

WEST HILL SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to provide you with some information, some new strategies we are implementing this year, some reminders in relation to our expectations and also some key dates in the coming weeks.

GCSE Results Update

You may recall that in my first letter I provided you with some information regarding the new main performance measure the government and OfSTED will use to judge the quality of education a school provides its pupils.

This new measure is progress 8. Today 13th October 2016 the government have published provisional information in relation to this for all schools nationally. You can find details regarding our progress 8 figure by following the link below.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=357&geographic=la&phase=secondary>

New Awards and Sanctions System

For a school to be successful it is vitally important to maintain high standards of behaviour. To ensure that this occurs, our school has a behaviour policy which describes what the school expects in terms of standards and the strategies we employ to promote high standards of behaviour through an effective rewards and sanctions system.

Towards the end of the last academic year we began to review our behaviour policy. As part of this review we revised part of our sanctions policy and implemented a new sanction which is called the **Protecting Learning Detention**. A letter was sent out to all parents and the system was implemented at the end of last term. Any boy whose behaviour warrants him being removed from a lesson or whose behaviour is such that it disrupts the learning of others in 2 or more lessons but comes short of having to be removed will receive a **Protecting Learning Detention**. These are on after school the Tuesday of the following week and attendance is mandatory.

Alongside this we have been developing a system to recognise those boys who demonstrate all the behaviours we expect consistently. This is called the '**Praise Awards System**'. The praise award system will recognise those boys who consistently demonstrate the 6 P's as we believe the 6 P's encapsulates everything we expect of our boys and will ensure they progress both academically and socially.

The 6 P's are:

- Politeness (treat everyone with respect and courtesy)
- Presentation (high standards both in appearance and standard of work)



- Punctuality (to school and to all lessons)
- Preparation (both in terms of equipment, books and the correct attitude to learning)
- Participation (including attendance and playing an fully active role in lessons)
- Perseverance (keep try their hardest especially when things become difficult)

The first part of the system is a '**Form Tutor Praise Award**' and this award will be given weekly to boys who have received no behaviour incidents in the previous week recorded in our behaviour management system, have 100% attendance for that week and have perfect punctuality that week. Parents and carers will know if a 'Form Tutor Praise Award' has been given because each week the boys' planner will be stamped by the form tutor instead of being signed. Those boys who do not fulfil the criteria will have their planner signed as it was previously. **Please remember it is expected that parents/carers sign boys' planners each week for when boys return to school after the weekend.** Over time boys will accrue 'Form Tutor Praise Awards' which will then be totalled up and when boys achieve specific numbers of 'Form Tutor Praise Award' they will receive a bronze, silver, gold or platinum commendation badge.

As well as Form Tutor Praise Awards there are Heads of Year, Senior Leader, Headteacher and Chair of Governor Praise Awards. Further details of the system are available on our website.

Expectations

Appearance

Thank you to all those parents/carers who ensure that the boys arrive to school every day in full school uniform and that the boys adhere to our exacting standards in term of their appearance. If any parent or carer is unclear about what is and what is not acceptable in relation to uniform or appearance please refer to our website and the letter I sent at Easter 2016. If you remain unclear please call the school and ask to speak to the relevant Head of Year.

Mobile Phones

- School is NOT responsible for individuals' personal mobile devices being damaged, lost or stolen. Items are brought to school at the individuals' own risk.
- All Personal Mobile Devices should be switched off at all times and stored in the pupil's bag or Blazer pocket whilst on the school grounds or on a school organised activity off-site, except when explicit permission has been given by a member of staff.
- If a member of staff has given permission for the use of Personal Mobile Devices, they MUST only be used as directed by the member of staff and their use MUST comply with the School's ICT Policies.

Sanctions for the unauthorised use of Personal Mobile Devices

- In the first instance pupils will be asked to turn off their Personal Mobile Device and put it away.
- If the pupil fails to turn off the device and put it away or is a persistent offender, the device will be confiscated immediately and kept in the school safe until written permission for the return from the pupil's Parents/Carers is brought into school. Devices will not be returned before the end of the school day.
- Repeat occurrences will result in longer periods of confiscation and the pupil being referred to their Head of Year

Food and drinks in School

I would like parents to be aware that a significant number of boys are buying large packets of crisps, sweets, biscuits and sugary and/or caffeinated drinks on the way to school, possibly with money provided by you for your son's lunch.



We want our pupils to make healthy sensible choices for themselves but clearly some pupils are not spending their lunch money on items that we as a school and I am sure parents would approve of. Our catering service offers a range of choices that complies with government advice on food in schools. Parents can monitor what their son(s) spend their money on through our online system; pupils are also welcome to bring packed lunches and healthy snacks from home if they so choose.

Several studies have shown that as well as other longer term negative health effects, drinks and snacks high in sugar and/or caffeine can have a negative impact on the concentration and learning of young people. Therefore, drinks high in sugar or caffeine, large packets of crisps, sweets and biscuits are unsuitable due to the potential adverse effect they can have on overall health, learning and behaviour of the boys. From our return after half term we will not expect to see such items in school. Please support us in encouraging your son to develop healthy and sensible choices

End of the School Day

I should like to emphasise that the great majority of boys will be released at the end of afternoon school at approximately 2.55 pm. There are, however, occasions when your son will need to see a subject teacher about work or a Form Tutor or a Head of Year about problems or concerns. This is of benefit to him. Please do not, therefore, make medical, dental or other appointments until after 3.05 pm.

The roads around school are often very congested and potentially dangerous. In order to make the school environment as safe as possible, I should like to ask parents who pick their son up at the end of the school day to park on Norman Road, Stamford Grove or Astley Road. Please do not drive onto the school site.

Half Term

I should like to remind you that school will close for the half term break on Friday 21st October at 2.55pm and reopen on Monday 31st October at 8.45 am.

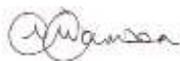
Foodbank - Non-Uniform Day

Following the success of our Foodbank – Non-Uniform Day we intend to hold a non-uniform day on the last day of this half term, Friday 21st October for the local Foodbank in Stalybridge (Tameside East Foodbank).

Boys are invited to attend school in their own clothes and bring in tins of food, coffee, tea bags, rice, pasta or breakfast cereals as a donation.

Finally, whichever year your son is in, please encourage him to engage in as many activities as possible and work hard at all times. By doing this he will achieve his best.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. A. F. Harrison

Headteacher

