and keep our **Eyes** towards the person that we are talking to.

Now I talked about that previously about how that this can enable our students to overcome sometimes the disadvantages they have versus students who go to independent schools, who are given that confidence to be able to speak meaningfully and confidently, in any set of circumstances.

While it is a really important factor in why we are helping support students by repeatedly encouraging them to think how to give their answer in a full sentence and to do the elements of **SHAPE**, I have also talked to students about the impact on our future life and wellbeing. Children with good language skills, achieve better results, have higher rates of school enjoyment and confidence. They're also far less likely to suffer mental health difficulties and have more job prospects. The ability to express how we feel to others and our ability to listen confidently and communicate well, makes such a difference in the future and as a result, while it's a simple thing, I have expressed to the students how important it is that we continue to work hard to give them as much practise of this as possible and to set them up for success in the future.

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Tandridge Learning Trust

I wanted to give you that feedback, so that you can support those messages and encourage those things at home, as well as at school, in support of achieving the very best for your child.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher