



Ref: KBU/DSO/ZSM

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## **Re: Punctuality, Safety and Social Media.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look ahead to the second half of the school year, we would like to inform you about our approach to punctuality, safety and social media across the school.

Punctuality to school is vital in supporting students with their future goals and preparing them for the world of work.

Our school day officially begins at 8:45am, with students expected to be in their form rooms at this time, ready to receive important information for the day; reflect on their school life and take part in personal development activities.

To enable this it is important that all students are on the school site from 8:40am. Unfortunately at present there are a large number of students arriving to school late. Please can all parents and carers support your children in arriving at school before 8:45am. If students arrive after this, they will be marked as late. If this happens two times in one week; they will receive a 30 minute detention. If it happens 3 or more times in one week; they will receive a 1 hour detention. Please help us support our young people in preparing them for the world of work.

### Safety on Holly Lane

As of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 we will be closing the school gate on Holly lane at 8:35am. This is due to issues with safety when cars are entering the school site at the same time that students are arriving into school. If you need to drop your child off to school for medical reasons please arrive before 8:35am. The gates will not be opened until 8.50am.

### Vaping

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of students vaping or being caught in possession of vapes.

We have been working with West Midlands Police and DECCA to inform students of the health and legal risks associated with vaping.

Key pieces of information are:-

- Being in possession of a vape under the age of 18 is illegal in England and Wales.
- Electronic cigarettes (E-cigarettes) can contain high levels of nicotine. Adolescence is a critical period for brain development and exposure to nicotine can have long-term health consequences, impacting memory, attention and learning.

We take the safety and well being of your child very seriously and therefore anyone found doing the following will receive an exclusion from school.



## Holly Lodge High School

College of Science

Holly Lane

Smethwick

West Midlands

B67 7JG

Tel: 0121 558 0691

Email: [info@holly-lodge.org](mailto:info@holly-lodge.org)

Website: [www.holly-lodge.org](http://www.holly-lodge.org)

Headteacher: Mr Imran Iqbal

- Caught in possession of a vape or vape liquid
- Seen vaping
- Being with a student or students when they are vaping.

### Social Media

Recently, we have been made aware, by both students and parent, of several incidents of the misuse of social media, sometimes by our students and other times where our students have been victims of this misuse. Unfortunately, most of the inappropriate use of the internet is done from home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays.

**Whilst we will do everything we can to support and deal with this behaviour, it is very difficult for us investigate it as we have no jurisdiction to explore someone's personal online use. If parents feel that the content is dangerous or poses a significant risk to their child, they must contact the police.**

It should be noted that in many cases a child may put themselves at considerable risk due to the misuse of social media accidentally. E.g. giving personal details, publishing photographs, etc. to a 'friend' who then distributes this information more widely. They need to be fully aware of this risk.

The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/guardians. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your children. There is advice and information on our website.

Your support in our continued work is greatly appreciated. We firmly believe in the role of both school and parents/carers in supporting our young people to become "the best versions of themselves". I hope you all have a good half term and we look forward to the students returning to school at 8:40am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, equipped and ready for the half term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr K Burns  
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs D Southall  
Deputy Headteacher