

12 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write you an extended letter to draw to a close the academic year and ensure you are fully aware of the planned timings for September. It is also intended to clarify our behaviour and uniform expectations for the new academic year.

The First Day of Term

Please note that **Year 7 and our Head Students will be the only students** in school on **Tuesday 3 September**. All other students should be on site by 8.40am on Wednesday 4 September. Students will receive timetables, planners and other information on their first day. There will also be extended tutor sessions to revisit and remind all students of our expectations in order to prepare them for a positive start to the year.

Punctuality

Students are expected to be responsible for being punctual. Punctuality is a life skill all students will need for personal and professional responsibilities. Arriving late disrupts the sharp, focused start to lessons and the school day. Persistent lateness also creates a cumulative effect of lost learning.

In order to make sure that all students arrive at morning registration on time, please be advised of the following.

- The school gates will now be closed and locked at 8:40am. Any students arriving after this time will be marked down as late.
- Students should enter the school via the Lucas Block gates.
- Students are expected to arrive at their tutor rooms from 8:35am onwards for a prompt start at 8:45am.
- Students who arrive late at the start of the day or to lessons will receive a consequence in line with our behaviour expectations and policy.

Behaviour

St Dunstan's has a strong reputation for its sense of community and the fact that everyone is treated with respect. We expect all students to do as they are asked first time and everytime without argument or discussion. It is our firm belief that students deserve to learn in a calm, quiet orderly environment by teachers as the experts in the room. Similarly students are expected to speak to one another in a respectful manner. Derogatory and discriminatory language or comments of any kind are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this community.

Over the summer term, we have been working on updates to our policy and procedures to support staff and students. This includes updates to our rewards alongside consequences when students fall short of our sky high expectations. These updates will be shared in September.

Uniform 'Looking smart and looking the part!'

All students at St Dunstan's School are expected to follow our uniform policy. We have deliberately designed a sensible policy that provides a degree of flexibility whilst ensuring students are smart and well presented. Our expectations for uniform are important for a number of reasons-

- Being smart and well presented is an essential part of our sky high expectations and as a life skill.
- We want St Dunstan's school students to be the smartest in the area.
- We are proud of our students and we want students to show pride in themselves and our community.

We are aware that there have been elements of the uniform policy and dress code which have been overlooked in recent times, which may have led to a lack of clarity on what is acceptable. To clarify further, please can all parents/carers and students ensure the following:

● Piercings

Facial piercings including nose studs or clear retainers, do not fall within our policy and we ask that students return in September with these removed. Students can wear one plain simple stud or small hoop earring which touches the bottom of the earlobe (no larger than 6mm in diameter). Larger hoops or other earrings are not allowed and students will be asked to remove these.

We advise that students wishing to have piercings, have these done at the start of the summer break to allow enough time for them to heal before September. Plasters will not be allowed to conceal piercings while they heal, so it is imperative that any piercings take place within the first weeks of the holiday.

● Skirts, Trousers, Shorts

Students can wear a black, knee length (5 cm above the knee and 7cm below), Charlton drop waist pleated skirt only. Other skirts of extreme lengths, tight, clingy or made with a stretchy fabric material are not allowed. Skirts must be purchased to fit around the wait and must not be rolled up.

Trousers should be loose fitting around the legs and leggings are not permitted. If a student wishes to wear shorts, they should be tailored and approximately knee length.

● Footwear

Flat black leather (or leather style) formal school shoes. Typical styles of shoes are: oxford, derby, brogue or loafer. **Please be advised that stores may provide misleading or incorrect guidance regarding footwear. Similarly parents must be aware Nike Airforce Ones or similar 'trainer style shoes' are not acceptable footwear in September.**

For all information regarding uniform and equipment please refer to our website. We ask that if you are in any doubt, please contact the school for advice or check before purchasing uniform items. If you are struggling with the cost of purchasing a uniform, please contact the pastoral team for advice and support.

Mobile Phones

As you may be aware from news stories over the past 12 months, the Department of Education has released guidance for schools to ensure there is an environment that is calm, safe and free from distractions, so that all students can thrive and learn. As part of this, the DfE clearly states that mobile

phones provide an unnecessary distraction and disruption and schools must have a policy in place that prohibits the use of devices. This is also a Trust wide policy. In line with our policy, mobile phones and similar devices will be confiscated from students who do not meet these expectations.

At St Dunstan's mobile phones should be 'NOT SEEN' and 'NOT HEARD'. This means the following:

- Mobile Phones and Earphones are not allowed to be visible or used in the school from the moment you set foot onto site.
- Phones should be switched off or kept on silent with vibration notifications disabled and kept safely in a place where it is not visible. This ideally should be a school bag.
- Students can use phones in the canteen to purchase food only. Phones must remain away until the point of purchase. Our preference is that students use alternative methods to purchase food where possible.
- Phones and earphones should not be used during break, in the morning or while exiting the site at the end of the day.

Thank you, as always, for your support and we wish you and your families a good summer. We will look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul Balkwill
Headteacher