

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

4 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a nice half term break and the wonderful sunshine. We are looking forward to seeing our students back in school tomorrow (Monday 5 June) for a prompt 8.30am start. As we move into the last half term of the academic year, I would like to ask for your support with a few reminders for our students.

### **Laptops**

Please can we request that all school laptops are returned to school during the week of 5-9 June so that they can be checked, updated and can be prepared to be reissued. Laptops are to be returned, complete with their cases and chargers, to student reception every morning between 8.15am-8.30am. Students in Year 11 are able to keep their laptops until they have finished their exams should they need to - please can we request that they notify their year team if they would like to do this and then subsequently return their laptops to school on the morning of their last exam.

### **Uniform**

Now that the warmer weather is finally with us, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers and students of our uniform expectations. The main compulsory items of our school uniform are black trousers/skirts, white shirt, tie, formal school shoes and a blazer. The jumper is optional and, at this time of year, I would suggest not necessary. Students must wear their blazers and ties unless the weather gets too hot and at this point I will communicate with them and you that blazers and ties are not necessary. Until this time, they should remain wearing them. Students, are of course, allowed to take their blazers off in the classroom and when playing at break and lunch, but blazers must be worn as they re-enter the building. Cycling shorts and leggings are not part of our school uniform. Skirts must be of a formal length over the knee socks are not part of our school uniform and if students wish to wear knee high socks their skirts must be of a formal length.

We have a school uniform for several reasons and one of them is to prepare students for the world of work where a dress code will be in place. We are not the only school in Leeds, the country or the world, where we have basic uniform expectations and we expect our students to meet these. If students are not in appropriate or correct uniform, then they will be offered uniform to borrow or this is not a possibility, then they will be sent home to change into their correct uniform.

I do realise that young people grow and that the cost of living currently can pose difficulties when students need new uniform, particularly at this time of year. We do have a uniform grant, which you can access by visiting our website and we do have a sustainable uniform shop and we are more than happy to open this if you get in touch and need our support.

### ***Safe behaviour in the warmer weather***

We are very lucky at Lawnswood School that we have extensive fields which students can use for their PE lessons and at lunch time. We want students to continue to be able to use these fields, to sit and chat, play football or other sports or just find a nice place in the shade to relax before their afternoon lessons. Unfortunately, some students engaged in unsafe behaviour towards the end of last term by getting involved in water fights on the field. As a consequence, we have said that students cannot bring water outside and under no circumstances should they bring a water pistol into school. If they are seen with large water bottle outside or water pistols anywhere in school, these will be confiscated. There seems to be a craze for piercing the tops of water bottles and then using these to squirt others, if students are seen with a water bottle with a pierced lid, this will also be confiscated. Please can you discuss this with your young person to support our efforts to make our school a safe and pleasant environment in which to learn.

### ***Mobile phones***

As you know, we have a rule that mobile phones should be turned off and out of sight in school and that if we see them, or hear them, they will be confiscated. We warned students before half term that we would be confiscating any phones that are seen after half term. I know that mobile phones are very important to young people and therefore to avoid them being confiscated, students must not take them out of their bags or pockets when they enter the school grounds until they are at the back of school at the end of the school day, when they may check messages, check class charts to see if they have a reflection or make arrangements for their journey home.

Again, we are not the only school in Leeds or the country to have this rule, most schools have the same rule and this is based on research. Schools who ban mobile phones have 6% better outcomes than those that don't as the mobile phone is a distraction to learning.

This week during assembly and tutor time in the morning, we are reminding students about our expectations around mobile phones.

### ***Year 11 and Year 13***

On Friday 26 May we said goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students in their leavers' assemblies. Of course, it is not really goodbye as we will see them again for the remainder of their exams and their revision sessions and then to celebrate at their proms and in the summer at results days. I have been so impressed with the way they have conducted themselves throughout their exams and we look forward to celebrating with them in the summer.

### ***Prize Giving***

Our annual Prize Giving event is taking place on Wednesday 14 June and we are delighted to be joining our prize winners and their parents and carer in congratulating them on their achievements this year. Our celebrations will be shared on our Twitter feed and if your child has not been chosen for an award this year, there is always next year! We have so many wonderful students at Lawnswood and it

is always so difficult to choose only one or two students for these awards. We do try and celebrate with our students in other ways and it was lovely to see students enjoying ice creams during the last week of last half term – we couldn't have ordered better weather for it if we'd tried!

***Key dates for your diary the week commencing Monday 5 June***

**Week commencing 5 June –**

Years 7 & 8 – exams in classrooms

Year 11 exam prep timetable commences

Year 10 break now at 10.45am-11.05am

**Tuesday**

HMP Crime & Consequences, Year 10 assembly

**Thursday**

Burley Banksy visit – EAL workshops AM, Years 7 & 8 PM

**Friday**

Alex Sobel & Oxfam visit – Glastonbury

Burley Banksy visit – EAL workshops AM, Years 7 & 8 PM

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher