



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/carers

Many thanks to all the parents that attended the year 11 'Prep for Success' event this week. With the Term 2 exams being 4 weeks away, I hope those that attended found the information shared regarding expectations and support on offer valuable. From a student point of view it has been incredibly impressive regularly seeing over 60% of the year group turning up for period 6 sessions across all subjects. There is clearly a real focus and drive amongst the year group to seize the additional opportunities that staff here are offering. With such focus and dedication students will be rightly rewarded. As ever, if you have any questions or queries please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

### **Focus on punctuality and additions to Class Charts notifications**

Tutor time discussions in the latter part of this week have involved reminding students on the importance of punctuality both to school and between lessons. Messages are also re-enforced on house screens and through staff presence in corridors at lesson changeover. Next week this will be a key focus.

To support this we have introduced a late to lesson/tutor time button on Class Charts. Teachers will 'ping' this button if a child is late and this will send a message home to parents. In addition bells are being introduced to all lessons to ensure classes are dismissed on time to allow movement to your child's next lesson. We will continue to have movement bells, signalling 5 minutes to the start of the next lesson/tutor time at the start of the day, the end of break and the end of lunch.

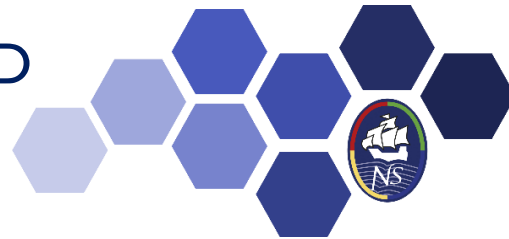
In addition staff will also be using a 'Left Lesson' button which will, again, alert parents at home if a student leaves a lesson needing the toilet, using their WRAP card or other reason. The aim of this is to ensure parents are aware how often this is happening during the school day and for you as parents to have conversations with your child about this at home.

### **Settling In Evening – 19<sup>th</sup> October - 4pm – 7pm**

Bookings are now live for all students in years 7, 12 and 13 to book an appointment with their tutor. This will be a face to face event held in school and discussions will centre on how students have settled into the routines of year 7 and the 6<sup>th</sup> form.

### **Students that cycle to school**

It is encouraging to see so many students choosing to cycle to school given the environmental and health benefits. As a reminder with the days now shortening students that choose to cycle should also be taking care in ensuring they are wearing appropriate clothing. As well as including a cycle helmet, bikes should also have appropriate lights and students should be wearing outer clothing that enables them to be seen in darker conditions. Thanks in advance for supporting this very important safety issue.



## **Mobile phone use in school**

There has been a lot of debate this week in the press about the banning of mobile phones in schools given the announcement of the Education Secretary and the Conservative Party Conference. As a reminder of our policy, although students can bring mobile phones with them into the school building they need to be 'off and away for the whole school day'. Any student caught using their phone on school site, be that in lessons or at lunchtime will have the phone confiscated for the remainder of the day. Where it is noted that a student has their phone regularly confiscated they may be asked to hand their phone into the relevant Head of House at the beginning of the day. Thank you for your continued support of this important school policy.

**Finally....**many thanks to the parents that have donated to the school fund that has been set up this year. We have received donations to the value of over £2, 500 which will really help to fund those things that we might not be otherwise able to afford, ensuring our students have access to a rich and broad educational experience. I am aware that not all families have been able to contribute and I do want to reassure people that no one will be treated differently irrespective of whether or how much parents contribute. Thanks again for continuing to support our school.

Have a good weekend.

Take care and be kind

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher