



February 2019

Dear Parent/carer

Re: Behaviour for learning - the 'BASICS'

At Alderman Peel High School our aim is to ensure that all students make excellent progress. We aim to do this by delivering high quality lessons to students who approach each lesson with the appropriate attitude towards learning and exhibit good behaviour for learning. We pride ourselves on the behaviour at our school and is one of the reasons why so many parents choose to send their children to APHS.

At the halfway point of the year we felt it was timely to reinforce those expectations so that parents can support us in ensuring their children make excellent progress. Ultimately, unnecessary disruptions to lessons can significantly impact on learning.

In order to reinforce these expectations around behaviour and conduct, we have decided to go 'back to BASICS'. This theme will be prevalent around school and has been shared with all students:

- B = Be on time
- A = Appearance
- S = Stationery and Equipment
- I = Instructions - FIRST time, EVERY time
- C = Come prepared to Learn
- S = School Values

Be on Time - To attend school well and to be punctual are important characteristics which we like to instil in students. Morning registration starts at 8:40am and all students are expected to be in school by this time. Equally, students are expected to be on time for lessons following break and lunch times as well as arrive promptly in between lesson changeover times. Where students fail to do this they will be expected to make up this lost time in social time.

Appearance - The school uniform and appearance policy is clearly stated on our website and in student planners. Students should wear the uniform with pride including: the correct length skirt or correct trousers; shirts tucked in; ties worn properly; black socks and black school shoes; and an APHS school blazer. The uniform policy also allows for a plain black V neck jumper to be worn under the school blazer. Hoodies and other items of clothing (other than an overcoat) do not constitute appropriate clothing. Therefore, any students wearing these items while on the school site will be asked to give them to a member of staff and they can be collected from school reception or a member of the Leadership Team at 3:00pm at the end of that day.

In inclement weather, please ensure your child wears an overcoat to and from school, which can be kept in their locker during the school day. It is concerning how many students arrive cold and wet to school as their blazer does not provide adequate



protection from the cold, wind, and rain. A hoodie or other jumper is not a suitable replacement and contravenes the school uniform policy.

Please support us in ensuring that your child's uniform and appearance is appropriate for school, including: make-up, hair, jewellery, piercings, eyelashes and nails. The time taken to challenge students on these issues is an unnecessary disruption to the school day. If you are uncertain about the expectations surrounding any of this, please consult the school website or speak to a member of staff.

Stationery and Equipment - It is very difficult to undertake the planned work in lessons if students do not come with the correct equipment. All students should have a pencil case containing black/blue pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and a calculator. These items can be exchanged for achievement points in the Pastoral Department or bought very cheaply from many local suppliers. In addition to the fundamental requirements of bringing a properly equipped pencil case to school, students should ensure that they have their student planner (replacements cost £3.50), classwork books and any relevant textbooks for every lesson as well as PE kit and other lesson-specific equipment such as ingredients for food technology lessons. All of the above should be organised in an appropriate school bag, and excess items can be stored in their locker. If any student does not have a locker, please contact school reception who can make the necessary arrangements.

Instructions - Members of staff at APHS will only ever issue reasonable instructions to students in order to undertake lesson work; enforce school rules, policies, values; or maintain student health and safety. It is concerning that some students think it is appropriate to challenge these instructions or persistently ask for justification for why they must do as asked. We all benefit from a community where people are polite and compliant, and refusal to follow reasonable instructions seriously undermines our values. For example, where a student uses their mobile phone or headphones during the school day (without explicit permission from a supervising member of staff) then these will be confiscated until the end of the school day as per school policy. When a student refuses to comply with this instruction or becomes defiant this becomes a more significant behavioural issue which then has more serious consequences and sanctions put in place. Please discuss the need for students to cooperate with instructions first time, every time in the same way you would expect them to follow your own instructions at home.

Come prepared to learn - Students should aim to approach every lesson with an outstanding attitude to learning. Those students who do this consistently go on to make outstanding progress. Being prepared to learn involves all of the above expectations (Be on time, Appearance, Stationery and equipment, following instructions) but also includes completing any homework that has been set. Work in lessons is often challenging, so being prepared to learn also involves being prepared to work hard on challenging work set and not giving up or distracting others from their work. This is crucial to ensuring all students make excellent progress.

School Values - Our school values were created by the students and encapsulate our aims at APHS: Ambition, Pride, Happiness and Success. Every day we are "Learning to make the difference". We want students to be ambitious about their learning and future careers; we want students to take Pride in themselves, the school, and their school community; we want all members of our school, including parents, to be Happy and experience Success.



Alderman Peel High School

Learning to make the difference

Principal: Mr Alastair Ogle

We strongly believe that if we can get the BASICS right all day, every day, then these things are much more achievable.

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In order to support students we have a range of rewards and sanctions in place. We aim to recognise good behaviour on a daily basis through achievement points, praise, post cards, letters and phone calls. These can all be monitored via the SIMS Parent App and ClassCharts Homework App. However, we also have a range of consequences and sanctions in place for where behaviour and conduct expectations are not met. These can be found in the school behaviour policy on our website. The premise for all of these things to try and promote positive behaviours and encourage students to modify negative behaviours which impact on members of our school community.

We seek your support in upholding these policies by supporting the school where behaviour incidents are recorded, banned items are confiscated, sanctions are imposed and detentions are issued. We always aim to carry out these actions proportionally, fairly and equitably. Where parents also challenge these expectations it seriously undermines the work that we try to do on behalf of your children. There have also been instances where parents have been rude or abusive towards staff which cannot be tolerated. Please support us in ensuring that your child is able to make excellent progress by removing barriers to their learning caused by poor behaviour and conduct.

If you have any queries please discuss it with a member of the Leadership Team. If you have concerns about the cost of stationery or school uniform please contact Mr Tawana or our Pastoral Team, in confidence.

We hope that you have a good half term break when it comes and look forward to successful second half of the academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Ogle', written over a light blue horizontal line.

APHS Leadership Team