



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on our progress so far this year with the Character and Culture programme and to ask for your continued support. As per our improvement plan we have launched this with our students and they have decided in their PSCHEE lessons that their key Character and Culture words for this year are self-discipline, resilience, compassion, courage, honesty and creativity. To further develop these skills we have even more clubs running this year and a refashioned, vibrant school council has also been re-launched. Our new Year 11 leaders have been inspiring us all with how they have managed their duties and roles and they have this week had some brilliant “talk the talk” training from outside agencies on how to be an engaging speaker and leader. Our Year 8s have really helped the Year 7s settle well including supporting them at lunch clubs and helping them follow the one way system to stay safe at busy changeover times. All in all a really positive start showing great Character and Culture but we still have a way to go to extend our expectations and standards.

Next half term we are having a rolling programme of focussing on different school culture issues. The first week is uniform then it will be punctuality which are both key areas of ‘self-discipline’. Our uniform policy is on the website and has not changed since the information booklet link was sent out via ParentMail in the summer. As I am sure you will be aware the vast majority of our students are really smart and wear their uniform with pride but, unfortunately, we have noticed this half term standards starting to drop such as jewellery creeping in. This half term students have been stopped and warned but if these issues are not rectified from here on jewellery will be confiscated and in repeated cases of uniform issues the school has the right to exclude students from school. This is not something any headteacher wants to do but standards and consistency are paramount so I am requesting you support us and your child by carefully checking all aspects of their uniform in the half term break to ensure it meets our expectations.

In week 2 after half term similar high expectations will be prevalent for punctuality. Being on time is a key habit for life and employment and one we really push. Students late to lessons miss vital teaching time and in turn they disturb the class as they arrive. Again, it is only a very small minority but please be aware that pupils late regularly will also face serious sanctions to change their habit/culture so that all our students can start their learning on time and not be disturbed. Further pushes on litter, what Ofsted labelled “tomfoolery” and other aspects of minor, low level behaviour around the school will follow on a weekly basis until we are “outstanding” in all aspects of behaviour. Our exam results are some of the best around and the climate for learning in lessons is really good but we can still improve some of our interactions as we move around the building.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Best wishes

John Watson
Headteacher