



18th February 2022

Standards and Expectations

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all students on a very successful Spring half term and literally, weathering the storm today by returning to our virtual school for the final day of lessons! At Bourne End Academy we are relentless in our drive to ensure that our students make good progress, enjoy their learning, achieve results that will prepare them for further education and provide them with the opportunities to succeed in their future careers.

The importance of an effective and respectful partnership between home and school is vital. If parents and the school work in unison, demanding the same high standards and expectations in all aspects of behaviour and academic achievement, then great learning will follow. I would like to thank parent/carers who have given their support this term and we ask for your continued support as we set even higher standards and expectations for the rest of the academic year and beyond. Our reward system recognises effort above and beyond our standard expectations. At the time of writing, over 133,036 points have been awarded to students, clearly demonstrating students' positive engagement and behaviour. These points can be 'cashed in' for learning and revision materials, book vouchers, sports equipment or contribute as donations to charity.

The Importance of Correct Uniform and Equipment

Coming to school ready to learn is the most important thing that every child does each day. Being ready to learn means that the correct books and equipment must be ready in bags and homework must be completed in readiness for the lessons that day.

From the 1st March we will be reviewing uniform daily.

- **Students have access to Lab 4 from 8:15 if they need to borrow a piece of uniform or equipment pack.**
- **If students correct their uniform using Lab 4 in the morning, no sanction will be issued. We respect the ownership the student has taken to address their uniform or equipment.**
- **If students are in line up in the incorrect uniform, they will be brought to lab 4 to correct and a C2 will be issued. Students will be able to return to lesson once the uniform is corrected.**

Developing Future Leaders



- **This includes students who are wearing jewellery, excessive makeup including fake eyelashes and nails.**
- **Borrowed equipment should be return to lab 4 at the end of each day.**

The Bourne End Academy uniform, which sets our students apart from others, must be clean, smart and correctly worn so that there are no distractions to the learning process. Please refer to the uniform guidance attached to this letter which clearly reiterates the high expectations. Staff will be checking all equipment and uniform every morning and we thank you for your support with this. Looking smart is important; it creates a sense of belonging to a community and presents a positive representation of a pupil. A few reminders: hair should not be dyed a vivid colour and excessive and brightly coloured nail extensions are not permitted. Jewellery is limited to a watch and one small stud in each ear.

Could I also remind you that hoodies (except the BEA branded hoody) are not permitted. Over the next few weeks, we will be carrying out additional checks during the school day and prohibited items which do not comply with our uniform policy will be confiscated.

The Importance of Excellent Attendance and Punctuality

Great Attendance = Better Academic Performance:

It is no surprise that those students who have excellent attendance and punctuality make far better progress and achieve better grades. There is an expectation that your child will have 100% attendance, barring serious illness. For example, even 95% attendance equates on average to a child missing half a day of school every two weeks. This is roughly 10 days missed over an academic year; a significant amount of learning time lost. Therefore, every student should aim for 100% attendance as this will ensure they do not miss any learning. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and they arrive on time for the start of the school day by 8.30am. We also ask that all non-emergency medical appointments are arranged outside of school hours to avoid disruption to learning.

Whilst the Academy accepts that there are rare times when absence from school cannot be avoided, these occasions must be kept to a minimum. In line with the national directive, the school will not authorise holidays in school time. Where attendance drops below an acceptable threshold, parents will receive penalty notices and may be asked to attend court to explain their child's absences. We make no apologies for this hard-line approach: regular attendance is one of the key factors in ensuring that children make progress at school, and it is our duty to safeguard our students' learning. Please support your child by ensuring that they attend school every day. If your child is facing barriers affecting their attendance, please contact their Head of Year so we can offer support to overcome these barriers.

Healthy Eating

This term we have seen an increase in the number of sweets and energy drinks being brought into school. These items will be confiscated if they are seen onsite. Chewing gum is also a non-negotiable and students will be issued a C3 if they are caught chewing gum. Remember, we offer a

early morning breakfast club for any student who arrives to school from 7:30am. Our canteen offers a wide range of healthy food and drinks.

Mobile Phones

We have a very clear and sensible policy regarding mobile phones; whilst on our school site pupils must not use their mobile phones unless permission has been given by a member of staff. They are a significant distraction from learning and my staff are spending too much of their time dealing with issues because a pupil has used their mobile phone.

If you need to speak to a member of staff regarding any of the points I have raised in the letter, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Best wishes

Kirsty Ridgers

Assistant Headteacher