Key Points from Headteacher’s New Year Assembly Jan 2018

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a good break and that everyone got plenty of work done last week in preparation for the new term.

I am only going to be brief because Mrs Laverty is going to present the attendance awards from last term

I just wanted to remind you of the message from the start of the school year - are you "work ready"?  Are you prompt, reliable, honest, hardworking - prepared to go the extra mile to get the job done? Can you communicate clearly and politely and work with a range of types of people?

Our motto is "Learning for Life" and, yes, it is very important that you get your GCSE and BTEC qualifications, but it is just as important that you are ready to work, that you have the skills and attitudes that make you employable.  These skills (of hard work, attendance, reliability, communication...) are also the ones that are going to get you the best possible grades.  If you work with us you will succeed - outstanding support, great teaching and your independent hard work lead to your success.

You are great at supporting one another - it is one of the strengths of the school.  We have always been a place where we treat each other with respect, politeness and courtesy. I have noticed, however, over the last term that a small number of you are aggressive towards each other (and sometimes towards staff) if things don't quite go your way.  If you visit hospital, or the dentist, or any part of the NHS you will see signs like these (see images below).  Many businesses have them as well. They say, absolutely clearly, that any form of aggression, either verbal or physical, is out of order.  Think about it, you don't see your teachers or other staff swearing at or hitting each other....  When you go to work you wouldn't find that someone attacked you on the way home because you had been "giving them evils" during the day, or because they had commented on them on social media!  If so it would be a criminal offence and someone would be out of a job!  It is therefore unacceptable here.  Telling people to "f\* off", threatening to "get them" after school or any other aggressive behaviour is out of order and will be challenged.  You don't hear the "f " word in most workplaces and you should not hear it, or other unpleasant language, here.  You need to be "work-ready" and part of that is learning to control your emotions and change your speech to suit your situation.

Part of being work-ready is having really high attendance - dragging yourself into work even if you feel unwell.....  so the awards that Mrs Laverty is about to present are really important.....

