



Kirkby High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the academic year 2021/2022. I hope that you managed to enjoy some quality family time during the six weeks summer break. I know we are all hoping that this year will allow our young people to experience a 'normal' school year where they can enjoy being with their friends and make substantial academic progress at the same time. I particularly welcome families of our new Year 7 students. I addressed the year group in assembly yesterday and each student was a complete credit to you and your families. I look forward to getting to know them better. The remaining year groups will make a full return to school on Monday 6th September.

Regarding Covid-19, we continue to work hard to minimise risk to members of our school community. Extra cleaning and hand sanitising units are now a part of everyday life at Kirkby High School, and we plan on keeping this in place for the foreseeable future. As we have done since the beginning of the global pandemic, we will continue to follow Government guidance regarding positive Covid-19 cases. Use the electronic version of this letter on the website to click on the following link to read updated guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#summary>

Attendance/Punctuality

You will see from the guidance that are students no longer requested to self-isolate if they come into contact with an individual who tests positive and following the disruption to education last year, attendance to school is more important than ever. Please see a quote from the Department for Education (DfE) dated 31st August 2021.

'School attendance is mandatory and the usual rules continue to apply, including:

- a parent's duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school, where the child is a registered pupil at school
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the ability for schools and local authorities to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct'

In order to continue to raise standards and to prepare your child for later life, one of the main foci this year is to improve attendance and punctuality.

Punctuality refers to being on time in the **morning and to lessons** throughout the day. If a student is not in a lesson on time, they are considered to be truanting.

In order to help us to support your child, the following sanctions are in place for students who are failing to meet the expectations of a Kirkby Child.

1. If your child is late for a lesson without a valid reason agreed by a member of staff, **they may be kept back at break or lunch without notice.**
2. Students who have **two late arrivals to school in the morning in one week** will be on a late detention the following week on **Tuesday after school for 30 minutes**, finishing at 3.30pm.

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3. If your child refuses to/fails to attend the late detention, they will be placed on a **one hour whole school detention on a Wednesday** after school, finishing at 4pm.
4. If your child refuses to/fails to attend the whole school detention, they will be placed on a **90 minute headteacher detention on a Thursday** after school, finishing at 4.30pm.
5. Failure to comply with the above amounts to defiance and **may lead to an exclusion followed by loss of lunch time for 5 days.**

Buses

Despite the pressure on school budgets, we manage to subsidise the cost of the school bus run by Stagecoach and as a result students are only asked to pay 50p per journey. We do this as we understand the financial strain school transport can place on families. Good behaviour on the bus is the responsibility of your child. In order to support this we will put sanctions in place for anyone who makes the wrong choice whilst travelling on the bus. Any misbehaviour that is unacceptable will be dealt with by school.

1. School may decide to **ban your child** from using the school bus for a **fixed period of time.**
2. School may decide to **ban your child permanently** from using the bus service to and from school.

School Food Arrangements

The ParentPay facility will remain in place or students may top up their account with cash using the biometric/card machines in school.

Expectations

A return to normality is exciting as it means that students will once again experience specialist rooms for specific subjects. Please speak to your child to encourage them to have a positive attitude towards learning and to do what staff ask them to do 'first time every time'.

This is a reminder that from September 2021, all year groups will finish school at the same time – 3pm each day. On PE days, they will return to carrying their kit to school and using the changing rooms to get ready for their PE lessons. Please see the letter I sent in July which is on our school website for further details of the timings of the school day, buses etc.

As always do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any concerns or would like a conversation regarding your child. Email admin@kirkbyhighschool.net outlining the reason for your communication and your email will be directed to the correct member of staff. Please be patient as it may sometimes take a day or two for a member of staff to contact you, depending on their teaching or other commitments.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher