

Working Together

To bring out the best in everyone; to discover the best in everyone, to expect the best from everyone.

The journey to good has already begun

The rate of progress of all groups of students is increasing rapidly

The leadership team and governing body have a highly accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses

Strong and decisive leadership has secured some necessary improvements in teaching and students' achievement and behaviour

Students' behaviour around school is usually calm and polite

Students feel safe in school

Ofsted July 2014

Exciting Times

It's an exciting time to be part of the Netherwood community. Our exceptional facilities are only part of what makes Netherwood such a great environment; it is the passionate staff, charismatic students and committed parents that are the life-blood of the school.

High expectations and providing the very highest standards of teaching and learning are a fundamental part of Netherwood and we want to embed these values in everything we do, with a continued focus on raising standards. These values were recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection with the inspection team praising our increasingly effective teaching methods and how they are impacting on our students.

The first two years have been a whirlwind; amalgamating two schools is never easy. Since opening in September 2012 we have invested a lot of time in successfully building a sense of community within school; "Students report they get on well together and



We now want to develop our communication with parents and carers to enable us to genuinely work together to expect and bring out the very best in everyone.

The aim of the first Working Together newsletter is to inform you, as parents, of new policies introduced in September to continue to raise standards. The students are already aware, but the following pages will give you a clear understanding of our expectations to enable us to work together.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

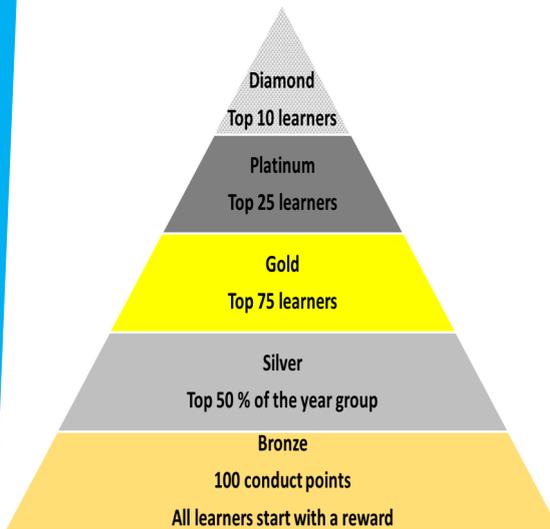
| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Praise and reward | 2 |
| Individual expectations | 2 |
| Mobile phones | 3 |
| Achievement points | 3 |
| Attendance | 3 |
| Email communication | 3 |
| Classroom expectations | 4 |

Consistency is the key

At Netherwood teaching and learning comes first. We firmly believe that no learner should prevent an adult from being able to teach, or prevent other students from being able to learn. To improve behaviour for learning we have just introduced three new teaching strategies to be used in all learning spaces and trained all staff in the use of assertive language. We are confident that our new behaviour for learning policy will embed consistent practice across the curriculum for all year groups. Ask your son/daughter about:

- 1) The activate activity
- 2) The Netherwood wheel
- 3) The Netherwood leaves





Praise and Reward

All rewards this year will be based on **conduct points**. This is achievement points minus any behaviour points. Whole school reward activities will take place every half term - students need 100 conduct points to join in the fun. Points are reset every half term to ensure everyone has a fresh start and a chance to achieve throughout the year.

Every learner starts each half term with 100 conduct points. 100 achievement points have already been awarded. This is to say well done and thank you, as we anticipate that every student will meet our individual expectations (see below). The system is very fair, as all students start with a reward, which in effect it is theirs to lose. The system is all about choice and students have been told

Make every minute, every hour, every day count. Behaviour is a choice ... your choice. Enjoy the rewards by making the right choices

The pyramid applies to each year group. The bronze award is an afternoon off timetable participating in an activity of choice (e.g. football or a film). The silver award this half term will be an inflatables party. For Year 10 and 11 students, prom points are also linked to conduct points each half term. Please see the Year 10 and 11 Progress Leader blogs on the school website for more information.

Individual Expectations

Our individual expectations of all students are very clear. The 100 achievement points have already been awarded because we expect the students to take responsibility for their own behaviour by:

Arriving to school and lessons on time.

Engaging in learning immediately when entering the classroom.

Wearing the appropriate uniform.

Bringing equipment so they are ready to learn.

Adhering to food and drink rules.

If students do not meet individual expectations, staff will mark registers with a K. Each K equals one behaviour point, which in turn will deduct a conduct point. Your son/daughter's conduct points will be recorded in their planner each week with their attendance.

Individual Expectations

Responsible learners:

- * Register ready—arrive on time and engage immediately
- * Netherwood look—wear uniform correctly
- * Ready to Learn— bring the correct equipment
- * Netherwood diet— eat and drink appropriate food

Ready to learn? Help us by making sure your child has the necessary equipment with them each day



Banned food and drink in school



Thank you to our parents/carers. Our students currently look wonderful. Once again, please can you help us by making sure they are ready to learn each day. Just so you are aware:

- Earphones are a banned item in school
- We have a simple jewellery rule for the wrist. If you can't tell the time with it, it shouldn't be on.
- One pair of stud earrings
- Clear nail polish only

The Netherwood Look



Mobile phones

Mobile phones have become an integral part of daily life and we recognise that students may need to contact parents either before or after school to confirm they have arrived safely or discuss transportation home. As such, students are permitted to bring mobile phones to school, but they **must** be in bags or blazer pockets during the course of the school day. Netherwood has state of the art facilities therefore there is no need for students to use mobile technology whilst actually in school. Please rest assured that we will contact you immediately should the need arise. From 8.20 until 2.30 we operate a see it, lose it policy. Should phones be seen in school the following consequences will



Misuse of mobile phones
See it, lose it.

- 1 Recorded in reception - phone returned at the end of the school day
- 2 Phone returned at the end of the school day - letter sent in the post to parents
- 3 Phone held in school until collected by parents. Meeting with parent, student and Student Manager.
- 4 A mobile phone ban for the remainder of the academic year

Parents can help by not ringing or texting during the course of the school day. If you need to contact your child urgently before 2.30, then please contact reception (272000). Students often blame the misuse of phones on parents! Refusal to hand over a mobile phone when instructed to will result in consequence 3 being immediately applied.

Achievement Points

In addition to being rewarded achievement points for meeting Individual Expectations, students can also add to their conduct points by being awarded achievement points. The students are currently deciding upon the weightings of achievement points, but the following categories are available.

- Outstanding literacy
- Outstanding homework
- Outstanding classwork
- Extra-curricular involvement
- Outstanding wider achievement in school
- Positive contact with home
- Full page of merits in the planner
- Respectful - of others and the environment
- Responsible - solve it yourself
- Resourceful - take a risk

Attendance

Excellence is not a skill, it's an attitude

We must thank and congratulate parents once again. You have worked hard with us over the last year to improve attendance. To maximise attainment and progress we need the young people at school. Attendance has already improved by 2.5% this year to 94.5%, but we are striving for 95! We need you to work with us. The odd day here and there makes a massive difference. We are tracking sporadic absence very closely, but particularly absence from school on a Friday.

As with last year, students with 100% weekly attendance will automatically be rewarded with achievement points each Friday.

Contacting home



The new behaviour policy aims first and foremost to catch students being good. A student voice activity at the end of the year revealed the students do not particularly value paper certificates. We are therefore currently looking into developing electronic communication via e-certificates. We can only contact you to share and celebrate success if we have up to date contact information. Please either email school or contact the office with any changes, or indeed email me directly (crobbins2@barnsley.org) if you have any ideas about protocol you would like to see developed in school to improve daily communication.

Classroom Expectations

Classroom Expectations
Respectful learners agree to give everyone a FAIR chance to learn by:



Following instructions first time

Why?



Actively listening to staff and students

Ethic of Excellence
 To bring out the best in everyone; to discover the best in everyone, to expect the best from everyone



Involving ourselves fully to help ourselves and others learn



Respecting other people and our environment



We expect students to be respectful learners and follow the FAIR expectations. Our assertive discipline policy is very simple. We will:

1. Praise the students meeting expectations
2. Give/repeat the assertive instruction to students adhering to FAIR
3. Relate to the school expectations
4. Instigate consequences pathway when required. Rule and reminder
5. Recognise a positive response with praise

How do I know if my child is adhering to classroom expectations?
 Weekly conduct points
 Looking in your child's planner

As we have already mentioned, teaching and learning comes first.
 If your child has disturbed learning on more than one occasion, you will see the stamp below in your child's planner

Consequence 2

Stamp in planner - you have disturbed learning

C2 : You have disturbed learning

Subject: **ENG** Teacher: **MBO**

You have continued to disrupt learning despite warnings

C3 C4 C5

Behaviour is a choice. The student will always be reminded of what they should be doing even when a consequence has been issued.

A C2 is a verbal reminder

A C3 will result in a 10 minute detention where a restorative conversation will occur. This encourages the student to reflect on their behaviour choices and enable a fresh start next lesson. (1 BP)

A C4 will result in a 20 minute detention and contact home. (2 BP)

A C5 will result in an immediate loss of social time. Such disruption to learning will not be tolerated. Students will eat a sandwich lunch in the Auditorium in silence. (3 BP) Failure to attend could result in a 7.30 start the following day - an exclusion is too easy.

Teaching and learning comes first. The instruction is to work together on the sort cards. You have been given a direct instruction.

C2 stamps will be monitored by form tutors. Too many will result in being monitored by report

A full copy of the new Behaviour for Learning Policy will be available to view on the school website soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me (crobbins2@barnsley.org or your child's Progress Leader.