



Friday 13th February 2015

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wanted to write to you, to update you on some of the things that are going on in the Academy.

Increasing Reading

To encourage students to read regularly, we have introduced a silent reading morning, one day a week during Tutor time. This is working very successfully, but needs to be supported at home, with all students being encouraged to have a book at home that they are reading regularly.

In primary school, this is done very successfully, with students having reading diaries that are filled in and signed by parents to ensure that children are encouraged to read, but this often gets taken for granted at secondary school, so it is important that this support continues at home.

There is copious research that demonstrates that children, who read more, then write better, and because they write better, they then do better in their exams. This in turn results in higher grades that lead to better jobs, better pay and better life chances. So, it is very important that reading is supported at home, as well as at school.

Pencil Cases for All

Throughout the year so far, a number of teachers, and some students, have been complaining that teachers cannot get started with their lessons on time, as so many students do not have the appropriate equipment, ready for learning. The start of almost every lesson is being delayed, whilst the teacher has to find spare pens, pencils, rulers etc., which is unacceptable. An individual teacher can see in excess of 100 students a day, so they certainly cannot be expected to be sorting out basic items for learning, like pens and pencils.

We have previously had a supply of pens for purchase, but even these often end up at the bottom of a bag and then 'can't be found' when the lesson starts.

To address this issue, and ensure a prompt start to all lessons, every student will be expected to have their own pencil case after half term. The academy will be selling a full pencil case, containing pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and highlighter for only £1.00 and these will also be able to be purchased through Vivo points, so there will be no excuse for any student not turning up fully equipped and ready to learn.

Uniform and Hair

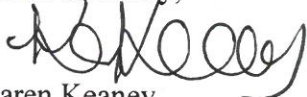
Can I just please remind parents that the Uniform of the Academy is 'non-negotiable', so please do not be persuaded by your son that black jeans or black trainers are part of the uniform, as they are not.

Hair also needs to be an 'even' length, in a 'short back and sides' military style, but not shaved shorter than a 'number 2'.

Attendance

We have seen some significant improvement in attendance this year, so can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in getting your son into school.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Keaney
Principal

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