

Friday 14th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mr. Fair has asked me to write the Friday update to you this week. He will resume update duties next Friday. In next week's video there will be news of the completion of project astroturf, a report after the final Year 11 GCSE examination, a progress update on End of Year 7 to Year 10 exams and feedback once both X and Y bands in Year 7 have had their Palace Theatre Aladdin experience!

Mr. Fair has asked me to write our letter this week in my capacity as Deputy Principal with strategic responsibility for standards and behaviour (amongst other things). On Monday 17th June, we will be holding four assemblies, one for each of the remaining year groups in school. These assemblies are called "Reset Assemblies". We have done them at this precise moment over the last three years. The point is to reestablish certain expectations and procedures, which perhaps naturally give a little during the supportive final push with Year 11 at the conclusion of the GCSE exam season.

On Monday we will focus on the following points with all learners. As always, we ask for your support and collaboration. Resetting on these points allows for a final five weeks of high-quality learning that can then be celebrated in reward activities and trips in the last week of term. It, also, ensures a good momentum of high standards into the 2024 25 academic year:

Uniform

Students will be reminded that shirts must always be tucked in and that skirts are never to have a roll in the waistband. Weather temperatures in the summer term are monitored and if it gets too hot, a "no-blazer" day is announced, during which learners can put blazers into their bags. Unless a "no-blazer" day is called, blazers must be worn in between lessons and around the site. They may, of course, be taken off in classrooms.

Jewellery and Mobile Phones

Mobile phones may be brought to school (because this is important for safeguarding and logistics before/after school), but they are not to be seen or heard during the school day. If they are, they will be confiscated and returned at 3.05pm. Repeat confiscations will mean the phone being kept until parents attend site to collect. Jewellery is currently being worn in our school too often. This is not in-line with policy and is an issue we are going to solve next week. There is no need for students to wear jewellery on the way to school. If they choose to do so, it is their responsibility to remove it before coming on to site. Any jewellery worn on site will be confiscated and kept in reception until a parent collects. This is a tweak to procedure. Returning confiscated jewellery to learners does not seem to be fully working. We are going to run this system until the end of term when we will reflect and review.

Mr A Fair **Academy Principal**

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Nails and Lashes

False nails and lashes are not permitted in school. School is a place for calm focused learning, and we have always had consensus that these fashion accessories can distract from that. Parents are always supportive with this. Should a learner come into school with false nails or lashes they will be given a 48-hour grace period to book an appointment to resolve the issue. Internal exclusion will then be activated if resolution has not occurred.

Attendance

As you know, good attendance to school is crucial to good progress. Anything less than 97% attendance is not meeting appropriate levels. We have an excellent attendance team and strong systems, which aid us to have rates that are better than national average. We work closely with the Local Authority, who have recently implemented some policy changes that were directed to all boroughs in the country. Further details, including increased fines, can be accessed on this link:

https://files.schudio.com/unsworth-academy/files/documents/attendance/Bury_PN_Information_Leaflet.pdf

Graffiti

One of the things we are most proud about at Unsworth is how our school community looks after the excellent facilities that we have. We are lucky to have such a wonderful building and site and we will remain grateful and caring of it. I'm saddened to report that in recent weeks there has been the beginnings of graffiti in some of the toilet cubicles. This will be dealt with most robustly. As ever, we know we will have your full support with this. The children deserve lovely surroundings, and it contributes so positively to our culture here.

So, several aspects of standards, behaviour to tighten up on next week. Until then, have lovely weekends and "Eid Mubarak" in advance ahead of celebrations next week.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Power
Deputy Principal

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