



SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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Dear Parents and Carers

I know I always communicate with you weekly in my Head's Herald, but I felt I needed to write to you more formally over a couple of things.

Firstly, can I thank you for all the positive emails, letters and messages that you send to me and my staff. I know that this takes time, but I cannot tell you what a difference it makes when we receive correspondence like this. I do always try and respond personally but I just wanted to say thank you.

I would also like to reiterate the importance of standards. Our Ethos and culture is built on High Expectations, High Aspirations, High Standards - You will succeed. This mantra applies to everything from how we conduct ourselves to the uniform that we wear.

When a young person decides to come to this school, you as a family are signing up to agreeing to our rules. I appreciate you may not always agree with them, but unfortunately, they are the rules.

Our young people in general look very smart and are organised for school, but I just feel it is important that I remind you of what is expected. None of this is new and none of this has changed.

School Uniform and standards reminders - key points

- Skirts need to be worn just on or above the knee.
- Only black knee socks or black tights to be worn when wearing a skirt, ankle socks are not permitted.
- All students must be in full school uniform every day.
- School shoes are to be black and be able to be polished. Trainers, canvas shoes or any shoes with a sports logo on are not permitted, even if it is in the 'school shoes' section of a shop.
- Trousers must be school tailored trousers. Skin tight trousers, cargo trousers, sportswear or shorts are not permitted.
- Hoodies and leggings are banned.
- Jewellery is not permitted and will be confiscated and will be available for collection at the end of the day. All piercings must take place at the start of the summer school holiday so they can easily be removed. Plasters are not acceptable to cover piercings. Clear piercings are not allowed.



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- Hair must be of a 'natural' colour. 'Natural' high and low lights are permitted. Hair must not be shorter than a Grade 1. Skin heads are not permitted. All long hair must be tied back in practical subjects for Health and Safety reasons.
- All students must have a bag for school and a fully stocked pencil case (black pen, purple pen, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener and scientific calculator)
- All students must have a reading book with them.
- All students must have an ISP with them which contains Knowledge Organisers from each of their subjects.
- Mobile phones and electronic gaming devices are not permitted in school. They are to be switched off and placed in bags on entry. If they are seen they will be confiscated and be available for collection at the end of the day.
- Students must be lined up ready for Form by 08.25

It does not matter where we are in the school year, the school uniform rules and school standards must be adhered to. I appreciate there are always exceptional circumstances but these need to be sent in writing to myself or Mr Leonard and or the relevant Head of Year.

If the rules are not followed then there are sanctions and sometimes this may result in a student being isolated.

Social Media: Students

Social media is a huge issue and there is a myriad of complexities around this. We will be putting on a Parents forum in the new academic year to help and support you with navigating this area as it is an ever-changing landscape.

There are always fall outs between students which are played out on social media and as a school we deal with any of the issues that come into school because of this. However, some of the issues happen in the holidays. Please do not let it fester if you are able to deal with it from a parent/carer perspective at that time. Whilst I am always on email even in the holidays, my staff are not and sometimes will not pick an issue up. We will be giving more guidance on how to manage these situations in the forum as we appreciate how difficult all this is.



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Social Media: Parents/Carers

Please could I politely request that if you have an issue or a problem with anything to do with school then you please contact the relevant member of staff or me personally. I will always help and support to the very best of my ability in any way I can.

Please do not use social media as your forum or platform to vent frustrations regarding the school. We as adults model best practice as the young people also learn from our behaviours. Unkindness towards others and a lack of respect is not appropriate.

Year 11

I am very proud of the current Year 11 and their courage, determination and attitude towards the GCSE examinations.

I know we keep them in school longer than most schools and the reason we do this is so they have access to taught revision by a teacher every day. The amount of work that goes into creating the new Year 11 timetable so that we are able to give them the best chances, is immense. The easy option is for us to let them go on study leave at half term, but the reality is that the students do better with structure and a 'real' teacher on hand to help and support them as much as possible.

There are a variety of reasons that students are presenting us with as to why they should be allowed home. Research shows that the young people are better off in school in a working environment. I appreciate that some of you will say that they work better at home. However, the formal structure here ensures they do quality work. Of course, we support students on an individual basis where appropriate.

Year 11 students also need to adhere to the uniform rules when in school please.

When it is the Leavers' Day/ Service, shirts will be able to be signed. I suggest students wear a shirt over a shirt so the signed one can be taken off for the Leavers' Service. Any derogatory comments or pictures on shirts will not be tolerated and students will not be permitted to be in the Service and sent home, so please politely inform your child of this, as we do not want their last day to be spoiled.



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I appreciate there is a lot of information here, however, I just would like us to be the best we can be. The students are always my priority and I am so proud of all of them. The staff team and I work tirelessly on ways to improve and the school is in a very strong position and we must never be complacent. None of this would be possible without your help and support and I really value the relationship we have with you. I understand we may not get things right all the time but we do things with the best intentions. We will always listen and try and improve our practice any way we can and your feedback is always helpful.

The Boteler Family continues to go from strength to strength and there are some exciting times ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Scott-Herron
Headteacher



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