

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Families

### Happy New Year

As with any holiday period and especially when beginning a new calendar year, there is an opportunity to reflect and refocus when returning to the academy. As we begin 2017, we want it to be our best ever year for both results in Year 11 and progress across the academy. To achieve this, we are asking everyone here to focus upon a key statement from our ethos: **Daily Personal Bests**.

This statement is nothing new to our students and our staff at KLA. As with everything, in looking to improve how well our students do in their studies and examinations, we need to look again at what our daily personal bests are and try our hardest to reach the next level.

Thank you first of all to the many families who have quickly and helpfully resolved any uniform issues which were still evident in the first few days of the term. We are checking all students for high standards of personal presentation as they arrive each morning as we believe that success begins with the most basic things and how well each day is approached. Equipment is another issue for us and some students are still arriving without the correct materials: a reminder of what is required and what must not be brought is attached to this letter to help you.

We have held assemblies with all students to revisit some key messages about learning and being well prepared to learn.

In summary, the expectations for learning in class are reiterated from last term:

- Make sure you know the aims of the lesson and what you need to do to succeed
- Make sure you discuss ideas with other students
- Make sure you read feedback from staff – and also you feedback to teachers
- No hands up! Get ready to be involved (*this means that teachers choose named students and all students must be ready to join in*)
- Presentation must be neat, using a ruler and clearly dated

In addition, we have emphasised to students today the importance of high standards in being well prepared to learn. This is especially important for those in Years 9 – 11 who must set high standards and a good example to those in lower years. Our focus here is on being clear about our rules and being very clear about putting these in place so that each lesson gets off to the best start and continues well. Conduct in lessons is normally very good; our concern here is to make sure that everyone is putting the maximum effort into their learning.

### Prepared to Learn

Daily checks will continue to take place on arrival in the morning as ever. Those without the right equipment or uniform will be seen by Mr Aldous or Mr Rimmer and we reserve the right to place a student in the Reflection Room or send them home should the issues persist. We appreciate your support with this.

We are also putting more emphasis on good lesson changes and quick starts to lessons, with teachers greeting at the door. We have a good system for allowing one student to visit the toilet at a time using an out of lesson pass and we are asking staff to now reinforce this. Any student out of a lesson without good reason is likely to be sent to the Reflection Room.

For the remainder of the year at least we will be having a particular focus upon the level of work done in lessons and whether students are making a good attempt. If students are warned for not attempting work or it is clearly inadequate – rather than the student struggles to understand – they will be seen by a senior member of staff for a discussion within a day to resolve it.

Also, to make things very clear to students, we will be confiscating any mobile phones being used on corridors or in lessons without prior permission. Any confiscated phones will be collected from Mr Aldous at the end of the day and students will also receive a detention. Students may still use their phones before school, at breaks and lunchtimes in the dining room and Central Hub. On this note, the Central Hub itself will be closed to students at lunchtimes from now on unless they are visiting the library, in order that English and Maths lessons take place undisturbed.

Our playing fields are also out of bounds until we review the situation at February half-term as they are currently not fit for use when in full uniform, only PE kit. The amphitheatre area is still available for anyone wishing to go outside.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in ensuring that these changes and areas of focus will prove successful as we begin the new year.

### **New staff and new roles and responsibilities**

We are very fortunate to have new staff joining us to provide some additional intervention and teaching in English: Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hodson. This is in addition to Mrs Espinar who joined us during last term. In Humanities we have been joined by Mrs Gelder and in Maths by Mrs Mitra. We are also pleased to welcome Ms Loco back to Modern Languages.

In line with the additional focus on high expectations outlined above, we are pleased to inform you that Mr Aldous will be taking up responsibilities as Acting Assistant Principal for Behaviour and Attendance with immediate effect. This in turn allows Mrs Westbury to focus upon improvements in Teaching and Learning, in addition to her work with Learning Support and Safeguarding.

Should you have any questions about any of the above, please contact the academy and a member of staff will get back to you.

With very best wishes



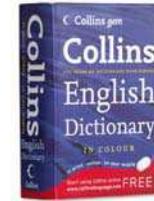
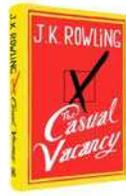
Craig Morrison  
Executive Principal



Barney Rimmer  
Head of School

## What we bring to the academy

### ESSENTIAL



Correct uniform and kit

School bag

Pens and pencils

Ruler

Reading book

Calculator

Red and green pens

Geometry set

Dictionary

Colouring pens/pencils

WHY?

To show we're all part of the academy community

To carry all the necessary equipment for each day

To enable me to write and draw as appropriate and to present work well

To help me to present my work well and to draw diagrams properly

For reading sessions within seminar time and English lessons

To help me in my Maths and Science lessons

To respond to marking. We do provide these but it is great to have your own

So I can complete my work in Maths accurately

To help my independent learning and literacy

To help me to illustrate and present my work well

## What we don't bring to the academy



Baseball caps and hoodies

Non-uniform tops

Jewellery

Sweets, gum, fizzy drinks

Marker and correction pens

Illegal substances/objects

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

It's important to be able to identify everyone on site

We wear a blazer. If cold, please wear the academy jumper underneath or a coat on top

It is not part of the uniform and it is a risk to bring it to the academy

These items cause mess in the academy and are unhealthy items

These items can be used to graffiti - we all need to keep the academy looking great

These items are clearly banned and the police may become involved if you bring these

## What we take care bringing to the academy



Mobile phones

Music players

Bikes

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

Home contact is important but these are valuable items brought at your own risk

You are free to listen to music at breaks and lunchtimes, but these are brought at your own risk

Cycling is a great way to get to the academy, but you must bring a good lock with you