



4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## **Tools for Learning**

Thank you for all of your positive feedback and continued support regarding issues such as the uniform and behavioral issues, progress has been tangible. However, since I began in January one thing I have noticed is the lack of equipment the students have for their school day and therefore one must assume for their homework. This lack of equipment such as a lack of a ruler or even a pencil compromises the quality and presentation of the work but also the ability of the student to work independently. The Tools for Learning initiative is designed to reduce the amount of time lost in lessons looking for equipment and supporting students who do not have the right equipment. As you can imagine this can be very frustrating and leads to a lot of lost learning time which over the course of weeks, months and years can reduce the amount of teaching time quite considerably. Being prepared for a day's work, be it a hairdresser with their scissors, a bricklayer wearing protective boots or a chef with their knives, is a valuable life skill and I hope this initiative will impress upon the students just how important and positive this habit can be for their progress and futures.

Students who do not have the items on the list will be required to go to Student Services before school to avoid a sanction and obtain the missing items. Payment will be taken in cash. In order to support you in acquiring those items between now and 24 February, Student Services will be selling complete pencil cases for £2.75 without the calculator and £12.20 including the calculator. The items in the school shop are sold at cost price and are bought in bulk and are therefore cheaper than can be obtained in local supermarkets and High Street stores.

We insist on a clear pencil case as this is absolutely outstanding practice as they are required in the examination rooms as part of the examination regulations. For the younger years this keeps things transparent and it allows us to support the students more easily and to keep them safe.

The calculator is the Casio FX-83GTX. We recommend that everyone where possible has the same model as this will enable staff to teach students how to use the correct methodology on the same machines when confronted by some of the more complex problems that Mathematics can throw at students.

To assist the smooth running of the school, students lacking the correct equipment and cash to purchase any missing items will be lent a very basic kit for the duration of the school day. This must be returned to the tutor at the end of the day. Any student who loses or damages this basic equipment will be given a community detention as a sanction.

Please can I ask that you support us with this initiative and ensure that students are all fully equipped before they come back to school in order to avoid those awkward conversations. However, if any student is in receipt of pupil premium, we will support with one complete pencil case of equipment at the start of the next half term.

The full list of tools is below

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully

A. Harley

Mr A Hartley Headteacher

## The MECE Tools for Learning

- · Large see through pencil case
- Three black or blue pens
- HB pencil
- Rubber
- · Pencil sharpener
- 30cm ruler
- Protractor
- · Highlighter pen
- · Scientific calculator
- Coloured pencil (or pens)
- · Glue stick

## The MECE Tools for Learning

