

17 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another busy half-term, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support as we work together as a school community, raising standards, instilling our values of independence, community and excellence and ultimately transforming our young peoples' lives.

There have been so many amazing events that have taken place this half-term which are a result of the hard work, dedication and resilience of our staff and pupils. We have welcomed you and your child to years 10 and 11 parents' evenings, watched some extremely talented pupils participate in 'Smithills got Talent' and had many sporting events. Pupils have contributed to 'mental health week', enjoyed tapas at a local Spanish restaurant and year 11 have undertaken mock interviews in preparation for applying to college. A significant number of children are in the hundred club - please speak to your child to find out if they are!

After half-term we will be focusing on our school values, expectations and standards. We would appreciate support with two concerns. Firstly, the number of pupils arriving late to school in a morning and to lessons, which is impacting on their learning time and the consistency of the school day. Pupils must arrive no later than 8:35am every morning. After 8:35am our pupil entrance gate is closed and they must then enter through the late door. Pupils must also arrive promptly to all lessons to maximise learning and avoid disrupting their peers.

In addition, we have some concerning reports about some of our young people's behaviour on the buses and in the local community and we would appreciate you having conversations about why this is unacceptable. We will continue to educate via our school behaviour curriculum where the main aim is to promote positive behaviour, to ensure our children grow into happy, safe and respectful citizens.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform expectations which are detailed below. Our high standards continue to remain a focus every half term as our pupils deserve the best.

Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knee length skirts may be worn Full length (not ¾ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)

Black belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops
White Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper- KS3 grey KS4 black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks /black or grey tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length • If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length • Trainer socks are not permitted
Flat black leather shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoes must be plain, smart and business like; they must not look like a trainer or plimsoll • Shoes should not be suede or have any coloured stitching or any embellishments • Boots must not be worn • The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows • Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back • For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used • Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair • There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair • Hair must be the pupil's natural colour • Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them • Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural • The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear • Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed A watch may be worn providing its only function/feature is telling the time e.g. no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability • Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons • Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance
Head covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

Some dates for your dairy:

2 nd March	Year 9 Options' and Parents' Evening
2 nd March	World Book Day
6 th March – 16 th March	Year 10 (English and RE/Citizenship) and Year 11 PPEs
17 th March	Year 11 DoE excursion
23 rd March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
27 th March- 31 st March	Year 10 work experience

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday 27th February refreshed and ready to work over the next half term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Dewse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C" and "D".

C Dewse
Head of School