



Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you are in the best of health.

The end of a busy, successful term has arrived and I would like to thank you for all your continued support. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils. They have responded positively to the raised expectations, in terms of behaviour, attendance, punctuality and uniform. I have also been pleased how well they have responded to our expectations in the classroom with desk formatting and use of their learning folders, which now hold all their exercise books. This has given you the opportunity to regularly view, their work as well as monitoring homework. I am confident that this positive partnership between school, students and parents will continue to flourish into the next half term.

Student Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance plays an important part in social development and success and I hope that you will continue to support us. Attendance to school has been improving every week and as a school, we are now seeing consistently, attendance that has been around 95%. Compared with national figures, our academy is securing amazing results in this regard. We need this to continue into next half term. Whilst the overwhelming number of students have excellent punctuality habits, there are a small number of students who have been arriving late for school. Please ensure your child leaves home early enough to arrive at school on time, as line up starts promptly at 8.20am. This will have a positive impact on their school life as well as benefiting them in adult life.

School Uniform

As we approach colder months, we ask parents to ensure their child is dressed as per school uniform policy. This, can be found on our website and has been shared with you all in my previous communications with you. Students, are only permitted to wear black or blue overcoats. May I also remind you that extreme hairstyles and jewellery are not permitted. Girls, are only allowed to wear a clear nose stud. Nose rings are, not permitted. Starbank is a 'no make up' academy so I would ask parents to monitor this situation before they leave home.

Changes to lunchtime timings:

We are continually reviewing what we do, and seek to ensure that the school arrangements have a positive impact on all our pupils so they are able to enjoy school, grow academically as well as personally develop. I have decided to extend lunchtime to 35 minutes from the current 25 minutes. This change will begin from Monday 1st November.





Cashless System

As you are aware the school uses ParentPay as a cashless system and all payments for school lunches etc are through this system. Lunch-time in school is very busy and there are many students who will require a lunch from Mellors, our lunchtime provider. Please ensure that your child's account has sufficient funds to cover lunch etc. Please be assured that the instance that a child may not have sufficient funds, that they will be provided with a lunch. No child will ever go hungry at Starbank.

Fundraising and successes this half term

Parents, guardians, you should be rightly proud of our children, as I am.

A few weeks ago, we participated in Macmillan's Cancer Charity. The students and staff brought in delicious treats to sell during break time so money could be raised for the Charity. We collectively raised an amazing £3038.38 Thank you to everyone for the contributions and support.

Last week we received overwhelming donations for Sparkhill Foodbank. The donations were delivered on Friday 22nd October. Your kindness is very much appreciated and I know it will make many families happy as we continue through challenging times. Service to our communities is one of our core values.

I wanted to share with you a number of successful events this half term. Thank you for your attendance at the Key Stage 3 and 4 events as well as the Year 7 open evening for admissions in September 2022. We were excited to have introduced many after school enrichment clubs and have been delighted at attendance to football, samba and garage band music, robotics, knitting, homework and book club, journalism, creative writing, maths and art clubs. This will continue next half term.

Principal's Coffee Mornings

Many parents see me on Hob Moor Road daily. Your conversations and input are invaluable. I want to extend this opportunity to all parents and carers. I will be arranging the first coffee mornings per year group. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet with me. More information on this will follow, please keep an eye out for the letter/text regarding the events.

Twitter

Please follow us on twitter for the latest news and updates that we have here at Starbank School. The link is @starbank_school Please retweet and share!

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Previously, we sent out some forms from the NHS regarding covid-19 vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds. Please return these forms if you have not already done so, as they also contain an NHS health questionnaire.

Free School Meals

Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals? If your child does not currently receive free school meals but you think they qualify due to a change in your family circumstances, please apply online through Online FSM Application (cloudforedu.org.uk) as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed and the school will be notified if your claim is successful.





Letters from West Midlands Police and Director of Public Health

I would like to remind you the recent letters that have been texted and are also available on the website; a letter from WMP regarding staying safe in the community as nights become darker and Director Justin Varney re: an update on Covid -19 in Birmingham.

Important dates for your diary:

- Monday 1st November – School reopens (8.20am)
- Thursday 11th November – Year 7 settling in evening – Information to follow.
- Monday 29th November – Friday 10th December Year 11 mock exams
- Monday 6th December - Friday 17th December – Year7-10 assessments
- Friday 17th December – School closes for the Christmas holiday.

Thank you again for all your support and I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 1st November 2021.

Yours faithfully

Mr Gaetano Ferrante

Principal

