

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: First Week Back in School

I hope you and your family are well. We as staff have been really impressed by the positivity and sensible approach so many of our students have shown throughout this week and the enthusiasm that they have shown to get back into school after the summer break. As we approach the end of the first week of the new academic year, I would like to share with you a few of our highlights:

- We have welcomed 252 new Year 7 students into the Hungerhill family. This important milestone was marked with extended time with the students in their form and their form tutors to allow new relationships to be developed
- All students have received a 'Reset' assembly delivered by a member of the Leadership Team, which is a reminder of expectations, school rules and the importance of attendance, all linked to future aspirations, so all can achieve success
- All students had an extended form time, where form tutors delivered an hour-long session on 'The importance of school uniform'
- Lessons have continued to be delivered using the Principles of Excellence and the Structures for Excellence. These evidence-informed teaching models, focus on consistency and engagement, whilst maximising every learning opportunity. The impact of these is evident in the outcomes of GCSE results over the last 2 years.



Hungerhill School is part of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust
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- Additionally, to maintain high standards in the classroom, we have refined our behaviour policy to adopt a new system: *Warn-Move-Remove*. In the rare event that a student may struggle to sustain our learning expectations, this ensures that they cannot impact on the education of their peers
- Staff have been busy preparing our Enrichment and Extra Curricular Programme; some clubs will commence next week, with a full launch on the 18 September.
- We have launched our Anti-Bullying Pledge with all forms – all students have signed up to this pledge.

The return to school has coincided with a period of warm weather and as a school we will continue to monitor this situation and make reasonable adjustments to the school uniform if appropriate to do so - this will be communicated to parents/carers via SIMs. We would also recommend that during any periods of extreme heat, students wear sunscreen, bring a hat and ensure they have a suitable water bottle to enable them to remain hydrated throughout the day.

On a final note, the vast majority of students have returned to school looking incredibly smart in their school uniform. We have high standards in relation to appearance at Hungerhill which we expect all students to adhere to. Thank you to those parents who have contacted the school to praise us for standing firm on these expectations. Unfortunately, a small number of students have returned wearing uniform which is not suitable. A letter was circulated prior to the summer on the 21 July and again on the 28 August, detailing uniform and equipment requirements. Amongst the information included was the following *"School skirt: This must be the appropriate length (three fingers from the knee) and should not be rolled up at the waist. Please note that Lycra skirts are not permitted. No false eyelashes and false/acrylic nails are to be worn. Any eyelashes or nails from the summer must be removed in time for the first day of school. *Social time detentions will be issued for any student not following the school expectations until the student presents in line with the school standards."*

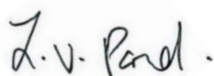
We are aware that many schools in the borough took a firm stance in issuing sanctions with immediate effect, however as a gesture of good will, we made the decision to issue no sanctions on the first day of term, opting to take this opportunity to provide reminders to students that were reinforced via a form time presentation.

The full Uniform Policy and details of our expectations linked to shoes, jewellery, hair and make-up can be accessed on the school website. We understand that there was a delay in updating the specific details regarding school skirts on the website with the details outlined in the letters distributed in July and August and thank those parents for bringing this to our attention.

Our message to students continues to be for them to make the most of every opportunity they are presented with at Hungerhill, both in and out of the classroom. To support us with this, we would appreciate it if you could reinforce to your child the importance of making the most of every minute of learning time available to them.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond
Headteacher



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