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Headteacher Dr Roger Harris

To: All Parent/Carers of Years 7-11

8 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Behaviour

As you will be aware, last Easter we introduced a common approach in lessons to behaviour incidents. This approach involves three stages:

- Students will be given a Stage 1 warning for their first incident. Should the student rectify their behaviour and make a positive choice no further action will be taken.
- If the student continues, they will receive a Stage 2 warning and a negative will be added to the system (MCAS).
- If there continues to be disruptive low-level behaviour the student will receive a Stage 3 warning and COT will be called to remove the student from the lesson. This will result in a 20 minute lunch time detention.

This system has been working well, but we have noticed that there is a small cohort of students who are getting a lot of negatives over the course of the week but are not reaching a Stage 3 to be removed from lessons. This means that we have some students who are disrupting lessons at a low-level and doing this consistently across their lessons which is something we want to address, so that other students who are making the right decisions are receiving a positive learning experience. Low-level disruptive behaviour may include things such as:

- Talking unnecessarily or chatting
- Calling out without permission
- Being slow to start work or follow instructions
- Showing a lack of respect for each other and staff.

We know that low-level disruptive behaviour has a detrimental impact on the life chances for young people. The YouGov surveys show that students are potentially losing up to an hour of learning each day in English schools because of this kind of disruption in classrooms. This is equivalent to 38 days of teaching lost per year. As a result, many students are potentially being denied a significant amount of valuable learning time. Therefore, from 20 February 2023 we will be introducing an additional level of challenge to address this consistent low-level disruption. If a student accrues 10 or more negatives in a week, they will

be placed in the internal exclusion unit (IEU) due to their persistent disruptive low-level behaviour. Over the course of this year we intend to gradually bring this number down to 5 negatives in a week.

For those students who are consistently well behaved, or who get it wrong every once-in-a-while, this change will have no impact on them. However, those that are frequently disrupting lessons could find themselves placed in the IEU. Time in the IEU is designed to allow students time to reflect on the decisions they have made in school but to also allow other students to experience lessons without disruption to their learning.

The reason we are sharing this with you is to ask you to have a conversation with your child/ward to ensure they understand the changes to the system from the 20 February 2023. We will also make the students aware of this at school, as well as when we make any changes to the number of negatives over the course of the year. I hope that from these actions you will see the aim of the school is to improve standards and the learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Ricketts', written in a cursive style.

Miss R Ricketts  
Deputy Headteacher