

14/01/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to welcome your student back to Heron Hall after the Christmas break. I hope that you, and they, had a restful and happy holiday and that our students are back to take on the challenges of the new term ahead. I wanted to write to you to deliver a few notices for the start of the term.

Form Tutor Changes

One piece of exciting news to announce is that Madam Vala, previously the form tutor for 8T, has been appointed as deputy Head of Year 8. This will provide another point of contact at Heron Hall if I am unavailable as well as helping to provide additional support and guidance for the students. As a result of this there has been a change to the Form Tutor team and the updated form tutor list can be found below should you wish to contact your student's tutor.

8E – Madam Baltar
8Q – Madam Chalmers
8U – Madam Oakley
8A – Madam Lin
8L – Mr Windsor
8I – Madam Sanchez
8T – Mr Stone
8Y – Madam Imiere

Holocaust Survivor Visit

Before Christmas we had the pleasure of inviting Arek Hersh into Heron Hall to deliver a talk to the students about his experiences during the Holocaust and at Auschwitz. His talk was thoroughly engaging and provided students with some fantastic context to add to their study of the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas that they studied in Year 7 English. It made me very proud as a Head of Year for the excellent way that the students behaved and the well thought out questions that they asked Arek about his life and experiences. At the end of the Year we are hoping to arrange a visit to a museum he helped to set up and hear him speak again.

Lateness

Whilst punctuality to school has mostly been encouraging towards the end of last term there were a several incidents of students not arriving on time therefore I wanted to clarify the procedure around lateness. Students need to be in school ready for line up by 8.37am in order to be into lessons for 8.40am. Whilst we understand that upon occasion there can be unforeseen reasons that a student may



be late they need to be mindful of arriving before this time and we would advise that students arrive before 8.35am in order to avoid any chance of lateness. Your continued support with this is greatly appreciated.

Tesco

Prior to Christmas there were also occasions where students had demonstrated negative behaviour in the Tesco Supermarket. Whilst we are unable to stop students shopping in Tesco they need to be mindful that when they are wearing the uniform they represent the school and therefore we expect them to show positive behaviours

Students also need to be mindful with what they are buying from Tesco. Many students have been buying items that are banned on school premises including sugary drinks, energy drinks and large packets of sweets. This is due to the health impact of eating large amounts of sugar along with the impact that this can have on the behaviour and learning in lessons. Students cannot use cash to purchase school dinners at Heron Hall and need to use Parent Pay so be mindful of this when giving students money to purchase food.

Detentions

Before Christmas we made a decision as a school to lower the time of a detention to 30 minutes. This is due to issues around students coming home in the dark over winter. However, if a student now misses a detention by choosing not to go this detention it will double in time to a 1-hour detention the following day. If a student chooses to again miss this detention it will double to a 2-hour Head Teacher's detention on a Thursday. In addition to this having 30 minute detentions also allows students to serve 2 detentions on one day if required rather than building up multiple detentions.

Uniform

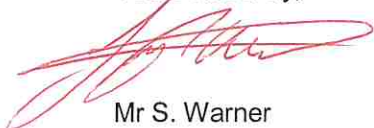
I would also like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your student has arrived back to school in the correct uniform. Please ensure that throughout the term they continue to wear school shoes and are not wearing make-up, false nails or non-natural hair colourings in their hair.

Options Choices

In the coming weeks we will be contacting you about the upcoming options evening and the choices that students will be making for GCSE. Please begin to have a conversation with your student about their future as this will help them to make more informed choices. An options evening to assist with their choices will be held on Thursday 5th February so please keep this date free.

I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months to help prepare your student for their GCSE options and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S. Warner
(Head of Year 8)

