

14 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to Mr Kilbride's letter I'm pleased to share our expectations for the rest of the Spring term and beyond. This letter provides you with essential information ahead of our return to school on **Monday 27 February 2023**.

Our drive to raise standards has continued and I am delighted to report that our students have responded extremely positively to these higher expectations. Our early success now leaves us well placed to continue our journey, and I am confident that 2023 will see a significant improvement in the achievements of our students. I will also be evaluating all aspects of our current practice over the remainder of the year to make further improvements and enrich the school experience for every student, this will include how we will continue to respond to the very poor behaviour of a very small number of students who seriously damage the education of the vast majority.

The Birkenhead Park School Learning Habits provide a framework to ensure our core values (Positivity, Ambition, Resilience, Thoughtful) are embedded within our daily practice. Every student will be expected to uphold these values. We will continue to introduce new learning habits as part of our school improvement process.

As a reminder our current learning habits are:

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

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. We expect all our students to attend the school in full school uniform, I have listed the items below.

Full school uniform is expected to be worn by all students every day.

- A black blazer with a red trim and the school badge
- A white shirt/blouse
- School clip-on tie; no other type is permitted
- Black school trousers or black skirt - girls' trousers must be tailored
- Plain black shoes
- A school jumper or black cardigan may be worn provided they are fine knit.
- Plain black or white socks, black tights
- School lanyard and timetable



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

- Bodycon skirt
- Trainers
- Walking/softshell trousers
- Tracksuit bottoms
- False nails (including coloured or French polish)
- Painted nails/ Shellac/ gel – only clear or natural nail polish is permitted
- False eyelashes
- Fake tan or spray tan that does not look natural
- Facial piercings
- Extreme hair colours (only natural looking colours are permitted)
- Extreme hair styles
- Jewellery – (including rings, bracelets, bangles)

Our new term starts for students on **Monday 27 February 2023** and we reserve the right to send students home at the start of the day without further notice if they are not meeting our uniform expectations, and we do not feel that all reasonable efforts have been made to resolve the issue. In these exceptional circumstances, your child would be sent home to resolve the issue and we would welcome them back to school as soon as possible so they can continue their learning once the problem has been resolved.

You will note that we have made an adjustment to our uniform expectations regarding shoes, we understand there is a financial implication, therefore to support you this will not come into effect until **Monday 17 April**. After this date we will expect all students in Years 7 - 10 to **wear plain black school shoes**, for clarity, I have enclosed a leaflet on what is and isn't acceptable.

### **Learning Habit – Equipment**

Now that students have had since September to become accustomed to the expectations surrounding our learning habits, we will now move to implementing our fifth learning habit – Equipment.

At the start of the school year the equipment was provided to every student. Equipment is currently not being carefully looked after by students and we would appreciate the support of parents and carers in making sure all students are fully equipped when they arrive at the school. Students are required to have the following items:

- Pencil case
- 1 black or blue pen
- 1 red pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Highlighter

It is important that students are fully equipped for all lessons as this maximises learning time for students, if a student does not have the relevant equipment it can be purchased from the school shop before school, at breaktime and lunchtime. To support our students we will re-issue equipment at the start of the new term.

If a student attends tutor time without their equipment, they will receive a detention. We have high expectations, whilst 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.

It is vital that this is served on the same day so the student is given the opportunity to reflect on their mistake. This allows the student to take the necessary next steps to improve on the following day.

### **Learning Habit Attendance & Punctuality**

It is important for parents to be aware 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.

### **Blackpool Pleasure Beach – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

I'm delighted to inform you that we will be running a trips day on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The aim of the trip is to reward students who consistently meet our high expectations and learning habits. More information will follow from your child's Year Leader but only students with attendance above 95% (no more than 3 days off) will be allowed to go. One of our values is to be 'Thoughtful', consequently, it is right that we will start to record your child's percentage attendance from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Finally, we expect all students to return to school after February half term fully meeting our school expectations. Thank you for working with us to continue the high standards that we are now proud to associate with our school.

We hope that you and your families enjoy a restful half term. 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.

Yours sincerely



Peter Mee  
Head of School



**Shoes must be black, flat and plain.**



**Shoes must not be high heeled or have any decorations/logos on. Training shoes are not allowed.**

