

9 July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the summer holiday, the school is looking forward to joining the Maltby Learning Trust next academic year and continuing the exciting journey of improvement; committing to many new ways of working both inside and outside the classroom.

Next year we will see a change to the school day, moving to five one hour lessons to allow for deeper learning and more time for the key subjects of English and Maths. The curriculum has been extended to offer greater breadth in the core subjects and discrete sessions in Life Skills (which focus on careers education, personal, social awareness and healthy lifestyles). Whilst the start and finish times will remain unchanged, the movement time between lessons will be reduced, maximising learning time. In addition, the structure of the school day will increase the form time at the start of the day, helping to improve students' readiness for learning.

Over the coming week your child will attend an assembly to support them to understand some changes that will be made to our behaviour system and the school's 'Standards for Success'. We have spent a significant amount of time reviewing other schools locally and nationally, and how they have addressed behaviour and standards. We believe that, by making small changes to our existing systems for September, we are best placed to support our students to be successful learners.

Outlined below are the key changes that have been made to our 'Standards for Success' from September:

1. We are committed to recognising students who go 'above and beyond' in terms of their learning, through a process of positive recognition. Students will be awarded E-praise points for going 'above and beyond' in lessons and around the school. In addition, we will communicate with parents on a regular basis when we believe students deserve recognition.
2. We are committed to reviewing our existing rewards programme with students from September, to ensure it is fit for purpose and acts as a motivator for effective learning. As such, student voice panels will be set up when we return in September to explore potential developments in this area.
3. From September, we will be using a reviewed consequence system (please see the revised behaviour policy on the school website). Students who continue to fail to meet expectations during lesson time will be removed from the lesson and receive an appropriate sanction.
4. It is our expectation that all students will come to school each day fully prepared for learning: this will include having all the correct equipment with them, including their school planner.
5. We have reviewed our uniform policy, and whilst this remains unchanged, we have been very specific in our descriptions to ensure parents are supported to make the correct purchases over the summer period. We appreciate how stressful this can be and want to ensure that students begin the year with the correct uniform and footwear (black leather shoes not trainers). Additionally, we have worked with students to remind them of how we expect the school uniform to be worn (please see the school website for full details).
6. The introduction of a 'Conduct Card' in September will give the opportunity for students to be rewarded for positive behaviour outside of the classroom. It will also record instances of negative

behaviour. Where students choose not to comply with our expectations, they will be issued with a detention for the following afternoon for 30 minutes.

In order to support students and their parents with the changes to our Behaviour Policy next academic year we have put several things in place:

1. Students will have the new 'Standards for Success' shared with them in an assembly prior to the summer holiday.
2. Our website will detail the full 'Standards for Success' and uniform guidance for parents to access.
3. Students will revisit the 'Standards for Success' in assemblies in September and then across the course of the next academic year.
4. Students will be supported via their form learning time and form tutor to ensure they are fully compliant with the 'Standards for Success' at the start of each day and are able to focus on their learning.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in relation to these improvements. We believe that by making these changes we can support teachers and students to engage in conversations that focus upon learning and progress, and not compliance with standards, that in most schools and work places are basic expectations.

End of Term Arrangements (Thursday 19 July 2018)

The school will close on Thursday 19 July at 12.20pm and packed lunches will be available from Le Rendezvous for students who are entitled to a free lunch. Please note that these must be pre-ordered.

The following Marsland Travel buses will depart from school at 12.30pm:

647 Bolton and Thurnscoe
648 Wentworth and Harley
649 Wombwell.

First Day Arrangements (Tuesday 4 September 2018)

The school will open to new Y7 students on Tuesday 4 September at 8.20am. All Y7 students will meet in the same area as they did when they arrived for their induction days - the playground at the back of the school, located between the dining area and youth centre.

Students in Y8-11 & Y13 will arrive at 9.50am and go to their tutor bases at the beginning of period 2. We would ask that you ensure that your son/daughter does not arrive on site before 9.45am. Students in Y12 will arrive at school for 8.30am.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school as we work together to ensure the best education for all our children and young people both now and in the future.

Yours sincerely
Mr J Taylor
Headteacher