



Alsom High School

10 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we have welcomed students back to school after what we hope was a wonderful break. The new year is an opportunity to make a fresh start and the break has enabled students to attend classes with renewed energy and enthusiasm. It has been a week where we have adjusted to high expectations, new routines and early starts!

To ensure the **highest standards** at Alsom and the safety of students, can I remind you of the following expectations.

As you know, the school's drive to raise standards continues, guided by our belief in high but entirely reasonable expectations. To view our focus on high standards as solely about our uniform policy is to misunderstand our broader commitment to excellence in all areas.

We remain unapologetic in consistently applying high standards across everything we do because we are deeply committed to improving the life chances of the young people in the community we serve. Our approach will not waver, and the standards we expect will remain firm.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received from parents and carers, which has been invaluable. I am also pleased to share that this week we have provided over 250 items of clothing to support our families and students.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work together to ensure the very best for our young people.

Be Ready: Perfect Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform. It sets the tone for a respectful, focused learning environment. Please ensure your child arrives each day in full uniform. I have attached our school uniform information leaflet.

Please note: Non-logo hoodies, hats, hoods, and caps must be removed upon entering the building.

From Monday 13 January we reserve the right to send students home to resolve uniform issues if reasonable efforts have not been made. Students will be welcomed back once the issue is addressed.

Learning Habit – Punctuality. I have attached our learning habits.

Punctuality is a vital part of school life, and at Alsop High School, we are committed to supporting all students in forming good habits that will benefit them now and in the future.

As one of our core values is to be respectful, we have taken a fair and supportive approach at the start of term. During this time, we have worked with our students to practice arriving at school on time. However, **from Monday 13 January**, any student arriving **after 8:30am** will receive an automatic 30-minute detention, supervised by our Progress Leaders.

This policy reflects our belief that every minute of learning is important, and again, we make no apologies for holding high expectations. Arriving on time ensures students can fully engage in their education, develop strong routines, and meet the high standards we expect of everyone in our school community. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this important message with your child. Together, we can ensure that all students are ready to make the most of their learning opportunities.

Learning Habit – Positive Behaviour

To support the minority of students who find it challenging to meet Alsop's high standards of conduct, we have made some changes to the way we operate our internal suspension classroom, now called the Reflective Learning Centre (RLC).

We will use the first few days as we return to school to clearly communicate our expectations with parents, carers, and students. However, **from Monday 13 January**, any student placed in the RLC will be required to arrive at school at **9:15am** and will be dismissed at **3:30pm**.

While in the RLC, students will follow a modified curriculum tailored to their needs and will receive support from our skilled behaviour support staff. This approach is designed to help students reflect on their behaviour, make positive changes, and reintegrate successfully into the wider school community.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to uphold our high standards and ensure a positive learning environment for all.

Learning Habit – Positive Behaviour

To support our students in remaining focused during lessons and maintaining strong daily habits, we have decided to ban all **fizzy and caffeine-based drinks** in school. I'm sure you will agree that the side effects of these drinks are well known and can significantly impact students' ability to concentrate in the classroom.

From **Monday 13 January**, we will request that all students dispose of these drinks in the bins provided before entering school. Any student found with these drinks during the school day will be asked by staff to dispose of them.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child does not bring fizzy or caffeine-based drinks to school. This is part of our whole-school approach to promoting the wellbeing of our students and ensuring they are ready to learn and succeed each day.

Mobile phones and AirPods

I would like to remind everyone of our school's no mobile phone policy. Given the likelihood of some children receiving new phones and air pods during the Christmas holidays, your support for reinforcing this policy is crucial. The strategy plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of our students and maximising learning time.

The benefits of such an approach are well-documented, including significant improvements in students' mental health, wellbeing, and overall learning experience. We believe this step will contribute positively to creating the best possible environment for all students to focus, engage, and thrive.

We kindly request that parents and carers refrain from contacting their child via mobile devices during school hours. If you need to reach your child urgently, please do so through the school office.

Parent's Evening – Year 11, 12 & 13

As you are aware, we made the decision to postpone the Year 11 Parents' Evening due to the inclement weather. This event has now been rescheduled for **Thursday, 16 January**.

All appointments will be rearranged, and we strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend. With 70 school days until the start of the summer examinations, evidence consistently demonstrates that when parents and carers take an active interest in their child's education, it positively impacts their academic performance.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you on the new date.

Finally, it has been a busy, full, and tiring first week for both staff and students, but the team has thoroughly enjoyed seeing our students rise to meet our high expectations and standards.

Best wishes,



Peter Mee

Head of School