



18th July 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy academic year, we are already looking ahead to next year.

As a school, we are very proud of the journey that we have been on. Student attainment has risen year on year whilst we have maintained a highly inclusive ethos that values creativity, leadership, citizenship and participation in extra-curricular activities. We will not lose this.

We do, however, feel the time is right to re-focus our high expectations for student's attitudes to learning and behaviour. We want all of our students to come to school and experience lessons that are calm, purposeful and challenging and where they are motivated to achieve. We have been disappointed that some student, parent and teacher voice has expressed concerns over pockets of low-level disruption which inevitably impact the learning and well-being of everyone in our school community. This is not acceptable and we need to address it. All students in our school deserve the chance to learn and to make the progress they are capable of.

Over the course of the next week, we will be speaking to students about our expectations moving forward. This will include:

- (a) Clear expectations about behaviour in and out of lessons. This will include a more consistent approach to recording and challenging unacceptable behaviour in and out of lesson time.
- (b) Greater focus on rewarding positive engagement and attitudes to learning in lessons.
- (c) A ban on mobile phones. This is the most contentious of the changes and is in line with current national thinking. We have always allowed students to access their phones at breaks and lunchtimes as long as this was done safely and appropriately. However, there can be no doubt that mobile phones are a distraction and a number of students find it difficult to switch off from social pressures when they are in the classroom. This can impact on their attitudes, behaviour and progress. It can also be very damaging for student well-being. For safeguarding reasons, students will be able to bring phones to school as long as they are turned off and in bags throughout the school day. If students need to make phone-calls to parents, guardians and carers they can go to student reception. If students are found using mobile phones in school we will confiscate these and lock them away until the end of that day. In the case of multiple offences we will make contact with parents, guardians and carers to seek additional support around mobile phone use.
- (d) A reminder of the school expectations around personal presentation and uniform. We are very proud of our school and we believe that how students dress for a day at school reflects their mindset and “buy in” to the culture and ethos of the school.



Sprowston Community Academy and Sixth Form

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“the purpose of life is a life of purpose”

(e) Information about slight tweaks to our school day. We are proposing to add some movement time between lessons 1 and 2 and 4 and 5. At the same time, we are looking to reduce the school lunch hour by 10 minutes. Our current lunch break can be too long and unstructured for many students, particularly in the winter months.

As a leadership team, we are really excited about the year ahead. We believe strongly in our staff and students and feel that these changes will support us in making the leap to being a very good academy. We are a team and we rely heavily on your support to back us and to convey the same message of high expectation and pride in learning and participation in wider school life.

In addition to this letter, you will receive attachments that add more detail to the strategies outlined above. We do, of course, value your feedback as we go through this process.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this year and wish you a good summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Liz Wood
Head of School