

July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Preparing for September

I want a smooth and purposeful start to the new year in September. That means everyone being focused on the school's core mission of education and learning without any unnecessary distractions. With that in mind, this letter outlines some key reminders about our behaviour policy.

I am sending the letter out now so that families have ample time to go through it together and discuss it. We will be talking through these expectations with students in assemblies and our Prescott Reset lesson in the first week back.

## Footwear

As before, our policy on footwear is that only polishable black shoes are permitted. Trainers or pumps are not to be worn. Brands such as Hoka, OnCloud, Nike, Vans, Converse, Adidas, Asics, and Puma do not make appropriate shoes for school. Kicker style pumps are also not acceptable. If a student attends school in trainers, they will be provided with newly bought shoes to wear for the day. If the student refuses to wear them, they will be placed in reflection. We will of course continue to work with families who require support to meet our expectations regarding footwear. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying.

## Coats & caps

Coats are to be worn over the top of blazers outside, not in the building. Hooded tops, tracksuit tops or caps are not permitted to be worn on the school site, indoors or outdoors. Students are allowed to wear a suitably warm coat on top of their blazers should they wish to when they go outside at break times or lunchtimes.

## Equipment for learning

We want every lesson to start promptly without disruption, and we expect students to come to school with the right equipment for learning. This is good preparation for later life; employees are expected to turn up to their workplace ready for work and it is no different in school setting. The minimum requirement is a pencil case, pen, pencil, and ruler. Students may find it helpful to have a green pen and highlighters.

## Bags

A waterproof bag is required to hold A4 sized paper/files/exercise books every day. Any student who attends school without a bag will be provided with a bag for the day.

## Blazers and ties

Blazers are available to purchase from Top Form in Prescott or Lisa's in Dovecot. Ties are available to purchase from the school office for £5.

## Mobile Phones

There is now a lot of research clearly showing that students make better progress in school if they are not constantly distracted by their phones. I am sure that as a parent/carers, you are

### OUR VISION

WE WILL ENSURE ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR  
ACADEMIC POTENTIAL, DEVELOP HOLISTICALLY AND  
GO ON TO LEAD HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES.

Part of the



aware of how difficult it can sometimes be to prise your child away from their phone and get them concentrate on something else. At the extreme end of the scale phone addiction is now being treated by the NHS.

Schools have different approaches when it comes to phones. Some schools ban them completely. Our policy is that if a phone is seen it will be confiscated for the day. Phones need to be out of sight at all times in blazers or bags. It is not acceptable for a student to be carrying their phone around in their hand when in school, even if they are not actually using it. If a phone is confiscated three times in a half term, we will ask a parent/carer to come in to school to collect it.

One option is simply for your child to leave their phones at home. However, I appreciate that many parents/carers want their child to have a phone with them for personal safety reasons, and particularly for the journey to and from school.

If so, and you are concerned that your child may be unable to resist the temptation to look at their phone during the school day, they can hand it to their year leads when they arrive at school in the morning. About one in ten of our students currently opt to do this.

And it goes without saying that we will never stop a student contacting parent/carer in an emergency. Any such calls can be made during break/lunch after a conversation with staff.

### **Punctuality**

Persistent poor punctuality affects not just progress in lessons but also future prospects. Post-16 education and training providers and employers always ask us to comment on punctuality as well as attendance in references.

We expect students to be in school and lined up for 8:25am Monday to Thursday and 9:10am on Friday. A free breakfast is available on site from 8:00am. Any student who is late will have a sanction that day.

### **School day**

Following a period of consultation regarding proposed changes to the structure of the school day, we have decided not to proceed with any alterations at this time. This means that the school day will continue as previously outlined, with no changes to start or finish times.

Please contact the school office to book a conversation with your child's year leader if you have any queries or concerns about anything I have raised in this letter.

We really appreciate your support in maintaining expectations we have set at the school. I am very grateful to parents and carers who have worked with the school in ensuring their children leave home correctly dressed for school.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you a happy summer.

Yours faithfully

Mr A. Tyler

Assistant Principal