

Ref: ASW/Mlod
13th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure you have heard our fantastic news that our 2017 GCSE results have placed us as 22nd out of 149 schools in the North East for progress. This is a significant achievement and one which we hope to improve upon this year. I hope, at the very least, this provides you all with the confidence that your children are getting an outstanding education.

Dates for your diary

Reminder to parents/carers that students are not in school on the following dates due to staff training:-

Friday 24th November 2017

Friday 1st December 2017

All dates can be found on our website

Winter coats

As the winter is approaching I would like to request that all students are provided with a suitable outdoor coat. Too often I see children walking to school in inclement weather with nothing more than their blazer for protection. The blazer is an indoor jacket and is not designed to guard against rain, snow or the cold.

In the same vain, hoodies are also not acceptable items of clothing to protect children against winter weather. Students also tend to put their blazer over the top of their hoodie and therefore, if this gets wet, they have to wear a wet blazer all day. They also have to remove the hoodie prior to stepping over the purple line, often in the rain and cold.

I appreciate that outdoor coats can be expensive and if this is an issue, please contact the academy as we may be able to support.

Uniform reminders

I have noticed a few deviations from our uniform policy over the last few weeks and therefore to ensure that no child receives a detention unnecessarily, I thought it prudent to remind you of the following:

- Hair bobbles must be purple or black
- Socks must be plain black
- Boots are not allowed (ankle or full leg)
- Shoes should be black and polish-able with no contrasting embellishments (E.g. a large gold buckle on the top of the shoe)

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Collecting or Dropping off your child at school

I am sure that you are all aware that we monitor the roads around the academy every morning and at the end of the school day to ensure your children arrive and leave the site safely. Unfortunately it is getting increasingly difficult to ensure the safety of your children as they cross the roads near the school.

We are unable to stop traffic and rely on the good will of drivers to see us and our students waiting to cross the road to slow down or stop. This is when staff will step onto the road to protect students crossing. We continue to communicate with the highways department for additional support. However, when parents drop off on the road side this creates an additional hazard as we have then to contend with both parked cars and moving vehicles. **If you drop off or collect your child from the academy, please drive into the academy site and collect or drop off in the student and visitor car park where there are designated areas for you to park.**

Staffing Changes

We are very sad to say goodbye to some of our support and teaching staff and would like to thank them for all the support they have provided to our students.

Miss Newsome (Consequence Manager) has made the decision to spend more time with her family. We have interviewed for her replacement and hope to have Mrs Groves starting in the next few weeks.

Mr Harrison (Learning Manager Y8) was only with us provisionally and has now returned to Bydales. Year 8 boys will be supported by Miss Ayre (Y7) and Year 8 girls by Miss Huskinson (Y9).

Mrs Richardson (MFL teacher) has secured a new post. We are currently interviewing for her replacement.

Mr Hewitt (121 English teacher) has left to work full time at a school in Stockton. We have Mrs Burke and Mrs Howell starting soon to support his area.

Mrs Smith (Part time Humanities teacher) will also be leaving us at Christmas. We hope to have a replacement soon.

Thank you all for your support and for your continued patience while we go through this period of staffing changes.

If you ever do have issues with communication, please do not hesitate to contact my PA directly via email who will ensure that any pressing issues get picked up immediately. Mrs Lodge can be contacted on m.lodge@redcar.outwood.com.

Yours sincerely,

A Sweeten
Principal