

October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week the Heads of Year and Subject leads alongside the Senior Lead spent two hours reviewing year 8 behaviour. We discovered the following:

- There were too many students in each classroom not behaving and disrupting the learning of others.
- Many of these students had valid reasons for their unregulated behaviour due to their SEND need or significant vulnerabilities but they were not using the Learning Zone - the space they have to regulate their behaviours before or during a lesson.
- The majority of our students who wish to learn were becoming frustrated and upset that the disturbances were impacting on their learning.
- Our communication system for year 8 cards is not effective enough as you need to know exactly why your child is being issued a card, so that you can support them and the school in changing the behaviour.
- Our well being and mental health work has been effective in supporting students well being and trust in the school post COVID but had tipped too far into staff tolerating behaviour that is not acceptable in the classroom.

## What have we done about these concerns?

As a Head teacher I have the capacity for a period of time use the suspension system to help enforce our behaviour policy. Students and individual parents have been told that we are going to do this. Students have been talked to at length about what this means and we have already seen the impact of this change in the class lessons and behaviours this week. It is having impact.

## What does this mean for you and your child? What difference will we see in the behaviour system?

- If a child is disrupting the learning to the extent that the teacher can't teach, they will be removed from the classroom to resolve. This may happen in one of two ways:
  - 1) following the full behaviour system - a warning, 1<sup>st</sup> yellow, 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow and then a red card.
  - 2) if the behaviours are extremely unregulated an immediate, with no warning choice to remove from the class room.
- If they are a vulnerable or SEND child they will be given opportunities in the behaviour process to go the Learning Zone to get support to regulate their behaviours before returning. If they do not take this choice they enter the behaviour system as others do.
- If a child reaches resolve we will ring your immediately to tell you they are there. We will then look at their behaviour record since the start of term, and investigate the incident thoroughly – they will not return to class.
- The student will remain in resolve including break and lunch time for the day. At this point the child is at risk of a suspension from school. A member of the Leadership team will talk to

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you about our decision and decision-making process, but this might not be until the end of the day.

- If the disruption is caused at lunchtime we will again follow the procedure above, they also remain at risk of a suspension. We have used lunchtime suspensions in the past depending on the level of seriousness.
- We are clear that a child who does not listen to warnings and is disrupting the learning of others warrants sending to resolve, a red card and placing themselves at risk of suspension for the next day.

## What are we trailing at the moment?

We are currently trailing a system of sending card information via the email system with the detail of what has happened so that you are fully informed of any incident lower than a red card. We are starting this with our most at-risk children but will hopefully roll this out after half term to all.

## What if my child is not a key player why are they subject to this change?

Our discussion and analysis identified that a further minority in the classroom were encouraging the disruption. This could well be peer pressure but all students are now clear this is not acceptable and would put them at risk of resolve and possible suspension.

We will continue to provide transparent updates with regard to our approach to student behaviour but if you do have any worries or concerns please contact myself, Mr Rowlands my Deputy or the Head of Year Mr McCarthy on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) marking the email for their attention.

Kind regards

Mrs J Gant  
Headteacher

