

18th July 2022

Dear families,

Re: Pastoral update and important information for the start of Autumn term

As we head towards the summer break it is worth reflecting on how well the school community has responded to the challenges it has faced over the past 12 months. There is still a job of work to do in areas such as building resilience and raising our standards back to pre-pandemic levels, but if the past term is anything to go by then we are on the right track. It was so heart-warming to see the smiles on students' faces during sports day, Y10 mock results day, Y11 final day and prom, Y6 transition day, and during our most recent EEL Day activities.

Can I also take this opportunity to welcome our new Y6 cohort of families. The following paragraphs will follow on from the information you received on transition evening and ensure that everyone within the school is clear on our rituals and routines from September. The letter will cover the following:

- 1. Changes to our mobile phone policy**
- 2. Uniform and appearance for September**
- 3. New reward booklets replacing PSDs**
- 4. Attendance and punctuality**

Changes to our mobile phone policy

At Burton Borough School we have had a long-standing mobile phone policy which this summer term we have reviewed. Whilst we appreciate that for many families it is an excellent communication link between home and school, we are also noting that they can also become a distraction from learning, and many students become dependent on them during social times rather than socialising with peers. Through consultation with staff and students, as well as looking what is working in other schools, we have changed our policy, and this will come into force from September. In short, our policy states that:

- Phones should be 'Off and away until the end of the day.'
- As you enter the school gates your phone is switched off and put into your bag. It should not be seen or heard on the school site
- If a phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated.

If in case of emergency, you do need to contact your child in school it will really help us to re-enforce this policy if you contact via the school through the main reception and they will swiftly relay this message on.

Uniform and appearance for September

Just a few reminders on uniform and appearance so that families are clear for September.



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



School shoes must be plain black leather or pvc leather not fabric or canvas and they must not be trainers. See the table below for examples. Students wearing inappropriate shoes will be expected to change out of these and borrow shoes from the small school office.



Trousers should be standard black tailored and not skin-tight, jeans, or leggings. They should overlap with socks so that bare ankles are not visible.

Hooded tops are not permitted anywhere on the school site and will be confiscated until the end of the day. Persistent failure to uphold this rule may mean that the hoodie is confiscated for collection by parents.

Subtle **Make-up** is acceptable at KS4, but any nail varnish must be clear not coloured, and there should be no nail extensions or false eye lashes. Staff reserve the right to ask students to remove excess make-up at their discretion. **Jewellery** should be the maximum of a watch and single piercing in each ear. All other body piercings are forbidden on the grounds of health and safety.

Hair styles should be sensible with no extreme hair colour or styles such as shaved patterns.

New reward booklets replacing PSDs

All students will be given a new rewards and skills booklet on arrival in September. There will be different versions for KS3 and KS4. These booklets will be placed on desks at the start of lessons as was the case with the previous PSD. The main aim of this new design is to give students somewhere to collect their achievements and rewards during the year so that they can celebrate their successes. It is also somewhere to reflect upon the wider global skills that they will develop as part of extra-curricular activities they take part in alongside their period X choices. It will also form the basis for any applications for bronze, silver, or gold status in KS3 and Platinum status in KS4.

Attendance and punctuality

This past 12 months have been a real challenge for us all in terms of attendance, but it is proven that there is a clear correlation between school attendance and academic outcomes. From September we will be closely monitoring attendance and apart from those unforeseen concerns students will be expected to have at least 97% attendance.



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



Punctuality to school will also become of increased importance as students will be going straight in to their first teaching lesson at the start of the school day. Those arriving late at school will be missing valuable learning time and disrupting lessons if they do so. This makes it imperative that they arrive with plenty of time to spare in the morning.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Morgan
Senior Vice Principal



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER

