

29 October 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

We are now approaching the end of the first half term and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of our key successes over the last eight weeks and, in response to parent feedback, to clarify a couple of issues that may not have been absolutely clear.

**Successes:**

**Attendance:** Our whole school attendance has improved significantly since the end of last year. We are currently sitting just below the school's target of 96% and are seeking to ensure that we reach that milestone before Christmas. Thank you to all parents and carers who contact us on the first day of absence to explain any concerns and to the families who work so closely with us to respond to, and mitigate the impact of, school absence.

**Attitude to Learning:** We have seen a significant improvement in Attitude to Learning across all year groups this year with more students receiving 4s and many more receiving positive notes and phone calls home.

**Rewards:** One of the real positives of this last half term has been seeing the response across all key stages to stamps and positive reinforcement in lessons. Please take time to review your child's planner and reflect on the number of stamps and ATL 4s they are receiving as well as why they are receiving them. Key Stage teams will be delivering rewards and reward activities across the last week of term and the first week of the new half term and there will be more significant reward experiences for each key stage at the end of term

**Behaviour:** Despite a very clear raising of school expectations around behaviour, we have been pleased, though not surprised, with how students have responded to the new expectations. Our behaviour policy not only empowers staff to respond immediately to behaviour that doesn't meet our expectations, but also tracks behaviour and potentially accrues consequences over the course of a half term. While this means children may be more likely to accrue consequences, I am delighted that over 80% of our pupils have not picked up a detention all half term.

Alongside these positives, there have been some areas that some parents / carers and students have been unclear about, including:

**Negative comments:** the vast majority of children do not receive more than one comment in a week so if your child is receiving three or more in a week this would require further discussion or exploration. The codes used for negative comments are as follows:

**B** = Behaviour – a behaviour concern

**E** = Equipment – the student hasn't had a specific piece of equipment

**L** = Late – in this context it means late to lesson

**U** = Uniform – a specific uniform indiscretion

**H** = Homework – homework has not been completed at the designated time

**A/S** – Around School – where the letter has **A/S** at the side, it means the issue has arisen outside of lesson time so, for example, **A/S B** could mean a behaviour issue at lunch time

**Detentions:** If a student is issued with a detention, it will take place at the earliest opportunity and as close to the indiscretion as possible. The dates of detentions are non-negotiable and cannot be moved

due to commitments outside of school. It is our expectation that students with responsibilities immediately after school will take positive steps to ensure they are not in detention.

**Punctuality:** It is important that children arrive to school on time and ready to work. This means ensuring they are on the school premises by 0830 and have everything required for their day before 0835 as this is the time they should be in their form room. We understand some pupils have a long journey but please ensure that your child is in school by 0830 as, once the bell rings at 0835, it is not up to the discretion of staff whether a student is marked late or not. It is also worth reminding parents and carers that if a child arrives after 0850, they will receive an absence mark for the morning session in line with the legal requirements of the school.

To support the school in securing further improvements, there will be a couple of further amendments to processes involved in the application of our behaviour policy. From this half term, any child spending any time in Isolation will be expected to stay until 1530 on the same day. Parents will be notified at the earliest opportunity. Similarly, any child who accrues five negative comments in the same week will be expected to attend the Leadership Detention which runs until 1600 each Friday. Again, parents and carers will receive notification, but in the event that the fifth comment is issued on the Friday, the detention will be completed the following week. The aim of both of these changes is simply to continue to reduce low level disruption in lessons and in school.

**Finally,** a reminder that all students will return after half term to a 'clean slate'. It is an integral part of the policy that we give every child the opportunity for success and a clean slate provides every child with the opportunity to re-set, refresh and re-focus. From November 6<sup>th</sup>, all detentions and isolations will be archived and everyone begins back at the beginning. Please take this opportunity to discuss with your child the importance of starting again and striving to improve over the coming half term.

Overall, we are very, very pleased with the direction of travel and are grateful for the support of all parents and carers in ensuring that our children are equipped for success on a daily basis. It is only by working in close partnership with children and families that we can ensure Guseley School reaches the excellence to which we aspire.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Key Stage team in the first instance.

Kind Regards, and have a great half term.



Paul Carney  
Deputy Headteacher