24 March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

I would like to begin by thanking you for working with us over this half term as we have settled back into school. It was a delight to welcome students back and return to some sense of normality.

Our priority has been to make sure that students have returned safely and have felt happy in making the transition back to school. Whilst we recognise that the past few months have been challenging and that many aspects of normal school life still have to be different, now is the time for us to re-establish routines and expectations.

We are reminding students in school this week of our expectations for the summer term and beyond and this letter provides you with an update and some key “reminders” ahead of the start of the summer term. Thank you for taking the time to read through this letter and for working with us to re-establish the high standards that we are so proud to associate with our school.

**School Uniform / Jewellery**

We are proud of our school uniform and how smart our students look. Uniform is considered a very important aspect of our ethos and helps to set the tone for the positive learning environment that we have within school. I know that year leaders have been working with you to address any uniform issues that may have arisen following school closure – please let us know if we can provide any further assistance.

Full school uniform is expected to be worn by all students every day. This now includes days when students have PE lessons. Whilst students have previously been able to attend school in their PE kit on the days when they have PE lessons, this is no longer necessary and will therefore not be permitted after the spring break.

Please remind your son/daughter that hoodies (with the exception of Year 11 BPS hoodies) and coats must not be worn inside classrooms. As windows/doors must remain open for ventilation, some allowances were made during the winter months so that students could stay warm. However, this will no longer be necessary as the weather gets warmer.

There is a helpful uniform leaflet attached to this letter which clarifies exactly what is acceptable in terms of colour/style of uniform items. Any students returning to school with incorrect shoes and/or uniform that is not considered acceptable will be given a short period of time, usually 24 hours, to rectify this.

**Hair / Nails**

We have welcomed some students back to school with hairstyles and colours that would normally not be acceptable, as we appreciate how difficult it is to put this right whilst hairdressers and barbers have remained closed. However, we expect all students to return to school after the spring break fully meeting our school expectations.

For reference, the following are **NOT acceptable**:

* False nails (including coloured or French polish).
* Painted nails – only clear nail polish is permitted.
* False eyelashes.
* Fake tan or spray tan that does not look natural.
* Facial piercings (clear spacers or retainers are not allowed at any time).
* Extreme hair colours (only natural looking colours are permitted).
* Extreme hair styles including any step change in hair length.
* Bandanas – this includes wearing them as a hairband.
* No shaved patterns into hair.
* Jewellery – (including rings, bracelets, bangles).
* Badges (other than badges issued by the school).
* Caps or hats.

The following **ARE acceptable**:

* One watch may be worn on the wrist.
* One pair of small plain earrings (no sleepers, stretchers or spikes). The stud must be in the ear lobe and not at any other point of the ear.

**Behaviour**

We have supported students as they have made the transition back to school so that they feel happy and confident to return to normal routines after this latest period of school closure. Every student has the right to learn in a calm and positive environment and, whilst we know that some students may need support to meet our expectations, we will not tolerate any behaviour that disrupts the learning of others. We expect students to be respectful and use appropriate language with staff and each other at all times in school.

We ask for your support in ensuring that your child meets our expectations regarding behaviour and cooperation with staff at all times.

**School bag / Equipment**

You will know that all students were re-issued with a pencil case and school equipment when we re-opened earlier in March. Your child should bring this equipment to school every day in their school bag. In this way we can make sure that no lesson time is lost during the day dealing with equipment issues and students can take books to and from school to complete homework.

Finally, thank you for your continued support as we work with you to provide the best education we can for your son/daughter during these difficult times. I know from the positive feedback that so many of you were keen to share with inspectors during our recent OFSTED inspection how grateful you have been to our staff and they appreciate your support very much.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child’s year leader in the first instance.

I hope that you and your families enjoy a restful spring break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 12th April. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

With very best wishes.



**Mrs Johnson**

**Headteacher**