

Monday, 27 June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week sees the bulk of the external exam season draw to a close. I am so proud of our Year 11 and 13 students for the incredible dedication and resilience they have shown not just through this exam period, but the whole of their studies. We wish them a fantastic summer break and all the best for the future and look forward to welcoming many on the Year 11 students to our college next year.

Without doubt, their departure enables us to focus more intensely on a smaller number of year groups with extra staffing capacity. Consequently, we will be using the remaining weeks of term to uplift all areas of our practice to lead to high standards of learning.

We have listened to the voices of all stakeholders, most recently the students, and have devised a plan to take standards of behaviour to new heights at Toot Hill School. Every student is entitled to learn without disruption in every lesson and to feel safe at school at all times. At Toot Hill, we want every child to achieve more than they ever thought possible and we can only secure this aim by ensuring we achieve incredible levels of student behaviour. Our students have made a clear statement through the survey and meetings that they want our school to be more firm and ensure fairness whilst praising and rewarding the majority of our students who consistently behave impeccably.

As ever, your support is crucial to achieve our ambitious aims. I am informing students of the key elements of our behaviour drive on Monday morning but by sharing these elements here, I ask that you talk through these points with your child to support them make a great end to the academic year.

Uniform

We continue to set the highest of expectations of our students. The uniform is designed to be a visual representation of our school culture and it effectively supports a safe and purposeful climate for learning. Students will be sanctioned if:

- They do not wear their blazers in accordance with school rules (exceptions will be made on very hot days)
- School shoes are not worn
- Skirts are too short (more than 5 cm above the knee) or are not regulation school skirts
- Shirts are purposefully untucked

In addition, we will confiscate earrings at the start of the school day. School uniform should be worn correctly before entering the school site, which means correcting it on The Banks if entering the school by this access point.

As ever, please contact your child's tutor if there is any reason why your child cannot comply with our school uniform for medical or other reasons.

PE Kit

All Year 9 and 10 students should arrive and leave school in their school uniform every day. Year 7 and 8 students will be advised when they can attend school in their PE kits. It is completely unacceptable for a student to arrive in their PE kit because of hot weather.

Please note that next year, because of increased changing room capacity and the relaxation of Covid-19 precautions, all students must arrive at school in their uniform.

Punctuality

Lateness to lessons not only negatively impacts on the learning of the late student, it disrupts the learning of the whole class. For this reason, students arriving more than 5 minutes late to lesson, with no valid reason, will be sent to our Reset Room (RR) for the remainder of the period.

Vaping

Unfortunately, a small number of students have recently brought vaping materials into school. We would like to reiterate to students that you must be 18 to legally buy and use vapes in this country. Students found with vaping materials in school will be placed in ICE for an extended school day or at a partnership school. Items will be confiscated, and parents/carers will have to collect them or they will be disposed of.

Climbing Over School Fences and Gates

Safeguarding our students is our ultimate priority. If students climb over our safeguarding line, whether during school or at the end of the school day, they will be included as a minimum sanction. It is imperative that we know that students are on school site during the school day and that no student would risk serious injury by climbing the school fences and gates.

Recognising and Rewarding Great Behaviour

The vast majority of our students behave impeccably every single day. We intend to focus on their great behaviour and recognise it through a number of means:

- Personal praise
- Credits
- Achievement assemblies and rewards with these taking place before the end of term
- Hot chocolate with the Head
- Star of the lesson award
- Postcards/phone calls home

At Toot Hill, we aim for the social norm to be exemplary behaviour at all times of the school day and it is crucial that we highlight this great behaviour to our students to ensure a positive learning experience.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated support. I look forward to an exceptional end of term for all our students and staff.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher