

5 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a really good Christmas break. I am writing to share some TPA updates with you and to set the scene for the term ahead.

Ahead of this, I thought it would be useful to set out the vision for the school that the leadership team is working hard to fulfil, as a reminder of our core values.

- We seek to have a culture of 'Aspire and Achieve' with an educational offer that secures great attendance and excellent outcomes for every single student.
- We work to ensure that every subject we teach develops students to think, to use digital tools, and to drive their own learning.
- We 'fly in a V' as a staff team to create a calm, predictable and respectful environment for the benefit of all.

I used the opportunity of the holiday to continue to evaluate the school's strengths and areas for development. Areas of particular strength include safeguarding; the range and breadth of our curriculum offer (include adaptations to support our most vulnerable students); digital learning; and personal development, including our enrichment and careers offer. Attendance has improved, compared to the previous Autumn term and instances of truancy and poor behaviour have shown a good reduction. Areas we are working on, at speed, include the quality of provision for young people with special needs, and supporting our Year 11s to be ready for their final exams. On this, I would like to thank the 152 parents who attended the recent information evening to support around this key objective. And now onto the update.

New staff/promotions:

I am delighted to report that we have recruited another two Aspire Mentors, Miss Bachelor and Mrs Mason, to provide additional mentoring and support to students to help them get on track academically. Mrs Andrews has also joined us as an additional Lead Practitioner for Maths. Mrs Andrews has worked across the Solent region helping schools to deliver the best maths education possible. Further, Miss McPhee joins us as a teacher of Personal Development.

Class Charts update:

Following significant consultation with staff, students and our parent forums there has been a review of our reporting of behaviours through Class Charts.

- All behaviours now carry a -1 tariff, rather than -2 and -3.
- Some behaviours do not carry a -1 initially; instead they trigger a delayed -1 to be issued at the end of the day to avoid a child having something logged more than once. E.g. not having equipment.
- Classroom assistance calls by teachers are set as 'detentions' on the system. This is to ensure that the school is able to log when these call outs have been attended by the patrol team.
- Staff are now able to set a 'Restorative detention' which can happen at any time during the day e.g., break, lunch and after school. This means that children are required to attend for a

quiet conversation to discuss minor infringements of the TPA Way and build relationships. This will be shared with you through the Class Charts activity log.

- Staff are also able to set a 20 minute 'Classroom detention' for instances of behaviour that a member of staff feels requires a longer conversation, or learning to be caught up. This will be shared with you through the Class Charts activity log.
- Notification of a student being placed in the Removal Room for a period of time will also be set as a separate incident.

The main aims of these changes have been to simplify the system, ensure better communication with parents and build a greater sense of ownership over behaviour from the wider staff body and from students.

Mis-use of the fire alarm:

I am sorry to have to let you know, that on more than one occasion last term, the school's fire alarm was triggered for reasons other than a real fire (e.g. an aerosol being sprayed near to an alarm). As you would expect, we take health and safety very seriously and have therefore had to evacuate the school in order to carry out our checks. The impact of this disruption is significant, with students losing valuable learning time and having to line up outside; sometimes during adverse weather conditions. I am therefore going to be informing students that setting off a fire alarm due to negligence, or indeed wilfully, will result in a 10-day suspension. Repeated incidents will be considered a serious breach of health and safety and students may be subject to a permanent exclusion as a result. We will ensure that all students understand how alarms are triggered so that they will be mindful of their behaviour around them.

Site security:

We were due to have the perimeter fence heightened on 18th December but our supplier has been delayed with delivering the panels. I have therefore decided to keep our security patrol for this half-term, patrolling the area around the school and making sure that the site is protected.

Parent forum:

The forum will take place on Tuesday 16 January from 4pm and will be hosted by myself, along with Mr Rich Jones, the DSL and Hannah Coles, the SENDCo.

Discussion topics will include:

- How the school is improving SEND provision, with parent feedback welcomed.
- Proposal of monthly surgeries for parents to attend to get advice, with support from the LA and local agencies.

Key dates for the Spring term:

- Wednesday 24th January: Year 10 Progress and Work Experience Evening, 3:40pm - 6:30pm
- w/c Monday 12 February: Half Term
- w/c Monday 19th and w/c Monday 26th February: Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight
- Wednesday 28th February: Year 7 Progress Evening, 3:40pm - 6:30pm
- Wednesday 27th March: Year 11 Progress Evening, 3:40pm - 6:30pm
- Thursday 28th March: INSET Day, School closed to students
- Friday 29th March: Bank Holiday

Yours faithfully,



Natalie Sheppard
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