



Sunday, 8 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well. As you will have seen in many of my previous letters, I consider attendance to school and punctuality to lessons as essential for students to make good progress and achieve highly.

Punctuality is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it allows students to get the most out of their lessons. When students are late, they miss important instructions and introductions, which can make it difficult for them to follow along. Secondly, lateness disrupts the learning of other students. When a student arrives late to a lesson, the teacher has to stop what they are doing to greet them and get them settled in. This can break the flow of the lesson and make it difficult for other students to concentrate.

Thankfully, the vast majority of our students arrive on time to school and lessons every day. However, there is a small (but not insignificant) number of students who arrive late to school and to lessons far too often, often through choice.

Therefore, to address this disruptive behaviour we are introducing after school detentions for lateness. Students who arrive more than three minutes late to lessons will be issued with a same day, 25 minute long detention after school. This is a decision that we have taken after careful consideration, and we believe that it is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and succeed.

I understand that there may be times when students are late for school for legitimate reasons, such as illness or unexpected delays in travel. However, we expect students to be punctual whenever possible. Sadly, at present the traffic in and around Sittingbourne is a problem so we advise setting off earlier than usual in order to guarantee arrival to school on time.

We hope that you will support us in this new measure. We believe that it is important for all students to be punctual to school so that they can get the most out of their education.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Smith

Headteacher