

June 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term and managed to make the most of the lovely weather in some shape or form.

As we return for our final half term of this very different academic year, please do take time to read this letter so you and your child are fully aware of our key expectations. This will help ensure that we end this year well and are in great shape for what will hopefully be a more normal academic year starting in September.

We are proud of our school and have high expectations of our students. I therefore ask that you support us in maintaining our standards by ensuring you know our rules and policies on school uniform, attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Our policies can be found on our school website and detailed information on these areas can also be found in our school newsletters.

Please can you pay particular attention to the following:

Behaviour

- We are committed to promoting a positive attitude towards our Golden Rule; 'Students are expected to show consideration and respect to all members of the school and local community at all times'. We will not tolerate any behaviour that disrupts the teaching and learning of our students or brings the good name of the school into disrepute.
- For some students' lockdown appears to have led to a decrease in the use of good manners, an increase in the use of inappropriate language and a decrease in appropriate social skills. Issues regarding swearing, the use of prejudiced related language and verbal and / or physical aggression **will not be tolerated** at Shirley High School. We need you to support us with this by consistently addressing any of these issues at home, should they arise. Should you require support with any of these issues please do not hesitate to contact me directly.
- Mobile phones are not permitted at Shirley High School. This has previously been made clear and there is no change to this rule. Unfortunately although they can be put to good use, the numbers of young people who are subject to cyber-bullying, unsolicited filming and recording and inappropriate social media news and images is rising and with that the mental health and personal safety of our young people. While we cannot police the use of mobile phones when our students are not at school it is hoped that parents / carers will do so and help us by working in partnership to encourage the positive rather than the negative use of mobile phones when students are not in school. Details of applying parental controls can be provided on request as well as general parenting tips on reinforcing your expectations at home. To this end please can parents / carers support the policy we have regarding mobile phones and reinforce our expectations; if a student is found in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated and an amber level incident will be recorded for that student (- 3 house points).
- Student behaviour and our school uniform should not and must not change outside of school. We hold the same high expectations of our students in school and out. We expect our students leaving school at the end of the day to make their way straight home, always respecting the public – pedestrian, motor, neighbours and local businesses. Students are not to hang around the school gates, in front of our neighbours' houses, in the Spring Park playground or use St John's Church as a short-cut. Students' behaviour on the way to and from school reflects on all of us. We do not want our students to behave in a way that will embarrass the school and bring the name of our school into disrepute. If students continue to make poor choices they will be sanctioned and if necessary parents /carers will be asked to make arrangements to drop off and pick up students, who can't be trusted, from school. The reputation of our school is important and affects all of us.
- Any students receiving rewards (house points for being a Shirley Learner or demonstrating the Shirley Values) or sanctions (behaviour points for a green (-1), amber (-3) or red (-5) level incident) will have this logged on SIMS and

you will be able to see it on SIMS Parents App. (If you have not got SIMS Parent App or lost log ins etc. please let us know.)

- The behaviour points green, amber and red level incidents attract are calculated over a week from Weds – Tues. Students will have a 60 minute detention with their Head of Year on a Friday if they get 10 or more behaviour points in a week and 90 minutes detention with their Head of Year if they get 15 or more behaviour points in a week. Students will have a 2 hour detention on a Saturday with a member of SLT if they get 20 or more behaviour points in a week and a 3 hour detention on a Saturday with a member of SLT if they get 30 or more behaviour points in a week. You will be informed of these detentions via email on a Thursday, if your child is required for detention.
- In addition to this, Heads of Departments/Heads of Years can set detentions on any day of their choice and for any duration, up to 90 minutes, for something that has happened in the department / year group which they want to personally address. These detentions may be issued with no notice.

Attendance & Punctuality

- Attendance to school should be a minimum of 96% and punctuality a minimum of 97%.
- Punctuality detentions will restart this half term.

Uniform

- The current uniform list is available on the school website and it is important that if parents / carers are in any doubt about any aspect of uniform they contact the school. It is unfortunate that, sometimes, students can give you the incorrect information.
- We do not allow extreme haircuts or hair colour; brightly coloured braids mixed in with natural coloured braids; line / patterns shaved into hair and eyebrows; false eyelashes; coloured nails; and nose piercings. None of these are permitted or suitable for school and we do expect parents / carers to support us with this.
- School trousers must be grey and be standard fitting school trousers. We do not allow black trousers.
- It is important that our students understand that our uniform does not change when they leave through the gates at the end of the day! It is to be worn correctly and with pride for the school they represent until they get home and take it off. Wearing alternative clothing, footwear and headwear even when students leave school is not permitted and students found doing so will be asked to change back into their proper uniform. Should this behaviour be repeated further sanctions will be imposed.
- We do not allow hoods and hats at school. They can create an intimidating atmosphere and do not allow us to be able to see who the student is. As we approach the summer big hooded coats are not necessary, but if your child still wishes to wear one please support the school by letting them know that if they are persistently found with a hood up the coat will be confiscated. We do not allow hooded sweatshirts at all with our school uniform.
- Finally, as you are already aware, trainers are not permitted to be worn with our school uniform. Students must wear school shoes that are wholly black, leather or leather equivalent and waterproof. Any student arriving at school with trainers will be given footwear to wear from the school – there are no exceptions to this rule.

Parents / carers have a vital role to play in helping the school uphold its high expectations and with your support we can ensure we have the highest standards of behaviour and uniform in and out of school. Please also understand that we would far rather reward than sanction our students. We love to celebrate success and reward the students for abiding by our rules and procedures and with your help we can ensure that the positive receipt of rewards and success far outweighs the negativity of sanctions.

Our students receive information on upcoming events, messages, focus points etc. via weekly tutor group slides. These slides are available on the school website so you can see what the students are being told and help us reinforce the messages given. Please also refer to our behaviour policy addendum for full details regarding our expectations, procedures, rewards and sanctions.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We will continue to 'Strive for Excellence' through our Shirley Values.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Francis', is written over a light pink rectangular background.

Ms M Francis
Senior Vice Principal - Pastoral