



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

10th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the national restrictions slowly begin to lift, we are looking forward to a gradual return to more normal ways of working over the coming months. Many challenges remain including the awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), adapting to the lifting of restrictions and ensuring our approach is focussed on keeping all members of the school community as safe as possible. More details on the awarding of grades with year can be found on the school website:

www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/examination-arrangements

While there have been considerable challenges over the past year, there have been many positives in the way we have had to adapt and change. As things begin to return to more normal ways of working, we would appreciate your support to make this transition as smooth as possible.

The school recently made a significant investment to provide a new P.E. kit for every child in the school, to allow all students to take part in physical activity during the Covid pandemic. As a school we wished to ensure all students had equal access to sport and that we set high standards of dress and behaviour. Students look very smart in their new kit and the vast majority wear their new uniform with pride. All students are expected to attend school in all three pieces of their PE kit - the zipped sweatshirt, the T shirt, and the joggers / leggings. No other alternative sport kit is allowed. If a student does not have their P.E. kit for any reason, they should attend in their normal school classroom uniform, wearing the shirt, tie and blazer etc. Any student who attends school in different kit will be unable to take part in the P.E. lesson and will receive a consequence for not wearing the correct uniform. Please contact the school if there is an issue with kit and we will support.

As a school we have high expectations for behaviour and support students in developing an understanding of different skills, such as respect, kindness, teamwork, and resilience. By choosing to send your child to our school, you accept our school behaviour system and the consequences that occur if your child does not behave appropriately or is not punctual. There can be no 'opt out' of detentions or the school behaviour system and all students will receive consequences if they do not follow the school Code of Conduct. We are pleased to say that behaviour in school is very good overall, and students clearly understand that there are consequences for poor behaviour. Parents will be contacted 24 hours before a detention via text message.

As a school we appreciate that all young people use the internet. They can use it for research, to communicate with friends and family, and play interactive games. However, with the rise in access to



the internet, through the wide range of gaming, mobile devices and smartphones, comes the increase in the potential for harm from inappropriate use. That is why it is vitally important to be aware of what your children see and hear on the internet, who they meet and what they share about themselves online. Parents can get advice on keeping their child safe online from the UK Safer Internet Centre and further links can be found on the school website:

www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/internet-safety

Can we also please highlight that many social media networks have 13+ age restrictions. Please ensure your child is safe online and NOT using social media in Year 7 and 8. Many students of this age cannot use these sites appropriately or safely, so please support us in keeping everyone safe. As a school issues with cyber bullying or abuse online are taken very seriously and can result in confiscation of a student's phone, exclusion or reporting incidents to police.

Over the course of the last year we have continued to work on improving the learning environment for pupils with the Department for Education funded refurbishment of the Tonks Building and now the replacement of windows in the Main Building. The windows replacement programme is being funded by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant, which will also involve some further work to improve the school energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint.

While the last year has presented us with a considerable number of challenges, we are very much looking forward to the future and working with you to continue to improve the quality of provision for our children.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

D. Smith
Principal