

14 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, we have a 'drop down day' on the calendar on 31 March 2022. Ordinarily we would build the day around a curriculum focus and take two year groups out to university as an introduction to study opportunities post 18. However, this is not a normal year and clearly school has not operated in what was the usual manner for quite a while now.

As a school we are proud of how the vast majority of people within the school community treat each other. We run the school on a fairly simple maxim: treat other people as you yourself wish to be treated and for the most part, your children, our students are lovely and this is second nature to them. There are simple rewards for the attitude the vast majority of students come to school with, the obvious ones around attainment and progress and how well they do in the GCSEs compared to their peers, but there are other less tangible rewards. The more you surround yourself with nice people, the easier your life is, the easier it is to find yourself on a school trip to Spain or Iceland or Mr Wright's skiing trip in the future. The better you will enjoy your trip to the theatre or sports fixture, the easier it is to make friends and connections that support you through life.

I recognise though, that so many of the things that allow this to happen have been lost, postponed and almost forgotten about due to Covid, and we need to kick start the wider life of the school, the bigger purpose to why we are here. The Year 7 residential is booked for the end of the summer, we have the Year 11 prom organised, the Iceland trip is booked and we will be having a leavers day when Years 7 – 10 go home at lunchtime and we spend the afternoon celebrating Year 11 on Friday 10 June 2022. We want to show our community the benefits of working for each other and allowing each other the space to find who they are.

I also recognise that for a small number of students there is a struggle to moderate behaviour choices and treat others as they themselves wish to be treated and sometimes we need to show what kindness, and thought for others can bring about. To that end we are going to take the whole school out on 31 March 2022 and the school will meet the cost of taking students and staff to Alton Towers for the day; students (unless they are in receipt of free school meals) will just need their lunch. We are, however, going to have some simple criteria that students need to meet to secure their place on the day:

- Attendance to school (Covid aside) of over 90% - from today until the date of the trip
- No active involvement of pastoral staff in managing behaviour for instance on report, missed SLT detentions, starting from today until the date of the trip – if students are on report now, this does not count
- No significant negative feedback from staff with regard to behaviour or effort in learning
- No disruption to the learning of others
- Homework completed on time.

Please let me be clear that the decision with regard to attendance on the trip will not be made by parents, I will make any decision based on the recommendations brought to me by staff. Equally, if you have not provided the annual consent form, then your child cannot travel. We have chased you, but we need these at least two weeks before the date of the trip to ensure that we have insurance, please return them to school.

I hope that everyone is able to take part in the trip and enjoys the day.

Yours sincerely



Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher