

17 April 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I trust this finds you well as we begin our summer term and trust that you had a good Easter holiday. I would like to provide some important updates and reminders which I would urge you to read carefully and share with your child.

### Uniform Expectations:

I would like to remind all parents, carers and students that the uniform is the most basic expectation of school life and we expect that all students will be able to comply with our uniform guidelines which have been designed to be as straightforward and affordable as possible at this time. Over the last term the standard of uniform has improved dramatically in school and we need this to continue in the summer term. Details of our uniform policy can be found here: <https://gps.hslt.academy/uniform> Students who arrive at school wearing incorrect uniform will be given the opportunity to correct the issue immediately; those who are not prepared to correct the issue will be sanctioned. Can I please remind all parents / carers of three specific issues that regularly occur:

- Only **plain black** shoes, trainers or boots are acceptable and no coloured logos or branding should be visible on trainers, shoes or boots.
- The only permitted jewellery is one pair of stud earrings; **all** other piercings must be replaced with clear plastic retainers during the school day.
- False eyelashes are **not** permitted; any students who arrive at school wearing false eyelashes will be expected to remove them immediately.

We have a stock of uniform in school for students who have forgotten an item which is washed after use; however some items of uniform have not been returned to school meaning that these stocks have now dwindled. Please can I ask all parents / carers to check with their child to see if they have any uniform items which belong to school and return these to school as soon as possible? Thank you for your support in ensuring that we can lend items to students who have genuinely forgotten an item on a daily basis.

### Behaviour Expectations:

Thank you for your feedback regarding the revised localised behaviour procedures in school. The learning environment in school has visibly improved and the procedures allow students opportunities to correct their behaviour with no sanctions through the verbal warning and phase one warning system. We are aware that families wish to know more about reasons for phase two and phase three sanctions and a new 'menu' has been made visible to families on Edulink which will show a reason for a sanction wherever possible. We appreciate your support in discussing incidents with your children and helping them reflect on behaviour choices. Where behaviour unfortunately leads to a period of time in the reflection room in phase four, we appreciate your support in reminding your child that they need to attend this room and complete their sanction. If you have concerns about your child's behaviour, please contact the Head of Year in the first instance.

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### **Equipment:**

May I remind you that our basic expectation for students is that they have a black/blue pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler and a calculator with them every day. In exceptional circumstances we are able to support students with equipment, but in order to keep our costs to a minimum and for the sake of the environment, we would ask that you try to ensure that your child has their equipment with them.

### **Parking At School:**

Please be mindful when collecting your child for school that cars must not park on the double yellow lines at the front of school. The road outside school is extremely busy at the end of the school day with buses, taxis, cars and pedestrians all trying to share spaces and we would appreciate your support in keeping this space as safe as possible.

### **School Lunch Prices:**

As you may recall from our letter on 12 October 2023, the prices for school meals increased on 1 January 2024. You can find more information about the prices and menu here: <https://gps.hslt.academy/school-meals/>

### **Update from the Local Authority:**

As you will be aware the Council is currently consulting on changes to the North Yorkshire (NY) Home to School Travel Policy. This is available via the NY website [Home to school travel policy - consultation | North Yorkshire Council](#) Please note the deadline for the consultation including any responses has been extended to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Please read this message if your child has an additional or special educational need: North Yorkshire's education, health and social care services are being jointly inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to see how well they meet their responsibilities towards children and young people with SEN and disabilities (SEND). They would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives and how it has helped your child.

You can provide your views by completing an online survey. What you share will be treated in confidence:

- Children and Young People - <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AreaSEND-CYP/10299835>
- Parent/Carer - <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AreaSEND-ParentCarer/10299835>
- Parent/Carer easy read version – <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AreaSEND-ParentCarer-EasyRead/10299835>

Guidance, Easy Read and more information can be found [Area SEND inspections: information about ongoing inspections - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Your views are important and will help Inspectors to understand your child's experience of the SEND arrangements in North Yorkshire. The surveys will close at 9am on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024. Should you prefer a paper/word copy of the survey, please contact the school reception.

### **Attendance Update:**

As you are aware, attendance is of the utmost importance and statistics show a huge boost to attainment when students achieve over 95% attendance. We have recently sent a number of letters home to inform families of attendance percentages where this has fallen below this target. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends school as often as possible and we reward students who achieve 100%



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attendance on a weekly, half termly or termly basis. If you have any questions about attendance, please contact our attendance office on 01723 582194.

**Dates for the Diary:**

- 06 May 2024 School closed for the May Day Bank Holiday
- 27 May - 31 May 2024 Half term holiday
- 03 June 2024 Return to school
- W./c. 10 June 2024 Year 8 Endpoints Assessments - revision lists and guidance will be provided in advance

I would like to thank you as ever for your support and I hope we can continue to work together as we strive to further improve the school community to help your child achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh  
**Principal**