

17th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we go in to our half-term holiday I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the progress we have made this term to create a Bournville School that we can all be proud of. I am pleased to report that our recent decision to split lunchtimes and move tutor time to the middle of the day has had the success we desired. We have found that with less students on lunch in one sitting, students can get through the canteen quicker and access the delicious food that our new caterers have been offering. It also means that there is more space for children to socialise and take part in structured sporting activities, as there are less children out at any one time. This has cut down on incidents of poor behaviour at lunchtime and has created a much safer and more pleasant environment.

Having more toilets available on site has also created an improved environment for our children. Feedback from students has been very positive and we continue to listen to their views to ensure we are continually making improvements that will directly benefit them.

In view of this we are already looking ahead and planning improvements for the second part of the spring term to keep our children safe and ensure they feel like valued members of our school community. As such I need to take this opportunity to remind you of our school mobile phone policy which has been in place since last April:

- Mobile devices, including headphones, must not be seen or heard between 8am and 3.10pm. This will mean that students are not to use any mobile devices from the moment they walk through the school gates and until they leave the school site at the end of the day.
- If a student uses any mobile device on the school site it will be confiscated and the student will be issued with a same-day detention. Students will be expected to hand over their device at the first time of asking and the device will be clearly labelled and securely stored in the school office. The student will be able to collect the device at the end of the school day from the canteen following their detention.
- If a student has had their device confiscated on three occasions, their parent will be invited to a meeting with their child's Pastoral Leader. In the meeting, the student will be issued with a phone ban which will mean any mobile device brought into school will need to be handed in on arrival.
- If a student refuses to hand over their device to a member of staff they will receive a higher-level sanction. If there are further instances of defiance then this will also result in a phone ban.

Mobile phones and social media are becoming more of a safeguarding issue in schools and many schools have taken the decision to ban them completely. This is partly due to students using their phones to distribute images of teachers and other students on TikTok or other platforms. Where we are informed of incidents like this occurring we will involve the police and the child involved may lose their place at the school. Can I please ask for your support in regulating your child's use of social media to safeguard them against such issues.

However, we also appreciate that students and parents may feel more assured knowing that their child has a mobile phone on them whilst they are making their way to and from school which is why at this stage we do not have a complete mobile ban. Mobile phones will still be permitted on site but must be kept in the bottom of a student's school bag.

We are passionate about making Bournville School one that all stakeholders feel proud of. For this to happen we need your support in upholding high standards of discipline, uniform and personal responsibility. A school uniform, to make students feel part of the Bournville family, is incredibly important and the ability to wear uniform and dress professionally at all times is a vital skill that students will need when they enter the world of work. For the avoidance of doubt, the items of uniform that all students must wear are:

- Black polishable shoes – trainers are not permitted
- Professional black trousers/skirt – **jeans/leggings are not permitted**
- White shirt
- Bournville tie worn correctly
- Navy Jumper – hooded tops are not permitted
- Black Blazer with Bournville badge (badges can be bought directly from the school)
- One small pair of studs only – all other jewellery is a health and safety risk
- No long false nails. They are a health and safety risk. Students will be asked to remove them

In view of the current financial challenges we are dedicated to supporting families, which is why we have cut down on the amount of branded uniform items we request. We are also more than happy to support financially with the purchase of uniform where this is an issue. Please contact your Child's Pastoral Leader for support in this area.

	Pastoral Leader	Email address
Year 7	Miss K Allen	k.allen@bournville.fmat.co.uk
Year 8	Mr G Ellis	g.ellis@bournville.fmat.co.uk
Year 9	Miss J Pakes	j.pakes@bournville.fmat.co.uk
Year 10	Ms D Gorman	d.gorman@bournville.fmat.co.uk
Year 11	Miss E Boyle	e.boyle@bournville.fmat.co.uk

As a parent myself, I know that children sometimes make changes to their uniform without your knowledge, as such when we return from the break we will be regularly checking uniform and will inform you of any infringements. Students who consistently breach the uniform policy will receive a sanction and we will request for you to meet with us to support in making improvements.

I also understand as a parent that direct communication with the school is such an important factor; this is something we are working hard on to improve. In view of this I have attached a full staff list of contact details to this email so that you are able to make direct contact with the appropriate member of staff to support you and your child. The first point of contact for you is always your child's form tutor; they know your child best as they see them every day and are in a position to liaise with other staff members for you.

Finally, as you are aware, there is proposed industrial action scheduled for Wednesday 1st March 2023. Please be advised we will send further information about this after the half term break.

I would like to thank you for your continued support – we feel very lucky to have such a supportive parent body working with us. I wish you all a pleasant and safe break and am looking forward to a positive start to the second half of the spring term.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Cornell
Head of Academy