



July 2016

Dear parents/carers,

Notes from the parents' forum Tuesday June 21st 2016

We had another very well attended meeting of the parents' forum on Tuesday 21st June.

The meeting started with myself, as Headteacher, and the Chair of Governors, Crispin Truman, giving outlines of the progress of the school this year. This covered achievements of our students, implementation of the new curricula and the increased involvement of our students, parents and staff in consultation about our school. We also briefed parents on the school response to the government consultations about fairer funding and the changes to school structures.

The main focus of the meeting was behaviour. Ms Lashley, Assistant Headteacher, presented a summary of the updated behaviour policy which was discussed in groups. We then answered questions (the main questions are below). There was a vibrant discussion about how much flexibility should be allowed students. This linked with use of behaviour points.

The school has definitely and deliberately taken a view that we should have more consistently high expectations of our students at all times. This has been conveyed to students and parents. Some behaviours which previously might have been allowed are being picked up; this is resulting in a minority of students getting multiple detentions, linked to behaviour points. Parents had a variety of views about this – with some wanting more flexibility and others wanting more rigour. The school is clear that we will adhere to high expectations which we want to be firmly backed up by all parents.

The school position continues to be that no student should be disrupting the education of others. We use a clear system of setting expectations and of warning students where necessary. Being an inclusive school, we will always consider those with special educational needs and make sure our approach is appropriate. The vast majority of students have no behaviour points and many have less than 5. We are determined that the very great majority of lessons should be progressing with no disruption – and that we want every student to develop as someone who knows how to persevere, how to be patient and how to learn with others.

Rewards were also discussed and the school will continue to issue rewards to those who show excellent attitudes to learning. This is an aspect that will be promoted more during the next academic year.

Parents were very helpful in offering to feed back on the behaviour policy.

Our thanks to all parents/carers and governors who attended.

Please do contact myself or Ms Lashley if you have any questions or queries about behaviour.

Best wishes,

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There were a number of questions asked and the main ones are below with answers:

How are parents informed about any behaviour incidents their child is involved in?

No news is good news generally. If a student had breached the behaviour policy the member of staff involved will phone home or email to inform the parents. Where a student has multiple incidences of this (more than 5 behaviour points) the form tutor will phone home and put the student on report. Where there are more than 10 behaviour points for a student the Head of Year will contact the parents/carers to arrange a meeting.

What positive steps are taken to instil respect for all staff among the students?

We value every member of staff. We make it clear to all students via assemblies and induction meetings that they are expected to follow instructions of any staff member without question (unless it seems unsafe). We also empower and train all staff in dealing with students.

I am not sure that repeated detentions are effective for my child. What else can be done?

Detentions are effective for a majority of students. However we recognise that for some students they do not form a sufficient deterrent for the student to alter their behaviour. We think that the discussions which are had by the adult and the parent/carer with the child are most important in developing a shared understanding. Clear boundaries for behaviour which are agreed between school and home are also most important. We do need parents to be clear with their child that disruption to the class is not acceptable. For students who have real difficulty in controlling their behaviour to the extent that they may be excluded we do offer some mentoring.

What is the no touching rule?

We need everyone to move quickly, quietly and directly to and from lessons. Some students had been walking arm in arm to lessons – this slows them down and slows others. In some other cases a small number of students had “play-slapped” others: we absolutely want to prevent this. Malicious or unwanted hitting/touching is obviously not allowed.