



14<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Safety & Standards

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy and successful term, I wanted to take this opportunity to communicate with you some key messages around safety and standards. These key messages will be important in supporting your children at home during the holidays and ensuring that upon their return in January, our focus is able to remain on outstanding teaching & learning and supporting excellent student progress.

### Safety

With an increasing number of students having access to technology, issues with the misuse of social media by school age children are rising. Minimising incidents in school is one of the main reasons for our zero tolerance approach on the use of mobile phones on the Collegiate site.

Most inappropriate use of the internet takes place at home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends, and holidays. This makes it very difficult for schools to investigate and take action. The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or the internet in general, must lie with parents/carers. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your child. It is also worth noting the age limits for Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat and TikTok. Further information regarding these can be found on the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use then we strongly recommend that you, as a parent/carer, report the matter to both the social media service and to the police. However, to support you and your child the school will:

- Continue, through our PSHCE curriculum, Personal Development programme and assemblies, to educate students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet
- Continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT in normal school hours and the use of the school email system at all times, and will deal with anything deemed inappropriate
- Refer anything that we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a child protection/safeguarding issue to the appropriate external agencies
- Continue to support parents with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by their own child or others

### Standards – Punctuality

As you will be aware, at The Collegiate we place huge value on the importance of being punctual to school and to lessons. There are many benefits to being prompt and ready to start the day and lessons on time, none more so than maximising access to learning.

With your support for our Whole School detention system, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of students arriving to school after 08:40. Unfortunately, in recent weeks we have seen an increase in the number of students arriving to school between 08:30 and 08:40. Our learning begins at 08:30 and at this time, students should be in tutor rooms ready to take advantage of the morning contact time with their tutor and College teams. In keeping with our VALUES and our determination to always strive for excellence, we are now shifting our **Whole School Detention cut off time to 08:30**. On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, students are to arrive at 10:15. Any student arriving to tutor time after registration at 10:20 will receive an hours Whole School Detention after school on the same day. From

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the cut-off time will revert to 08:30. Communication home will operate in the same way that it has done for Whole School Detentions since January.

### **Standards – Uniform**

One of the key behaviours of *The Riddlesdown Commitment* that supports our determination to live by our VALUES is being proud of our appearance and our environment. Students can demonstrate this every day by wearing their uniform correctly and presenting themselves well. Please ensure that as part of your preparations for the new term in January, are supporting your child in being particularly clear on the following:

- The blazer is a compulsory item of uniform and must be worn at all times. In cold weather, students are rightly wearing coats to keep them warm – this however is not a reason to not wear a blazer as well
- Students are allowed one single pair of studs worn in the lower ear – no other jewellery is allowed. Students choosing to wear rings, bracelets, necklaces, nose studs or more than one small stud earring in the lower ear will have them confiscated and placed in the school safe for 5 school days. We will not accept excuses about ‘fresh piercings’ and the need to leave them in
- Students must not wear socks over tights
- School jumpers must be plain black knit **v-neck** jumpers with no motif.

I hope that this information is useful and that by working in partnership, in line with our Riddlesdown Commitment, we can continue to keep our young people safe, healthy and focussed on outstanding progress.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and restful Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J A Vass', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J A Vass  
Deputy Principal