

16th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted that our Year 7 students have started out so positively on what we hope, and expect, will be a successful learning journey at The Abbey School.

As you know, we have very high expectations of our students in relation to their effort, work and behaviour, so have spent these first weeks teaching the students our systems, rules and routines for success in and out of the classroom. We have taken our time and worked for longer on this with the new Year 7 cohort this year, as we are mindful that they had a challenging end to their primary school days and also missed the usual transition experience that they would normally have had. Fortunately, they have taken everything in their stride and are ready now to take on the same responsibilities as the rest of the school.

From Monday 21st September, Year 7 students (along with all other students in Years 8 to 13) who are not reaching our expectations for behaviour and learning will be instructed to leave their classroom following their third correction. Up until now, whilst Year 7s may have received corrections, they have not been asked to leave their teaching room. Corrections when given, will be always be narrated clearly, including a brief explanation about what the correction is for and, should a second correction be needed, they may be asked to move seats. Corrections are just that, opportunities for the student to 'correct' what is going wrong and focus on making the right choices.

If a student continues to disregard our expectations, and receives a third correction, they will then be sent to Reflection. At this point, Parents/Carers will be informed that their child has been sent to Reflection by e-mail and the students will be expected to complete an after-school detention on that day. Failure to complete the detention will result in a full day in Reflection the following day as well as the detention afterwards. We realise that some students are unaware, or have difficulty in understanding, the impact that their actions have, not only on themselves but also on those around them. The basic expectations of STAR behaviours, consideration of the learning of others and working to the best of their ability, are well within the capabilities of all of our students so it is therefore important that actions have consequences and that sanctions are immediate. However, our approach also means that every day genuinely is a fresh start for every student.

I would like to reassure you that the vast majority of students will never set foot in Reflection because they are doing everything we expect of them, and often even more. Those students who are working hard, who do arrive at school with the correct uniform and equipment, and who follow all of the school's code of conduct, will be rewarded and their efforts celebrated with you and their peers. It is our intention to praise and focus on positive behaviours, enabling the teacher to teach and your child to learn in a safe and happy environment.

At this point I would normally give a reminder about uniform, but the Year 7 students this year are, without exception, all in full uniform, looking smart and ready for the day ahead of them – a huge well done to them all.

Our expectation around mobile phones has been explained to the year group, and the rule remains as it is in many schools, that no phones (or ear buds / headphones) are to be visible once students have entered the main school site – this being once they have crossed the zebra crossing.

In being firm with our expectations, we know from parents/carers, students and staff that fairness in their application is essential and consistency is key, so we do strive to ensure that is the case every day, for every student, from all members of the school community.

We will support our students both academically and pastorally as they embrace life at The Abbey School. The experienced pastoral and well-being team are dedicated to achieving this, and are experts in supporting students as they grow and mature because we passionately believe that each and every one of our students deserves the opportunity to get the very best from their education and “Be the best they can be”.

We look forward to working with you at this exciting time in your son/daughter’s school life.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Carney
Head of Year 7/Transition Manager



Mrs J Lucas
Deputy Headteacher

