



Our Ref CTR/ESD

7th January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly happy new year and I hope you had a good Christmas with your family.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our expectations for Years 7 to 10 and a course of action we are taking regarding two specific issues - completion of homework and 'Behaviour for Learning'. The two issues highlighted are the key concerns we currently have in relation to students' engagement with their learning and progress. One was clearly identified in the Ofsted inspection report and the other has been identified from teachers' daily logging of incidents through our electronic behaviour management system.

Our expectation is that all students will complete to a suitable standard the homework that is set by their class teachers and ensure this is handed in on time. In order to positively support students and minimise homework completion issues we have extended the opening hours of the College Learning Resource Centre until 5 p.m. each evening Monday to Thursday. Any student who does not have appropriate access to the required resources at home can ensure homework is completed in school at the end of the day before coming home. Teachers will set appropriate homework tasks, give students at least 24 hours to complete them and also log all tasks on Show my Homework, the software we use for students and parents.

From Monday 11th January 2016 there will be a "zero tolerance" policy in place when it comes to students who have not completed or made a suitable attempt at homework by the due completion date. No excuses will be accepted. Any student who does not meet their teacher's expectations will be undertaking a 30 minute detention after school on the day the work should have been handed in. We would ask you to check on a daily basis that your child has completed all their homework commitments and should they not have completed any homework set, you will then have advance knowledge. The student will undertake appropriate activities during this time but will also be expected to still complete the initial piece of homework for the class teacher in their own time and hand it in at a time specified by their teacher. We will endeavour to contact parents of students who have been given a detention before 3 p.m. each day. If we have been unable to contact you we will ask the student to do so at the end of the day before the start of the detention. If you have any concerns about the whereabouts of your child in respect to the homework detentions, towards the end of the school day the College Reception will have a list of students who should be attending the detention.

This action is entirely within Department for Education guidelines and regulations as stated in the document Behaviour and Discipline in Schools, Advice for headteachers and school staff which has been updated as of January 2016. We no longer have to give 24 hours' notice for detentions and can therefore put this "instant" sanction into place. This document is available on the Internet if you wish to read it yourself. Additionally, the College Behaviour policy is on the College website for consultation. The senior member of staff who is over-seeing this policy is Ms McGeough and she will arbitrate on any issues that arise.

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The second issue has been highlighted by Ofsted following their observation of a small number of incidents where student's behaviour was not acceptable and their judgement that 'Behaviour for Learning' was Requires Improvement rather than Good. From this we have revised our Attitude to Learning criteria. The new criteria include a reference to homework completion. We understand there may be a negative impact in the short term on the Attitude to Learning grades issued to students at the assessments points every half term and you need to be aware of this when tracking sheets come home. The new criteria will be published on the website for you to access once students have been informed.

Whilst you may not fully appreciate the reasons why we are taking this action I am sure you can understand it is in the best interests of the students, their potential progress and their academic success in the future. We know there is a distinct connection between those students who complete homework and complete it well and GCSE achievement. We are also clear that poor behaviour in lessons impacts on the experience and progress of not only the student behaving inappropriately but also on all other students in that lesson. The action is also part of a concerted strategy to take Oakmeeds to Good and then hopefully Outstanding in future Ofsted inspections. It can only be of benefit to all students in the long term. We therefore expect the support of all parents on this issue.

If you have any comments over this letter please send them to me via my PA at office@oakmeeds.co.uk .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Taylor', with a horizontal line underneath.

C. J. Taylor B Ed, MA, FRSA
Headteacher