

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all that you are doing to support Team Rushden's rapid transformation so that we can give your child the education they need.

We have now reached the half way stage of the school year and as well as reflecting on the tremendous steps we have taken in transforming the Academy, it is also time to take stock and re-focus.

The vast, vast majority of students – with great support from their parents and carers – meet Team Rushden's high expectations every lesson, every day. Thank you. We now need to ensure that ALL meet the standards to ensure the Academy can become the excellent school that it needs to be; excellence comes from consistency and disciplined application of rules and expectations.

We will be bringing into ever sharper focus the following. Please support us:

- **Punctuality to school**

Thank you to all who are here every day, bright and early.

Morning registration begins at 8.40am. It is expected that all students arrive at school in good time and be present when the register is taken. The school gate at the Spencer Park entrance will be locked at 8.40am precisely from Monday 20th February. Students will then be required to walk to the Hayway entrance where names will be logged as late. Any student who appears twice in a week will be placed in our Non-Negotiable detention on a Wednesday.

- **Lateness to lessons**

We appreciate how many of our students move quickly to their lessons to maximise their learning time. However, it has been noted that a small number of students are being persistently late to lessons and thus having a negative impact upon their smooth start. To tackle this we will be introducing a '3 X late to lesson rule'. This will mean unless a student has a note explaining why they are late to a lesson they will be issued with a detention that is 3 X the time they are late by the member of staff. As a guide we expect staff to use their professional discretion in terms of acceptable movement time between lesson changeovers.

- **Uniform**

We are proud of the fact that this year uniform standards have improved. However, we are still not at the point where we can confidently say that all our students meet the standard we expect. Some students continue to present in black jeans and hoodies are making regular appearances. Neither items are expected to be worn to school and do not comply with school uniform.

An area of concern for the Academy is that our current uniform offers too much in the way of interpretation. This is especially the case with regards to what constitutes black trousers and school shoes. As such we will be bringing in some small changes to the uniform for September 2017 and providing clarification as to the type of footwear acceptable for school. More details will be provided of these changes after Easter following discussion with suppliers. Please be assured that any changes will not create any undue financial burden to our parents in current Ys 7-10 and will be finalised in good time – with at least five months notice before September - to enable all students to be compliant on their return following the summer holiday.

- **School equipment - MOT**

All students are expected to come fully equipped to school in order for them to fully engage with tasks. This should include a pencil case with all that is needed to complete tasks in lessons. Students are also required to have a planner. If any student has lost their planner a new planner can be purchased at reception.

The Heads of Year supported by members of the Senior Leadership Team will be conducting 'Ready for School – Ready to Learn' monitoring checks to ensure that our students are meeting the standards expected. We are mindful of the fact that maintaining high standards of personal presentation, organisation and discipline breeds success. Together we can ensure that this success is routed at the heart of Rushden Academy.

Have a good half-term break and again – thank you for your fully appreciated support.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Middleton
Vice Principal
Academy Standards