

Ref. GDZ/FCL

20 July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your family are well and are enjoying the warmer days and brighter evenings. As the academic year comes to an end, I am truly grateful for all that you have done to support our students. My letter today includes important information about some of the events that have happened during the academic year, information relating to when your child will return to school at the start of the academic year and a reminder of the expectations for September 2022.

#### **September 2022 return**

**Thursday 1st September 2022** - Staff training day (Academy closed to students)

**Friday 2nd September 2022** - Academy opened to Y7 students only

**Monday 5th September 2022** - All students return to the academy

#### **Energy drinks**

As you are aware energy drinks are not suitable for children because of their high levels of caffeine and are clearly labelled to this effect. However, their packaging and marketing seems to make them attractive to young people, despite the detrimental impact they are having on their health. In some cases, just one can could see a child exceeding the daily recommended amount of both caffeine and sugar. Daily consumption of these gives children an increased risk of four health symptoms: headaches, sleeping problems, irritation and tiredness/fatigue and can lead to more serious heart conditions.

We feel we are seeing the negative consequence of these drinks on young people and their behaviour in the classroom, which will ultimately have a bearing on their learning. We would therefore ask all parents/carers to work with us to enforce this ban in school.

If a pupil is found to have any energy drinks in their possession, they will be confiscated and thrown away.

#### **E-Cigarette/Vaping**

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electric vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which, as I am sure you will appreciate, is very concerning. There have also been reports in other Local Authority areas of children and young people experimenting with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) vaping. THC is the psychoactive compound in cannabis and is illegal in

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the United Kingdom. Furthermore, there have been reports of young people becoming unwell and needing medical attention after using vapes.

As detailed in our Behaviour Policy, which has also been shared and explained to students and is available in student planners, anyone who is found to be in the possession of paraphernalia linked to smoking or vaping will have the items confiscated (and the items will be destroyed) and will be issued with a sanction. Incidents of students smoking/vaping will be addressed with a more severe sanction.

### **Uniform**

All students are required to wear the full Academy uniform. The Academy uniform should not be altered in any way, for example by adding clips, badges or stickers. Skirts must not be adapted; this includes folding them over at the top or tying a bobble around the waistband. Trousers must not be “taken in” to reduce the width of the leg. Girl's tights must be a minimum of 40 denier. Blazer sleeves must not be rolled up. Please do not purchase non-Outwood uniform and have logos sewn onto it. If students are seen with these items, they will be asked to change into our loan uniform.

### **School shoes**

School shoes must be plain black, no trainers, no Vans, no Converse, no boots, no pumps or canvas shoes. Shoes should be of a material that can be polished.

The pictures below show common examples of shoes that are **not acceptable** and those that are.



If you are unsure about a shoe's compliance with the policy, please contact the Academy, where possible including an image or link to the shoe retailer's website, and a member of staff will contact you with advice.

### **Hairstyles, Makeup and Nails**

Hair styles should be sensible and colours should be natural. No student will be allowed into lessons with unnatural hair colour. No offensive patterns should be shaved into hair styles. Hair accessories should be discreet and must be black or purple, no scarves or bandanas (unless for religious reasons). Hair bobbles must not be worn on the wrist. If in doubt, please contact the Learning Manager. Noticeable makeup is not allowed and any makeup worn must be very discreet. The decision to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal. False eyelashes are not to be worn. Nail polish and any type of false nails (including clear gels, acrylics, extensions, shellac etc) are not allowed.

### **Jewellery and Smart Watches**

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a medic alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. If a student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, this should be done at the start of the summer holidays, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the Academy premises and should one be brought to the Academy it must be turned off, and placed in the bottom of the student's bag.

### **Holidays**

Please do not remove your child from their education for the purpose of holiday. If you do, we will formally request the Local Authority to serve you with a Fixed Penalty Notice. Fixed Penalties require each parent to pay a fine of £60 (per child, per week) if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Failure to pay within the specified timescale will result in a summons to appear before the magistrate's court. We do not authorise holidays in term time. There are only 190 school days per year, leaving 175 days for family gatherings, holidays, days out etc.

### **Punctuality**

Students are expected to be at the Academy at 8:15am every day. If students arrive after lessons have started, they will be issued with a detention. If your child has a medical appointment at the start of the school day, please ask for an appointment card/text. If no card/text is produced when a student arrives late at the Academy, a late detention will be issued.

### **Communication**

We welcome your communication through the 'Contact Us' button on the website so that we can work together transitioning students back into the Academy. Please continue to follow the Academy on social media via Twitter and updates on our website. We have an opportunity in September to continue to take positive steps to make the most out of these challenging times by rebuilding the wellbeing and education of our resilient and amazing young people.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support. May I take this opportunity to wish both parents and students a most enjoyable summer; please stay safe and we look forward to working with you all next term.

Yours sincerely,



Godsway Dzoboku  
Principal