

3rd March 2023

Dear Families

Re: Pastoral Update

I am writing to families today to outline some of the changes we have made to our pastoral processes in school, and to also provide clarification on the current national TikTok trend.

We are very fortunate that the vast majority of our students conduct themselves impeccably throughout the day. These students continue to be recognised for their endeavour, and I am looking forward to seeing these students receiving commendations via the end of term reward letters. If your child receives one of these letters, please take the time to re-enforce our praise, because they are a credit to themselves, you and the school.

Pastoral changes within school

Whilst the vast majority of our students follow our rules appropriately, there are still a number who disrupt learning of others in the classroom, and do not follow the standards we expect of a Burton Borough student in social times.

All students (apart from Year 11) will have had an assembly today where we have commended those who make the right choices, but also outlined what we have changed to tackle those who do not make the right choices. The following paragraphs highlight where improvements need to be made.

Not in lesson: Should a child need to leave a lesson at any point they must do so with the orange pass from their class teacher. Unless a child has a pre-arranged meeting or an exit/medical card there is no reason for them to leave a lesson. If a child is desperate for the toilet, then they will of course be allowed to go. We have recently seen a small number of students that are trying to spend time in corridors, many of which using the excuse of a toilet break. I am sure that you will agree we cannot allow this, as students are missing learning and not directly supervised in these spaces.

Equipment: All students should arrive with the right equipment. It is their responsibility. Not having a pen is not acceptable and this will be followed up by staff. Staff may lend a pen within the lesson, but this will result in a sanction. It is a minimum requirement that you arrive to school with a pen.

Punctuality: A punctual start to lessons is essential. Students are given ample time to transfer from lesson to lesson, but those who do not regularly arrive on time will automatically receive a 2 hour after school SLT detention. Lessons need to start promptly to avoid disruption to learning.

Continued...

Reasonable requests:

In the assembly today we discussed how it is our aim to develop good young adults. Part of this involves manners and courtesy of others. Defiance is unfortunately commonplace amongst a very small minority of our students, and I am sure that you will agree this is unacceptable. A polite request to move along to lesson, to remove a coat, or go to a referral room after a sanction should be followed.

TikTok social media trend

You will have probably seen in recent days a national social media trend with students choosing to protest in their schools. Protests across the country have typically been in response to uniform rules, locked toilets, and other operational matters.

As stated above we will never prevent a child who is in real need of going to the toilet and we are always listening to our community to make changes where necessary in response to concerns that may be raised. Governors for example, led an open forum before half term, as have the Principal and other staff previously. Students who have concerns they wish to raise are invited to do so regularly, and as a reminder these are the methods they can use:

1. Speaking to their tutor.
2. Speaking to their small school staff.
3. Speaking to the Safeguarding Team.
4. Via TOOTTOOT.
5. Feedback using the regular student surveys.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely



Ben Morgan
Senior Vice Principal



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