



11th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you at the start of the final term of the academic year, with a few important reminders and key messages.

Our Year 11 and 13 students are well into the exam season now. It has of course been very tough for our students having missed vital time during the pandemic. To this point I congratulate them on their efforts and hard work.

During the summer term there will be some important events for example Progress Review Day on **Thursday 27th June** when you must come to school to meet your child's tutor to review the academic year and set targets for next. There will of course be Rewards Evening, Year 9 Graduation and Sports Day to highlight a few. I very much look forward to seeing you at these events.

During this term we will hopefully experience some warmer weather. Students should bring water (only water) to school. We are clear that students should not participate in water fights or bring water pistols into school. Anyone that does so will be sanctioned accordingly. Water is essential and precious, so must not be wasted and only used for drinking.

I must also remind you of some key uniform standards. If the weather is warm students may leave jumpers at home but must wear ties, shirts tucked in and blazers. Trousers or skirts must be grey. Jewellery is not permitted and earrings must be small plain studs. Painted nails are also prohibited. Shoes must be black and not trainers or canvas. Heads of Years will be contacting families if uniform is not correct and sanctions will be applied. We can of course support families with uniform if needed, so please contact us at the school.

You will be aware that there has been a great deal of coverage in the news regarding smart phones. Our policy is clear but I must reinforce some points:

- Mobile phones are to be turned off and out of sight for the school day.
- Parents should contact the office if you need to get an important message to your child.
- If phones are seen in school then they will be confiscated and parents will have to collect them.

I totally understand the need for our children to have phones as a safety measure. However, I do encourage you to consider the access and use of smart phones and social media. Sadly, across our society young people are feeling that social media platforms are impacting on their mental well-being and causing incidents of bullying. We must work together on this for the benefit of our children. Firstly, this means parents supporting and upholding the school policy and at home reducing the time your child is on social media, monitoring and discussing what they are doing online. At the same time, we would encourage students to engage with recommended reading and activities that support academia and well-being. We will be producing further guidance on this throughout the next academic year.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. I will be writing again this term with further information regarding the new academic year. Finally, a reminder of my Headteacher Surgeries dates this term:

- Thursday 20th June – 9.00am – 10.30am at Byron Street Reception
- Thursday 18th July – 9.00am – 10.30am at Byron Street Reception

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. Langham
Headteacher