



**KING EDWARD VI  
BALAAM WOOD  
ACADEMY**

*Educational excellence for our City*

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BIRMINGHAM**

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8 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Raising Standards and Expectations for the New Academic Year**

I am writing to you all today to provide you with some key information around the academy's aim to continue to raise standards and expectations as we enter a new school year. Undoubtedly, Covid-19 and the global pandemic has caused disruption to all of our lives, whether that be at home, in the workplace or at school. Despite this, we are proud of our community and wish to continue to further raise our expectations and ambitions in supporting your child in making their expected progress.

We are delighted that the vast majority of our pupils always ensure that they meet all of our expectations. Our aim now moving into the new school year is to achieve 100% of pupils meeting our standards 100% of the time.

In order to ensure success, it is vital that we work together and have your support of these measures. Please read this letter carefully to ensure you are aware of these key expectations and your child understands the rules and consequences of not following them.

### **Uniform**

Full uniform is expected. As a reminder, the accepted uniform and our standards are outlined below:

- Blazer and tie must be worn. Jumpers are optional.
- Smart business-like black trousers. No black jeans or black leggings.
- Knee-length smart black skirts. No short tube style skirts.
- Smart business-like black leather shoes. No trainer style shoes or logos.
- Natural hair colour. No patterns, no non-natural colour hair extensions, no large hair accessories.
- No facial piercings or tongue piercings. One stud in each ear is allowed.
- No false eyelashes or excessive make-up.
- No acrylic nails or coloured nail varnish.

Pupils will **no longer** be permitted to come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. Pupils will be expected to wear full uniform and carry their PE kit in their bag. Branded sportswear will not be accepted as PE kit. If the weather is due to be extremely hot, the Headteacher may allow PE kits at his discretion in which parent/carers will be informed of this the day before.

As ever, if there are any issues in relation to uniform then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year as soon as you can. Failure to comply with any of the above uniform standards will result in a standards detention.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Headteacher: Mr D. McGarvey



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As I'm sure you are aware, the circumstances regarding pupil attendance to school has now changed and it is mandatory for all pupils to continue to attend school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. We are happy that our current attendance is higher than the Birmingham average for attendance, but we must have all of our children here 100% of the time. We thank you in advance for your support with this issue.

We have also identified an issue with pupils' punctuality to school. There will be specific interventions to target those pupils and parents and carers will be invited in for a meeting with their child's Head of Year. Poor punctuality to school leads to a disrupted start to the school day and can have a negative impact on your child's learning and therefore, progress.

Changes to the consequence system regarding punctuality are as follows:

- One to nine minutes late will receive a break time detention
- Over ten minutes late will receive a lunchtime detention
- Anything over 30 minutes will receive a one-hour detention after school
- Persistently late pupils will see an escalation in consequences and be placed on an attendance plan.

### **Corridor Behaviour and Expectations**

The transition of pupils from lesson to lesson has been a real success during this Covid-19 period and we expect to maintain these high standards as the country starts to cautiously move towards a world of less restrictions.

In our drive to continuously raise standards, I am writing to remind you of the school's procedures that will be reinforced during this academic year. These procedures relate to aspects of school life, in particular, to uniform and the movement of pupils around the building.

Any incorrect uniform or inappropriate corridor conduct picked by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year will be given a same day 15-minute detention after school. This could include (but not limited to): wearing an outside coat on the corridor or classroom, shirt out, not wearing a tie, wearing trainers, piercings and physical contact such as play fighting.

Standards detentions will also continue to be given to any pupil found to be chewing gum on the school premises.

Furthermore, in order to emphasise the importance of healthy living, only water will be allowed to be consumed in classrooms. Pupils are permitted to bring in their own drink for break and lunchtime, as long as it is not a **high caffeine** content or **fizzy drink**. Drinks of this kind will be confiscated and left in Reception for pupils to collect at the end of the day.

### **Mobile Phones**



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**Pupils are not allowed to have a mobile phone visible in school at any time of the school day (8.40-3.05).**

- Mobile phones are not to be seen / heard / used on school premises
- Phones should be switched off and placed securely in a bag / blazer / coat prior to entering the school premises
- The academy accepts no responsibility for pupils who bring a mobile phone on to the school premises
- If seen – phones will be confiscated and handed by the member of staff into Reception
- Phones can be picked up at the end of the day by pupils from Main Reception after 3.05  
Any pupil who is in detention will not receive their phone until the detention has been completed
- Relevant sanctions will be put in place to pupils who persistently fail to meet our expectations with regards to mobile phones
- First confiscation in a term: warning and text home
- Second confiscation: C3 and text home
- Third confiscation: C4 and text home
- Fourth confiscation: C4, Meeting with parents on the day when possible and a bespoke plan for pupil's mobile phone put in place
- No images or videos should be taken on mobile devices without the prior consent of the person or people concerned.

Pupils are not to make or receive any phone calls to or from home on their mobile phones during the school day. If this happens pupils will receive consequences as outlined above. If a pupil has to contact home or parents/carers need to contact their child during the day, this must be done through Reception.

Pupils will be informed and reminded of these procedures in assemblies this week. Pupils who are repeatedly not meeting our standards will incur further and more serious sanctions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*KJ Lynch*

**Mr K Lynch  
Assistant Headteacher**