

October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had an amazing start to the new academic year, thank you for your huge support in helping your child have a positive start this year. Please remember that every week I release a Principal's Blog on the website with key updates and what is happening in the academy.

We always strive to avoid negative conversations with our young people and aim for a positive start to the day. Please read the reminders below and a change coming for after half term. I know that some students find it very difficult to be organised in bringing their own planner and equipment to school every day, however, this is part of becoming a young adult. Please support this routine with your child.

## A FEW REMINDERS

### Student Uniform and Resources

All students to please ensure they have their bag (large enough for an A4 folder), planner and a pencil case with all their equipment every day. It is vital that students have this with them.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform expectations, especially as we move into colder months ahead:

- Full Academy uniform is expected at all times including uniform for PE
- Plain black socks when wearing trousers
- **Jumpers must be plain black "V neck" and are optional. They are not a replacement for blazers.**
- Plain black tights (at least 40 denier) when wearing a skirt (either with academy logo or box pleat) Skirts should NOT be rolled over.
- Plain black, below the ankle, polishable, sensible school shoes (no canvas / plastic / trainers / boots, etc)
- Make-up must be very discrete, eyebrows of normal shape and colour, fake eyelashes are not allowed.
- No nail varnish or false nails and hair must be a natural hair colour.
- Chewing gum, fizzy pop (including energy drinks), big bags of sweets and crisps etc are **NOT** allowed anywhere on site. We are aiming to be a healthy eating site. We encourage students to bring a refillable water bottle – there are water stations in the Dining Room and Sports Block where free fresh water can be accessed. Please note that students **MUST** have a water bottle to be able to use these water dispensers. We are wanting to

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remove our need for plastic cups (expensive and a drain on the environment) - please support this by having a water bottle.

- We are a **no mobile phone site**, phones are not allowed anywhere on the academy site. If your child chooses to bring in a phone, it must be **switched off and in their bag** (we must have no knowledge it is with them on site). We are not liable for any breakages or theft. If a phone is seen it will be confiscated for collection at the end of the academy day.
- It is essential that students also have their **own basic equipment** (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, glue stick, whiteboard pen etc). Students must also have in their bag a reading book. We ask that for safety reasons pencil sharpeners are NOT brought onto the academy site, every room has a heavy duty sharpener for students to use.

As we move into colder and wet months, I also suggest that students bring a coat to the academy. Hoodies are NOT allowed.

### Contact with parents and carers

Our priority is to be with and to support students in the academy. Please contact us to arrange a time for discussion by phone or a meeting on site during the academy day on 01924 302560 or via email on [enquiries@freeston.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@freeston.outwood.com) or via our contact page on the website <https://www.freeston.outwood.com/contact> or text us. We aim to get back to you within 48 school hours but this is not always possible.

Please remember that we need to be able to make contact with you. If you have changed your contact details it is vital that you inform us of any changes. We must have at least two contact numbers in case of emergencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we teach our young people to be safe, respectful and responsible. I would like to thank you for modelling this yourself in all communications with us.

### Attendance to the academy is vitally important

Please **do not** book holidays during term time as this will be counted as an unauthorised holiday and may incur a fine. Students must be in the academy unless they are too ill to leave their home for another reason or we have been informed of a prior appointment. Positive attendance is critical for your child to succeed. If you know that your child is going to be absent, please telephone the Academy where possible before 8:30am.

### Punctuality affects learning and attendance

Please ensure your child arrives on site in time, between 8am and 8.20am. If a student arrives after the new legal closure of the register at **8.55am** this will result in an absent code for the whole morning session - this will affect their attendance and could lead to prosecution including fines. If your child is late due to a medical appointment please bring in evidence of this.

## SOMETHING NEW

We have had a number of our students asking for us to reconsider our policy on jewellery and asking us to allow clear plastic retainers for piercings. We have listened to these requests and have agreed the following change. **After half term from 6th November, students will be allowed to wear clear/flesh coloured flat plastic retainer** pieces where they have piercings on their face, ears, tongue etc. This will be for new and existing piercings. There are times when these will need to be removed, e.g. on instruction by PE.

- Please note, that we will NOT provide any retainers, it is for the student to have this with them
- Any new piercings are to be removed and only the retainers will be allowed

We also expect that all other aspects of our expectations around uniform and jewellery are met.

- Therefore, **no jewellery** (earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets etc) is allowed except a wristwatch (smart watches which connect to the internet/record media etc are not allowed). In all assessments and external exams, watches are NOT allowed to be worn as per JCQ regulations.

I wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing all students return on 6th November.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Allott  
Principal