

3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Expectations around Behaviour

I am really sorry that we have not had the chance to meet in person and I look forward to doing so and also hearing about ways in which the school can better support the community as a hub for local classes/ fundraising and any other ideas that you may have. Communities help each other and I hope that we can do that more and more as government restrictions gradually ease.

I fully appreciate that you don't know me yet and I can also understand that it will take time for you to trust me given the turbulence in leadership at the school that there has been in recent years- it is not my plan to move on in a hurry! I very much like the community, the local area and the city and, as mentioned, I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

Those parents who have attended our fortnightly Thursday Town Hall events will have heard me talking about my own background. I am really passionate about the life changing possibility of education and want the very best for your child, a desire that unites us. As someone whose own mother had to leave school at 14 to work for her family and who has witnessed the poverty of children in the third world, I wholeheartedly believe that a quality education- and the right to receive it without fear of disruption-is a fundamental human right. I also believe that students and staff have the right to work in a calm orderly environment where they can learn without fear of disruption. Many of my staff, like many other members of our community I am sure, have suffered bereavements during the pandemic. We need to make the return to school as peaceful as possible for both students and staff.

Moreover, from a knowledge- one of our core school values- point of view there is no time to lose in learning. The time away from school- particularly for those who have not regularly attended on- line lessons -will have massive effects on understanding of the curriculum and therefore ability to do well in exams and life paths. There really is no time to waste as we recover the ground to give your child the very best platform for the future ambitions that you hold for them.

In light of the above and to support with student and staff welfare and to ensure that students catch up on missed ground as quickly as possible, I have strengthened our behaviour policy to create a disruption free environment for all students. I will communicate this with students on return but, out of respect, I felt it would be helpful if I set out how the system will work with you first.

Where students do not adhere to our behaviour policy, there are three tiers of sanction:

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Principal: Mr R. Freeman

1. Disruption of learning/ or defiance (first time) of an instruction of any member of staff inside or outside of class- will result in the student being placed in the Reflection room
2. Verbal assault of a member of staff or student or persistent disruption will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion or extended time in the Reflection room
3. Physical assault/ bringing drugs or a bladed article into school will result in a Permanent exclusion from the school

Students placed in the Reflection room will be required to stay until 4.05pm on the first day. They will return to the Reflection room on the following day and will remain there until the same time that they were sent there the day before. Parents and carers will be informed when their child is sent to the Reflection room and the reason for this. Students will be set work whilst in the Reflection room so that they do not miss out on anything being covered in class.

We have added this feature as many students parents, students and staff felt that there was no deterrent if a student was just removed for a lesson or two and saw removal of lesson as chance to miss a lesson that they do not enjoy. Continuity of learning will be provided within the Reflection room as your child's acquisition of knowledge is really important to all of us and also allows the learning of others in the class to continue uninterrupted. Behaviour is always a choice so please help your child understand and avoid being in that situation.

On a more positive note, we are also looking at 3 rewards pathways so that the vast majority of students doing the right thing are well rewarded for doing that. The pathways which will recognise students' hard work, positive attitudes and service to our school community. We really want to increase the amount of positive communication home to parents and carers where we can as this is something that both students and parents have asked for.

Mobile phones:

Several parents have also written to me- and raised in the Town Hall meetings- requesting clarity on the usage of mobile phones as they feel that use of these- and particularly social media- are causing issues between students. Our policy has always been clear that phones should not be seen or heard- including in lunch and break times- from the moment they enter the school gate until the moment they leave it. To strengthen our climate for learning , we are amending our policy so that any student seen with a phone during school hours will have it taken and kept by reception until a family member over the age of 18 can collect the phone after school. Again, students have complete control as to whether this happens by the decisions that they make.

Both of these policy amendments have been shared with Governors who are in agreement that we must raise expectations in the school to support students.

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If you have any questions about our behaviour policy, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are holding an extra Town Hall meeting on Thursday 4th March 2021 at 6pm when parents will be invited to share any feedback on our behaviour policy. You can join the meeting by using this link <https://bit.ly/2NYotbQ>

I very much hope that you will support our behaviour policy so that every student can learn in a calm and orderly environment and enjoy their time at school. Poor behaviour is a choice that students make. I am confident that our students, Sheffield's young leaders of tomorrow will make that right one and I would be grateful if you could speak to your child about our behaviour expectations before they return next week.

On a different note, we do appreciate that this is challenging time for members of our community. If there is anything that we can do to support with food hampers or financial assistance for uniform, do let us know by contacting us at info@sheffieldparkacademy.org

Best wishes



Mr Freeman
Principal

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