

Dear Parent,

Happy New Year!

I feel very privileged to lead The Winstanley School and work with you and your child. As you know Mr Williams has moved to a role working across the LiFEMAT and I am now Head Teacher rather than there being Co-Head Teachers. As we start a New Year I wanted to reinforce some of our key messages and share some new developments in our continued journey of improvement. As I look back over last term I am very proud of all the different opportunities that the students have been able to be involved in, as well as the way that they have thrown themselves into all sorts of activities. I can clearly see how our vision to help everyone 'shine brighter than you thought you could' is really becoming part of what everyone in the school community is aiming to do.

Learning and Teaching

Our primary focus is on developing and improving our teaching and the students' learning. This will ensure that they achieve the best results they possibly can and open up a wide variety of opportunities for their future. We want to ensure that all students do a full hours work in an hour's lesson. We also recognise the importance of home learning to ensure that students make real progress. Please reinforce the importance of hard work with your son or daughter both in lessons and at home. In year 7 and 8 they should be completing an hour each evening of home learning and in Year 9,10,11 this should increase to at least 2 hours.

Attendance and Lates

We had a huge number of students achieving 100% attendance last term and it was lovely to see so many students receive recognition and rewards for their good attendance. Attending school is vital to ensuring that your child makes good progress - there is a clear link between good attendance and high academic achievement. If students are not in lessons they are not learning and so we want every student to be in school 100% of the time. This includes punctuality and being ready for learning. In order to ensure that all students are in all of their lessons and not disrupting the learning of others we have decided to focus on punctuality this term. From Monday 28th January we will be enforcing our new late procedure which will focus on both rewarding punctuality and reinforcing our expectations to students who are late. The Student Support Team will be sharing information about this new system and I would appreciate you taking the time to discuss this with your child.

Uniform and Equipment

Thank you for how you have supported us as we have developed our rigour in monitoring our uniform. Just some quick reminders:

- Students are allowed to wear outdoor coats as they move around the school, but must not be wearing hoodies or sweatshirts
- Facial piercings are not allowed except for a small discreet nose stud



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- The lanyard and card are part of our uniform and should be worn around school - the card is also the only way that students can pay for food at break time and lunchtime
- A school bag is essential to make sure that your son/daughter is bringing the correct equipment into school - they need; their planner, black pens, pencils, ruler, highlighters, PE kit if they have PE

Cycle Safety

I am very aware of how important the safety of each child is and I was disturbed to hear of two students at a school in Leicester who were knocked off their bike recently and received very serious head injuries. We regularly reinforce with our young people the importance of riding safely. At present we are not going to insist on helmets but do recommend that students wear them. The majority of our students do ride their bikes responsibly, however to ensure safe riding becomes a habit we will be insisting on the following:

- Only one student to a bike at all times
- No wheelies
- Bikes to be in good working order with fully working brakes

If students fail to follow these simple rules they will be banned from riding to school. If they ride unsafely and their bike is in school it will be locked until you are able to come in and meet with a member of staff and collect it.

Improving our partnership with parents

It has been a real pleasure to get to know many of you over the last year and a half, however I feel that we can develop our partnership with you even more. To help us do this we will be introducing two types of events:

- Parents' Forum - an opportunity to feedback to us what you think we are doing well and how we can improve
- Parents' Information Briefings - an opportunity to get support and advice on key areas of your child's education - these will focus on areas such as: 'How to help your child revise', 'The demands of the new GCSEs' etc

Please look out for more information about these events.

Thank you for all of your support. I look forward to seeing you at Parents' Evenings, one of the new Parents events or at other activities through the term.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Bennett, Head of School



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