

11 September 2023

Dear parents and carers

It's been a busy first week back and we are so impressed with how all students have settled into the new routines, and how well they have coped with this very hot weather. We want to remind you of some of our **key expectations** so you can chat through these with your young person over the weekend, to make sure we are all working together, in the same direction.

Uniform

The uniform requirements are [HERE on our website](#). Please take note of this, especially the points about jewelry.

(KS4 students only: Nose studs are NOT allowed and earrings should be one small pair of studs. Hair colour must be natural. We offer the option to wear either a Skirt Uniform or a Trouser Uniform and we expect both of these to be correctly worn according to the policy. If students do not comply, they may be sent home to change. The rolling-up of skirts, in particular, is not allowed and will incur an L1 behaviour point. Persistent contravention of this rule may lead to us insisting on them switching to the Trouser Uniform.)

Organisation

Your young person needs to know each day what lessons they have on their timetable; it is a good habit to **check timetables the night before** so they can bring the **right books and resources**. They need to have a **bag** which contains **correct equipment** such as pens and highlighters, they need a **water bottle** that can be refilled at school during the day if needed, and they need to bring a **reading book** into school every day too.

Food & Drink

Your young person needs to manage their spending over the course of the day so that they don't end up being hungry in the afternoon. There is a £6 per day limit on the ParentPay system in The Observatory, so purchases of drinks and cookies at morning break can lead to insufficient funds for something more substantial at the second break time.

Students on Free School Meals have an allocation of £2.60 each day which covers a main meal and a pudding. There are water fountains in a number of places around the site to refill water bottles.

Mobile Phones

These are not to be used during the school day, in corridors or between lessons.



Your young person may use their mobile phone at break or lunch and before or after school, either in The Observatory or outside. If your young person feels unwell during the school day, they should go to their Year Hub, rather than phone home. Hub staff will assess the situation and discuss with the Head of Year before we decide if a call home is needed.

Clubs

We're excited to be starting our Clubs programme next week – please encourage your young person to try some things out this term. The **Clubs Timetable can be found [HERE](#)** on our website and we think it offers a great variety of activities to build skills and develop interests.

Staying Up-to-Date

All the emails we send home can be found **[HERE on the website](#)**, so if you ever feel you've missed something you can easily check back.

We have up-dated the calendar with **key events for the school year**, and more will be added as the weeks go by, so please **check back regularly for changes and additions**. You can filter events by Year Group.

You'll find links to the systems we use here such as Arbor and ParentPay **[HERE on our Quick Links page](#)**.

It has been a great start to what is looking to be an exciting year. We really hope your young person has come home having enjoyed at least some aspect of their week and will look forward to getting involved next week. As ever, we are here to support so please do let us know if you have any concerns and we will do our best to address this with you.

Best wishes

Mr M Lockhart
Assistant Headteacher KS4

Mrs C Williams
Assistant Headteacher KS3

