

7 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all you have done to support our school since the start of term in September. The vast majority of our students are an absolute credit to our school and to yourselves and regularly demonstrate our school values of Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration. These are the behaviours we are delighted to celebrate as a school. They have also been extremely important over the past two years throughout the global pandemic.

Please find below some information to support you and your child:

School attendance

We know that due to the pandemic students have missed out on a significant amount of both academic learning and personal milestones. It is therefore of vital importance that your child attends school every day so that we can support them. We offer a range of strategies and interventions aimed at ensuring that children can catch up with any lost learning and also to support with any worries or concerns that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The government now expects all children to attend school and parents may be prosecuted and fined if a child does not attend. If you need further support with attendance please contact your child's Student Welfare Officer, Progress Leader or Form Tutor.

Staying safe online and on social media - how can you help your child?

When students misuse social media outside of school, it creates problems in school which leads to arguments, upset and incidents in school. As a parent/carer you can help your child and us by:

- Knowing what privacy features and parental controls you can set up on your child's phone and social media accounts.
- Talking to your child about the risks and harmful side of social media – its impact on them and on others.
- Ensuring that the apps your child uses are age-appropriate e.g. WhatsApp minimum age is 16 years old; for TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram the minimum age is 13 years.
- Helping your child to have a healthy use of social media – set boundaries and limit time. Talk to them about what they post and why.
- Being alert to cyber-bullying – do not let your child post unkind things and tell your child not to reply if this happens to them and to tell an adult.
- Take time to read the monthly online safety newsletter that is published at the start of each month.
- Take some time to visit this website [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) to find out more about how to help your child.

Managing emotions - how can you help your child?

The past two years have been difficult for our children and many of them are struggling to manage their emotions. In school and at home they may display anger or behave in an inappropriate way. As a parent/carer you can help your child and us by:

- Talking to your child about how they are feeling;
- Finding a time and a place that works for you and them where they can open up to you (we know this is difficult in modern day life!);
- Helping them to identify and recognise their feelings;
- Talking about your feelings so that it normalises talking about emotions in your home;
- Asking them what they need;
- Listening carefully to what they say;
- Identifying the emotion they feel and the reason why; this can help them to find a positive action to move forward;
- If you feel your child is struggling with their emotions and needs further support speak to the school and your GP; and
- If you require any additional support, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Student Welfare Officer.

Keeping themselves safe (vaping/geek bars) - how can you help your child?

We know that vapes (also known as geek bars) are readily available in the community. We also know that this is both a local and national problem across the country. In line with our policy we will invoke our behaviour policy for vaping in school. As a parent/carer you can help your child and us by:

- Talking to your child about the dangers of vaping and nicotine addiction;
- Knowing what the vapes/geek bars look like and if your child has them. They are brightly coloured and sweet-flavoured and look like small highlighter pens; and
- Encourage your child to report any incidents to staff.

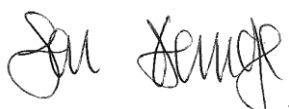
Please also ensure that your child has the correct uniform for school in line with our policy. We do not permit nose piercings, nail extensions, trainers or hoodies. If, due to financial hardship, you cannot afford an item of our uniform please speak to us for support.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your ongoing support to ensure that all of our children are able to thrive both inside and out of school.

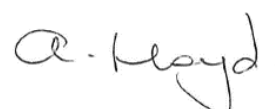
Yours faithfully



Mrs Gabbi
Principal



Mr Berridge
Assistant Vice Principal



Mrs Lloyd
Chair of Governors