



ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

5th October 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing to provide you with some very important information.

Mufti Day

We will be holding our first enterprise event of the school year on Friday, 13th October with a “*Jersey/ Mufti Day*”. The funds that we raise will be given to the *Macmillan Nurses*; this organisation has supported many members of our community where a family member has been diagnosed with Cancer. We are asking all students to make a minimum contribution of £2.00 to the charity. Students will not be permitted to wear hats or tops with an offensive logo. On “Mufti Days” we will allow tops with hoods as long as the hoods are not worn over the head; jewellery is also acceptable on these days.

Attendance & Punctuality

The Academy has an attendance target for this academic year of 97%. Data is produced on a weekly basis for all Tutor Groups to highlight the attendance data for the last week as well as the cumulative data since the beginning of the academic year. All Tutor Groups are working towards a target of 97% or better.

Letters will be sent to families of students who have been late on more than three occasions this term; some of these students live within a 15 – 20 minute walk from the school. The first lesson of the day commences at 8.15am; all students should aim to arrive at 8.00am as the school gate closes at 8.12am.

On school references the first two pieces of data that we have to provide are attendance and punctuality. Many of our students have an unblemished record in both areas!

Private Tuition

It has also been brought to my attention that some students, particularly the older ones, are having private tuition outside school. Let me assure you that across the curriculum this is absolutely unnecessary. The teaching staff at St Paul's Academy are outstanding in many ways, and they are particularly generous with their time. Staff are available before and after school and there will be revision sessions in all subjects in the run up to the exams. I believe that some people are paying up to £45 per hour, which does not represent value for money when support can be and is provided without cost in school. I would also like to point out that unless a tutor knows the exact syllabus and examination requirements which is being taught at school, private tuition can, in fact, do more harm than good.

There are many examination boards and each one will have numerous syllabuses for every subject. Although the basics will be the same, the syllabuses can be very different. For example, in Mathematics, certain topics will be taught a particular way in school, but may be taught differently by others. Each way may be valid, but if a student is taught the same subject in two different ways, this may be detrimental to learning. If you do feel you have to employ a tutor, I would advise you to check their teaching qualifications and their knowledge of the syllabus that your son or daughter is following at St Paul's.

Behaviour travelling to/ from the Academy

All students from St Paul's have been reminded that involvement and/ or association with any form of unacceptable behaviour outside of school hours will put their place at St Paul's at risk.

I have placed a key section from the Academy's *Student Behaviour & Discipline Policy* that was ratified by the Governing Body in September 2017 below.

The Academy has the authority to discipline students for their behaviour outside Academy hours, including before and after school, travelling to or from school, at the weekend and during holiday periods. This authority can be used for all non-criminal bad behaviour and bullying which occurs anywhere off the Academy premises and which is witnessed by a member of staff or reported to the Academy. A student can be disciplined for any misbehavior when taking part in an Academy organised or Academy-related activity or at any time when poor behavior, particularly that which poses a threat to another student or member of the public, could have repercussions for the orderly running of the Academy or could adversely affect the reputation of the Academy. This includes the abuse of social media, networking platforms or any form of technology such as the filming or distribution of fights, assaults or any illegal or anti-social activity.

Students from St Paul's Academy are not permitted to visit Woolwich Town Centre at the end of the school day. I am fully aware that some students from St Paul's have to change buses in Woolwich. However, students from our school must not visit shops in the centre of Woolwich or loiter in the town centre.

All of our students have also been reminded that they must not loiter in groups of three or more in local areas, including the shops by the *The Cooperative* and *Morley's chicken shop* at Plumstead Corner.

Any student from St Paul's involved in an incident outside of school is at risk of either a fixed – term exclusion or a permanent exclusion.

Travel on Buses & ZIP Cards

In recent weeks there have been a number of issues with buses within the local area. *To ease congestion and avoid bus hopping, students will only be permitted to board the 469 bus opposite the Academy going towards Plumstead if they are going to McLeod Road and beyond.*

I am also aware that a small number of our students are not in possession of a valid Oyster Card. Students are not permitted to travel on a bus without a valid Oyster Card.

No Oyster Card = No travel

I have attached at the end of this letter, a statement from TfL outlining the Terms & conditions for the use of the Oyster Card and the potential for it to be removed. I would appreciate your support to go through this statement with your child what constitutes anti-social behaviour.

Free school meal entitlement

Children whose Parents/ Carers receive any of the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, that does not exceed £16,190 (2012/13).
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals under one of the above criteria, I would encourage you to contact Pupil Benefits at the Royal Borough of Greenwich (020 8921 2530/70).

The swipe card system operated at school allows for students on FSM not to be identified and there is no social stigma associated with FSM.

Uniform

All students must be in full school uniform at all times which includes travel to & from school. This includes a school blazer and appropriate footwear (**trainers/canvas shoes are not permitted**). Boys' ties should be worn correctly and should have seven full stripes (gold/red) below the knot. Girls' skirts must be pleated and reach to just above the knee. Skirts should not be rolled over and jumpers must not be tucked into them. The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9.15am – 12.15pm. (Please see full details in the Student Planner, pages 4 – 5.)

Year 11 Consultation Evening: Wednesday, 8th November, 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Mr Kirby will be sending full details of this event to the families of Year 11 students. All Year 11 students are expected to attend this event in full school uniform with their Parents/ Carers.

Bringing students/ collecting students from St Paul's Academy

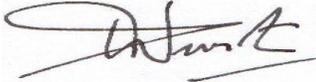
All Parents/ Carers must ensure that parking restrictions are observed both before and after school. If you are either dropping your children at the Academy in the morning or collecting them at the end of the school day, you are requested not to use the Academy side of Finchale Road. You must also avoid parking in front of the driveways of our neighbours.

Half Term break

St Paul's Academy will close on Friday, 20th October at 1.45pm. We will re-open on Monday, 30th October at the usual time of 8.15am.

I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Winston', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Patrick Winston
Principal