

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Initially, I would like to thank you for the support you have shown in recent weeks since the Ofsted inspection and the escalating situation regarding the Covid-19 virus. Please be assured the welfare and safety of the students is one of our highest priorities and we will inform you immediately of any relevant developments.

The Ofsted report is likely to be published shortly, but we do not know when. Following publication, you will be invited to attend a Parent Forum to discuss the findings of the report.

During recent weeks I have taken the time to review the strengths and areas for improvement at the school. As a result, I wanted to inform you that the decision has been made to implement several significant changes as soon as possible.

I delivered assemblies to all students to clearly outline our expectations of the culture and ethos within the school. The motto of “working together, achieving together” was reinforced, as well as the key principles of “enjoyment, trust, respect and tolerance”. These values are vital for students to build pride in their school community.

In order to develop pride in our community, all the students must follow the expectations, particularly concerning their behaviour, attitudes and use of inappropriate language. During the assemblies I outlined my expectations and asked the students for their support in reporting unacceptable use of language to any member of staff so that it can be stopped. I am also asking for your support in this area. If you have concerns, please contact the school and we will endeavour to deal with the issue as soon as possible. Similarly, if your child is not meeting our behaviour expectations I am asking for you to support us in reinforcing the values of “respect and tolerance” towards all members of the school community.

Whilst there will be several changes, one of the most significant is the decision to change the ‘vertical tutoring’ group system to a ‘year based’ tutor system. This change will start after the Easter holidays. I appreciate this may cause upset for some students as they have developed a positive relationship with their tutors. However, we feel the long-term benefits will outweigh the negative aspects of this decision. Students will still be allocated to a designated ‘House’ allowing for intra-school competitions to occur.

As a result, the ‘Head of House’ role will now be known as a ‘Raising Standards Leader’ (RSL). They will be responsible for supporting and improving students’ academic progress, attendance and behaviour as well as providing for their pastoral welfare.

Information regarding the new tutors and Raising Standards Leaders will be distributed within the next few weeks. Before the end of term, students will have the opportunity to meet their new tutors and RSL and you are invited to a parents/carers evening to ‘meet the tutor’ on Tuesday 12 May. Further details will be sent out at the start of the Summer term.

Another change involves the 'Academic Tutorials' evenings. The planned event this week was changed to a subject based Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Evening, following feedback from several Parent Voice meetings. Parents/carers of students in Year 10 have been advised that unfortunately, this event has been cancelled.

We will gain more feedback and decide if this change will be applied to all year groups in the future.

The feedback from parents/carers is vital as it allows us to evaluate the impact of the work we are doing. Please take the time to complete any surveys or if possible, attend Parent Voice meetings to share your thoughts with us.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our aim of developing an outstanding school in the heart of the community.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R James', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Mr R James  
Executive Headteacher