

Thursday 9th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: We're off to a Flying Start!

What a week! With a day to go, this letter is to share with parents the hugely positive start we have made since Monday. It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming the new Year 7s into our Oak community - they have made an impressive start with their positivity and attitude to learning. Well done Mr Turner and Year 7!

It's a similar story across all other year groups. The overwhelming majority of students are wearing full uniform correctly (we are aware that some families have experienced delays from Brigade) and are fully equipped for learning.

Where this is not the case, the students' response when asked to correct poor behaviour and follow staff instruction has again been positive. All students have received an expectations assembly and are fully aware of the high standards we have in place.

This is only right and proper, and is something you, our parents/carers, would expect of us. It also reflects the strong relationship we enjoy and the high regard you have of our work, based on our contact with you and the feedback you gave (and thank you!) as part of our recent Ofsted inspection:

- 96% of parents say that their child feels safe at Oak.
- 94% of parents say Oak makes sure students are well behaved.
- 99% of parents say Oak lets them know how their child is doing.
- 96% of parents would recommend Oak to other families.

We finished last year in a **strong position** and have continued where we left off – thanks to clarity around our expectations, a **relentless drive** among staff and students to be **the best they can be** and the **support of parents/carers** in the wider community.

We will continue to maintain our high standards because it is the right thing to do – every child has the right to learn, grow and achieve and our work is to ensure systems of support are in place to remove any barriers that may prevent this from happening.

Although our rules have not changed, processes have, and I've included details of these changes with this letter so that parents/carers can continue to support students and staff as the term unfolds.

As ever, do please contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Principal

Oak Academy

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Uniform

There has been regular communication regarding our uniform expectations. All students start the day with a uniform check lesson 1. Where an item of uniform is missing or incorrect, a tick will be given on the student's standards card. Contact will also be made with parents to resolve.

Where a student is wearing trainers, we expect students to change into plimsolls which we will provide for the day if possible. Where a student refuses, they will be placed into our Ready to Learn room until they choose to swap their footwear.

Equipment Mats

It is a student's responsibility to have the correct equipment for learning. All students start the day with an equipment check lesson 1. They will place their student planner, pen, pencil, ruler and standards card on an equipment mat. Teachers will note any missing item and contact with parents will be made to resolve. Where a pen is missing, it will be issued to the student – they need one for learning! Where an item is missing, a tick will be given on the student's standards card.

Mobile Phones

With raised expectations and a clear consequence when they are misused, students have quickly learnt to keep mobiles out of sight (and mind), particularly during lesson changeover. This has made such a positive difference to the running of the academy day – it's stopped arguments, placed a focus on learning, and generally helped some students reconnect with others in the real, physical world.

These are all good things, and the process by which a student's phone is removed is below:

The process is as follows:

- Where a mobile is seen in a lesson, it is removed by the teacher and returned at the end of the lesson.
- Note: if a mobile phone is removed twice in a day (in lessons), it is kept until the end of the day.
- Where a mobile is seen in the corridor, or outside of a classroom in any location other than where use is permitted at break and lunch, it will be removed and returned at the end of the day.
- Headphones are a banned item and will be removed until the end of the day.
- All items removed until the end of the day will be placed in the FLO office, where students may collect them at 3pm. (2pm on a Friday)
- Where a mobile phone or headphones are removed, a tick will be given on the student's standards card.
- If a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone or headphones, they will be placed in our Ready to Learn room until they choose to do so. Items removed will be returned at the end of the day.

Standards Cards

All students will be given a standards card on Monday 13th September. Students must keep this card safe. It is used to record ticks when standards are not met, as explained above. A card can also be ticked for poor behaviour at break and lunch, or in communal areas and corridors at any time. Students will receive a 30min after school detention if their card has any three ticks on it. At this point, the student must hand this card in at Reception and collect a new one. This happens at break, lunch or in between lessons. Students that lose, deface, refuse to hand over or refuse to swap their card when it has 3 ticks will be given a 60min after school detention.

These cards will help students raise standards where they are currently lower than our expectations. The overwhelming majority of students already have high standards and will simply carry the standards card – it's important that everyone is treated fairly and consistently.

Everyone has the right to learn without disruption and I make no apologies for taking a firm line on this – we've worked hard to raise standards, changes made and explained here will continue to keep learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

Thank you for your continued support.