



13 May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Thank you for continuing to support your children and the Academy during these difficult times.

I would like to draw to your attention a number of issues for which I would ask for your support and co-operation. The students have already received reminders about these issues and it would be very helpful if you were able to reiterate the messages at home with them.

- **Mobile Phones**

For safety reasons, we have made the decision to allow students to have their mobile phones for use on the journey to and from the Academy. On arrival at the school gate, all devices must be switched off, not just put on silent mode, and placed in students' bags. Students caught using their phone inside school are at risk of having their phone confiscated for two weeks. If a child refuses to hand their phone over they will be defying the authority of the Academy and could face being issued with a fixed-term exclusion. Please refer to the Academy Mobile Phone Policy on page 16 of the School Planner.

- **Uniform**

The majority of our students are very well turned out in their school uniform and P.E uniform. However, some students are wearing items of clothing that are not approved uniform, especially on the days when they are required to wear their P.E uniform to and from the Academy as one of our COVID preventative measures.

Please see the guidelines set out by the P.E Department:

- Students wearing personal hoodies/jumpers/half-zips as part of their P.E kit will not be permitted at any time of the school day - this includes morning and afternoon line-up.
- Students that do not have the St Paul's Academy issued tracksuit top will be told to wear their St Paul's Academy V-Neck jumper and their school blazer to stay warm/comfortable throughout the school day.
- Students that do not have the St Paul's Academy issued tracksuit bottoms will be told to wear jogging bottoms/tracksuit bottoms that are either navy blue or black - no other colours are permitted.
- Students with kit issues or who don't have the St Paul's Academy issued P.E kit (including optional items) will be expected to take responsibility through providing a note from their parent or carer to explain why they don't have the kit and when they intend to rectify the issue.

Please refer to the Uniform Policy on pages 12 and 13 of the School Planner to ensure that your child is compliant with their uniform and with the guidelines around hairstyles, hair colour and jewellery.



Please also go through the list of Forbidden items in the Behaviour Code (page 15 of the School Planner). I have had to confiscate a number of items recently, including metal combs, which are not allowed in school. Similarly, please check the list of equipment which your child must have every day in school. This must include a filled water bottle. This is even more important as the temperatures are rising and children will become dehydrated and unwell if they do not drink regularly. We are still not in a position to open our water fountains, as it is one of our safety controls to reduce the transmission of Covid 19. Therefore, it is essential that students bring a filled reusable bottle of water to school.

- **Face Coverings**

As part of the Government's move to Step 3 of the road map, from Monday 17 June face coverings will no longer be recommended for students and staff in classrooms or communal areas and only worn by staff and visitors outside of classrooms, where social distancing is not possible. However, where there is a localised outbreak, face coverings will be reintroduced. Unfortunately we have had three confirmed cases of Covid-19 among our students this week. **Therefore, from Monday 17 May, all students and staff, except for those who are exempt, will still be required to wear face coverings as a safety measure to reduce transmission of Covid-19 in the school.**

- **Punctuality**

Whilst we appreciate that there will be occasions when a child will be late for school for reasons beyond their control, the poor punctuality of some students is becoming a matter of concern as this lost school time will affect their learning. For persistent lateness, there will be consequences, ranging from a behaviour discussion to a 20-minute detention to a Principal's 2-hour Punctuality Detention. Please refer to page 32 of the School Planner for further details.

- **Travelling to and from the Academy**

We have had several complaints recently from local residents about the anti-social behaviour of a minority of our students. This tarnishes the reputation of the Academy for all of us. It is every child's responsibility to go straight home after school and not to loiter in the local area; this is for your child's safety and the safety of others.

Please remind your child of the expectations for every student in the Home School Agreement which they signed when they joined St Paul's Academy. This is an agreement to follow all of the Academy's policies and Behaviour Code.

- Attend school every day and be on time;
- Bring my School Planner and all the equipment I need every day;
- Follow all the School's policies, the Behaviour Code and the contents of the Student Planner;
- Wear the correct school uniform and be tidy in appearance in school and to and from school;

- Do all my class work and homework to the best of my ability;
- Be polite and helpful to all;
- Be a positive part of an environment where everyone can learn;
- Accept the school's sanctions without question if I misbehave or fail to work to my full ability;
- Keep the school a safe place to learn and show respect to the environment by keeping it free from litter and graffiti.

Finally, all students agree to follow the Academy's 3Bs at all times:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Ready for Learning**

The School Planner is a very useful and informative tool for both families and students, especially during these uncertain times, and so I would advise you to revisit the information contained in it, especially pages 21 – 23 – Help and Support at St Paul's Academy.

Thank you again for your support; it is greatly appreciated by all the St Paul's community.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Miss S Malone
Principal