

Dear parents, carers and students,

As we approach half term I thought it was important to update you with some important reminders, in preparation for our final half term of the academic year (I can't quite believe I'm writing that! What a year...)

Uniform:

After half term students are able to wear their House polo shirt. Polo shirts are available to purchase via ParentPay. Polo shirts are optional.

Please note that all other uniform rules remain the same. This applies to school shoes, the banning of hoodies and the expectation that students wear traditional style school trousers.

If any parent/carers is worried about purchasing uniform, please contact your child's House Leader, who will be able to support you.

Mobile Phone Policy:

I would like to remind students that mobile phones remain a banned item on school site. If a student needs to contact home during the school day, they are able to use a telephone in reception or in their House Leader's office.

If a student feels unwell during the school day, they must inform a member of staff who will alert our First Aiders. Once a student has been assessed by a First Aider, if necessary a member of staff will contact parents/carers to arrange for a student to go home. In no circumstances should students be making their own arrangements to go home – as this could create a very serious safeguarding risk for our students.

Under previous Covid regulations, an addendum was placed on our Mobile Phone Policy, which permitted a student to collect their phone from reception, once it had been confiscated. From Tuesday 8th June, this addendum will cease. This means that the Mobile Phone Policy in its original form will return. As a reminder the Policy states:

If a mobile phone is seen by a member of staff, that member of staff will be required to confiscate it immediately. The member of staff will log the confiscation and place the mobile device at reception for safe storage.

When a mobile is confiscated, the matter will be recorded on the child's behaviour log.

*On the first occasion on which a student's phone is confiscated, it will be available for collection by their parent/carers from reception **at the end of the next school day.***

Phones can be collected from reception between the end of the school day until 4.00pm, Monday to Thursdays, and until 3.30pm on a Friday.

Please note, phones confiscated on Fridays will not be returned until the Monday.

On the second occasion a student's mobile phone is confiscated, a meeting will be arranged for parents/carers to meet with their House Achievement Leader or a member of the senior leadership team. At this meeting the phone will be returned.

If a mobile phone is confiscated for a third occasion, a meeting will be arranged for parents/carers to meet with a member of the school's governing body and SLT. At this meeting the phone will be returned.

Any student who refuses to hand over a mobile phone, when requested to do so, will be removed from their lesson and the refusal will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Thank you in advance for your on-going support in relation to this Policy.

Access to Water

Unfortunately, current Covid Risk Assessments do not permit us to turn on the water fountains. In the hope that the weather improves considerably after May half term, please could we encourage all students to bring a water bottle with them. Students are able to fill up their water, during lunchtimes when fresh water jugs are made available in each of our lunch halls.

Coming (back) soon...

Following last week's government announcement, we are delighted to be able to start to plan and launch educational visits again from September.

Key Stage 4 Adventure Holiday to the Ardeche

Students in Year 9 and Year 10 have been invited to descend on the Ardeche for a week of watersports and adventure in the south of France. The residential will take place from Saturday 23rd July 2022.

A Level Geography Trip to Iceland

Year 12 Geographers and current Year 11 students who are staying with us in the Sixth Form to study Geography next year will be invited for a brand-new opportunity to visit the *Land of Fire and Ice*. This exciting visit to Iceland will run from Monday 21st February 2022; designed to help students develop their knowledge of the country for their Physical and Human Geography units as part of their A Levels. More information will be given in Geography Lessons, tutorial and is on our website.

Year 8 (Delayed from Year 7) Residential

We will once again be visiting Castle Howard to learn all the vital survival skills for life in the bush as well as developing our appreciation of woodlands. Current Year 7 students have been invited to come along to the woods on your delayed transition residential which will take place from the 22nd September 2021 for three days of challenging, but enjoyable, survival tasks and even a bush-tucker trial!

And finally...

Despite the rain and grey skies, there was a glimmer of "sunshine" this morning, when after weeks of patiently waiting, Year 11, received their hoodies. I look forward to seeing them wearing them proudly, as they approach their final week of PPEs.

As always thank you for your on-going support, and here's to hoping that there is a more than glimmer of sunshine for us all this weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

