

27th June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to my letter dated 27th May 2016, I am now in a position to communicate further detail in relation to the changes to the behaviour policy as outlined in my previous communication.

At this point, I would like to stress that over the last two years the behaviour and attitude of the vast majority of students has improved. Our students feel safe and good behaviour is seen far more often than ever before. Many of our students make the right choice more often, as evidenced by our Ofsted inspection in 2015. However, there is always room for improvement in our continuing efforts to drive up standards of achievement. We fully believe that students should be encouraged to adopt behaviour that supports learning and promotes good relations. Every child at The South Leeds Academy deserves the right to learn and to achieve good grades. Poor behaviour and low level disruption threaten the rights of young people to an effective education and can lead to people feeling unsafe, bullied, intimidated, or threatened. From 4th July, we are adopting a zero tolerance approach to certain behaviours, as I fully believe it will further transform the Academy.

A full copy of the new behaviour policy will be available on the website shortly but to give you a clear explanation of expectations, here are the main areas of development:

As always, students are asked to:

- Arrive at the Academy and at lessons punctually and be prepared to learn. Any student who arrives late to the Academy will be subject to isolation and potential exclusion for repeat offences.
- Wear the Academy uniform correctly. We have produced a uniform guide, attached to this letter for your convenience, so that you know the expectation.
- All students are expected to be polite, courteous, respectful to everyone on the Academy site and to comply with reasonable requests or instructions made by staff on the first time of asking. Failure to respond to a reasonable request will result in exclusion.
- Students are expected to have regard for their own safety and that of others.
- The Academy provides a secure and safe environment for students who are expected to remain on site throughout the Academy day and leave promptly at the end of the day unless engaged in enrichment activities.

By sending this letter, we make the assumption that parents/carers are signing up to an agreement, which includes agreeing to:

- Support and co-operate with the Academy and its policies.
- Inform the Academy of problems and concerns and in partnership try to solve them.
- Ensure full attendance and punctuality.

- Not take holidays in term time as these will not be authorised in line with law and Government guidance as set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 1st September 2013.
- Ensure a student is appropriately presented, dressed and equipped for the Academy in accordance with Academy policy, procedures and requirements in the attached guide.
- Attend parent/carer interviews and appropriate meetings
- Support the Academy rules about behaviour and discipline.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the policy, you are welcome to make an appointment. Otherwise, we will accept your agreement.

From 4th July, the following rules will be enforced WITHOUT EXCEPTION. Please be aware that any student who fails to comply with a reasonable request or who defies a senior member of staff will be excluded from the Academy for a fixed period of time.

- No makeup, nail varnish, acrylics or nail extensions are to be worn by students.
- No jewellery is to be worn by students. This includes earrings of any size, shape or form or rings. A watch is acceptable.
- Students must wear the correct uniform. This means that shirts must be tucked in, a blazer worn at all times when moving in and around the building, a tie of appropriate length worn with top button done up and black shoes. Leggings and jeans are not permitted. From September, all shoes are expected to be polishable.
- Hair styles which are extreme or cause unnecessary attention, will not be tolerated. If any parent or student is in any doubt on this rule, they are asked to contact the school before any modification of hairstyle is undertaken. Inappropriate hairstyles include those where hair is cut at both the No.1 and 0 standard, or with defined patterns cut into a longer style. Hair should not be styled in an extreme fashion. If hair is dyed, only natural colours - Blonde, Brown, Auburn or Black should be used. Students will be isolated from the school community until the necessary modifications have been addressed.
- Students are **not** permitted to use mobile phones or any smart technology at any point during the school day. Mobile phones should be turned off and stored in school bags until the end of the day or not brought into school at all. Students who contravene this rule will have their device confiscated and parents are expected to come and collect the device.
- Students are expected to wear their Academy uniform correctly when travelling to and from the Academy and must not be involved in behaviour that could adversely affect the reputation of the Academy.
- Outside coats or hoodies are not to be worn inside the building.

A blue line will be painted on the ground at the Academy gate and from 4th July, students are expected to adhere to the Academy behaviour policy whenever they are at the Academy side of the line, regardless of the time of day.

For Year 10 in the first instance, more changes will be in place from the 4th July. The existing behaviour system will be developed to our new consequences system, which is designed to encourage students to make the right choice in the classroom.

Its principle role is to support learning by tackling and dealing with any low level disruptive behaviour, ie behaviour that undermines the student's own learning or that of others. If unchecked, this sort of behaviour ruins lessons and undermines the authority of the teacher. 'Consequences' is not a replacement for good classroom management techniques and will not compensate for poor teaching and/or unstructured lessons. More detail on consequences can be found in the behaviour policy on our website, which you are urged to

read. We will provide staff with training and explain the consequence system to students in Year 10, so that there is no confusion.

Consequences will be rolled out across the Academy to all year groups and, of course, we will ensure that you receive full information about this nearer the time.

If you are in any doubt about the new zero tolerance approach, then please feel to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Marc Doyle
Principal



Rob Burton
Vice Principal (Behaviour Lead)