

7 February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had another busy term and it has been great to see the students really working hard in lessons. We have been delighted to welcome so many visitors to the school and all of whom have spoken so positively about our school - from the politeness of our students to the challenging work that they are undertaking in lessons. As always, we have our regular newsletter coming out to you all with a celebration of all the wonderful events and achievements we have seen this term - please make sure you take a look.

For years 7-10 & 12, you should receive a report indicating your child's progress across lessons. This will come to you as a paper copy due to the changes to our information system that I outline below - please ask your child for it. We will return to online reports once the new system is in place. Years 11 have just sat mock exams so their information will follow later. Year 13 mocks begin on 26th February.

Change of Information Platform:

For a school to run smoothly, we have a management information system (MIS) that contains all of our information regarding registers, timetables, contact details, and reports. At half term, we will be moving MIS platforms from SIMS to Arbor. This will mean that some of our communication apps for parents will be changing and more details will follow regarding this.

This transition should be seamless but a movement of this size brings its complications. We fully expect the change to go ahead without issue but ask that you bear with us in the first few weeks to ensure that any issues are resolved. I would like to assure parents and carers that the safety and security of students and their data will not be affected.

Standards & Expectations: A reminder.

As a school, over the last 3 years, we have undoubtedly moved forwards as a pastorally and academically successful place to learn. We have done this through clear expectations that both directly and indirectly improve the quality of education provided to our students.

Below are some reminders of the expectations that we have and ask that you support us in reminding students of them regularly.

Behaviour: As you know, at the start of this term, we reviewed and adapted our IER and detention system. This has been really successful and I would like to thank parents for their support of this. We are seeing a dramatic decrease in the use of these interventions due to the collaboration of teachers and parents to ensure that students are taking responsibility for their actions when things are not going well.

Uniform & Equipment: We have seen a considerable amount of trainers and jewellery being worn. Neither of these are acceptable items so I ask that you support us with not allowing students to wear them. Similarly, all students should be coming to school with sufficient equipment - pens, contact books etc. Our equipment expectations can be found [HERE](#).

We have listened to what the students have said to us regarding uniforms and I am delighted that our uniform suppliers, [Caseys](#), have moved from a wool jumper to a sweatshirt material. This will be a gradual phase out of the wool jumper so when the time comes to replace uniforms, students will be able to wear the sweatshirt alternative. This still contains the school logo and enables us to see their ties. We are not expecting parents to replace immediately - only when the need arises to replace. It is also cheaper than the current wool jumper.

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Mobile Phones: We have, for some time now, been a mobile free school. Many schools have since followed our lead and most schools are now mobile free. We took this decision so that children can focus on what is happening in the real world rather than engaging in online or via social media.

Recently we have seen an increase in students trying to use their phones, wearing earbuds and not respecting this important rule that we have in school. I ask that you reiterate with your children that this rule is in place and similarly ask that you do not call/text your child during the day or encourage them to call/text you. Your call to them will not be accepted as a valid excuse to answer or use the phone. If there is an emergency, please call the office and they will get a message to your child.

As a reminder, the first time a phone is confiscated, it can be collected at the end of the day. The second and consequent times, a parent will be asked to collect it.

Vaping: I have written to you previously about my concerns regarding young people vaping. Over the half term we will be installing sensors outside of the toilet doors. They will be triggered as the toilet door opens. As explained previously, we take this matter extremely seriously and will continue to use the full extent of our behaviour policy to address it. We have recently been made aware of 2 sudden deaths within Bexley, attributed to vaping and THC content and so it is important as parents that you have an understanding of this and where to access support.

Children and Young people's services in Bexley:

[Website](#)

- Telephone: 0203 260 5200
- Email: oxl-tr.bexleycamhsreferrals@nhs.net

Further advice and information can be found online at:

- www.talktofrank.com
- www.substancemisuseresources.co.uk

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter when it comes out - it really is a celebration of all the great things happening at Cleeve Park.

Kind regards



Alex O'Donnell
Executive Headteacher