

January 13th 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year and all the best for 2016.

We took time last week to reflect on the many successes of the Autumn Term whilst at the same time looking to see where there were some areas of concern and how we could address them. Two key areas were highlighted as being in particular need of attention this term: lateness to school and standards of uniform. This letter is to inform you that there will be additional measures put in place over the coming weeks to monitor our students' punctuality and the wearing of correct uniform.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, all students should be on site at **saltash.net** by 8.35am which is when the warning bell for registration sounds. Everyone should then be in their tutor base with their tutor by 8.40am. This then ensures that everyone has a calm and orderly start to the day, focused and ready to start lessons at 9.00am. If students arrive late, their day inevitably commences on the 'wrong footing', as they are likely to be rushed and stressed and almost certainly likely to miss out on important notices and information shared during tutor time or assemblies. Evidence shows that students who arrive late to school in the morning are more likely to have problems with behaviour in lessons throughout the rest of the day.

We know that our pastoral teams already do an excellent job in terms of dealing with students who are persistently late, but we are intending to add to that provision. From Monday 18th January, members of the senior leadership team will be speaking with students arriving after the 8.40am bell, and assisting the Heads of Year with the issuing of sanctions for persistent offenders and calling parents. Where deemed necessary, parents will be asked to come into school to discuss their child's future at **saltash.net** and our expectations. There may also be involvement by the school's Education Welfare Officer.

With regard to our concerns about the wearing of appropriate uniform, these are linked mainly to the incorrect and unacceptable choice of school trousers. Inevitably, when discussion takes place about school uniform, the issue of whether we should change it comes up. It may be helpful to remind our school community that when we became a specialist school back in 2004, a full review of the uniform, logo and name of the school took place and various changes were implemented in response to student and parent feedback. A change to a different style of uniform (e.g. blazers and ties) was overwhelmingly rejected, partly linked to cost and availability but also linked to the fact that we are a very inclusive school, aiming to meet a complex number of needs, so we wanted something that was as simple and straightforward as possible.

Unfortunately, despite regular newsletters and reminders, some of our students are now persistently wearing trousers which are not part of our school uniform. So, again, from Monday 18th January, we will be monitoring infringements of the school uniform policy in the following way:



- Anyone not in the correct uniform will be given a reminder and the opportunity to wear the right item or items the next day
- Anyone who persists in wearing the wrong uniform will be given a pair of standard school trousers (or other item of uniform) to change into
- Anyone who refuses to change into the correct uniform will be placed into the ISU (internal sanction unit) and parents contacted

Reminder of what is correct uniform:

- Trousers should be completely black and should not have any studs on them. Gold or silver decorative zips or buttons or any other adornments are also not allowed. Dark grey/grey trousers are also unacceptable as are 'jeggings' or 'leggings'.
- If skirts are worn they should be suitable for a school environment – i.e. not short and tight fitting.
- Blue polo tops and black sweatshirts, hoodies for year 11, or fleeces should all be obtained from one of our two uniform suppliers – Field and Leisure in Fore Street or West Country Embroiderers on the industrial estate.
- Shoes should be completely black with no white or coloured soles, flashes or laces, and socks should be either white or black.
- The only jewellery allowed is a single pair of studs or 'sleepers' in ear lobes.
- Facial make up, if worn, should be minimal. Nail polish is not permitted.

Maintaining high standards of uniform is in the interest of everyone in our school community. We do enjoy a very high reputation locally, but it is essential that this is maintained in order for recruitment to **saltash.net** to remain strong. If numbers fall then this will inevitably mean less funding, less staffing and less resources. So, please help us address both of these issues and do let us know if there is any support you need with meeting these requirements.

With all good wishes and thank you in advance for your help and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs I Bryce
Headteacher