



Dear Parents/Carers,



There has been much to celebrate over the last few weeks in school. As you may have seen from our social media updates this has been a particularly exciting week in school. We have seen teams out of school representing us in swimming, dance, public speaking and Boccia. I cannot tell you how much positive feedback we receive when we send our learners out into the community.



Kindness

Recently I put out a plea to find three of our young people who had come to the rescue of a member of our community who had fallen. The post gained over 300 likes on Facebook. This fantastic three have now been found and I look forward to meeting with them next week to thank them personally for their kindness. I was also chatting with a parent at our Parent Forum on Monday (where I would love to meet more of you). Her child had recently joined the school and had remarked on the kindness of others when starting with us. I am always pleased to be reminded that “Look After Each Other” is more than a few words on a flag!



Arbor

Thank you for your understanding whilst we all get to grips with the new MIS. For those parents who have not managed to get their children logged onto the app, support is on its way in school over the coming weeks. We are reviewing our communication systems as this is one area where staff and parents feel we are currently missing Synergy.



Basic Standards in School

The overwhelming majority of our young people present and behave well every day. However, it is the job of a teenager to push boundaries. You will know this; you live with them. Thus, I am asking for some parental support in raising standards on two key areas.



Uniform - Most present very well. There has been a marked increase in the wearing of “Christmas gift trainers” since the snow. Please support us in ensuring that full uniform is worn for school. We are also raising expectations around wearing hats and having hoods up inside the building. Hooded youths carry many negative connotations and is not appropriate for school. Form Tutors will check uniform every day.

Mobile Phones -Our biggest challenge with mobile phones remains that parents contact their children on their phones during the school day, by text and by calling them. When this happens, it is incredibly unhelpful. It is never OK. Our learners have transitioned into a no phones policy well, although over recent weeks there has been a surge in usage at social times and during lessons. Until now we have avoided adding sanctions for phone use and politely requested that they are





simply put away. This is now declining in effectiveness. From Monday Form Tutors will facilitate the turning off of mobile phones as per our policy and phones seen during the day will be confiscated. Thank you to the parents who have supported us by installing apps that enable parental control of phones during the school day.



Knowledge Organisers / Curriculum

As I have walked the school this year I have been delighted to see continued improvement in the quality of classroom teaching. I am seeing a real push towards our learners taking ownership of their own progress. I am thrilled with the work done to improve our curriculum at Key Stage 3 over the last twelve months. Our spring term knowledge organisers have now been shared with learners – I would love for parents to have a look too. These booklets are great for supporting parents in testing for end of unit assessments. Full details of our curriculum can be found on the [website here](#).



With thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr N S Coe
Headteacher

