

21st March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the warmer weather. I am writing to update you on the arrangements for the upcoming Easter holidays and bank holidays. This includes the bank holiday for the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III which was not outlined on our school calendar at the start of the year.

Arrangements for the end of term:

The **last day of school for students is Friday 31st March** and students will finish lessons at the normal time of 3.20pm **Students will return on Monday 17th April** at their normal time with their books for **Week 2** of the timetable.

Bank Holiday closures in May

A reminder that school is also closed on the following dates for Bank Holidays

- **Monday 1st May 2023**
- **Monday 8th May 2023**

Uniform:

Students must continue to wear the correct uniform as outlined in our Uniform Policy. Uniform is checked at the school gates and must be correct as students arrive. Students cannot wear socks of a different colour over tights. Black, grey or white socks are the only colours that are permitted. Blazers must be worn at all times in and outside the building. From the start of the Summer term, if outdoor jackets are seen being worn inside the building they will be confiscated. Students will be able to collect them at the convenience of the year team.

Uniform is also checked at registration and throughout the day. Persistent failure to wear the correct uniform will result in a sanction. As we go into the summer term we will not be permitting face masks, balaclavas or any other type of face covering. Sixth Form students are reminded that hoodies, casual tops, jeans and trainers of any kind are not part of the Sixth Form dress code. Sixth Form students who do not adhere to the dress code will be given items of clothing to wear from the School Sixth Form clothing stocks.



SILVER AWARD



We will also be confiscating headphones and airpods if these are worn outside of recreational times or anywhere outside of the Sixth Form spaces.

Safeguarding:

As the days get longer and the weather warms it is important that students DO NOT 'hang around' or loiter outside the gates or in the local area. The expectation is that they will go straight home unless they have an extracurricular activity.

It is particularly important that students do not go into local shops or food outlets. If you need your child to run an errand we expect them to go home and change out of their uniform before going to the shops. Please note that giving students cash puts them at greater risk in public. Food should be purchased using ParentPay in school.

Mobile Phones:

Mobile phones which connect to the internet are banned. Students are permitted to bring phones which are not enabled to connect to the internet provided they are switched off and at the bottom of their school bag. Any phones which are visible at any time will be confiscated.

Health:

As we move towards the summer, with longer and warmer days, we strongly encourage students to walk to and from school rather than take the bus. The vast majority of our students live at most, 1.5 miles from school and should be able to comfortably walk home in under 30 minutes. As walking improves posture, bone and muscle development and mental health we will encourage students to walk home where this is feasible.

We are also in the process of reviewing our canteen offer to make the food on sale more nutritious and healthy. More information on this and healthy eating will follow in the summer term. As I am sure you are aware, the price of food has increased rapidly recently. Unfortunately, this has also impacted on the costs to our canteen and so, for the first time in three years, we will need to raise the price of our school meal. After Easter the price will increase to £2.50. Having compared prices with other schools, we are confident that this cost is still considerably less than other institutions.

Attendance and punctuality to lessons:


It is important that students make the most of lesson time, and this includes arriving at lessons on time and being ready to learn. As the good weather has returned some students have been reminded to make their way to lessons on time, impacting on the prompt start to lessons. Please remind your child that they should be mindful of their punctuality. The number of late arrivals to lessons will remain on your child's school record.



We are pleased to say that our school attendance is significantly above national averages. However, we are not yet at 100% so there is still room for improvement. Please remember that every day missed is a day of learning that has been lost. All the research shows the higher the number of days you are present in school the better your examination results will be.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a lovely Spring break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G McKenna

HEADTEACHER

