

WH/RNM/JULYLET

13th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come closer to the end of what has been a successful year for Boston Spa Academy, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Our older students settled well into the challenge of their examinations. It was a long and demanding examination season for both Year 11 and 13 but they have made us proud with their diligence and commitment. We are all looking forward to celebrating the examination results with them in August.

We are very pleased with the impact of Positive Discipline this year. We will continue to raise standards of behaviour to ensure the absolute best from our students, so from September there will be some minor changes to our Positive Discipline policy which I would like to share with you.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

We are delighted in being able to recognise, praise and reward our students, and the number of credits our students have accumulated this year is testament to their work and good behaviour.

It always seems a shame that students who work really hard to achieve their Gold or Governors' badges towards the end of the summer term can only wear them for a few weeks or days. In order to mark the exceptional work over time that is required to earn the Gold or Governors' badges we would like these young people to continue to wear either or both of these two badges from 2017/18 on the left lapel of their blazer, leaving the right hand side free for any new badges accrued during 2018/19.

EQUIPMENT

We will continue to maintain a strong focus on both productivity and presentation in exercise books, but we will need to be proactive to protect the A4 books from the day to day wear and tear. It will, then, be our expectation that each exercise book is kept inside a plastic cover. By securing a bulk purchase through the Trust we have been able to negotiate a competitive price, with a pack of ten available from student

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services in September for just £2.50. School bags need to be large enough to hold a number of A4 sized exercise books.

The other additional items required will be a 180 degree protractor and a 'dry wipe' marker pen. If you wish to purchase these through school, they will be available from Student Services for 10p and 40p respectively.

Previously we have said students can choose to use a blue or a black pen, but as examination boards only allow answers to be written in black we will be expecting students only to be using black pens in exercise books. Students will also need a green pen to respond to teacher feedback, and a purple pen for Purple Zone. Pens can be purchased from Student Services for 30p.

All students will continue to need to have their own dictionary, we recommend the pocket English dictionary (£2 from Student Services) and a Casio FX 83GT Plus calculator (£7.49 from Student Services). We will issue every student with a planner, which is free, but any replacement will be charged at £5.50.

Not having the correct equipment at the start of the day is managed through the Positive Discipline policy.

ISOLATION

Only a very small number of students ever see the inside of isolation, and that is how it should be, but for those that do go into isolation it is important they are discouraged from ever returning. To this end isolation next year will be incremental, with the first occasion being for one day; the second occasion will be two days, up to a maximum of three days for Year 7 and 8 students and four days for Years 9, 10 and 11. This is similar to the model we currently use for exclusions where the first is for three days, the next five, ten, and so forth. It is student behaviour choices that cause them to be in isolation and each is in a position to ensure that they do not experience either sanction.

BEHAVIOUR OUTSIDE LESSONS

Behaviour outside lessons, such as in the breaks, is good but there is a change in the way we will respond to any misbehaviour. For a behaviour choice that earns a detention students will first receive three written comments and then also the detention. The types of behaviours included would be swearing, eating or drinking in a non-designated area, refusal to follow staff instructions, unruly behaviour, or dropping litter.

FULL COMMENT BOX

Any student who fills their comment box in the planner in just one week will continue to be required to serve an isolation.

DETENTIONS

There is no change as to the factors that might cause a student to be put in detention, and these will continue to be after school for one hour. I appreciate that a delay to the journey home can present inconvenience to families. If this is the situation for you please make sure that you carefully advise your daughter or son as to their behaviour choices to prevent any requirement for a detention to be served.

UNIFORM

Our uniform expectations are an important part of the standards we hold, and remain unchanged for the coming academic year. I would, though like to take this opportunity to remind you that skirts must be knee length, trousers should be tailored and shoes must be plain black leather.

Excessive make-up is unnecessary and inappropriate for a school setting, therefore only foundation (appropriate to the student's skin tone), black or brown mascara and a small amount of neutral eye shadow. Eyeliner, bronzer and blusher are not to be worn. Our guidance on haircuts remains the same, we do not allow extreme styles and hair should be no shorter than a grade 2. Our website provides additional guidance.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your support in increasing our attendance this year. We know that those that attend also achieve, so it is really important that no school days are unnecessarily missed. We do not expect families to book holidays during term time and in these circumstances it is our practice to pursue a prosecution and fine.

PASTORAL STAFFING STRUCTURE

In September Mrs Ryder will be going on maternity leave, so Mrs Brennan will be promoted into her role as Assistant Principal for Personal Development Behaviour and Welfare for the period of the absence.

To cover Mrs Brennan's promotion, Mr Billington will move from being Head of Year 11 to lead Year 7, and Mr Boulton is promoted to lead Year 8. Miss Brierley will take her current Year 8 group into Year 9. A new member of staff, Miss Shepherd, will join us from Bradford Academy to lead Year 10. Miss Smith will take her current Year 10 group through to Year 11.

Having a clear framework for discipline is the foundation on which our students are able to thrive and to enable us to maintain an environment which is dedicated to achieving the very best outcomes for each of our young people. Thank you for your support in all these matters; if you require any clarity on any of the above please telephone the appropriate Head of Year via Reception.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Principal