

Our Ref: LE

Friday 5th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Standards and Expectations

I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas break and spent quality time with family and friends, making the most of the opportunity to relax, ready to make the most of opportunities a new year can bring.

It is important to reflect on the successes of last term, but also take the opportunity to remind all about some of our key expectations. The last week of term saw many, many students have their efforts and achievements recognised during our Recognition Week. During last term we had over 93,000 achievement points awarded to our students, averaging 70 per student. 330 of our students were awarded over 100 achievement points and five of our students amassed over 200 achievement points, fantastic efforts all around.

We also take great pride in the amazing attendance to school our students have – last half term we had 443 students across the school who achieved 100% attendance. 253 students achieved 100% attendance for the entire Autumn Term which is outstanding attendance. Our attendance pizza lunches were a popular reward and over 120 students enjoyed a pizza feast as a result of winning our attendance league challenges!

In addition, we offer a wide range of clubs, activities and academic support sessions that our students take part in – 100 students are involved in the Aladdin show! This is fantastic. A new year is a great opportunity to encourage your child to start a new hobby or get involved in something new – leadership, communication and resilience skills are developed through everything from coding club to basketball. Not to mention improved fitness and new friends. An updated clubs schedule will be shared next week.

As you are aware, we have the highest expectations of behaviour from our students at Oldbury Academy. We believe that at all times students should 'Behave Safely, Show Respect and Be Responsible'. Each of our students and their parents/carers should now be fully aware of the expectations here within the academy, however we would like to take the opportunity to remind you about some of our key expectations.

Return to School – Monday 8 January

We look forward to seeing all students return to the Academy on Monday 8th January at 8:40am for all year groups. To further recognise those students whose attendance to school is excellent, any student who achieves 100% attendance for the first week back will receive in class recognition. These students who attend every day during that first week will also be entered into a prize draw, where one student from each year group will win themselves a £10 Love to Shop voucher.

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.

Behaviour Outside the Academy

We would like to remind all parents/carers that that it is their responsibility to ensure that your child is behaving in an acceptable manner outside of the Academy. Often events that have taken place during the evenings and weekends will cause disruption during the school day – more and more frequently issues on social media at these times are causing conflicts in school.

Unmonitored use of social media by young people can have a detrimental impact on our Academy culture and our aim of ensuring that the Academy is a calm and orderly environment at all times.

We will always support parents and carers in any way that we can however, your child's use of social media outside of the Academy is your responsibility. As a parent or carer, we hope you understand the importance of this message, and your vital role in keeping your child (and others) safe.

For more information on how to keep your child safe online please visit the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Monitoring Your Child's Behaviour In School

With regards to behaviour during the Academy day, we would be grateful if you could engage with Edulink parent's app so that you are able to monitor your child's behaviour at the Academy and hold conversations with your child when they arrive home about their day at the Academy.

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. The expectation is that students will return to school smartly dressed and remain so throughout the school day. We believe that uniform plays a valuable role in:

- Contributing to a sense of community within our school, instilling pride in our students
- 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.



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Evans', written over a faint horizontal line.

Mr L Evans
Deputy Headteacher