



20 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the first term, I must take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in what has been an incredibly busy start to the academic year. I feel our school community has pulled together and continues to face the ever-changing challenges with resilience and resolve.

Term 1 has seen the following activity/events (to name just a few!):

- Full transition across to GO 4 Schools as the one stop shop for information we share about your child
- Year 7 Open Day
- Rollout of the new rewards system and celebration assemblies
- SEND Information Evening
- An OFSTED inspection
- Successful roll-out of Information, Meet the Tutor and Year 11 Parents Evenings

As this term draws to a close, we are hard at work preparing for Term 2 which sees the following (once again, to name just a few): PPE's, Sixth Form Open Day, further Parent Forum Meetings etc.

I know that you will continue to support us in delivering our ethos of '**Learning without Limits**' and I wanted to provide a brief update on some focus areas, in addition to the usual Parent/Carers News Bulletin update:

Behaviour

We are eager to remain positive, however, we must remind you all that whilst our new behaviour policies have been widely very well received, there is unfortunately still a level of unacceptable behaviour that needs to be addressed. My letter last week regarding the vandalism to the toilet facilities touched on this briefly.

We know that poor behaviour interrupts learning for everyone and following implementation of our new behaviour policies this term, we know that our approach to behaviour and attitudes is working. The vast majority of parents/carers we talk to are supportive of the measures we are taking to tackle poor behaviour.

I am sure that you will understand the importance of having a zero-tolerance approach with regards to bullying, racism, and prejudice; the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our number one priority. We have very high expectations for students with regards to behaviour and the great majority of our students behave well at all times, both in lessons and around the school. I am anticipating that this will continue to be the case on their return to school following half term and your support on this is very much appreciated.

Learning Without Limits

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Uniform

As all of our students are aware, our 4 key expectations are as follows:

1. Be on time and attend all lessons
2. Use appropriate language
3. Wear correct uniform
4. Have the correct equipment

We expect all students to wear the Guilsborough Academy uniform so that their appearance is smart and tidy, both within and outside the school premises. This term saw a focus on the standard of uniform and I am delighted to confirm that students are adhering to these requests and positively responding to them. We recognise that, for families, purchasing uniform and ensuring their child arrives to school dressed appropriately can be a stressful time. We are aware that there have been some issues with the current uniform suppliers and please rest assured we are addressing these.

We respectfully ask you to continue to support us raising the uniform and equipment standards by using the half term break to rectify any issues. Information relating to uniform and equipment can be found [here](#).

Attendance

As advised at the beginning of term, absence has a direct impact on learning and the progress students make. We are concerned at the level of absence with some students and these families have been contacted directly. As you can see below, the attendance of our younger students is good while that of students in Years 9-11 needs to improve.

| Year Group | Attendance to date |
|------------|--------------------|
| 7 | 95.0% |
| 8 | 92.8% |
| 9 | 90.8% |
| 10 | 91.5% |
| 11 | 89.2% |

I remind you of some guidance I shared earlier in the term regarding your child's school attendance: [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

We want to work with our families to ensure all our students are attending school as much as possible and encourage you to work with us on achieving this.

I hope that our students have a safe and restful half-term, and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 30th October.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Frazer
Principal