



March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Punctuality to School**

We hope this letter finds you all well.

As you will have seen in many previous letters, we consider school attendance and punctuality to lessons as essential for students to make good progress and achieve highly.

Punctuality is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it allows students to get the most out of their lessons. When students are late, they miss key information at the start of lessons which can then make it difficult for them to follow the rest of the lesson. Secondly, lateness disrupts the learning of other students. When a student arrives late to a lesson, the teacher has to stop what they are doing to greet them and get them settled in, breaking the flow of the lesson and making it difficult for other students to concentrate.

Thankfully, the vast majority of our students arrive on time to school and lessons every day. However, there is a small (but not insignificant) number of students who repeatedly arrive late to school and to lessons.

Therefore, to address this issue, after half term we will be focusing on arrival time to school. Every morning the main pedestrian gates will shut promptly at 8.45am. All students arriving after this time will need to sign in with our Attendance Officer in the main reception.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of morning lates, we will issue detentions for more than 12 instances of being late per half term. A continuation of late arrival will result in an escalation of intervention and support. This forms the first part of our 'Punctuality to School Strategy'.

After careful consideration we have developed this strategy to address concerns around punctuality as we believe action is needed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and succeed. Our school behaviour policy will be updated to reflect this change and will be available on our website just prior to the Easter holidays.

Of course, we understand that there may be times when students are late for school for legitimate reasons, such as illness or unexpected delays in travel. However, we expect students to be punctual whenever possible. Traffic in and around West Walton and Wisbech can be busy, so we advise setting off sufficiently early to take account of traffic and guarantee arrival to school on time.

We believe that it is important for all students to be punctual to school so that they can get the most out of their education and also prepares them well for the world of work. We hope that we can count on your support in this new measure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Crawley

Deputy Headteacher



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