



15th March 2025

Dear Parents/carers

You may have heard the phrase 'early is on time, on time is Late and Late is unacceptable'. Although the origins of the wording has been debated the meaning is clear – the reason that being 'on time' can be interpreted as being 'late' lies with the fact that when you have an agreement to be somewhere you are always working with someone else's time. Turning up at the exact time a meeting is set to be scheduled could be viewed as being unprepared, rude or inconsiderate, even though you could rightfully say you are 'on time'. This is even more the case if you are the last to arrive in a group or if the person that has started the meeting has been waiting for you to get there, having arrived a few minutes early themselves.

Of course, in our sense, the context is not meetings but lessons and learning time. From earlier letters in the term you will know that we are having a specific drive on students being on time for school and lessons, for all the reasons cited above. Staff have been directed to log minutes late and to alert parents through the 'Late to lesson' alert so that a clear picture of students who are late to lessons can be gathered. At the time of writing (Wednesday morning) we currently have 31 students in our new 'persistent late detention' allocated as these students have been late to school or lessons 3 or more times. This is clearly not acceptable given the lack of care and respect this is showing for both staff prepared to teach lessons and to their peers who are ready to learn. It is hoped this logging and sanction will remind students about the importance of punctuality, enabling all lessons and learning to run smoothly. Thank you, in advance, for your support

Other messages for the week can be found below:

North Somerset Bus Changes

Many thanks to the parents that have copied me into correspondence sent to the local council regarding changes to bus services, primarily through Long Ashton. We understand that the change to the routes and some cancellations altogether are causing parents some anxiety and the impact this may have on punctuality to school. I am pleased to report that we received a call from the Head of Transport at North Somerset this week who has confirmed that there will be now 3 buses that will come from Long Ashton to Nailsea moving forward.

Wellspring Counselling

Wellspring Counselling has a team of skilled Young People's Counsellors who are trained to listen attentively and sensitively to your child's concerns. They are offering free listening sessions for anyone experiencing feelings which such as depression or anxiety. Young people may find talking to someone outside of friends and family who is professionally trained can help them become clearer about thoughts and feelings and help find solutions.

Contact reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk for more info or to book a session.



Student Leadership

All current House Tutor Reps will be taking part in a Trust Student Leadership Programme starting next week. This will be delivered by Mrs Elliott and Mrs Wisby during ETT sessions. Tutor Reps to check with their Head of House for further info. The first session will be 18th March in the GLT.

Social Media Crazes and online safety

This week a significant amount of time was spent following up a nasty incident where a group of students replicated an online social media craze posted to TikTok. As a reminder this particular platform cites that users should be over 13 years of age. Although we regularly pick up the topics of online safety as part of curriculum, I would also encourage open and honest communication between you and your child regarding their online activity.

If you don't already have <https://families.google/familylink/> you may wish to install this or similar on your devices, so that you can monitor and support your child's safe use of social media. Other key points to note are below:

- **Monitoring and Awareness:** As parents, it is crucial to be aware of the social media platforms your child uses, who they are connected with, the content they are sharing and how they are engaging with it. Regularly check their devices and have open conversations about their online behaviour.
- **Age Appropriateness:** Ensure your child is using platforms that are age-appropriate and adhere to the terms of service regarding minimum age requirements.
- **Cyberbullying Concerns:** Cyberbullying can have serious consequences, and we encourage you to talk to your child about the importance of respectful online conduct, reporting any instances of bullying they encounter.
- **Privacy Settings:** Review privacy settings on social media accounts to limit who can see your child's personal information and posts.
- **Digital Footprint:** Remind your child that anything posted online is PERMANENT and can be seen by others, including potential employers, and should be considered carefully.
- **Screen Time Management:** Set healthy boundaries regarding screen time and encourage other activities that do not involve technology.

You can report any concerns and there is more information here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

If you have any concerns about your child's social media use, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor. We know that by working together, we can create a safe and positive online environment for our students and teach them the skills they need to navigate the online world.

Year 9 Event Guided Choices – 3rd April

Parents of students in year 9 should have received a letter from Ms Dee regarding the start of students choosing their GCSE courses. As a summary the timeline is as follows:

- Tuesday 1st April 8.30am Guided Choices Launch Assembly in school for students.
- Thursday 3rd April 5pm – 7pm Y9 Guided Choices Evening in school where students and parents are invited to have face to face discussions about courses on offer.
- Friday 25th April 3pm Deadline for Guided Choices Application Forms



The Guided Choices Evening (3rd April) will give students and parents the opportunity to discuss the different subjects on offer with subject teachers. This will take place in school, face to face, and also features a presentation to parents about how the Guided Choices process works and what subjects the students can select. There is no need to book a place on the Guided Choices Evening and students and parents are free to drop in as they wish. There are two presentations in the Auditorium starting at 5.30pm for Dragon and Griffin Houses and 6.30pm for Phoenix and Unicorn Houses.

Finally ... this weekend sees my secondary school holding their reunion dinner. Although this is an annual event, 2025 for my year group signifies 30 years since we left. I can't quite believe that milestone has come around and although I thoroughly enjoyed my time at school I am slightly apprehensive about the event. Take That were at number 1 with 'Never Forget' the year we had our leavers' event and that summer as I collected my A Level results, the battle was ongoing between Blur and Oasis for the top spot. Social Media has enabled me to keep up to date with the lives of my peer group but the fact that I am seeing some people face to face for the first time in 30 years is quite nerve wracking. It's always important to put yourself out of your comfort zone though, and although I will surely have some butterflies as I walk up those stairs into the Hall, I am sure we will all be reverting to our 17 year old selves in no time. Whatever you are doing this weekend, have a lovely time.



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

