

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

October 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

As this half term draws to a close, I have a number of matters to let you know about and some information that should be useful to you in the future.

After school detention: Years 7 to 11

We believe that no member of staff should tolerate or overlook disruption to learning. To that end, we have a code of conduct for students and a sequence of sanctions for failure to meet expectations. These sanctions, from a verbal warning to exclusion, can escalate if the student's conduct continues to fall short of requirements.

One of these sanctions is an after school detention for one hour. Detention is held every school day in the main school hall, supervised by several members of staff, from 2.45pm until 3.45pm.

To date, students have been expected to attend detention on the school day following notification. With effect from Monday 31 October, we will require students to attend after school detention on the same day as the detention is given.

I should be grateful if you would take note of our procedure for dealing with certain examples of unacceptable student conduct.

Lateness to school

We expect students to be on school site by 8.25am and to be in their tutor room by 8.30am. The student access barrier (known by students as 'the blue gate') that allows students to get into the building is open from 8.15am.

Any student who arrives at the blue gate or student reception at 8.30am or later will be given a one hour after school detention on the day on which they arrived late to school.

Lateness to lesson

We expect students to move between lessons efficiently and to arrive at each lesson on time. We are experiencing patterns of lateness to lessons immediately after morning break and lunchtime. At the end of these breaks, the school bell rings twice: first to give a few minutes' notice to make their way to lesson and then again to signal the end of the break.

Students arriving to lesson after the second bell will be issued with a one hour after school detention on the day on which they were late to lesson.

Failure to submit home learning on time

Teachers give home learning to their classes on particular days and, at the same time, give students a deadline for submission of the completed work. In this way, students become familiar with their home learning routine.

Students who miss a home learning completion or submission date will be given a one hour after school detention on the day the failure is noted and will complete their home learning during that detention.

Withdrawal from a lesson

Students who disrupt lessons or whose conduct means they cannot remain in a lesson are withdrawn from that particular lesson. Students who are withdrawn from a lesson will be given a one hour after school detention on the day of the withdrawal.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We will open our doors for the Sixth Form Open Evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm on Wednesday 9 November.

Subject teachers will be available to discuss courses and there will be talks by the Headteacher and Post 16 Leaders. You will also be able to hear from some of our students about their experiences in Sixth Form.

The evening offers an ideal opportunity for students and parents to:

- Meet subject tutors
- Find out about what we offer and the grades needed
- Find out about the organisation of the Sixth Form, pastoral care and enrichment activities.

We look forward to seeing many of our current Year 11 students and their families then.

Road safety

Like most parents and carers, we are concerned about young people's apparently carefree attitude to their own safety on roads, especially when we are informed by members of the public about particular behaviour they have observed. We hear about near-misses; students crossing roads while focussing on their mobile phone; students loitering or even playing on roads and other similarly worrying behaviours.

In school, we work hard to raise students' awareness of the potential dangers near and on roads. We also regularly discuss the subject of road safety in assemblies.

However, we continue to be concerned and, with this in mind, I should be grateful if you would have conversations with your child(ren) about being aware of their surroundings and vehicular traffic when walking along and across roads.

Fireworks

As the season of fireworks and sparklers approaches, I would like to reiterate our rule that forbids any type of firework to be brought onto the school site. As you will know, all fireworks are designed for use by adults and, even when used responsibly, present some risk to physical safety.

For this reason, I should be grateful if you would remind your child about the dangers of unsupervised use of fireworks and be aware that any student found in possession of or using any kind of firework or sparkler in school or while wearing school uniform in public (and therefore representing our school) will be sanctioned.

Parent Governor

I am delighted to let you know that we have received four nominations for our new parent governor and will be holding a parent ballot after the half term break. Please look out for the candidate statements and your ballot paper through the post, then exercise your right to vote in this election for a key role in our school's governance.

Dates for your diary in the next half term

Wednesday 9 November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 17 November	Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 18 November	Friends of Lawnswood's Cabaret Evening
Tuesday 22 November	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 25 November	Training day - school will be closed to students on this day
Wednesday 14 December	Winter Festival from 6.00pm until 8.00pm – details coming soon!
Friday 16 December	End of term
Tuesday 3 January 2017	Beginning of spring term

Throughout the school year, students continue to undertake interesting activities and achieve accolades. As ever, I recommend you visit our website and its 'Latest' news section for more detail about life at Lawnswood School.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of our school and I wish you and your child(ren) a restorative and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher