

Our Ref: LE

Monday 13th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Standards and Expectations

It has been fantastic to welcome students back to Oldbury Academy after the half term. Since joining in September as the new Deputy Headteacher for Pastoral Care, I have been extremely impressed by so many of our students' excellent attitude towards their learning.

This letter also provides a few key notices, some of which have been previously communicated.

Uniform

We expect all students to take pride in their uniform and appearance, including PE Kit, and we would like to thank parents for their continued support regarding our high expectations of uniform. Most students have returned to school smartly dressed and remain so throughout the school day.

We believe that uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the culture of our school, setting an appropriate tone and instilling pride in our students.

The uniform also plays an important role in:

- Supporting positive behaviour and discipline, encouraging identity with, and support for, the school ethos.
- Promoting a strong, cohesive school identity that supports high standards and a sense of identity among students.
- Ensuring students of all ethnic and religious backgrounds feel welcome.
- Protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

Our uniform guidance can be found at the link here: <https://oldburyacademy.com/fsm-uniform/>

In particular can I draw your attention to our guidelines on footwear. Only formal black shoes are permitted, and the guide below will offer support in selecting styles that are appropriate.



Attendance

We know that absence due to illness is unavoidable, but we also know that absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment and further education. Regular attendance is not only a legal requirement but is essential for children/young people to maximise their educational opportunities.

Any absence affects the pattern of a student's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Student absence also disrupts teaching routines, so may affect the learning of others in the same class as well as the student themselves. If a student's attendance drops below 90%, the student will have missed over 95 lessons in a year, significantly impacting their potential to learn.

Ensuring students attend regularly at school is a parent/carer's legal responsibility.

For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly. All students should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

We know that there continue to be many challenges for families and students regarding attendance to school; for example, we know that some students will be anxious about attending school due to a number of reasons.

At Oldbury Academy we have a wide range of staff available to help support your child with good attendance and if you require support, I would ask that you first contact their Year Team who will then be able to direct to the necessary support needed.

Punctuality to Lessons

As part of our drive to continually improve the standards of behaviour around school, students are deemed as truanting where they arrive to lesson more than 5 minutes after the start of a lesson or where a student is out of lesson without an authorised reason.

Where a student is found to be truanting, they will be issued a (as a minimum) with a one-hour detention. Persistent truancy throughout the school day can lead to a Suspension from school.

We are extremely proud of the high expectations and standards at our school, and we know that only a small number of students fail to arrive to lesson on time. We value learning time at Oldbury Academy and therefore we want to maximise any lesson time by ensuring students move with purpose to arrive as quickly as possible to their next lesson.

We also want to ensure that corridors are cleared as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of any unacceptable behaviour occurring, as students are at their best when supervised by their teacher in class.

In addition, we want to reassure parents/carers that when there is a legitimate and reasonable reason for a student arriving late to lesson, no student will be unfairly sanctioned.

Mobile Phones and Headphones/Pods

A reminder that mobile phones are to be switched off and away during the school day. We would very much welcome your support with the policy and would ask that if you need to contact your child you do so through reception. A reminder that any student found to have their phone out during the school day will have their phone confiscated until the end of the day.

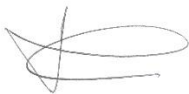
Fundamental Equipment

We strongly recommend that a school bag is brought into school every day and be large enough to carry the basic equipment, exercise books and A4 documentation. Every student is expected to bring the following basic items of equipment for every day:

- A black pen, green pen, pencil, ruler and PE kit (required as timetabled)

Thank you in advance for your support with these important matters.

Yours faithfully



Mr L Evans
Deputy Headteacher