

JC/KJM

11 February 2022

Dear parents and carers

At the end of this half term I wanted to share some updates with you about work going on in school to keep developing towards first class standards for all.

Staffing, and a thank you

As I mentioned when I wrote to you in January, COVID pressures on staffing have been difficult at times. We are proud to have managed to stay open for all students all day every day this term – even with some heating and electric issues at times! Thank you to students and parents for your patience when visiting teachers have needed to replace regular teaching staff. The three school values of respect, responsibility and kindness have been especially important in these times. That staffing situation is still with us, but we all hope for improvements as the terms continue.

Year 11

Despite the interruptions over the last two years, Year 11 students are preparing for mock exams after half term, in readiness for final exams for GCSEs in the summer. Some BTEC courses have been completing final exams these last two weeks, and we have been extremely impressed with how dedicated our Year 11 students have been to achieving their best. Regular weekly revision sessions are now in full swing, alongside a package of revision support, equipment and resources, assemblies and motivation from staff. Year 11 are even beginning to believe that 'The Prom' is real, and really will happen this year! Please support your Year 11 children with encouragement to spend that little bit extra time at home preparing for success this summer.

Attendance to lesson and punctuality

Most students are making the effort to be on time to lessons every time, and understand why we are making this a priority for all. Please discuss with your child the need to be in lessons as soon as possible, including from the start of the day, and enjoy a positive learning experience. You can check for late marks by using the MCAS (My Child At School) app, which shares a wealth of information with you about your child's day. Please contact reception for support with the app.

Toilets

We are pleased that the vast majority of students are respecting the guidance around toilet access, including ensuring only one person enters the cubicles. Listening to student voice has led us to make the switch to a choice of girls only, boys only, or unisex toilet areas during social times soon after half term.

Mobile Phones

As mentioned in my last letter, students are aware of the following for the acceptable use of mobile phones:

- Phones should not be seen at any point during lesson time.

- Students can use their phones in 'phone zones' in social times, which include all outdoor spaces.
- Phones seen on corridors will be asked to be put away until students can get to a 'phone zone', but removed if that request has to be repeated.
- Students should never be taking or sharing videos or photos of themselves or others in school.

We continue to review student use of phones in school, and I will update you further if necessary.

Uniform

We want to make it as easy as possible for Chaucer students to look their best, in their shirt, tie, and blazer, with trousers or a skirt. To help make that possible, we are moving over time from grey trousers or skirt, to black.

- From now until the summer, students can wear **either grey or black** trousers or skirt and plain black footwear
- After September, we will make the switch to **only black** trousers or skirt and plain black footwear

We hope this makes it easier (and cheaper) for students to arrive at school in correct uniform every day, looking their best. As ever, if you are struggling to access uniform items, please contact the school office.

And finally...

Thank you for continuing to work with Chaucer School as we develop together. We launch a new website after half term, and have 'stepped up' our social media presence to share and celebrate Chaucer School and student achievements. Have a look for us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – but again, your best source of information on your child is the MCAS app.

If you have any questions about any information within this letter, or if you have any other query, please get in touch and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Crewe
Head of School