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Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

26th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Now that we are almost a month into our return to school after the Christmas break, I would like to update you on the improvements we are seeing across the school.

We have been particularly impressed with the attitudes and approach to learning from our students this term. There is a real buzz around preparation for examinations, revision sessions and extra-curricular activities. We have continued to welcome many external visitors into school and the feedback from what they have seen has been extremely positive. The calm and purposeful atmosphere across the school has allowed our students to shine in their own right within their classrooms.

I am pleased to share that we have seen noticeable improvements in behaviour, such as nearly a 20% drop in suspensions, a 48% decrease in uniform issues, and a 71% reduction in confiscations. We have seen over 98,000 positive points awarded on Class Charts in recognition of our students' work and attitudes.

An area of minor focus is truancy from lessons. We have seen a significant improvement in comparison to last year, however a small number of students still make the decision to not attend certain lessons. We are reminding students regularly that truancy is unacceptable in school and is considered a safeguarding concern. The sanction on the first occasion is placement in the behaviour unit and the following sanction for repeated truancy is a fixed term suspension. Should you wish to refer to our behaviour policy, it can be found on the school website: <a href="Behaviour for Learning Policy">Behaviour for Learning Policy</a> | Ken Stimpson Academy.

The standards of uniform across the school are high. The single biggest issue we seem to encounter with uniform is skirts. Following feedback from parents, members of the local community, and students, we have introduced a school skirt for all students from September. We appreciate you may be purchasing a new skirt before then and wish to purchase the school skirt earlier than September. The skirt that has been selected is a 22-inch pleated skirt and is available from Chroma Sports (Pleated Skirt (chromasport.co.uk)). You do not need to buy the skirt from this specified retailer however, we will only allow a 22-inch black pleated skirt to be worn from September 2024. Our current uniform policy can be found on our website should you need it: Uniform Policy | Ken Stimpson Academy.

As we approach the public examination season, I wanted to highlight the opportunity of becoming a paid Exam Invigilator within the school. If you would like to find out more about this or know anybody who is interested in casual work over the exams period, please contact exams@kscs.org.uk.

Finally, staff are reporting further improvements in how students approach their learning, their focus on their studies, their desire to learn, and that their all-round aptitude is continuing to improve. This is fantastic to see across the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Swift

**Deputy Headteacher** 







