



## **Pensby High School**

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance and punctuality are essential for students to make good progress and achieve highly, but more importantly, to cement their place in their peer group, with all the positive relationships that the shared time creates. Being late to school has a direct negative impact upon educational attainment, disrupts the start to your day and again takes away time with friends and peers in the less formal morning pastoral slot. When students are late, they miss important instructions and messages, which can make it difficult for them for the rest of the day. Lateness to learning itself, often means that you miss the purpose of that particular learning episode and possibly the main teacher input and it disrupts the learning of other students. Equally, we are trying to prepare our children for life, if we are late for work, we are in trouble, if we 15 minutes late for the dentist we miss our appointment. The lessons around being late are far better learnt at school, than as an adult.

Thankfully, the vast majority of our students arrive on time to school and lessons every day. However, there is a small number of students who arrive late to school far too often, and often through choice. This number has increased and whilst I recognise that we have all experienced changes in the last few years, the amount we are required to teach our children before their GCSE exams has not. We already have rewards: points, chocolate Friday and instilling in all our children that education is theirs, as are their outcomes and next steps. To encourage and refresh our approach to lateness, we are changing our approach to late detentions, and we have already talked through our new approach with students during pastoral time.

Students who arrive late to morning registration on 6 occasions with no good reason (eg the late arrival of the school bus) currently receive a pastoral after school detention. This detention is often remote from the initial lateness and students have already fallen into a pattern of poor time keeping. Therefore, from Monday 4 November, a student who is late to morning registration will receive a 20-minute lunchtime "on the day" detention. Students will be expected to attend detention promptly at the start of lunchtime and will have an opportunity for lunch after the detention. A student who fails to attend the lunchtime detention will be issued with a pastoral detention after school.

There will always be the odd exception to an otherwise perfectly punctual pattern, but being on time is a habit we all must learn if we are to succeed in life.

Yours sincerely

K Flanagan  
Headteacher