

December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As 2023 approaches, it is helpful to reflect upon our progress over the autumn term and to look ahead, with optimism, to the new year.

As well as outlining our approach in this letter, we have also created this **short video** where we talk about why these changes are important and what they are <https://youtu.be/IM5nHJAS7nE>

This term, we have been hugely impressed by the quality of our students' work and their attitude to learning. This is in no small part due to the way in which students have engaged with core routines and our mantra of 'work hard, be kind'. Significantly, it is also down to the way in which you, as families, have supported our young people by ensuring that they attend each day, with the correct uniform, the essential equipment and their homework completed.

From January 2023 there will be small changes to our behaviour policy. These changes are important so that we can provide the best possible education for our students and support them to continue to achieve their full potential. We have no doubt that you will share our aspirations for your children, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Our priority is to ensure that every child and young person in our care excels. That's why we will continue to improve our school culture. This will allow us to create a positive and respectful environment with a clear sense of purpose and consistency, ensure all students feel safe and happy whilst at school, and that every child is clear what is expected of them both inside and outside of lessons and why this is important.

Our new policy outlines our approach to rewards ensuring that we recognise student success, and that achievement is at the heart of everything we do. You will be aware that we recently launched our 'Golden Ticket' initiative, and we have been overwhelmed with the fantastic response that has received.

The policy also places a renewed focus on minimising disruption in lessons so that all students can learn. Our clear system of consequences is designed to support students to understand and enable them to meet our high expectations in the classroom. We know the majority of our students are kind, respectful and work hard whilst at school, but it is important we continue to focus on this for the benefit of everyone.

Listening sessions: 15th and 16th December

Our work around behaviour and culture cannot be done in school alone. It is essential that we work closely with you and give you opportunities to let us know your thoughts. That's why we'd like to invite you into school so we can listen to your feedback and answer any questions you might have on our new approach. We will be holding parent/carer listening

sessions on **Thursday 15th December at 6:00pm – 7:00pm** and **Friday 16th December 10:00am-11:00am** in the school hall. If you would like to book at place at either session, please use this online form

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCpyXuj0LrpJAgM59_YB9c1NUMVgzNDZOQjFQVlpBSDBVUVM5UzZaSEtTNS4u

We will also arrange further ‘listening sessions’ next term.

We are conscious that we are sharing quite a lot of new information in this letter, so we’re including below some useful links and resources, together with a summary of the changes.

Topic	Link
The new Policy Document The new Positive Relationships & Behaviour Policy is available to view on the Academy website	https://www.astreastivo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Astrea-Secondary-Positive-Relations-and-Behaviour-Policy-2022-23-1.pdf
Frequently Asked Questions A FAQ documents is available to view on our website. We will be updating FAQ throughout December and January in response to the parent, carer and student we receive queries.	https://www.astreastivo.org/behaviour/
Additional Queries or Feedback If you have any additional queries or wish to feedback on the new policy, please use this online form.	https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCpyXuj0LrpJAgM59_YB9c1NUOTNP_SkFDTFNWSU1aRFBIUkpUSEI4TVZCQS4u

Summary of Key Policy Changes (for January 2023)
Extended and improved approaches to Rewards & Recognition We are excited about the range and diversity of opportunities for students to gain recognition and reward for their achievements. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanding our use of Achievement Points and Praise Postcards • Celebration Assemblies • Golden tickets • Attendance FA Cup
The language we will use to describe consequences and house points We are switching to more descriptive, helpful language to describe the consequences for behaviour which disrupts learning and/or negatively affects the wellbeing of others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C1 becomes ‘a verbal warning’ – this will become a neutral point ○ C2 becomes ‘a detention’ – this becomes a minus 1 house point ○ C3 becomes ‘Reset Base’ – minus 3 house points (this stays the same)

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Two-tiered detention

If a student receives one detention in a day, this will result in a 45-minute detention. Multiple detentions or being sent to the reset classroom will result in a 90-minute detention. The late bus will be available at 4:00pm and 4:30pm every day. The first bus leaves at 4:00pm rather than 3:45pm because Year 11 students who attend period 6 may also need to catch this bus.

Reset Classroom

The reflection room will be renamed as the reset classroom. If a student is sent to the reset classroom they will remain there for the equivalent of a school day (plus the 90-minute detention).

Mobile phone confiscation

The use of mobile phones, or devices such as AirPods, is currently prohibited in school (without permission from a member of staff). If a mobile phone or device is used, heard, or seen it is confiscated by a member of staff. From January, the confiscation period will be extended to 24 hours – confiscated phones will be stored securely, parents will be informed, and the phone will be available for collection from reception at the end of the following school day. Mobile phones should remain off and in bags from the time your child/ren enters the school site until 3:00pm. Students will be allowed to use their phone after 3:00pm once they have left any of the school's buildings. If your child needs to contact you during the school day they can do so through their key stage office, or if you need to speak to your child urgently, please call the main school line. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this expectation at home.

Behaviour curriculum

We recognise our responsibility to teach our students how to behave in line with Academy expectations therefore, from January we will follow a behaviour curriculum during one form time session a week. Key themes will include developing impeccable manners by being respectful, polite, and courteous.

I hope this has provided you with a helpful update on our planned changes. We believe strongly in the value of the home and school partnership. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in 2023 to bring even greater success to our school community.

Kind regards

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