

13th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Our first full week back and how wonderful to have seen such high levels of enthusiasm and engagement from all our students in and outside of the classroom. We have also had our new Heads of Houses lead on inspiring and inspirational assemblies with key messages around connection, belonging and kindness. Throughout this term there are a number of events for you as parents. We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Attendance & Punctuality

A massive thank you for all your support with the new timings of the school day. We have received feedback from students and parents and they are really supportive of the new timings. It has relieved traffic congestion at the start and the end of the school day which is supporting the safeguarding of our students and also that of our neighbouring primary schools. We are also encouraged further by the reduction of students arriving at school late before and after the register has closed.

Truancy

We are closely monitoring truancy within school and we are alerting parents, whose children are registered as being present, that their child has not arrived to their lesson after a 10 minute period. You will receive a text message alerting you to this and we are asking you to contact your child and tell them to make their way to their lesson. Again thank you for your support with this.

Attendance year to date = 95.3%		Persistent Absence year to date =13.2 % [less than 90%]	
Year 7	96.8%	10%	
Year 8	94.9%	12.6%	
Year 9	95.0%	15.5%	
Year 10	95.1%	13.4%	
Year 11	94.1%	15.5%	

Kindness



The Respect BEAT says that all members of the school community are considerate and care about others. We talk about this as Kindness.

This term so far a key message to all members of the school community is about being kind. In particular speaking to one another in a kind way, both in person and online.

This week in house assemblies all students have been encouraged to embrace this when talking to each other

especially within their houses, as well as the adults in the school, and students are regularly reminded “was that kind?”



Please do talk to your child and remind them of the importance of kindness to one another, and how that helps build positive relationships and connection with others. In a world driven by online interactions these face to face skills are so key to their development.

Schoolboy9 concerns

We have been made aware of an account named 'SMARTSCHOOLBOY9' (account handle is schoolboy_o9) that is currently making its way around pupils of secondary school age around the county. It has been on multiple social media platforms, snapchat, tiktok and Instagram.

Please encourage your child not to accept friend requests from people they don't know. Encourage them to ensure their accounts like Snapchat only accept messages from 'Snapchatters' on their 'My Friends' list.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>

Lockers

There are a small number of lockers in use at school. We are currently in the process of refurbishing the lockers that are currently on site. Please can all students who currently use lockers, ensure they are empty by Wednesday 18th September. Once these lockers have been replaced, students will be reissued with a locker number. Please be aware, lockers will be disposed of with any remaining contents.

Toilets

As you are aware we encourage our students to use toilets during lesson changeover, break and lunch times. We understand that students with medical needs need access to toilets at all times and that at times students do need to access a toilet during a lesson. We have introduced this year that if a student uses the toilet during a lesson this is recorded in Bromcom. This supports us in helping to reduce internal truancy and share medical concerns with parents if a student is regularly needing to use the toilets during lesson time. Please be rest assured that students are not being given any negative behaviour points if they do go to the toilet during lessons.

Car Parking/Safeguarding

Please can we ask that parents with car park permits are only permitted to drive onto the school site. We have an issue at present, at the start and end of the day, whereby there have been a significant number of cars in the car park which is a safeguarding issue when the students are arriving and leaving the school site. Some parents are double parking which is causing some disruption in the car park. Thank you for your help and understanding with this.

Future Events

- 17th Sept 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening
- 25th Sept 6.00pm - Sports Tour Parents' Evening
- 26th Sept - Year 7 - Year 11 Flu Vaccination
- 26th Sept 5.00pm - 7.00pm - Open Evening - school closes for students at 12.05pm - home learning will be set for 2 periods
- 3rd Oct 5.30pm - Year 10 Information Evening

With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher