

12th July 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

We have been very pleased with the improved standards of student conduct during the academic year 2015-2016, and as we approach the end of the Summer Term we are writing to thank you for supporting our very high expectations for, and of your child at George Spencer Academy.

The average **attendance** rate has improved to be in excess of 96%, almost at the target figure we set last year. We have introduced the **"Catch-Up Card"** system to ensure that those who miss random days of their education make up the lost learning. We thank parents for making appointments with doctors and dentists out of school hours, where at all possible. Since January, we have also been offering the concept of **'Period 6'** as both directed additional support time for certain students, and optional 'Preparation for Learning' time for those who choose to get homework done on site. This will be continuing next year and we ask you to advise your son/daughter to consider the advantages of accessing this opportunity.

Attitudes to **punctuality** have also improved, and it is no co-incidence that the introduction of Lunch time, and early morning tiers on the detention ladder have sharpened student awareness of getting on to site by 8.45am. Nearly all students are now punctual attenders, although we do appreciate that occasionally trams and traffic jams can delay journey times – in which case, a quick call to Reception will nullify the student having their name taken on arrival 'late on the gate'. We urge you to continue to harangue your child about the need to arrive to school on time every day, and thank you for doing so!

Uniform is also significantly better in most cases, and there should now be no ambiguity of what will and will not be acceptable. Please consult the attached guidelines if in any doubt before purchasing any new items over the summer holiday. With regards to footwear, the attached guidance shows the types of shoes deemed acceptable. Whilst we have accepted the 'Clarks Bootleg' shoe in the past, it's styling makes it the least 'shoe like' and brings with it ambiguity and increases the chances of your child being challenged about their appearance. Please may we ask that future purchases of footwear are of smart shoes as shown on the attached guidance.

We do remain concerned about the number of students who lose or snap their **SQUID Card**. As they move into adulthood they need to learn to look after their 'plastic' with more care: we know all too well how much hassle it can be to no longer have that financial facility, and some students have only learnt by going hungry on occasion. We continue to bar access to Tuck on each site to any student who either lacks a SQUID Card or has a uniform irregularity, and they have to wait until the back of the queue at Lunch time.

Please be aware that we will be enforcing improved **cycle safety** from the start of the Autumn Term. If your child ever cycles to/from school, they must wear a suitable helmet and they should supply a sturdy lock with which to secure their bike. Failure to provide either will lead to us securing their bike so effectively that only your personal intervention will release it! For their own safety, all George Spencer students will wear a cycle helmet, or they will have to walk.

May we wish a happy and healthy summer holiday to all families, and we look forward to another successful year for you and all our students.

Andrew Field Scott Doyle Kris Hartley