

19th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks for the help in making sure that students arrive punctually and in uniform. It really makes a massive difference to the start of the day.

We are in the process of launching a new rewards system in school. Students are awarded points in every lesson (and at break and lunch time.)

In return for positive points – these are now linked to an online business and students have the choice of either saving up for a larger gift (of their choice) or buying smaller gifts. We very much hope that the chance to earn positive behaviour points – which allow students to buy items – will be motivating. Watch the website for more information!

Students have already been “out and about” this term. Our outdoor education at Chasewater is now in Week 3 – students have been raft building and cycling – with more water based activities to follow.

Three students are working at an Alpaca Farm in Burton upon Trent. These are the second group who have experienced this fabulous opportunity. Not only will they gain valuable skills- they will also gain a Level 1 award in Animal Care.

A further three students will begin a programme this week – working in another part of Staffordshire and in Wales! They are representing Kettlebrook Short Stay School in the Princes Trust Programme.

I am sure you join the staff in wishing them well!

As I write we have a number of students “on transition “ to either new mainstream schools – or returning to their previous ones- with more transitions planned.

It is an exciting time; staff are working really hard to make sure that learning is matched to student interest and ability. An increasing number of our learners are now on a “mixed package” – they are part time in Kettlebrook and part of the week at another provision – or work experience. They just need to remember that when in Kettlebrook they need to follow our basics about uniform punctuality and handing in.

Some other points

Smoking near school. Students who smoke **MUST NOT** smoke in the vicinity of school. We are seeing a number of students who are smoking – sometime in large groups- on the road near school . This is causing an issue with neighbours. Furthermore when they throw cigarette ends in the street they are littering. Tamworth Borough Council Street Wardens may be on patrol and if they see this happening will issue £50 fines. Please can you chat with your child about not smoking anywhere near school and about not littering.

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I have received a letter from the Operations manager at Ankerside Shopping Centre. There have been complaints about young people engaging in what can only be described as anti-social behaviour.

Even more concerning there are reports of young people climbing on roof areas (which have glass skylights). We will be inviting the PCSOs to come into school to discuss these issues with students. I have no doubt that this letter has been circulated to all High Schools, Schools, Police and Tamworth Borough Council all work in close collaboration.

When there are reports of young people engaging in anti social behaviour we all work hard to support families to get an improvement. When things continue to go wrong unfortunately things can get serious quite quickly and there have been occasions where a family home is at risk as tenancy agreements require good standards of behaviour and supervision.

Police and wardens will be in school over the next few weeks to discuss these issues. If you wish to have a conversation please do not hesitate to get in touch – initially with your child’s keyworker. We can help support families by putting them in touch with appropriate agencies. Certainly by all working together we can get the best outcomes for all.

Finally a reminder- Friday morning coffee mornings for help and guidance with parenting teens! Free coffee/tea and a chat with supportive, knowledgeable non judgemental staff.

Kind regards,

L Georgiou
Interim Head of School

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