

21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As the summer term draws to a close I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support this term and to outline how we would like to proceed from September.

We are aiming for a Smart September Start.

Much work has been done this half term and will be done throughout the summer in terms of curriculum developments and amendments to systems and practices that will allow the Academy to move forward rapidly. The pupils at Netherwood Academy deserve every opportunity to succeed. It is equally important that they achieve both academically and through personal development and as such are given the life chances they deserve. If we are to make a positive start to this phase in the development of the Academy and its pupils, it is important that we focus on the areas that will have the maximum impact.

As you would expect, teaching and learning in the classroom is a priority and over the coming weeks and months we will improve and develop our practice in marking, assessment and teaching and learning. It is equally important that parents and carers are kept informed of developments and changes and I will endeavour to do this through newsletters, the Academy website which is being redesigned over the summer and information evenings when it is appropriate to do so. In early September there will be a handbook for parents available on our website with key information for the forthcoming Academic Year. I will write to you again when this is available, but at this point I wanted to highlight a few things that will help you prepare for 6<sup>th</sup> September including our expectations as a school. Attached with this letter you will also find our home-school agreement that we ask all parents and pupils to sign in September. A copy of this agreement will also be in your son/daughter's school planner that will be issued to them in September.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance at school is an essential part of your success at Netherwood Academy and allows you to fully benefit from all the opportunities that are open to you at school. Arriving on time to school is also important and it is vital that you are **in your lessons by 8.20**. If you arrive after this time you will be recorded as late to school

### **School Bus**

As you will be aware the company Bright Bus who provide school buses for South Yorkshire schools ceases trading next week. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) have taken over the routes currently served by Bright Bus and the 449 service from Thurnscoe will now be operated by SYLTE. Below you will find the link to the website and press release and also for the timetable information;

<http://www.sylte.co.uk/Media.aspx?id=5437>

<http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/brightbus/>

## Attitude towards learning

In September we will be introducing a new system to assign pupils an attitude towards learning score. The school currently uses a 1-4 scoring system based on set criteria with 1 being a serious cause for concern and 4 being a pupil with an excellent attitude and approach towards their learning.

I wanted to make our expectations explicit and give all pupils a set of goals to work towards. Below is the criteria we will be using from September to assign each pupil a score. Individual subjects will review this criteria and give pupils a score based on the criteria below at three points across the year. Throughout the year the school will look for opportunities to recognise and reward those pupils who meet our minimum expectations and are demonstrating the characteristics of exception.

### Minimum Expectations

- Is organised and prepared for all lessons
- Manages their attention and stays focused during lessons
- Has a positive attitude towards teachers and peers
- Respects other's right to learn
- Completes homework on time

### Exceptional Learners

- Takes pride in their work
- Contribute questions, opinions and ideas during lessons
- Persists with difficulty
- Seeks and acts on feedback
- Takes responsibility for their own learning

## Uniform

It is important that pupils adhere to our uniform policy as conformity to simple standards of dress illustrate a pupil's readiness to cooperate in the learning process and it showcases to the community the high standards which are expected in an Academy which is serious about learning. We have reviewed our behaviour policy and as such uniform indiscretions will be addressed within it.

**I have enclosed the Academy guidelines on uniform to remind parents, carers and pupils of our expectations.** The standards of uniform expected need to be maintained from entering until leaving the Academy building.

## Mobile phones

From Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, mobile phones and other mobile devices should either be left at home or if brought into the Academy should be switched off prior to entering the Academy and kept securely out of sight. The Academy will accept no responsibility for loss or theft of such devices.

**The expectations of phones off and out of sight need to be maintained from entering until leaving the Academy building, UNLESS there is an instruction from a member of staff to use them in the lesson to support learning.**

Any pupil who is caught using a mobile phone or other mobile device on the Academy site, or if their mobile phone is heard, will be required to hand the device over to the member of staff who challenges its use. The phone will be kept at reception and may only be collected by a

parent/carer after 2:35pm that day or at a later date according to parent's/carer's wishes. The phone will not be given back to the pupil.

Should a pupil refuse to hand over a device, this will be deemed to be refusing a reasonable request and the pupil will be excluded from the Academy for a period of one day.

Should a pupil need to contact a parent/carer urgently during the Academy day they should seek assistance from a member of staff who will arrange a call from Academy phones.

Should a parent/carer need to contact a pupil urgently/in an emergency, they should contact the Academy by phone and pupils will be located immediately and contact facilitated.

### **Make up and Jewellery**

Make up - no nail varnish or gel nails, make up should not be obvious and should be discrete.

Jewellery- One pair of earrings is allowed for both boys and girls. The earrings must be small gold or silver studs, no larger than 5mm. Any other piercings – facial, tongue or otherwise are not allowed in school. Pupils can wear a wrist watch (not an Apple Watch). Necklaces, bracelets/bangles and wristbands are not allowed.

### **Vehicles beyond the barrier**

It may be necessary for some pupils to be dropped at school very close to the building but all other pupils should be dropped before the school barrier. In this way we reduce the number of vehicles entering the site and reduce the potentially dangerous congestion near the main doors. If it is necessary to enter the site through the barrier this can be arranged through the appropriate pupil manager and a list of names will be left at reception to allow such vehicles to enter the site.

### **Food and drink**

Energy Drinks –any drinks that are not suitable for children are not allowed in school. Please look for these words or the words not suitable for under 16, before purchasing drinks for school.

Chewing Gum - a reminder that chewing gum is not allowed in the Academy and pupils caught with it will be asked to remove the gum and place it in a bin, a C4 detention will then be issued to the pupil.

I would appreciate your support with this, the first of a number of changes, which will create a more purposeful learning environment in the Academy.

I look forward to working with you in partnership to give your child and every other child who attends Netherwood Academy a world class education through always putting the pupils first in all that we do.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Redfern

**Principal**