

Ref: IRO/kji

26 October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the half term break, I would like to thank you for your continuing support this half term. I would also like to share some important information as seen below.

Parents Evening for Year 10 and Year 11

This will be on Thursday 30 November from 3.30pm to 6.30pm: this is a change for the Year 11 parents evening that had been in the calendar to take place on 16 November.

Department of Education DFE visit

The report has not yet been published but I am able to share some key findings of the report about leadership and behaviour:

- Leaders are working at pace to ensure that action is taken in the key areas for improvement across the academy and show a passion for improving the lives of pupils.
- Senior leaders are diligent and committed professionals who are clearly passionate about raising standards of attainment and progress.
- The pupils interviewed were polite and well-mannered not just to visitors but also towards each other.
- They stated that they are happy in the academy and enjoy the vast majority of their lessons.
- During this visit, pupils presented themselves as smartly dressed and purposeful.
- During the tour of the academy, I observed that the vast majority of pupils were calm, engrossed in their learning and respectful towards one another and their teachers.

Our aim is to ensure every lesson is at least good standard with regards learning, progress and students attitude to learning. I truly believe that with the systems that will be introduced next half term as identified below, the outstanding external support provided through UCAT and the support of all of our parents and carers we can achieve this in a relatively short period of time.

Improving the learning environment at UCEA

After taking students, parents and other stakeholder views the following improvements will be made to systems in school as soon as we arrive back from the autumn break:

a) Whole school centralised detention system

At UCEA we know excellent behaviour and attitude to learning helps all students' progress well in their learning. When this is lacking the progress of students is hindered, one of the consequences we use is the same day detention system. This will now become a centralised system, we will endeavour to make parental contact via the school office rather than different class teachers. This notification will be sent to you by text on the day of the detention, this text will be sent to the first contact person you identified on the recent school census form you completed. **This should have been completed in our recent census request at the start of September. If you have changed your contact details since then please contact the school immediately to update them.**

When a student is issued with a detention:

- The student will be informed in the lesson or around school and the member of staff will write in the student planner, this is to communicate the detention to the Head of Learning and to remind the student of the detention that evening. If your child has lost their planner it is the responsibility of the child to inform the Head of Learning and purchase a new one.
- A text will be sent to you on the same day of the detention notifying you of the duration.

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- If the student fails to attend a 30 minute detention on the specified date, they will automatically serve a 60 minute detention the next day without any further notice given.
- If a student fails to attend the 60 minute detention this will result in disciplinary action set by the Assistant Principal for behaviour.

We obviously hope that we do not need to issue detentions to our students as we expect they will remain highly focused on the task of learning and follow all of our academy standards. As young learners if they do not meet these standards in and around school a detention will be issued and the responsibility to attend the detention lies with the student.

b) A rewards system that recognises students' continuous hard work and commitment

We have developed a simple system to recognise outstanding attitude to learning and academic progress in the classroom, we will be rewarded in different ways; praise postcards, recognition on the 'wall of fame', a letter from the Principal or rewards activities. During the coming half term and beyond all students will have this opportunity to be recognised for their commitment to learning.

c) Improved student support area

We are passionate about raising standards to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students in all aspects of school life.

To facilitate this we have extensively redeveloped the Inclusion Faculty to provide support to students with a wide range and diverse learning needs. This will ensure efficient, effective support allowing students to reach their full potential. The Inclusion Faculty consists of a team of professional and dedicated staff that provide continuous support, as required. This will allow us to meet the individual needs of each student, through a range of approaches including in class support, small group intervention programmes and specific targeted one to one sessions.

All of the programmes are designed to develop the students socially and emotionally, whilst building students' self-esteem as well as academic ability. All interventions are assessed, evaluated and adapted accordingly to meet the needs of each individual student and there is close communication, at all times, with inclusion staff and parents.

d) Behaviour Improvement Plans (BIP) responsibilities

We have strengthened the key responsibilities for students, parents and staff overseeing the BIP process with simple procedures by all stakeholders to adhere to. These will be listed on the back of BIP1 to BIP4. This key improvement will allow students to own their BIP reports more readily with parents and staff focused on supporting improvements.

Can I thank you in advance for your support to improve the learning environment at UCEA.

Yours faithfully



I Robison
Principal