



11 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are so proud of the way in which students have returned to school after the half term break. They have dealt with the range of changes to our everyday practice with great resilience and “just got on with it”. It just shows what a great cohort of young people we have here.

On the first day back we held a series of assemblies where we praised the vast majority of students for the way they have conducted themselves during what has been a very difficult period of their school lives.

Our data shows that over 98% of our students do the right thing day in day out for the whole of their school lives. We are working hard to support a very small minority of students who are struggling with some of our expectations. In particular we have experienced some racism, homophobia and transphobia, which has been very upsetting as we have always been a community who have embraced diversity. Please remind your children that we are a “sharing” school and if they are the victim of any unkind comments of any type they should tell their mentor or another adult. If they know of a friend who has been targeted they should also come and tell us and then we can ensure that we tackle the issue head on to support both parties.

You will have seen in the news this week that many agencies are very concerned about the sexual abuses that girls and boys have suffered from their peers. We will be doing a piece of work very soon on “consent” with all year groups.

Nose and ear piercings and other jewellery

With so many students having had nose piercings during the lockdown we have changed our policy slightly and will now allow children to have a very small, transparent stud. We will not accept larger more obvious nose piercings or the bullrings that some girls are wearing in the septum of their noses.

We have also reminded all students about ear piercings – 1 pair of studs only and rings – 1 only. I know you will support us in ensuring that your children come in to school dressed in line with our clear policy. We will continue to confiscate inappropriate jewellery and return to the child at the end of the school day.

Mobile phones

Our policy on mobile phones remains the same – if we hear or see a mobile phone during the school day it will be confiscated. We expect parents to collect mobiles that have been confiscated after 3.30 p.m. or before 8.30 a.m.. We will not return them to students or their older siblings.

Electric scooters

Electric scooters can only be ridden legally by someone possessing a driver's licence and in certain trial areas of the country only. They should NOT be ridden to school at all. It is against the law.

If someone is caught using an e-scooter illegally:

- They could face a fine
- Get penalty points on their licence (this would apply to sixth formers only)
- The e-scooter could be impounded

I am talking to the police today about the use of e-scooters in Banbury and how they can support our young people to ensure that they do not fall foul of the law.

This is a link to a recent BBC article on e-scooters <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48106617>

Parents' evenings

Following discussions with a number of parents we have decided to change our parents' evenings slightly

24 th June	Year 8 with subject teachers
8 th July	Year 7, 9 and new Year 11 with mentors

Please look out for communications from school about these

Free Palestine

All four year groups left in lower school have now had input on the Palestinian / Israeli conflict. We are proud to say that students were very respectful throughout the assemblies and lessons, listened intently to the factual information we provided and shared thoughtful and considered comments. We used the conflict to discuss issues that occur between individuals and groups at a school level and how we can work to restore relationships; just like Egypt and the United Nations have been working hard to try to support this in the Middle East.

Lateral flow tests

Please make sure that you support your children to take their lateral flow test twice a week. The next batch will be provided next week for you.

We hope you have a lovely weekend in the sunshine

Yours faithfully



Sylvia Thomas
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus