



21st November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I thought I would take this opportunity to write to you to share some reminders but also to ask for your support.

I am delighted that we have seen a strengthening of the communication between home and school. Our curriculum evenings have been well attended and the feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. This is great news and I know from talking to many of you that you appreciate the time and effort our staff make to share information. I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to join our social media on Facebook as we share a great deal of our events, celebrations and news via that platform. I appreciate that not everyone has Facebook so we also send much of it through our termly newsletters.

In regards to email communication, staff are always happy to communicate in this way as it is often easier for both the member of staff and parent. However, it is important that staff are able to strike some work/home balance so I ask that these are kept to a minimum out of school hours. I know that this is not always possible, but please be patient if you have contacted out of school hours so that staff can respond during their working day.

Nationally, there appears to be a worrying trend in poor behaviour in schools. We are seeing this in society in general and it is starting to appear in schools. The vast majority of our students are well mannered and polite but I wanted to raise to your attention that it is important that we are all asking young people to make an extra effort to engage positively with staff, each other and members of the public.

I regularly meet with parents whose children have not engaged positively with school and too often the response is directed at the fact that a member of staff has asked a student to do something that they do not want to do. Focus is given to the teacher's response rather than the fact that a young person has demonstrated poor manners, completely ignored the request or spoken in a way that is not acceptable in the first place. Asking a student to put on their blazer or challenging why they are not in a lesson is not disrespectful, it is our job. This is entirely avoidable if a student responds to the very basic request, or, better still, is wearing the correct uniform and in the right lesson at the right time.

Over the coming weeks we will be reminding students that common courtesy and politeness are key to getting ahead in the world. We all need to be engaging positively with each other and this starts with politeness and respect. We will be constantly challenging poor manners, uniform and behaviour, and I hope that you will support us with this.

Yours sincerely

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