

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to you today with an update on our drive to ensure behaviour and learning are moving towards outstanding at OSCA. Behaviour of students at our Academy is now 'good'. Apart from our own internal evidence which demonstrates fewer exclusions and a significant drop in the number of 'Behaviour points' allocated year on year, we have also had this judgement confirmed by two external reviews during this Academic year.

However, we recognise that we still need to tackle the small and reducing number of students whose behaviour still falls below our high expectations, in order to gain a judgement of 'Outstanding'. We are also conscious of the detrimental effect that exclusions can have on students, both in terms of the loss of quality learning time and the implications of having the exclusion on their record. In addition, an exclusion can create many difficulties for working parents in particular which we are keen to avoid as we value your support in working in partnership with us for the benefit of your children.

As a result, we are going to trial a Saturday morning detention (3 hours) as an additional sanction, and as an alternative to exclusion, and believe that the existence of this will assist us in modifying the behaviour patterns of the few students that need to improve.

There are 3 main categories of student that are likely to be given this sanction:

- Those with a high number of behaviour points, particularly those who have a negative impact on the learning of others
- One off incidents that might normally have resulted in a fixed term exclusion
- Truants – to enable them to pay back missed time

We will of course reserve the right to exclude a student if we deem it necessary.

Despite the fact that this detention is a sanction, we aim to also make it a positive learning experience for the students. During the detention students will have work set by their subject teachers where they have not made sufficient progress, and there will also be an opportunity for them to do work to improve their Literacy skills. In addition, duty staff will spend time talking to the students on an individual basis in order to ensure that students are aware of our expectations in lessons and around the Academy, and to work with them on strategies that can be used to modify their behaviour patterns.

We sincerely believe that having a sanction that does not remove students from their learning, and that also supports parents by not having to have your children at home during school time, can only be beneficial to all.

For the overwhelming majority of students and parents the Saturday detention will not be an issue, as behaviour of the vast majority is already good, and often outstanding, but we do hope that you will recognise this trial as further evidence that the Academy is striving to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our students.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House/Assistant Head of House with any queries. Alternatively you can contact me by email at

andrew.morgan1@ormistonsandwell.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Andy Morgan (Vice Principal)