



Message to parents and carers

Just a quick message at the start of the new term to share some of the messages shared with students in assembly this morning and our areas of focus.

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for your donations for our Festive Friday non-uniform day that raised over £600 for Crisis at Christmas. The assemblies at the end of term really showed the warm, welcoming and friendly school that we want to be with children singing along to the staff band and competing to sing their line of the 12 days of Christmas the loudest.

I also want to thank you for the support you have provided for your child last term. By the end of last term, nearly 500 students had not received a single negative behaviour point and nearly 900 less than 5 – as well that, just under 900 students received 50 or more merits and nearly 300 over 100 merits.

I said in assemblies today that a new term is a chance to build on the success of last term, learn from the mistakes of last term and make the most of opportunities this term – and is clear that there is a lot of success to build upon.

One success last term was the introduction of a single point of entry to the school in order to manage a calm, safe and positive start to the school day in which students can be safely supervised. This will continue this term for the morning, but also at the end of the day in order for us to secure a calm and well supervised exit from the school site. We have also made it clear today to all students that on site, out of sight rule for mobile phones includes the end of the day and so they should not be making or taking calls or checking messages until they have left school.

I took this opportunity to remind them, that whatever the call or message it is not as important as their personal safety and they must ensure that they only check phones when it is safe to do so.

Just a reminder too, that in this wet weather students should all be wearing warm coats over their full uniform. You'd be surprised how many students are still coming to school without a coat in the current cold snap – so please remind them. Students are not allowed to wear hooded tops and non-uniform jumpers, but really should – in the cold and sometimes wet weather - be wearing coats, gloves and scarves if they are cold.

Finally, as I record this message it has been good to welcome parents in Year 11 back in to school for a face to face parents evening. As I said last term, I am really conscious of how important it is that we work together and provide as many opportunities to meet in person as possible in the future.

We have been working on a really strong start and end to every lesson to make the most of every minute of learning time and the students have made a good start to this today that we will build on this term in support of the success that you and we want for your child. Finally, I wanted to wish you a happy new year and thank you for your ongoing support.