

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, we have exceptionally high expectations for all of our students with respect to both behaviour and conduct, within lessons and during informal times at Blackwood Comprehensive School. Whilst the very large majority of our young people meet these expectations day in day out, and are truly thriving both in learning and life, a small minority of children continue to have a negative impact on the learning of others through disruptive behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Feedback from our young people, parents and teachers, in combination with what our behaviour data tells us, suggests that the time is right to introduce a change to our current system, in order to reduce further, and ultimately remove any, instances of disruption to learning. Currently, around half of pupils believe that attitudes to learning need to be improved in the classroom and around the school community. A parental survey indicates that a quarter of parents/carers believe that behaviours that disrupt learning need improvement.

You may be aware of the positive behaviour policy and graduated response system we already have in place. This is to ensure that lessons can take place without learning being disrupted by the behaviour and negative attitudes to learning of a few students. At present, within this system there is a 'referral' process that allows for disruption to learning to be escalated alongside a series of detentions. This system has been reasonably effective in reducing instances of low level disruption and ensuring that lesson time is about learning, but still, on occasions, the actions of a small minority of students negatively impact the learning of others.

From Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, we are introducing 'Ready to Learn', which will mean that we are removing the graduated response and approach. During the last few weeks staff have been trained to understand the new system and their role within it. From Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, when a member of staff has to 'Refer' someone due to disruption to learning, the student will be immediately removed from the lesson and will then make their own way to the Ready to Learn room.

Following a referral from a lesson, the student will spend 5 lessons in the Ready to Learn room. For example, if a student is removed from a lesson Period 3 on one day, they remain in Ready to Learn room until 3.30pm on that day, and will start the next day also in the Ready to Learn room, until Period 3 when they would re-join their normal timetabled lessons.

**We believe our 'Ready to Learn' policy will,:**

- Eliminate disruptive behaviour;
- Ensure that students understand what behaviour is acceptable;
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their actions;
- Enable staff to deliver engaging, creative and enjoyable lessons;
- Improve standards of achievement and wellbeing for our students.

We understand that you may have concerns about the new system but we need to ensure that all of our young people are allowed to learn in lessons. Please rest assured that we will continue to support the needs of all of our young learners and work to help those, who do not always make the right choices, reflect and learn from their decisions.

We are also aware that the system outlined above has to be implemented and applied with integrity and consistency. It must be complemented by the highest standards of teaching and learning in the classroom, led by the very best teachers. Alongside working with our young people to ensure that they can be the very best that they can be in terms of learning engagement and behaviour, we continue to work with all of our staff so that they become the very best teachers, continually reflecting on and developing their practice.

If you would like more information regarding the Ready to Learn process then please contact Mrs. N Griffiths.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs N. Griffiths Assistant Headteacher, Wellbeing

