



20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

## Head of School Updates and Reminders

We are extremely pleased to say that our students have responded brilliantly to the reminders based around our high expectations and standards. Whole school attendance for the first week was at its highest since Autumn Term 1, punctuality has improved and behaviour, both within lessons and during unstructured time, has been excellent. It's fantastic to see students responding so positively and it goes without saying that we can only do this with your support. So that we can continue to work together on this, what follows are timely reminders regarding the school policy that we know you will fully support.

### Our Behaviour Policy

All students at Wellfield have the right to learn in an environment where positive behaviour supports your child's learning. Our Behaviour policy is equally important outside of the classroom, whether across the school or within our local community.

**On this last point, any anti-social behaviour in the local area or on social media when in the school's uniform, or smoking when identifiable as a student of the school, will result in the school supporting members of the community in sanctioning students.**

Again, the vast majority of students demonstrate the expected standards on a consistent basis and this can only help our reputation in the local community but a reminder is important so these levels are maintained.

It has also come to our attention that some parents, on hearing scare stories at both local and national level, quite rightly require reassurance that everyone within our school community is kept safe at all times. To reassure all parents, we have selected a few key elements of our policy so you are aware of some of the ways we keep our children safe.

### Site Supervision

One of the things we are also proud of in school is how our students behave during unstructured times. We always look to maintain those high standards by having numerous staff out on duty in different areas of the school.

I am sure your children will have spoken to you about our high-visibility vests which all members of staff on duty are expected to wear. The vests make staff members easily identifiable to our students, ensuring they feel safe at all times. The Junior Leadership Team and our fabulous prefects also play a vital role in supporting the staff throughout break and lunchtime.

If your children have any concerns during these times, please remind them to report them immediately to one of the many staff and prefects on duty.

## **Searching Students**

Due to the staff presence around school, we very rarely have to deal with incidents of students smoking on site. However, if there are ever any reports made, or indeed through random monitoring, our staff can search students with their consent. Students who refuse to be searched can be dealt with as if suspected items have been found when other evidence indicates a risk.

Staff authorised by myself or Mrs Gwinnett have the power to search students or their possessions without consent, where they suspect the student has items such as cigarettes, matches/lighters, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons and/or stolen items. This will only ever be done with two adults present. Again, could you work with us in making this clear to your children so they are fully aware of our policy.

## **Reporting incidents**

It is vital for us to work as a school with all students and parents. Our Pastoral Development Centre (PDC) team is very experienced and able to respond to any reports proactively and promptly, thus ensuring a swift conclusion to any concerns they encounter. However, unless we are made aware of any specific issues, particularly in the local community where duty staff will be absent, we cannot act or sanction. Therefore, we would ask that, should you or your child have any concerns or wish to report something, please do so promptly and with as much information as possible. Please rest assured that we will always act promptly on any information we receive and sanction appropriately to ensure we retain a safe school community for all our students.

Should you wish to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact us via email ([enquiries@whs.sch.lancs.uk](mailto:enquiries@whs.sch.lancs.uk)) or give us a call.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr J Lewis*

Head of School