

February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Rewards & Awards

I am pleased to announce that following consultation with students and parents we are introducing a new reward for attendance. Students will receive a raffle ticket for each week that they meet their attendance target and these will be entered into a prize draw. Each year group will have a range of prizes to reward excellent attendance and the main prize will be a Nintendo Switch. This means that even if you are ill and miss a small amount of time you will not be missing out on the opportunity to be rewarded for the rest of your excellent attendance. The first raffle tickets will be awarded before Easter.

The school continue to distribute a range of rewards and awards such as Feel Good Friday phone calls and LORIC certificates recognising students demonstrating examples of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Intuition and Communication. Subject areas will also continue to award house points and their subject specific postcards which will arrive in the post. All these awards carry house points which contribute to the overall House Cup in the summer term. Please encourage your child to collect as many as possible to support their House.

### Detentions

Our detentions will continue to operate as they have done previously with the exception of leadership team detentions. We have several detentions which are listed below:-

**Subject detentions (30mins);** these are issued when a student has received 3 warnings for disturbing the learning of others in the classroom as a result of their behaviour. These detentions are served with subject staff and parents are advised by text 24 hours in advance.

**Conduct detentions (45 mins);** these are issued for failing to attend a subject detention, talking in deliberate practice, truancy, lateness to lessons and having three signatures on a conduct card. These detentions are served with Heads of Year and parents are advised by text 24 hours in advance.

**Leadership detentions (45mins);** these are issued for failing to attend a conduct detention and other serious breaches of the school behaviour policy as decided by a member of the leadership team.

**Parents are now notified of these leadership detentions by text on the afternoon the detention is to be served. These detentions will take place on a variety of days within the school week.** Please support us by speaking with your child should they get a detention. You will see from above that any student receiving a detention will have failed to meet our expectations a number of times before the sanction is issued.

### Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is attending school in the correct uniform. Please make sure that when your child leaves for school in the morning that they are dressed appropriately. All students are expected to wear the correct uniform, including tie and blazer. I have provided details of our uniform policy overleaf. I would like to draw particular attention to footwear: shoes must be plain black, with no logos. Trainers and pumps are not permitted. We do permit Nike Air Force 1s as a school

shoe. Skirts must be 2 inches above the knee and not tight fitting. Trousers also must not be tight fitting. If your child comes to school in the incorrect uniform or with an appearance unsuitable for a school environment they may be removed from lessons if the problem cannot be rectified. Please ensure your child's uniform is correct.

### **Equipment, Conduct Cards & Planners**

All students are expected to come to school equipped ready to learn. Every student requires the following items, as a minimum: black pens, pencil, ruler, these should be placed in a suitable size pencil case. All students should also have a suitable sized school bag. We do not allow small pouches and these should not be in sight, if seen then they will be confiscated from students until the end of the day. Please can you all ensure that your child has the correct equipment. All students have a conduct card which they should have on them at all times as well as their planner and knowledge organiser for Years 7-9.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

At John Willmott School, we expect all students to achieve a minimum attendance of 96%. An attendance of 90% is the equivalent of being absent for one day (5 hours of learning) every two weeks. Please contact the Attendance office on 0121 378 6575 for every day that your child is absent AND send in a note on the first day of their returning, with an explanation of their absence. We will be having a big push in the coming weeks and are running rewards for students who maintain a high level of attendance or show a significant improvement.

The school day begins at 8.50am and we expect all students to be in school before that time and our school hall is open from 8am, If your child arrives after 8.50am twice in a week then this will result in your child receiving a detention, this is reflective of our 'High Expectations'.

### **Social Media**

With your child now in Secondary School they may have more access to Social Media. Please can I ask that as parents you discuss the importance of using this sensibly. Despite assemblies there have been a number of incidents that have occurred outside of school hours which have impacted on students in school. If there are any issues around this please keep any messages and inform your child's Head of Year. Any negative incidents around this could result in sanctions being given in school.

### **Mobile Phones**

We have recently seen an increase in school of students using their mobile phones and would like to remind parents, carers and students that students are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school site, unless they have been granted permission by a member of staff. Students will be allowed to bring phones into school (at their own risk) but must not use them during school hours. Phones should therefore be stored securely in lockers or safely in student's bags and not carried around in pockets. As students can no longer use their phones or similar devices it is also expected that headphones are stored out of sight in school bags or lockers also. This rule applies to all areas of the school site including the playgrounds & field.

Any student seen using a mobile phone at school, without permission, will have the device confiscated and parents and carers will be notified to collect the phone. Please also note that the same rules will apply to tablets and other similar devices.

As a school we have a relentless focus on our students' wellbeing, ensuring all our learners grow and develop academically, socially and morally. Research demonstrates that mobile phones are a distraction and are sometimes used inappropriately. We are also aware that their use is reducing our students' ability to connect with one another socially on a day-to-day basis.

We regularly conduct student voice activities and the feedback from students to the school Safeguarding Governor and other staff this year has consistently been that the use of mobile phones contributes to problems within school. The full governing body had received this feedback and support our view that we should act on the concerns raised by our students.

Parents and carers should be reassured that they will still be able to communicate with students during the course of the school day; please contact the school reception and a member of our administration team will be able to pass on any urgent messages to students. We hope that you will see this as an opportunity to support our school to ensure your child uses technology safely and appropriately.

I believe we all have one common goal and that is for your child to succeed in their education. Collectively we need to work together for this to happen and if your child can adhere to the above it will go a long way to achieving this.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Following the departure of Mr Grice, Head of Year 9 at half term; Year 9 will be looked after by Ms R McDermott and Mr Jordan, Assistant Headteacher until further notice. Should you have any concerns please contact Ms McDermott in the first instance.

Head of Pastoral Care & Year 7 – Mr J Hunter, Leadership Link - Mrs L Lockley

Head of Year 8 – Mr A Nimmo, Leadership Link – Mrs J Miley

Acting Head of Year 9 – Ms R McDermott, Leadership Link – Mr S Jordan


Head of Year 10 – Miss N Noreen, Leadership Link – Mrs L Norton

Head of Year 11 – Miss K Holland, Leadership Link – Mr P Averis

Head of Years 12 & 13 – Mrs A Sharp, Leadership Link – Ms T Richards

Again thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs T Peters', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mrs T Peters**  
**Headteacher**