

26 April 2018

Dear parent/ carer

As the new Deputy Headteacher at Chepstow School, I have received a very warm welcome from staff and students. I have enjoyed spending my first few weeks visiting lessons and talking with staff and students about their experiences at the school. I am delighted by the passion, energy and enthusiasm for the school and the vast majority of students have reflected on feeling great pride in being a part of the school community.

Chepstow School is committed and determined to continue to raise standards and offer a world-class education to our students and staff. I have asked for and received incredibly honest feedback about the changes that could be made at Chepstow School. I have used this information, alongside my own observations, to prioritise the needs of the school to create an excellent and enjoyable learning experience for all members of the school community.

We have now begun our commitment that all students will arrive to school Ready to Learn. This is essential in students having self-respect, motivation and pride in their commitment to learning and will remove distractions and barriers to student progress; not just for the individuals who are choosing to negatively impact on their own learning but equally the impact this has on all students - preventing the teacher to teach and the students to learn. In order for this to be successful, staff have received initial training, students informed in assemblies and now I am asking you, as parents/ carers to support us in helping your son/ daughter to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally during their time with us.

In order for students to be Ready to Learn students have been told that all staff will be ensuring that the following non-negotiables will be in place **before** entering the lesson:

#### **READY TO LEARN**

- Arrive on time and to the lesson
- Remove all outer wear (scarves, coats)
- Wear correct uniform (no leggings, trainers etc.)
- Remove ear-phones
- Mobile phones in bags
- Chewing gum in the bin

These non-negotiables will be in place **during** the lesson to ensure all students are Ready to Learn:

- All equipment for the lesson out on the table
- Bags on the floor
- Water bottles only on the desk



- Begin starter activity immediately

To establish a positive learning environment, students who follow these non-negotiables will be rewarded by the class teacher through our CHIPS system and the opportunity to thrive and succeed in a positive learning climate.

From **Monday 30 April**, students who are unable to follow these expectations will receive the following sanctions:

**Immediate break and lunch isolation:**

- Uniform that cannot be rectified
- Truancy

**Lunch detention:**

- Mobile phone\*
- Defiance of non-negotiables

\*If a student receives 3 lunch detentions for having their mobile phone out in lessons, other than where the teacher has given permission, he/ she will lose the right to carry a mobile phone throughout the school day. This will be handed in at the start of the school day and returned at the end of the day.

This is the start of our journey in developing a culture and ethos where all students arrive ready to learn, enjoy an environment where they can achieve their full potential and ultimately leave us as happy, confident, ambitious, resilient and successful individuals. We will continue to develop our values and systems around 'Ready, Respect, Safe' and this is the first of many updates you can look forward to receiving on what we are expecting of your child and in return, what you can expect of the staff and the school.

Thank you in advance of your support.

Yours sincerely

Jo Lindley