

19th November 2024

Re: Changes to detentions

Dear Parent / Carer

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all our Academy Staff and Academy Councillors, to thank all Parents who continue to support us in terms of our behaviour policy.

From Monday 25th November we are making a few small changes to the way we hold our Academy detentions.

Currently when a student receives a Stage 3 behaviour sanction, they are given a 30 minute detention on the next available day. From next Monday this will be changed to a 20 minute detention.

Equally when a student receives a Stage 4 behaviour sanction, they are given a 60 minute detention on the next available day. From next Monday this will be changed to a 40 minute detention.

If students fail to attend, the detention will be upscaled to the higher level. For example, if they do not attend the 20 minute detention, it will upscale to a 40 minute detention the following day. This will continue to happen.

Currently if a student does not attend a stage 4 detention afterschool, they are issued with a day in our internal exclusion facility – IE. The purpose of IE is to act as a consequence for the most serious breaches of our behaviour policy, including but not limited to truancy, smoking/vaping on site, swearing etc. Detentions, however, are issued to students for lesser breaches of our behaviour policy for example being disruptive and being removed from a lesson, lateness, or not doing homework.

From discussions with both students and staff, all agree that issuing an IE for missing a detention and removing students from lessons for a full day, resulting in missed learning opportunities, is excessive as a consequence. To this end, if students fail to complete a 40 minute detention moving forwards, they will be expected to attend a period 5 session and complete an hour detention after school. This interim measure ensures students are completing their detention without missing further learning time.

In addition, we are looking to reduce the number of days on which detentions are held. Therefore, from Monday 25th, detentions will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and students will receive their detention on the next available day. For example, should they receive a detention on a Monday they would complete this on Wednesday after school.

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Finally, we will also be moving to stacking of detentions. Should a student receive a number of detentions they will stack to create a longer one. For example, 3 x 20 minute detentions will stack to become 1 x 1 hour detention.

It is key to note that the vast majority of our students don't receive detentions, and if they do, they complete them on the evening that they are asked to. It is envisaged that only a very small minority of students will need to complete this escalation.

Please can I also respectfully remind Parents and Carers:

- Mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight during the school day and during afterschool activities. If seen or heard, phones will be confiscated as per our Behaviour Policy.
- Hoodies are not allowed on the Academy site at all. If seen, they will be confiscated. Students are encouraged to wear coats over their blazers; we do ask that coats are removed in lessons.
- School shoes must be plain black school shoes. Please note that trainers or canvas shoes are not acceptable.
- Energy drinks, of any kind, are not allowed in the Academy.

Finally, due to recent adverse weather, we would like to remind parents that should school be closed, for any reason, all parents will be notified by text and we will also post a notice on our website. We will only notify you if the academy is closed so students should attend on all other days. With regards to uniform, students are welcome to wear a plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (no logos or sweatshirts) underneath their blazer. Please remind your child that this is to be worn with their blazer and not instead of it. They can also choose to wear non-school shoes to walk to school, for example, wellies/walking boots, but they must change into their school shoes on arrival.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Eastwood

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Head of School

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