



31st March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 4

As we move into the summer terms and continue to hope for some much needed sunshine, I would like to provide you with an update on some key elements of the school as well as take the opportunity to remind you of some important information regarding protocols.

Well done to all students with 100% attendance so far this year. This achievement was celebrated during our fantastic rewards assemblies that took place on the last day of term. These students have shown fantastic **character** and resilience and have attended school every day – a big well done to them! Having good attendance is the best way to boost progress in school and we hope to see positive **engagement** in attendance from all students next term.

As well as attendance, punctuality is an important way to take **ownership** of student learning and we fully expect students to arrive in school ready to learn before 8.40am so that lessons can start promptly at 8.45am. There has been a big focus on punctuality in the last couple of weeks and I am pleased to say it is improving, but some students still need to become more organised.

Uniform is also an important aspect of our school **community** and we expect students to be in full school uniform. This includes formal school shoes, ties, blazers, skirts of an appropriate length and acceptable hair colours and styles. Fake eyelashes and jewellery are not permitted and will be confiscated if they are worn. Wearing these items to school ultimately results in unnecessary confrontation when staff challenge students. This can be avoided if the simple rules are followed. Furthermore, in order for students to continue making progress in lessons, it is vital they are equipped with a pen, a pencil and a ruler at the minimum.

Detentions

I am aware there have been some issues with the automated system regarding the communication of detentions. This has now been addressed and hopefully will resolve any issues. I apologise for the inconvenience this has caused.

Detentions are an important part of our behaviour policy and provide consequences to students who breach our school rules. We thank you, as parents and carers, for your support in ensuring students complete these sanctions in a timely fashion. Please only contact the school office on the rare occasion that your child is unable to complete a detention.

Meetings with staff

Communication between school and home is an integral part of the pastoral care for students. I am fully aware that if an issue arises with your child, you wish to resolve this as soon as possible, as do we. I am an advocate of face to face meetings and would always ensure these take place if a parent/carers requests them. Unfortunately, staff at the school are not available to meet with parents on an ad hoc basis. If you wish to arrange a meeting with a member of staff at the school, an appointment must be made in advance. Please do not attend the school requesting an immediate meeting, this is just not feasible.

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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Registered in England No. 07344732



Executive Headteacher: Mrs N Hodges BA (Hons) MA
Acting Head of School: Mr L Downey BSc (Hons)



Safeguarding messages from Mrs Beal.

The Holmesdale School takes the safeguarding of its students extremely seriously. With this in mind, I wanted to update you all on a few things that are in place to help support our young people.

Mental Health

It is extremely important that students are aware of their mental wellbeing and what support is in place, should they begin to feel overwhelmed. It is also important that parents know where to go, should they need support themselves or need to get further support for their child. The Mental Health Bulletin, which can be found on our website, signposts this support.

RSHE

Relationship, Sex and Health Education is taught throughout the year as part of our Personal Development curriculum. Students learn about different types of relationships, how to keep themselves healthy and how to stay safe. The RSHE Bulletin gives further information regarding some of the topics taught, and where to go for support and further advice. You can also find a link in our RSHE booklet to the policy surrounding our RSHE curriculum; what is taught to which year group, and your rights as a parent to play a role in the RSHE offered by the school.

Online Safety

In an ever changing world where technology is constantly evolving, it can be overwhelming trying to navigate the online world. Our Online Safety Bulletin gives advice regarding keeping safe, the laws surrounding safety and where to go for extra support.

For any further information or support regarding safeguarding, please email the safeguarding email address: ths-safeguarding@swale.at

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and most importantly say thank you to all of our students who continue to demonstrate the school's values of **Engagement, Community, Character** and **Ownership** on a daily basis. Ending the term rewarding so many students is a perfect way to celebrate their **personal excellence**.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L Downey
Acting Head of School