

May 2024

Dear families,

### **Cycle 3 Examinations**

In term 6, students will commence their Cycle 3 exams. As you will appreciate, the examinations are extremely important as they will show your child, yourselves, and the academy their progress and attainment throughout the year. Although the academy has been preparing your child for these assessments in school, we are particularly keen to have your support during your child's preparation and throughout the exam period itself.

Your child should work independently at home. Revising and managing a workload are key skills that your child will need to succeed at university or a real alternative, thrive in a top job and lead a happy and successful life.

Below is a list of ways that you can help your child during the run up and during the exam season:

- Help them organise a quiet area in which to revise
- Test them on key facts or figures
- Ensure they are well rested the day before the exam and have plenty of sleep
- Ensure they have a good breakfast on the morning of the assessment
- Ensure they have all the equipment needed for school
- Ask them how their exams went, take an interest, and help keep them calm

### **Full equipment**

Being fully equipped and ready to learn is one of our learning habits which we expect of all students. In order to ensure this is the case, we conduct an equipment and check every day, with a more thorough check at the start of each half term. In order to make sure that all students are ready for their exams, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the expectations regarding equipment.

### **Equipment expectations**

All students should always be coming to school every single day with the following:

- 1x pencil case
- 2x black pens
- 2x green pens
- 1x whiteboard pen
- pencils
- 1x rubber
- 1x ruler
- DEAR book
- 1x protractor
- 1x calculator (Casio fx-83GTX or Casio fx-85GTX)

Other items of branded and school-specific equipment such as mini whiteboards, planners, knowledge organiser folder, tough bags, locker keys and lanyards are provided by the academy at the start of the year, with families charged for any replacements required.

### **Chewing gum**

In recent weeks we have seen an increase in the number of students bringing chewing gum into the academy. As you know one of our values is fairness and students bringing chewing gum into the academy is unfortunately unfairly impacting staff within the academy as this causes challenges and extra work for our site and cleaning staff, who have to remove chewing gum from unwanted places within the academy. It also unfairly impacts students that have to work at desks with chewing gum underneath. As outlined on page 28 of the academy handbook and page 6 of our behaviour policy; chewing gum is not permitted in the academy. The sanction for students chewing gum is 60 minutes and this sanction will run alongside discussions with advisors on the negative impact that chewing gum is having in our building.



### **Conduct in the community**

As an academy we dedicate time each day to reflect on our academy values, drivers and the importance of good manners both in and out of school with our students. Recently we have seen an increase in students congregating in areas surrounding the academy after school and unfortunately on some occasions this has led to complaints from residents regarding a small minority of students' behaviour in the community. In instances where students have been identified, we have informed families of their child's involvement in this behaviour. We have spoken to all students about this issue over the last week and we have reminded students that their conduct in the community is equally as important as their conduct within the academy. Please speak to your child about the importance of respecting the property of residents and ensuring that they are demonstrating the behaviours we would expect on their journey to or from the academy.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully,

Emma Hickey

**Head of Secondary**

