

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of 2022-23, in which we have a huge number of plans to take our school on a real journey of improvement. Our guiding principle is 'We are first class' and that means we won't accept anything less than first class practice to give your children a first-class education.

We've already made some changes for 2022-23 that you're aware of, including the changes to the school day and changes to LIFE lessons. You can find further information about these changes on the website using these links:

<https://www.chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk/learning>

Mobile Phones

As mentioned in the summer, our new mobile phone policy mean that we no longer allow students to have their mobile phones out at any part of the school day, and that if it is seen or heard, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and stored securely. Knowing modern technology as we all do, that ban also needs to include earphones / ear buds, and smart watches.

As of tomorrow, Tuesday the 6th of September, students who have their phones confiscated will need to attend a 30-minute detention the same day. Their phone will be returned to them at the end of that detention at 3.30pm. For today only, we will return confiscated phones at 3pm.

We know from both our own experience and national data that mobile phones cause a significant distraction and cause for unrest in school, and so we believe this zero-tolerance policy is the right thing for students. Thank you for your support as we get students to focus on their learning and wellbeing in school.

The full mobile phone policy can be found on the website using this link:

<https://www.chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk/policies>

<https://www.chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=150&type=pdf>

Rewards and Planners

At the end of last term, we began recording positive behaviour points for students digitally, rather than in student planners. These positive behaviour points quickly mounted up to earn student rewards, and feedback from students and some parents suggested they much prefer this system. If you have not logged on to the MCAS (My Child At School) system, please call reception to ask for help. You can see live positive behaviour points updates, as well as other information about your child.

Positive behaviour points earn invitations for students to rewards events large and small, and a range of these are planned for every half term this year. Students will have fresh chances to earn their invitations to small treats and experiences like hot chocolate lessons, or larger events and trips as each half term goes on.

We surveyed students in the summer term who told us they were not regularly using their planners, and as the main purpose of the planner was previously to collect positive behaviour points, we are no longer issuing students with planners. Student email accounts are important for receiving communications and work from teachers; parents are welcome to continue using email and phone to communicate with school. Students are welcome to bring a notebook or diary of their choice to school if they wish. If any student does find they were relying on their planner for organisation and do not have notebooks of their own, tutors can supply them.

And finally...

There are many changes in school this year, including the new day, a range of new staff, new systems, and new support hubs in school for learning support, ASD students, and for wellbeing support. What hasn't changed though, is Chaucer School's drive to ensure that your child gets a first-class education hand in hand with first class support. The support from you as parents and carers, and the communication between us and you are more important than ever. Please continue to get in touch by email or by phone, arrange meetings face to face if you wish, and let's continue to make your children happy and successful at school.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joanna Crewe'.

Joanna Crewe
Headteacher