

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can I take the opportunity to thank you for your support during what has been a hugely successful first half-term. Our drive to raise standards has continued, and our school community has responded extremely positively to the school's high expectations. Our success this term now leaves us well placed to continue on our journey of transformation, and I am confident that the school now provides a good quality of education to the community of Birkenhead.

As you are already aware, the Birkenhead Park School Learning Habits provide a framework to ensure our core values of positivity, ambition, resilience, and thoughtfulness are embedded within our daily practice. Every student is expected to uphold these values.

Our learning habits are:

- Perfect Uniform, Positive Behaviour, Attendance and Punctuality, Homework, Equipment

#### **Learning Habit: Calm Corridors**

Now that students have become accustomed to the expectations surrounding our learning habits, we will now move on to implementing our sixth and final learning habit: **Calm Corridors**.

At Birkenhead Park School, we aim to have calm corridors and quick transitions. We know our students feel happy and safe in an orderly environment where respect is modelled, relationships are strong, and learning time is maximised. Learning time is maximised because students will have precisely 5 minutes to successfully transition from one point to another. Students need to walk with pace and purpose to get to their next lesson on time.

One of our values is to be 'Thoughtful'. Consequently, it is right that we will be 'fair' and spend the first week back after half term supporting students to meet the very highest expectations. We have high expectations, and while sometimes this may be challenging, we expect our students to live by our learning habits 100% of the time. If they do this, their hard work will be recognised. However, if any of the learning habits are not met, a same-day detention will be issued.

From **Monday, November 6**, school detentions will be issued for students who are more than 5 minutes late for their lessons.

#### **Year 11 Mock Exams - week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 11 continue to work really hard in lessons, and their attendance at interventions and masterclasses has been really pleasing. Today, students have been given their mock timetables, and a digital copy will be sent home.

Year 11 parents and carers have already received a 'Countdown to Mock' timetable outlining the range of interventions and masterclasses before school, lunch time, and afterschool. The communication to Year 11 parents and carers also included our amazing Saturday School and October half term masterclasses.

All extra sessions are planned and delivered to support students to make even more progress in a subject area and are specifically tailored to their needs. Students **MUST** attend these sessions to give themselves the best chance in their exams and to guarantee they progress to their chosen post 16 destination.

### **Responsible Parking**

In our commitment to being good neighbours and ensuring the safety of our students, we kindly ask all parents and carers to be considerate when parking near the school. Sadly, our neighbours continue to inform us that their driveways have been blocked, cars have double-parked, or they have been parked in restricted areas. Merseyside Police have installed a 4G camera outside of the school to monitor the parking and surrounding area. If you collect your child by car, please consider doing so at an agreed location, a short walk away from school. This helps disperse the traffic and supports a harmonious environment for our community.

### **Attendance**

It is important for parents and carers to be aware that there is a clear link between attendance and student outcomes at GCSE. The school expectation is that students attend 100% of the time. There is no reason for children who attend Birkenhead Park School to attend less than their peers at other schools across the country. Your child will compete against these other students to gain the best GCSEs possible, and the surest way to undermine your own child's success is to allow them to take time off. We need to work together to improve the life chances of the children who attend Birkenhead Park School.

### **Download class charts and support**

To help you stay informed about your child's progress, we encourage you to download Class Charts, our online tool for tracking homework, behaviour, and achievement. This valuable resource will help you stay engaged in your child's education and provide the support they need.

### **Staying Safe**

I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of staying safe during this time, especially as the nights get darker and activities such as fireworks and bonfires become more prevalent. The safety and well-being of our students is really important, and we want to ensure everyone enjoys the upcoming break safely. Please remember to remind your child of the dangers of buying and handling fireworks. Furthermore, it is very easy for your child to be drawn into anti-social behaviour at this time of the year, and this can be harmful to our community. I would ask you to discuss these important points with your child over the half-term break.

**Inset Day – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** - The school will be closed to students for staff training.



The  
**Birkenhead Park**  
School

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break.

Best wishes

Peter Mee  
Head of School

*Ambition* **AND**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**FOR ALL**

[www.birkenheadparkschool.com](http://www.birkenheadparkschool.com)

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