

Friday 26th May 2023

Dear SGS Forest families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

Before getting into the main part of this week's letter, I want to let you know that today is Mr David Fisher's last day at SGS Forest. From after the half term break, Mr Fisher will be working at SGS Pegasus special school, putting his therapeutic expertise to great use with the students there. I would like to offer Mr Fisher my heartfelt thanks for all his work here, on behalf of the many students he has helped and taught, as well as the staff he has supported as our school's National Education Union representative. SGS Pegasus will be very fortunate to have him there.

Alan Dane | Headteacher

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Since Easter, we have been thinking carefully about how to keep making progress towards SGS Forest being the best school it can be for your children. As part of this, we are re-establishing our expectations of students.

At SGS Forest, we expect our students to do as they are asked the first time. For the vast majority of students, a simple reminder of this is enough to refocus on learning. Unfortunately, though, there are still a small minority of students who disrupt the learning of others.

From Monday 5th June, a student who is sent out of their classroom due to disruptive behaviour or who refuses to attend lessons will spend a session in the Isolation Room which will include break, lunchtime or 20 minutes after school. Students who are in the Isolation Room at break or lunchtime will have an opportunity to have something to eat and drink.

When in the Isolation Room, students will be expected to work silently or they will be at risk of being suspended for the rest of the day. If this happens, they must complete a full day (9am-4pm) in the Isolation Room before being allowed to return to their normal classes. Parents or carers will receive a phone call home from the class teacher on the same day an Isolation Room session is issued.

Before reaching this point, students will have had four clear opportunities to adjust their behaviour and refocus on their learning:

- reminders from the staff in the classroom
- verbal warning 1
- verbal warning 2
- a reset conversation from SLT or wellbeing staff

Additionally, from the start of Term 6, we will expect every student to adhere to our existing uniform rules. On Monday 5th June, if a student arrives with incorrect uniform, we will contact parents or carers to organise sending their child home to change. In particular, we would like to remind you that blazers are compulsory; long and false nails are not allowed; and, hoodies or sweatshirt tops/jackets should not be worn to school. If the latter are worn to school, they will be held at reception for the student to collect at the end of the day. Please see our school website for full information regarding our uniform expectations, including PE kit.

If your child needs to bring their mobile phone to school, it must be handed in at Reception. Should a student fail to do this, it will be confiscated on sight. The first time this happens, the student will be able to collect it from Reception at the end of the day, but should it happen again a parent or carer will need to come to Reception to collect it.

We will continue to hold central school detentions on a Tuesday and Thursday after school. Each detention is 20 minutes long and students can sit up to three detentions in one session (60 minutes in total). If a student fails to attend a 20 minute detention, a 30 minute SLT detention will be set after school on Wednesday the following week. Failure to attend an SLT detention will lead to spending time in the Isolation Room.

I am really pleased to let you know that behaviour notices, including scheduled detentions and house points which students are awarded for showing our positive values, will be sent to parents and carers through your ClassCharts accounts. If you do not have your ClassCharts code, please contact your child's tutor. We have been using ClassCharts for homework since January and are expanding its use so that we can communicate with home more effectively and efficiently.

These adjustments to our behaviour policy are an exciting next step in the improvements we are making at SGS Forest. We are looking forward to the widened opportunities to focus on learning and to witnessing the many more successes of our students.

Should you have any questions about the changes, please contact your child's tutor.

We look forward to seeing all students again at 0830 on Monday 5th June, dressed smartly and ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours,

Alan Dane
Headteacher

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