



21 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the festive break I would like to take opportunity to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that George Pindar School continues to improve and provide your child(ren) with a very positive experience and one which will ensure they have a very successful future.

This last half term has been eventful but rewarding and we have now formally started the academisation process and can look forward to joining the Hope Learning Trust next year. Originally we had intended for this to have been concluded by 1 January 2019. However, due to circumstances outside of the control of the School and Hope Learning Trust the planned academisation will be a little later. I will be providing all parents and carers an update of this progress early next term.

I would like to thank students and parents alike for helping to significantly improve the punctuality of students arriving at school - there has been a dramatic reduction in late arrivals and this has had numerous benefits contributing to the smooth running of the school day. Attendance remains a concern and I would like to remind everyone that the school day begins for students at 8.35am with tutor time beginning 8.40am. New rewards have been introduced during this term to recognise good attendance and punctuality and these will continue into the new year.

When students return in January there is to be an emphasis, once again, on uniform - ensuring that all students wear the new uniform correctly and with pride. Please refer to the school uniform policy which can be found here:

<https://www.georgepindarschool.co.uk/pdfs/GPS-Uniform-And-Equipment-From-September-2018.pdf>

Students who arrive at school without correct uniform will be asked to return home and change (where appropriate e.g. forgotten tie, change footwear). Where this is not possible the student will be asked to wear replacement uniform or placed in internal exclusion until replacement uniform can be worn.

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I am fully aware that some concern has been raised regarding the behaviour, specifically the number of exclusions currently issued by George Pindar School. I would like to reiterate my stance on behaviour; and that is, simply put, I will not tolerate behaviour within the school that prevents the learning of others. The vast majority of students within the school are wonderful young people who wish to be happy, safe and to be allowed to learn. We all have a responsibility for reminding the students of their role in making this happen. Again, thank you to the supportive parents who take the time to contact me and wish to discuss things which may trouble them or their children.

If your child is in Year 8, the Year 8 Options evening which was planned for 15 January has been moved back to March in line with Hope Learning Trust and Graham School - further details regarding the options process will be provided in the new year.

One final request, please can you ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details for your child - addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts.

Today students have responded brilliantly to the non-uniform charity day and raised in excess of £500 for local charities. This is in addition to the many community events such as carol singing in Morrisons' Supermarket, visits to local care homes, students hosting a senior citizens Christmas Party, collecting food and gifts for the elderly and vulnerable in the region. This most recent charity work follows from the Children in Need and Remembrance events that were held last month. I am immensely proud of the efforts of the students and staff at this great school and their efforts to help others around them which I feel is the real purpose and meaning of Christmas.

With this in mind I would like to wish you all a wonderful break with family and loved ones and hope to see you happy and well in the New Year.

Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Blake Murray
Acting Headteacher