

16th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you are excited about what the new academic year will bring. At Balshaw's, we continue to commit ourselves to our central mission to develop students, of faith, and no faith, who reflect Christ's love within the wider community. As part of this commitment, we have implemented a taught behaviour curriculum that we believe will greatly benefit your child's social, emotional, and academic growth. Below is some information about why and how this will be implemented in school.

Why are we implementing a taught behaviour curriculum this year?

Student behaviour is critical. When behaviour is strong in school, students feel safe and can devote more attention to learning. When it is not, school can be a painful experience for both students and staff. At Balshaw's we believe that outstanding behaviour is a pre-condition for success.

However, excellent behaviour is not always the status quo in school. A recent report by the DfE found that, on average, around a quarter of learning time is lost to poor behaviour. That is over 44 days a year. While this is the average lost learning time across the country and not here at Balshaw's, it does reinforce the need for us to teach every student the habits, behaviours and social norms that will help them to flourish as a learner during their time with us.

What is being implemented?

At Balshaw's, we recognize that every second of lesson time is crucial. With this as our focus we have outlined specific routines for students which we have implemented since the start of term with regard to how they enter and leave class and how they should conduct themselves during lessons. To ensure students are able to maximize their learning time and avoid the impact of distractions all classrooms are silent, and conversations are directed by the teacher at all times. In every classroom, someone is always in charge and if it is not the teacher, then it is the loudest student in the room. We have made it clear to students that the teacher, as the subject expert, is in charge in every classroom; this ensures learning is disruption free, teachers are free to teach and students to learn.

We are especially keen to increase the number of students who receive rewards by recognizing their achievements; to this end we now have a system where all staff will issue all students with a positive for every lesson which is theirs to lose should they fail to meet our high expectations. You may have noticed that your child has been awarded more positives this year already, which is great; students should in theory gain 25 positives a week.

The positive system is designed to motivate students by linking positives to rewards and opportunities in school. As a parent it is very straightforward for you to check your child's positive balance, providing us with an invaluable opportunity to work together in celebrating the hard work and positive attitude of our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Shannon
Leader of the Behaviour Curriculum