



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College



Our Vision: To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.

MF/KAW/Behaviour & Expectations
17 December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Behaviour and Expectations

I am pleased that we have been able to get to the end of this term albeit with some restrictions imposed in the last week! It has been great to return to a degree of normality. Before we return in January, please do take time to read this letter fully so you and your child are fully aware of our key expectations. This will help ensure a smooth start to 2022 and our Spring term.

We are proud of our school and have high expectations of our students. I therefore ask that you continue to 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 and student planner. Please do read and familiarise yourselves with the content of these so you can support us in your supporting your children to achieve well-rounded success.

Please can you pay particular attention to some key areas highlighted below:

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

We recognise that anxiety, trauma and bereavement are powerful forces. As the Covid cases in London start to rise again we know that some of our children will either remain vulnerable or become vulnerable without the support of the school Pastoral Team during the holidays. Please access the information on our school website and read the information regarding supportive websites in the newsletter to support parents and children during the Christmas break.

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.
- Our students are aware of the Shirley Values and our expectation for them to consider and demonstrate them in their daily actions and behaviour.
- 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. The reputation of our school is important and affects all of us.
- We expect our students leaving school at the end of the day to make their way straight home, always respecting the public – pedestrians, motor vehicles, neighbours and local businesses. They should not go to the park or the park playground and they are expected to observe social distancing and wear their masks when travelling on public transport.

"Striving for Excellence"

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

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- During this Christmas break please can you stress to your children the importance of social distancing, hygiene, regular testing and general health and safety in what they do, so they are prepared to maintain these practices in January when they return. We will not tolerate any student behaving in a way that may compromise the health and safety of any other member of our school community. Any student who does so, can expect to be dealt with very strongly.

Attendance & Punctuality

I would like to thank parents/carers for their continued support with the attendance of their children. We are pleased and proud of the resilience of our students and the fact that the school attendance has remained relatively high. It is so important that students attend regularly so that they do not have gaps in their knowledge, which will ultimately affect their success in getting the qualifications they need for their future.

Punctuality to school is equally important and we are striving for all students to regularly attend school on time. Arriving to school on time sets our students up well for the day ahead, as well as ensuring they access tutor time with their form tutors, which is where a lot of our pastoral work is undertaken. Poor punctuality has a detrimental effect on achievement as well as general organisation.

Our targets for our students remain the same - attendance to school should be a minimum of 96% and punctuality a minimum of 97%

Uniform

- Please ensure that we start the new Spring Term with all students in the correct school 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; we have had issues this year with brightly coloured braids mixed in with natural coloured braids, brightly coloured hair and line / patterns shaved into hair and eyebrows, which is disappointing. None of this is suitable for school and we do expect parents / carers to support us with this.
- Please be advised, particularly in the case of 'Christmas present' piercings that, irrespective of the timing of the piercing, students will not be permitted to cover them, but will be asked to remove them at school. Notes from home asking for permission for the piercings to remain in or be covered will not be accepted. We accept one pair of stud earrings only. I would therefore suggest that this two-week break is not an ideal time to get new extra ear piercings, nose piercings or any other visible piercings, unless the student is prepared to and can remove them for school.
- We do not allow false eyelashes and coloured nail extensions – both of these have been problematic especially in Years 9 – 11 this term. It would be appreciated if parents/carers could support us and reinforce a consistent message that these are not permitted.
- School trousers must be grey. **We do not and never have allowed 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.

- Finally, as you are already aware, students must wear school shoes that are wholly black, leather or leather equivalent and waterproof with our school uniform. **Trainers of any kind are not allowed.**

Rewards / Sanctions

The criteria for our rewards is on the website and in the student planners. Our students are rewarded with House points for demonstrating our Shirley Values and being a Shirley Learner.

Students who do not meet our high expectations and breach our behaviour policy should expect to be sanctioned. Detentions can be set by any teacher at any time for low-level disruption. More serious breaches of our behaviour policy are dealt with via Middle Leader centralised detentions on a Thursday (Behaviour), Friday (poor punctuality) and Senior leader detentions on Saturdays. Students are expected to attend these detentions if issued and parents / carers are informed of them via email and / or text message. Failure to attend will result in a further sanction and the detention will be reset.

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.

Communication

Please can all parents / carers understand that we are a busy school ensuring that our priorities of teaching and learning as well as ensuring our students are safe and happy are at the forefront of what we do. For this reason there will be times when staff are unable to answer phone calls or emails immediately or deal with unannounced visits to the school where an appointment has not been made.

In order to manage your expectations please be advised that staff are expected to respond to a phone call or email within 48 hours. If something urgent does arise, we will of course try to deal with this as quickly as possible. Parents / carers must make appointments if they wish to meet with staff, this can avoid you having a wasted journey, or feeling disappointed or frustrated if you arrive at school unannounced and the member of staff is not available to meet with you at that time. Please can we also remind you that our staff are not here to endure aggressive or abusive behaviour or be on the receiving end of abusive or threatening language. Any parent / carer who behaves in this way will be asked to leave the school site and may be denied any future access to the school site.

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 policies for full details regarding our expectations, procedures, rewards and sanctions.

Pastoral Team from January 2022:

Deputy Principal (Pastoral)	Ms Francis	francis@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
Head of Year 7 & 8	Mr Rayner	rayner@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
Head of Year 9	Mrs Rose-Khan	rose-khan@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

Head of Year 10	Miss Campbell	campbell@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
Head of Year 11	Miss Skeete	skeete@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
Head of Sixth Form	Mr Lewis	lewis@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Ms Francis	}
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mr Rayner	} safeguarding@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Ms Stewart	}

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We will continue to 'Strive for Excellence' in everything that we do and ensure our school is 'Safe, Happy and Successful' for all members of our community.

I wish all our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to seeing the students back in school on Wednesday 5 January 2022 for their pre start COVID tests.

Yours sincerely



Ms M Francis
Deputy Principal