



Ref: Letters/027/bd

26th February 2023

Dear Families

We hope you have enjoyed a restful weeks' break and your child is looking forward to returning to school next week. When we return to school, the following will remain in place:

- All students will be expected to be equipped for their lessons. Students will be expected to have a pencil case with two black pens, two pencils and a ruler for every lesson. First, we will provide all students with the necessary equipment. If a student loses or forgets their equipment, they can purchase replacements at the start of each school day.
- All students are expected to have a school bag with enough room to hold their equipment, schoolbooks, revision guides and PE kit when needed. Handbags will not be allowed.
- Mobile phones are not allowed at any point during the school day. They must be switched off before a student enters school. Any mobile phone seen or heard will be confiscated until the end of the school day. This includes phones visible in the shirt or front of blazer pockets.

Why are we doing this?

- To provide an education for all students, free from disruption, that enables the school to focus on raising academic standards and whole school continuous improvement.
- Ensure that students in our school receive the same opportunities and support as those in our highest performing schools, and that excellent student behaviour is central to achieving that aim.
- Ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.
- Recent research has discovered a negative relationship between mobile phone usage and students' academic performance; such that every 100 minutes that a student spends using their phone a day, lead to the student dropping 6.3 places in terms of their academic school ranking. This effect was doubled when the students used their phone whilst actually in class.
- Any student arriving to lesson without the correct equipment, without a suitable school bag or who has their phone confiscated, may be placed in the Reflection Room.

We also wanted to reassure parents that some of the activities featured in the news will not affect your child's education. You may have seen that in several schools up and down the country, students have decided to disrupt the school day, cause damage to the building and its surroundings and attempt to intimidate other students and staff. This unjustified behaviour is related to disliking common expectations of behaviour and conduct in the schools featured in the news. Thankfully, our student body is respectful of others and would not engage in such activities during the school day. However, if your child is concerned that a small minority of students may wish to engage in intimidation or disruption, please encourage them to speak to any staff member. This will help us to ensure that any student making such poor choices will be swiftly given the sanction that their behaviour merits.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

S Fletcher

Mr S Fletcher
Vice Principal

Principal Mrs C Coy