

Dear parents and guardians,

At Arthur Terry we are committed to building and fostering a culture of high standards, high expectations and excellence in academia and personal development. Our vision of an **inclusive** and **nurturing** learning community that gives everyone the opportunity to **excel** and a place to **belong** is ambitious, and hinges on all members of our school community maintaining high standards at all times.

We need your support to achieve this goal, so that we can continue to achieve the best for **everyone** in our learning community so we are able to be **proud** of our achievements.

In recent weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of pupils not meeting the standards we expect, and that our praise and behaviour policy demands. Instances are wide ranging, but we are appealing to you for support in the following areas:

- Uniform and dress code standards. We have seen an increase in students not wearing proper uniform on our school site. This often includes not bringing or wearing a blazer, wearing unsuitable shoes that are outside of those permitted, failing to wear a school tie of the appropriate colour for their year group. For Sixth Form students this includes wearing their sweatshirt and poloshirt at all times.
- Non-uniform clothes including hoodies, ankle warmers and colourful socks being worn alongside or in place of uniform.
- Jewellery, including necklaces and bracelets being worn over uniform; earrings which are not simple studs (for example hoops and more elaborate designs) being worn, and other piercings and jewellery which are not permitted. Sixth Form students should discuss any piercings with their tutor or Director of Sixth Form to ensure they are appropriate for school.
- Use of technology around school. As you are aware, we operate a 'see it, hear it: lose it' approach to the use of mobile phones around school. Mobile phone use is not allowed, and students know that they will be confiscated in these instances and Phase 3 detention issued. Student iPads should also be placed in school bags as students travel to and from school and during break and lunchtime.
- Recently, there has been a rapid increase in the number of students bringing and using Bluetooth earbud headphones in school. This is also not allowed, and we will be expanding our confiscation policy to include these items moving forward.

- Sixth Form students are allowed their mobile phone or headphones in their study spaces (Library, Canteen, Mezzanine, Sixth Form Centre) but these should be put away as soon as they leave the study space, including movement around school. If mobile phones or headphones are seen outside the study space a member of staff may confiscate the items.

We are a positive staff body who constantly work to give our students the best opportunities and support, but unfortunately, there have been occasions where a small minority of students have not responded in the way we would expect when challenged on the issues listed above. When incidents like this occur, vital learning time is lost and staff energy and time is spent dealing with these issues, instead of developing our students' **skills, knowledge** and **strong moral principles** so they are **ready** for **active citizenship** in an ever-changing future. Please be reassured that if students are not meeting our high expectations they will continue to be challenged appropriately.

Building a culture of excellence means ensuring that we take care of the little details, as well as the big picture, and reinforcing high standards of personal conduct and appearance are extremely important in achieving our mission.

Finally, we would like to remind you of the core values that inform everything we do as a school, we believe in:

Kindness – being friendly, helpful and understanding.

Respect – having consideration for peoples' rights and feelings.

High aspirations – putting the effort in every day to achieve our best.

When members of our school community neglect these values, it affects everyone, and is detrimental to the learning and wellbeing of everyone on our school site.

Please, take some time to discuss these issues with your child, and support us by reinforcing the same expectations around uniform, conduct and respect in school. Together, we can continue to build a community that gives everyone the opportunity to **excel** and a place to **belong**.

Yours faithfully

Arthur Terry Leadership Group