



20 January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well and coping with the frosty weather.

Buses

The week has certainly been challenging for students using the 83 and 84 buses who have had to endure a lengthier wait at the bus stop as the buses have struggled to cope with the temporary lights on the Henley Road. I can only apologise and hope everyone has had their thick socks on.

School Council

This week saw our latest School Council meeting. It is always a pleasure to see our young people in discussion and debate working hard to improve the school experience.

The meeting saw Michelle Boden, our Catering Manager, join the meeting (and brought cookies!) and ideas for the canteen were discussed - including previously talked about theme days, the first of which is happening on Monday for Chinese New Year. In addition, ideas about making the canteen more sustainable and some great ideas about food waste and recycling were raised.

It was good to hear that as a result of previous meetings and student suggestions the group were pleased with our new rewards system and the installation of mirrors in the boys' toilets.

Tours

I have given several tours this week and have been so pleased by what I and our visitors have observed. This afternoon I walked around the site and many classrooms with a potential teacher for September and he was incredibly impressed and having worked at the 'Outstanding' Maiden Erlegh School previously, drew many parallels. From my point of view classes were calm, students were working, they were listening well and tracking our teachers which was excellent to see.



Attendance – home visits

I have been very impressed with attendance since Christmas with rates at just over 92% as an average. Thank you all so much for getting your sons and daughters in despite the cold weather and dark mornings. However, I have also met with our Educational Welfare Officer, Andrea Green, on her proposals for home visits and parental meetings for those students still struggling to make it into school. It is vital that whenever possible, students attend school and whilst we understand these can be difficult conversations, we hope you understand what we are trying to achieve.

Reports

Thank you to all those parents who have listened and worked with me on suggestions for modifying our reporting process, particularly at Key Stage Three. Whilst changing procedures such as this across the Trust are not quickly achieved, I can report that we are well on the way to seeing a more parent friendly system in the next academic year.



Treat Staff like Platinum

We keep working on our Core Routines and reminding students of the need to track the speaker, work quietly, be on time and treat staff with respect and dignity. Whilst many of our Core Routines are improving there are still one or two students who do not treat staff with respect and therefore once again, I have had to sanction a few students who feel they can speak and act in a manner that is not fair, friendly or kind to our staff. As I have said before, we want our students to develop positive life skills which include the ability to make friends, build relationships and work with all manner of people and I hope holding the line and supporting these students to make better choices will enable this.

Kindness

In Year 7 this week, we have rolled out the 'Kindness Fortnight' initiative. This starts on Monday and students will receive 'contribution to school community' house points from staff when they carry out acts of kindness around the school. The winners will be announced in the end of term assembly.

Stars

Our student star of the week is **Kacey** in Year 9 who has had a brilliant week and showed such a huge improvement in her approach to school.

My staff star of the week is **Mr Groves** for delivering his lessons with great enthusiasm, supporting his colleagues along with offering several beneficial extra-curricular activities.

Have a lovely weekend and please leave any feedback you have using the links below.

Yours

Andy Hartley

