



Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will recall I sent out a letter to all parents/carers in November outlining some of our systems which were designed to improve our standards around school and this letter is a follow up to give you a brief update on the impact and also some further changes which we are putting into place. **We would appreciate if you can go through the contents of this letter with your child** to ensure they are clear regarding our expectations. We appreciate your support in these matters as we continue to raise our expectation and standards which will ultimately, along with further developments in Teaching and Learning, improve our outcomes.

Punctuality

Much improved since our new system started in November. This is vital on ensuring learning is not disrupted and essential for children to understand the importance of being on time not only to school but also to lessons. Thank you again for ensuring you set the right standards with your child getting them to school on time.

Uniform

Also much improved since our new system started. All our children are dressed in full uniform on a daily basis. Those who do attend without full uniform are either given replacement items to borrow, are sent home with parental permission to correct their uniform, or are isolated until the issue is resolved. With regards to **false nails and eyelashes**, we would ask you to ensure your child has neither on when attending school. **From 18th March** the same procedures will apply to these aspects of uniform, i.e. isolation until resolved. Thank you. Please find a full uniform list on our website/app.

Mobile Phones – BANNED AFTER FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2019

Our Shaw Education Trust colleagues, the Academy Council, the Senior Leadership Team and our staff, have overwhelmingly agreed to ban the use of mobile phones in school. **This will take effect from Monday 18th March 2019** and until then our current procedures with phones will continue. Please read the following notes carefully in regards to our rule change.

From Monday 18th March:

- Phones may be brought onto site BUT must be switched off and at the bottom of bags immediately upon entering the school site and up until students leave the site.
 - If a phone is seen or heard, **it will be confiscated**. (This also is the case for related items, e.g. headphones, Apple watches etc.)
 - Confiscated phones can be collected at the end of the school from the school office.
 - Students who have had their phone confiscated a total of 3 times, will not be given it back and parents/carers will be expected to come and collect it.
 - We ask that parents do not call their child during the school day. If parents send a text to be read after school then that is fine, but please note that any child who attempts to check phones for any calls/texts or for any other reason etc. will have it confiscated.
 - **In the case of an emergency, parents should contact the school office and we will get a message to your child.**
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We recognise that smartphones can be an important educational tool and of course we are a school that very much uses online materials in most subjects through the use of technology and we are equipped with sufficient computers to cover any online learning that is needed. The reasons for this ban are many. We feel phones are extremely distracting for children and can interrupt concentration. The temptation for children to 'glance' at their phone in lesson etc. can disrupt their learning and cause a distraction that staff have to address. In addition, we are all aware as parents and teachers, that phones can be a means for bullying and whilst this may well continue to happen online 'outside school', we have experienced incidents at social times which are 'arranged' via text etc. Wider issues exist in the appropriateness of some of the content some children view, record and/or send which can be detrimental to the school and others. Following the recent media coverage of online issues, we would always encourage parents/carers to monitor their child's use of their smartphone and there are lots of guidance online for parents, including on our website. We feel that in social times children should be encouraged to interact more with their peers and increase social interaction skills rather than have their 'head buried' in their phone.

A 2015 study found that banning phones had the effect of giving pupils an extra week's education over the course of an academic year. Researchers looked at schools in four English cities and found test scores increased by more than 6% in those which banned phones.

We are aware that some children do regulate the use of their phone sensibly but our experience in education is that this number is very low. Parents/carers may already be aware that phones are banned from schools in some other countries and we are aware that other Bury schools are considering this as well. Some already do ban phones. We know that this may not be popular with all of our student body but we strongly feel the long term educational and social benefits will make it worthwhile and of course appreciate the support parents/carers will give us implementing this initiative.

Behaviour

You will be aware of our red/yellow/green point systems and it is important to note that nearly 30% of our cohort do not have one single red or yellow point currently and over 76% have single figure points, mainly yellows which are based around organisation rather than 'negative behaviours'. However, at THS as with all schools, some children struggle for a variety of reasons to comply with school rules and ultimately disrupt their own learning and that of others. We are working on this aspect of our school life and staff are involved in lots of training and are employing strategies which we know will improve this. The letter to you in November outlined our new 'same-day' DT2 one-hour detention. In certain special cases, there may be a need to defer the detention, but generally we must insist that children given 'same-day' detentions due to being withdrawn from class, must attend and complete the one-hour detention on the given day after school. Failure to attend will result in further more serious sanctions. We look to support our children in managing their behaviours and as part of this support, sanctions are a key component of our enforcement of high standards of learning at Tottington HS. I am sure parents/carers will continue to support the school in this process.

Our Behaviour Policy is being updated and will be on our website soon but we have three basic school rules, which have recently been produced to cover our expectations, and we would ask that you discuss these with your child to ensure they are 'doing their part', ***including conduct to and from***

school either walking or by public transport. It is important that our children show respect at all times for our local environment and neighbourhood, whether that be exhibiting excellent manners visiting local shops or ensuring no litter is dropped to and from school. Again, thank you for your support.

- **Respect for Learning / Respect for People / Respect for the Environment**

Timings of the Day

Finally, we would like to inform parents/carers that we are proposing to alter the timings of our school day from September 2019. We have been looking at this for a couple of years now in the hope of making our day more effective and productive. Below is the proposal which has been agreed by the Academy Council (Governing Body) and school staff. Provisional enquires with bus companies suggests that the proposed time changes can be accommodated by them. We would now like to consult with parents/carers and are conducting a consultation evening on **Wednesday 27th March at 6pm**. Parents/carers wishing to discuss this proposal are invited to attend.

	Current		Proposed	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	From	To
AM Registration	8.45	8.55	8.40am	8.50am
Lesson 1	8.55	9.50	8.50am	9.50am
Lesson 2	9.50	10.50	9.50am	10.50am
Break	10.50	11.10	10.50am	11.05am
Lesson 3	11.10	12.10	11.05am	12.05pm
Lesson 4	12.10	1.05	12.05pm	1.05pm
Lunch	1.05	1.55	1.05pm	1.45pm
PM Registration/Assembly	1.55	2.15	1.45pm	2pm
Lesson 5	2.15	3.15	2pm	3pm

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we look to further improve our standards. All changes are intended to enable us to focus on helping every young person succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. B. Duffy
Headteacher



Neville Kenyon
Chair of Academy Council