



**Cockshut Hill School**  
A NINESTILES ACADEMY



@CockshutHillSch

October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

**Standards**

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you all for your support over this half term. I introduced a number of changes towards the end of the last academic year and you have all supported us superbly. Our students are looking and acting a lot more professional. Our Smart, Organised, Ambitious & Respect (SOAR) programme has been a massive success.



The overwhelming majority of students are carrying bags with their equipment, planners, Knowledge Organisers and Exam Preparation Activities in. As we say to the students if they have a bag then they won't forget anything. Uniform is much improved; students are wearing black leather shoes that can be polished, shirts are now tucked in and we don't have issues with hoodies, sweatshirts or tracksuit tops that again detract from a professional look. If a student looks and acts professional, they will get professional outcomes in their examination results.

**Attendance**

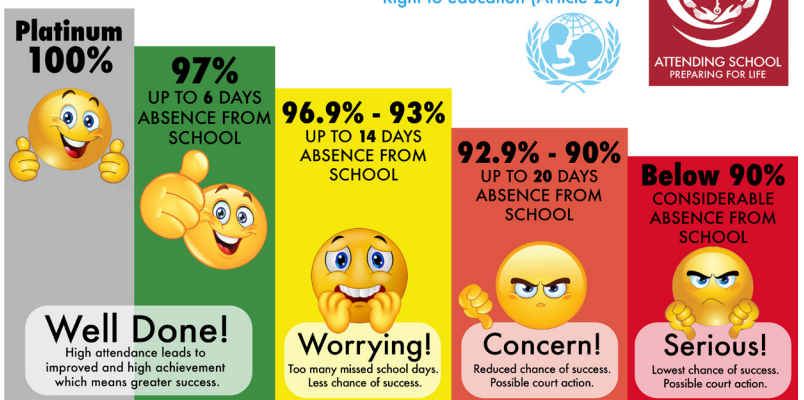
Attendance and punctuality to school remain two of our main priorities this year, all students should arrive at school for no later than 8.30am so they are ready for tutor or assembly at 8.40am.

All students should aim for 100% attendance. We are aware that at times children will be ill and miss the occasional day but missing school has a negative effect on progress. If a child isn't in school, then they are not learning!

Unfortunately, we have had to issue a number of fines to parents/carers this year for taking their children out of school for leave of absence. We have issued nearly forty fines at £60 per fine which has totalled over £2300. If the fine is not paid within three weeks it doubles. If this is still not paid, then it will go to court. We have also started 'Fast-track' and court action for Persistent Absence (students with an attendance under 90%) where families have been fined a total of over £1700. One individual was fined £876 last year.

**WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?**

Right to education (Article 28)



There are 175 non school days a year. That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

## School Site Safety and Parking

Due to the location of our school being in a residential area, car parking space around our school site is at a premium. Unfortunately, we have received complaints from our neighbours concerning inconsiderate driving; blocking driveways, double parking, etc. We are also very concerned about the safety of our students and ask that you do not drive into our car parks at the start and end of the school day. With effect from Monday 5 November 2018 the school staff and visitor car park located at Gate 1 on Cockshut Hill will be locked every day at 2.55pm and not reopened again until 3.15pm. We politely ask that the visitors car parking bays are kept free for the taxi cabs transporting our provision children from out of the area and have permission to use the car park.

We appreciate that families may live too far away from school to be able to walk and some parents/carers need to drive to work. I would like to suggest a Park & Stride idea as a simple solution to these problems and it means that children at least walk some of the way to and from school. Parents are encouraged to park a good distance away from the school and walk the last five or ten minutes. We do ask that you park with care and consideration for pedestrians and our neighbours when parking around the school vicinity and please observe all driving and parking regulations for the area.

## Change of address or telephone numbers

Finally, I'd like to remind all parents/carers to inform us of any change to your contact details. We have had a small number of occasions recently where we have been unable to contact home due to a change of contact details and we hadn't been informed. Thankfully these incidents were for nothing serious but potentially it could have been a major issue. If you have changed your contact details, please send the new information into our Reception either in person or via your child.

**Dates for your diary** (subject to change – updates will always be on the schools website)

|                        |                                                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 26th October    | <b>INSET Day – No students in school</b>                         |
| Monday 5th November    | ALL Students in school 8.30am – 3pm                              |
| Friday 10th November   | Annual Remembrance Service - 11am Cockshut Hill                  |
| Thursday 22nd November | Parental Engagement Evening<br>Support your child in mathematics |
| Friday 30th November   | <b>INSET Day – No students in school</b>                         |
| Wednesday 5th December | Year 11 Parents Evening                                          |
| Friday 21st December   | END OF TERM – Students dismissed at 12.30pm                      |

I wish you all a peaceful half term holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on November 5th.

Yours sincerely



Jason Bridges - Principal

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