



Cockshut Hill School

A NINESTILES ACADEMY

September 18

Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to you to thank you for the support you have provided recently in order to help Cockshut Hill raise standards. As you know, we have started this academic year by insisting that all students wear black, formal, leather shoes. We have also insisted that students do not wear hooded tops, tracksuit tops or sweatshirt material jumpers and that all students bring a school bag to carry their provided equipment, planners and knowledge organisers. We have done this so students look and work as professionals and ensure they are in the right frame of mind to achieve the very best grades. The vast majority of students have met these standards, and this is largely down to your support.

Your support has meant that we have had a very successful start to the year, with students meeting our new high standards and this is having a huge, positive impact in the classroom. Many members of staff have commented upon how these new high standards have dramatically improved student's work in class, behaviour around school and work ethic. This will go on to improve student's results. These positive changes would not have been possible without you ensuring your child is in the correct footwear, uniform and is equipped every day with their equipment and a school bag, so again thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to explain the change in the way we use planners this year. Please ask to see your child's planner. Inside you will see that every day, your child will be getting green or red stamps. The green means they are meeting our standards and are doing incredibly well. Reds are used when a child falls below our expected standards, for example by not having a school bag, by not being in the correct uniform or for a lack of ambition in lesson. Every green stamp equals a credit that your child will be able to use to purchase, free of charge, rewards from a website called Learn to Earn (www.l2e.co.uk), such as new speakers or Harry Potter merchandise. These are just two examples; the rewards available are vast.

We call this new system SOAR, which stands for Smart, Organised, Ambitious and Respectful. Every time a student is following SOAR they get one point. In the first week of school alone, we have given out over 45,000 positive SOAR points for students who have been following our new standards. This shows you how well many students are doing. To maintain this high standard and to ensure all students continue to collect SOAR points, we have opened a stationary shop where students can buy new stationary for 5p/10p, new pencil cases for £1 and new planners for 50p.

We have also introduced a new rule to ensure students always have planners. Any student who forgets or loses their planner will be issued a detention. Once again, thank you for ensuring your child is organised each day with their planner inside their school bag.

Finally, we will also be conducting at varying points throughout the year, a Uniform Check Week. During this week if any student is not in the correct uniform, we will be contacting home to discuss why this is the case. We again ask for your support in ensuring your child continues to meet the expected standards.

If you have any comments or questions, please email daniel.barclay@cockshuthill.org.uk and I will ensure we get back to you.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Jason Bridges
Principal

Dan Barclay
Standards Lead