



14 December 2022

Dear parents, guardians, carers,

Thank you for the ongoing support you have given the school this term. The vast majority of parents are highly supportive and work closely with us to secure the highest levels of success for their children by supporting our day to day expectations. A separate letter about expectations will be going to the homes of some students. Please ensure that any replacement uniform bought over the holiday period meets the school requirements. (See [here](#)). Similarly, please re-read the expectations and ensure your child's uniform is aligned with these.

Shin pads / Gum shields from January

In addition to these, please be aware that the FA rules for football training and matches is that shin pads must be worn. To be realistic about this, for those who regularly participate in football training or matches, please ensure you have these from January. For students who have them, please also bring these to core PE lessons. For all other students, this will be a compulsory requirement for everyone from September.

In a similar vein, there is an expectation that as all boys participate in rugby training as part of their curriculum, we need all pupils to have their own gum shield from January. The PE department will communicate further with students about this.

Additional Bank Holiday Monday 8 May 2023

We are aware that the King Charles' coronation will be marked by an additional bank holiday. In spite of all of the best planning, the impact of two consecutive Monday's missed (particularly for exam classes) can be unsettling. I am just raising your awareness of this for now. In the new year, we shall come up with an approach so that a simple and consistent expectation is communicated to offset the negative impact- especially for non-core subjects.

Foodbank Donation 2022

Thank you to so many of you for your generous donations for the foodbank which be delivered by the end of this week.

Cost of living

As the cost of living increases it is important to be aware of the benefits, payments and support options available to you. There are local and national schemes that can help you with rent, food, energy and more. The government has a national cost of living hub which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

How do apply for free school meals: <https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/Free-school-meals/How-to-apply-for-free-school-meals.aspx>

Last day of term Christmas themed non-uniform day

On Friday 16 December students are encouraged to support the projects of the Friends of Poole High School through a non-uniform day. A suggested donation of £1 for FOPHS will be collected on arrival to school. School closes to students at 12.30pm following afternoon registration. The dining hall will be open for those students entitled to free school meals but we encourage students to purchase their food at break time. Please note reception will close at 2.30pm. Students are encouraged to accessorise their own clothes with festive decoration.

Ungraded inspection

As you may recall, the school underwent an ungraded inspection at the end of September. The purpose of the smaller scale inspections is to stress-test the last inspection grade the school received; it cannot

in itself change the school's last full inspection grade. It is no surprise that the inspection team recognised our superb and purposeful learning ethos. The short report is available on the Ofsted website [here](#). We are delighted that the school gained recognition for the **"positive education and care your children receive"**... the fact that **"pupils enjoy their learning and are proud of the work they produce. They are motivated to learn the ambitious curriculum which leaders have planned. The absence of low level disruption"**... **"the extensive extra-curricular programme"**.

It's worth reminding parents too that the **separate Ofsted data report (ISDR) placed Poole High School on the 12th percentile this year i.e. above 87% of schools across the country** for the excellent progress our students made this summer, once again. I am delighted for our staff and governors who have worked tirelessly since the last inspection – using the best evidence-informed research to transform our curriculum and teaching. **"Leaders have sequenced meticulously the curriculum that pupils learn. Effective teaching enables pupils to learn this curriculum successfully."** It was gratifying to see that the inspectors recognised that this applied to children across the ability range and noted **"the ambitious programmes of study in the sixth form"**. Recognition given to the motivating effect of our careers programme is pleasing too. There is a large section given to the immense and meticulous work that so many of our support staff and leaders work upon tirelessly to ensure children are safe and the curriculum they study ensures students understand an age appropriate way of keeping themselves and others safe.

The report identifies two action points. One relates to a matter we were already working towards in our reading programme. The other relates to leadership challenge. On the last point, I am happy to give you my assurance that so many of the positive issues that the report recognises:

- the appointment of **"teachers who are subject experts"**;
- the **"construction of a professional development programme which is grounded in educational research"**;
- the development of **"a high quality careers programme"** - particularly noteworthy in the sixth form....

has only been possible with the balance of challenge and support from our governing body. That being said, we look forward to fully embracing the explicit and implicit messages within the report and refining our priorities as we brace ourselves for 2023.

We wish you all a restful and restorative Christmas, and thank you for all you do to support this superb community in which we have so much pride.

Kind regards,



Paul Gray
Headteacher