



14 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We are over half way through the GCSE and A level period. Parents should be really proud of the way in which their children have approached these exams after all of the disruption caused by Covid. I am with the Y11s every morning and they have arrived promptly with their equipment at hand. We will be having a leavers' assembly after the last full cohort exam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This is when students can sign shirts if they want to.

With just under six weeks to go before the end of this academic year I wanted to update you on a number of matters:

### **Maintaining the highest possible standards**

As a campus we will never drop our standards and will always work hard to maintain the highest possible expectations for all students. We need your support with this to ensure all students are meeting the standards we are very proud of. We are going to focus on some really basic expectations for the rest of this term.

#### **Uniform**

A polite reminder that **trainers and hoodies** are NOT permitted in school. If students do arrive at school in trainers and have no shoes in their bags to change in to we will be offering them shoes to wear and then calling you directly if they refuse this opportunity.

We will politely request that students hand over their hoodies until the end of the day. If they are defiant and refuse our reasonable request, again we will call you for your support.

We have had to work with a number of parents with regards to unnatural hair colours creeping in. Our policy is quite clear that students can choose to dye their hair as long as it is a natural colour. If you are unsure, please ask your child's mentor.

#### **Equipment**

Please help us to ensure that learning is not disrupted for your child or other children in the school because they do not have the right equipment for lessons. This includes bringing their PE kit on the appropriate days.

## **Mobile phones**

We are currently reviewing our mobile phone policy as we feel that too many students are finding it very difficult to comply with our rules. We will consult with you about any changes we feel we need to make. It would be really supportive if you could make every effort to avoid contacting your children on their mobile phones during the school day. If there is an emergency, please phone school and we can then ensure the message is passed to the young person.

## **Uniform changes**

Last week I met with other leaders from the four local secondary schools to discuss a joint approach to changing our uniform for September 2023. Everyone has made the decision to make no changes for this September because of the need to co-ordinate across the town effectively. We are all aiming for affordability but maintaining quality garments so that families don't need to keep buying replacement uniform.

We are all also supporting the petition to the government to remove the VAT element of school uniform. It would be great if you could add your name to the petition – 10,000 signatures are required to overcome the first hurdle.

The link to the petition is here:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/614214>

## **Jewellery and facial piercings**

As I mentioned in a previous letter to parents in September we will be ramping up the expectations in terms of jewellery worn in school.

From the **first day back of the new school year** we will be insisting on the following aspects of the campus policy:

- 1 pair of stud earrings only
- No facial piercings (nose studs, tongue studs etc.) – this will include not having transparent retainers worn in the nose.
- 1 watch
- No bracelets or necklaces/chains
- 1 ring

## **Key stage 3 end of year assessments**

### **Year 7, 8 and 9 end of year assessments**

I would like to inform parents and carers that Years 7, 8 and 9 are approaching their end of year assessments in all subjects. Year 9 assessments begin the week 20th June and Year 7 and 8 the week beginning 27th June. All assessments will be in class, apart from Maths, English and Science. Those subject assessments will take place in the hall. This is important in order to give younger students the experience of a more formal setting and prepare them for what they will need to do in all subjects as they move further up the school.

In preparation for these assessments, students will be taught specific revision lessons in subjects the week before. They will also be informed of when each assessment will take place so they can plan their revision time.

Subjects will also provide students with 'support for remembering' materials on Google Classroom. These materials support students with how to revise and provide different activities in preparation.

I am sure they will be very successful and we look forward to celebrating this.

If anyone would like to contact the school to discuss any aspect of these assessments, please contact your child's mentor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Thomas'.

Sylvia Thomas  
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus