

17th July 2017

Clifford Moor Road
Boston Spa
West Yorkshire
LS23 6RW

Dear Parents/Carers

This is the second of two letters I am writing to describe changes we are making to school as we partner with The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT). My first, dated Friday 14th July, was general in its nature while this one focusses specifically on the impact of the introduction of Positive Discipline (PD). I hope you find this clarity helpful.

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

PD builds respect and positive relationships between students and members of staff which promote outstanding attitudes to learning which ultimately allow progress over time. We believe our students will soon value the PD system because it gives clear boundaries which ensure that students are safe and their well-being is always our top priority. Mrs Ryder will be leading on PD and she has prepared a short booklet on our [website](#) to give you more detail. Staff will be trained in PD before September, and all our young people will have PD assemblies to ensure that, on the first day back, they are confident with the new system.

PLANNERS

When the new planners are distributed at the start of next term you will find them to be very different. As a part of your partnership with us we will expect parents to sign it each week to show that you have talked to your daughter or son about the previous week. The standards of presentation and care for the new planner are very important in PD, so your support for us in making sure that the planner is maintained to an exemplary standard is much appreciated.

MOBILE PHONES

A significant change for our young people within PD will be the TGAT mobile phone policy. Within TGAT academies phones should be neither seen nor heard at any point. Where a student chooses to defy this expectation, the phone will be confiscated and put in the safe for 48 hours. This means that if this occurs on a Thursday, the phone will be returned on Monday. This rule will also apply to 'smart' watches. Thank you for making these new arrangements clear to your daughter or son.

EQUIPMENT

Starting the day with the correct equipment is fundamental to a successful day. Students will need three different pens in each lesson next term. They will work in either blue or black pens, they will respond to marking in green pen, and will complete 'Purple Zone' activities in a purple pen. It is TGAT practice that students have their own English [dictionary](#) (£2.00) and a Casio FX83GT Plus [calculator](#) (£7.49). From September all exercise books will be A4 in size, so when you next come to replace the school bag please make sure it is big enough to carry a selection of A4 books. Thank you in advance for your support with this.



DETENTIONS

In common with other TGAT academies we will not have any detentions during the school day from September. All detentions will be for one hour and take place after school, from 3.00 until 4.00. Mrs Ryder's booklet clearly explains the circumstances in which a child might be given a detention. If detentions after the school day present an inconvenience to you please counsel your son or daughter as to the importance of choosing the right behaviours during the school day.

UNIFORM

The badges on new blazers will say 'Boston Spa Academy'. If you still have good blazers at home that say 'Boston Spa School' on the badge we remain very happy for these to be worn.

SHOES

Every year it is necessary to update our footwear guidance to keep pace with the manufacturers' changing offer. Shoes need to be below the ankle in plain black leather. Shoes with accessories in other colours, such as bows or trims in gold coloured metal, should not be worn for school, and neither should shoes that have brown, or other coloured, soles even if they are black in the main. We do not allow canvas shoes, trainers or pumps (whether fabric or leather). Anything with a visible logo is not allowed, and neither are the branded fashion products including those from Vans, Converse, Kickers, Nicholas Deakins, or Adidas Stan Smith. Please refer to the photographic guidance on our [website](#) if you are unsure.

HAIRCUTS

Our policy on hairstyles is changing to align with that of TGAT. Previously we have said that we do not allow "*extreme hairstyles or unnatural colours*". From September our policy will be more specific and will read, "*Hair styles should not reflect the extremes of 'youth culture', for example, shaved at the sides and longer on the top. Hair should be cut no shorter than number 2 grade and must not have patterns cut into the hair. Colourings should be subtle and only include natural colours*". Thank you in advance for your support in this.

MAKE UP AND PIERCINGS

For reasons of safety we do not allow unnecessary jewellery, however a single stud can be worn in each ear lobe, but these should be removed for PE lessons. No other piercings are allowed. We will continue not to allow excessive make up, and any student in breach of this (including nail varnish and artificial nails) will be required to remove it.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

We will be changing the arrangements for our administrative support for students and contact points for parents. We will be closing our separate Key Stage offices, and opening a 'Student Services' office on the main corridor which will be led by Miss S Rushton. This will be a place from which students can ask for help, purchase any equipment they need, report an illness or contact home. We will also be opening an Attendance Office which will be led by Mrs Chapman; it is to Mrs Chapman that all school absences should be reported. You will be able to contact either office through our new single telephone number 01937 846636.

Thank you for your ongoing support, we are excited about the impact of our partnership with TGAT, and if you have any immediate questions Mr Cooke (for Years 10 and 11) or Mrs Brennan (for Years 7, 8 and 9) will be pleased to take your enquiry.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Headteacher