



18th July 2018

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the academic year, and the end of my third week as Headteacher here at The Parker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in ensuring we provide the very best for all of our students. In my short time thus far, I have observed and absorbed, met students and staff and done much thinking. As a result, I will outline some refinements to some structures and systems in the academy, ready for September. This time to observe and absorb, whilst working with staff and students, has enabled these refinements to ensure there is clarity for everyone in order for our academy to go from strength to strength. I have already met with staff to outline these, with a focus on teaching and learning, on culture and character (encompassing the Behaviour Policy) and on how we raise student outcomes.

Behaviour Policy

We have simplified the system and an updated policy will be made available through our website in September. In short, students' conduct in the classrooms will now include the use of 'C' codes (*Consequences*) with three tiers. At C3, the student will receive an automatic detention the following day, during their lunch time. Persistence failure to adhere to school rules will lead to a period of time in IER (Internal Exclusion Room) in which students will be supported in correcting their behaviour, ready to go back into their timetabled lesson. Dangerous and / or outright rude behaviours, including defiance, will lead to an automatic period of time in IER. You will be contacted to update you on your son / daughter's actions; I trust that you support us in these decisions.

Having said that, I am absolute in the fact we should praise students and capture their excellence. The redrafted policy will encompass this so students who exhibit the *right* attitude to learning all the time are recognised and rewarded. The very recent Parker Pride Evening, on Tuesday 17th July, is a real example of showcasing excellence; such events and acknowledgements should be at the heart of our standards we set for learning in the academy.

Uniform

Having observed and spoken to colleagues and some students, I have made the decision that students and families can make their own decision on **one of the two** options on our uniform:

1. Black trousers or a black skirt, white shirt with the top button fastened and a tie, black school blazer **or**
2. Black trousers or a black skirt and the grey polo shirt with the school logo. Please note that if a student is cold, the student must wear the blazer on the polo short; a hoodie / outdoor jacket is **not** permitted.

For both 1. and 2. students must wear:

- a. Suitable black shoes (not boots) in leather type material. "Trainer" type shoes are permitted **only if** they are completely black (including the soles) with absolutely no logos, laces or trim of a different colour. Shoes should not be in suede, canvas or plimsoll material. Before you purchase any new footwear during the summer holidays, please can you ensure to adhere to these expectations.
- b. For students who choose to wear a skirt, this should be **knee-length** and it should **not** be turned up to an inappropriate level.

Furthermore, hair must be worn in an appropriate style that would not undermine the standard set for overall uniform. There must **not** be any brightly dyed hair or any other extreme of fashion; jewellery is restricted to one

pair of small, plain stud earrings and a watch (no nose or other facial piercings of any kind). Again, I trust that you support us in upholding these standards; please check your child upon attending school and support us should we need to contact you about the flouting of the rules.

Reception

From September, the main reception will be the Randolph Building. Parents / Carers may still use the Parker site if they are attending an arranged meeting at that site or picking up a student due to an illness, for example. However, all main queries should be directed to the Randolph Building.

Communication

Should you need to speak to a member of staff, please can you phone the academy and leave a message or, if possible, email the message. Please note, members of staff will respond at their earliest convenience; you cannot and must not expect a response straight away. Our teachers' core purpose of teaching is exactly that; your queries will be responded to but may not be straight away. Please also note that you cannot simply turn up to reception to demand to see a teacher.

Staff

Like each year, some staff move on due to another role, promotion or relocation. Can I thank the following staff for their time, commitment and, in some cases, long services to the academy and we wish them well hereafter: Mrs Ruth Roberts (*Deputy Headteacher*); Mrs Claire Anderson (*History*); Mrs Nicola Parton (*Science*); Miss Leonie McDonagh (*Mathematics*); Mrs Rachel Ferguson (*Food Technology*); Mrs Christine Webster (*Administrator*), Mrs Angela Webb (*Teaching Assistant*); Mrs Ericka Spokes (*Cleaner*). This also includes members of staff who have been here on a shorter term basis: Mrs Toni Tull (*PE*) and Mr Neil Lutgens (*ICT*).

Start of the term 2018/2019

Please see below the key dates for the autumn term:

Tuesday 4th September 2018 - Teacher training day. The academy is closed to students

Wednesday 5th September 2018 - Year 7 and 12 students will be present only

Thursday 6th September 2018 - All years groups are present, dressed correctly, ready to learn

Friday 19th October 2018 - Last day of the half term

Monday 29th October 2018 - Start of the half term

Monday 5th November 2018 - Teacher training day. The academy is closed for students

Wednesday 19th December 2018 - last day of term: Christmas holiday.

Finally, I hope you all have restful and enjoyable summer. I look forward to working with you throughout the next academic year and, together, The Parker will lead to further excellence.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bhavin Tailor