

GSA - Attendance and Behaviour Update

March 2024

The Behaviour Curriculum

Dear Parents / Carers

We are writing to you to share with you news about recent developments within the academy since our last update at the start of the Spring 2 Half Term. Over the last 3 weeks of this half term, students have been taught key elements of our expectations for behaviour during tutor time through an explicit Behaviour Curriculum. The aim of this curriculum is to give students and staff a weekly behaviour focus that will help teach students how to regulate their own behaviour through a range of behaviour related themes with the aim of ultimately allowing students to maximise their potential both inside and outside the classroom. This will not only prepare them better for day to day life at GSA but also help prepare them for what awaits them as they enter the adult world. While we are only 3 weeks into this specific programme, this is something that will continue to be in place for the rest of the school year and into next as we add to and revisit themes accordingly. You can see the current overview of the plan below:

1. To understand how to move around the corridors **safely**.
2. To recognise how to respond positively and **responsibly** to challenge.
3. To recognise the expected standards when attending lessons at GSA and take **responsibility** for fulfilling these standards.
4. To understand why high quality of uniform is a necessary factor within society.
5. To understand the expectation that all students behave in a **respectful, safe** and **responsible** way during social times.
6. To understand how to behave **responsibly** and with **respect** at the start of lessons.
7. To understand what is deemed as **safe, respectful** and **responsible** behaviour in the community.
8. To understand how to effectively apply the SLANT principles to support **respectful** and **responsible** learning in the classroom

As with all academy related matters, it is key for us to be able to work with all students and parents / carers in partnership and your support in the reinforcement of these messages are vital if we are to support our children in becoming well rounded citizens who follow 'The GSA Way'.

Attendance

We continue to be grateful for your efforts in ensuring that the majority of students attend the academy regularly and on time. We know you are very aware of the importance of your child attending the academy whenever possible and any missed lessons have a significant negative impact on their progress. The same goes for tutor time at the start of the day when students are able to 'check in' with their form tutor and pastoral teams, receive important messages, seek support from pastoral staff and participate in reading sessions designed to support all students in expanding their vocabularies and achieving greater progress in all subject areas.

We would like to remind you that any student who arrives late for tutor time and enters the academy after 9.10am does not receive an attendance mark for the AM session of that day and this obviously negatively impacts their attendance record as well as their potential to succeed in school.

Uniform

You will see from the above plan that during the first week after Easter our theme relates to uniform standards. While the majority of students maintain an excellent standard of uniform and are fully compliant, there are still some students who need to be regularly reminded about our uniform policy and expectations around the way it is worn. Can we please request your support in ensuring that your child adheres to the below specific expectations as failure to do so will result in challenge alongside an expectation that this challenge is addressed. These are the items we will be targeting on our return after the Easter holidays.

1. Blazer	To be worn at all times when on the academy premises including when in corridors and moving around the academy during social times.
2. School Shoes	Must be a polishable shoe. Any branded trainer is not a school shoe.
3. House Tie	These are available to purchase from the academy on Parent Pay and all students must own and wear this. IF YOU PAY FOR THIS VIA PARENTPAY YOUR CHILD CAN COLLECT THIS FROM MRS BRAIN BASED IN THE HISTORY CORRIDOR.
4. Snoods	These do not form part of the school uniform and students are not allowed to wear these while on the academy site.
5. Hats / Caps	These do not form part of the school uniform and are not allowed to be worn on the academy site unless extreme weather conditions require them to be worn. The academy will make it clear to students and parents when this is the case.

Class Charts Communication Tool

As you are aware, we have recently launched the Class Charts Communication Tool as a means of improving the way in which we communicate with parents / carers and that parents / carers do with ourselves. Many thanks for those parents / carers who are taking the time to send messages and we hope that this is helping with this communication aspect. Can I please request that you allow between 24 and 48 hours in between sending any communication and expecting a response and that this tool is for communication to class teachers and support staff within specific subject areas. Any more urgent communication should continue to be directed towards the Student Welfare Manager. Should you wish to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team then they can be contacted via e-mail or by contacting reception.