

December 2015



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Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to thank you for your on going support of the Academy and to provide you with some feedback regarding various aspects of the academy.

New timetable

Your child (children) should be coming home with a new timetable which will start on the 5th January 2016 – the first day of term after the Christmas break. This may mean that your child has a different teacher or is in a different teaching group. The new timetable comes about following a review of student and subject progress outcomes and curriculum changes. Please do contact the academy if you have any issues regarding these changes.

Key Reminders

Behaviour

Whilst the majority of our students are well behaved, unfortunately we still have a very small minority in each year group who behave inappropriately – this is mainly in the form of defiance – that is not responding to guidance and support nor responding to any reasonable instruction. Such behaviour will not be tolerated at the academy. I have already permanently excluded four students this term for such behaviour. Our zero tolerance policy will continue. I know that the majority of parents/carers will support our actions - it is my job to ensure that all students can learn in a positive and peaceful environment without facing aggravation and disruption from a few individuals.

Can I remind all parents/carers that the academy expects all students to behave well at all times, including to and from school, and when in our uniform. They represent the academy and as such we expect high standards at all times. I have had of late a few complaints from local residents of students poor behaviour on their way to and from school – they let themselves down and the academy. If caught they will be punished appropriately - including being taken to the local resident who complained to apologise.

Students are reminded that coming to school is not just about lessons but learning to grow up and acquire the communication skills and abilities to live and work harmoniously with a range of different people.

As you realise we are extremely lucky to have a new building and some great facilities (unlike many other Medway schools) – it took seven years to lobby for the funding and build the new academy. We therefore must ensure that we keep the building in excellent condition preserving its fabric for the next generations of young people that come through our doors. Chewing gum is completely banned in the academy and students coming in with it will be expected to do community service to clean up our facilities. This may sound draconian but I hope you can all appreciate how awful gum is when it gets into the carpets or furniture and it is extremely unsightly.

Uniform

Thank you for your support of our uniform policy – our students have high standards of dress and are a credit to the academy. Please remember that fashion hairstyles are not allowed, nor make up, nor jewellery. There is plenty of time at weekends and holidays if they wish to express themselves through these things. If you are unclear as to our uniform policies please check on the website for our list of uniform. Again we reserve the right to send students home for breaches of our uniform policy. If a student is sent home to get changed then this will be put down as unauthorised absence.

Attendance and Lateness

I am alerting parents/carers to the fact that the government have changed the criteria to what constitutes persistent absence. Any student that does not attend for at least 90% of the time is said to be a persistent absentee, and parents/carers will receive calls from academy staff and the Medway Attendance Advisory service alerting them of the need to improve attendance otherwise they will face a fine and potential appearance in court. It is so important that students attend the academy everyday, and on time, to ensure that they make maximum progress.

National Issues

Recruitment of teachers nationally is extremely difficult. The government have failed in their planning to provide enough teachers for the curriculum changes they have brought in. It is hard to find Maths, Science, English, Geography, History, Spanish and Media teachers in particular. Brompton Academy has a good track record of attracting teachers to the school – and we remain active in searching for good quality teachers when we have a vacancy. However we are also trying to be pro active in our approaches to recruitment. If you know of any people who are considering training as a teacher, or who are teachers already and have retired and want to return to teaching- even part time, or who simply want to change schools, then we would like to hear about them.

Finally I hope you all have a good Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 8.20am.

Best wishes

Judy Rider
Principal