

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the new year begins, we thought it would be helpful to provide a concise reminder of the most important changes and expectations. These developments are designed to create a calm, safe and purposeful environment in which every student can learn, thrive and achieve.

A Digital Technology-free Hodgson: Hodgson Academy will be phone-free from the first day of the academic year. Students may bring devices to school for use on their journey, but mobile phones, smartwatches and any other connectivity devices must not be seen, heard or accessed during the school day. Before entering the academy, all devices must be switched off and placed securely in the student's school bag. They must remain switched off and out of sight until the student has left the school site at the end of the day. Until the phone pouches are introduced, students will be reminded of this expectation each morning by their Form Tutor.

We expect to begin the phased rollout of our phone-pouch project later in the first half term. Further information will be shared before pouches are issued. **Phone pouches can be purchased through ParentPay.** Until then, the expectation remains simple: switched off, away in bags, not seen and not heard. Where a mobile phone, smartwatch or other digital technology is seen, heard or accessed at any point during the school day, the following sanctions will apply throughout the academic year:

- **First incident:** a two-hour Headteacher's Detention on Friday and a telephone call home from the student's Form Tutor.
- **Second incident:** a meeting with the student's Head of House or Head of Year and one full day in Reflection.
- **Third incident:** a meeting with the senior member of staff linked to the student's house or year group, two full days in Reflection and the introduction of a phone contract.
- **Subsequent incidents:** further sanctions and interventions will be implemented in line with the academy's behaviour policy.

The pouches will support students in meeting these expectations and help ensure that they are safe, happy and fully present in school and in their learning.

Entering the academy: To further strengthen safeguarding, improve supervision and ensure that every student receives a positive and welcoming start to the day, we are **introducing two** clearly designated student entrances. Concentrating student access through these points will provide support where needed and ensure that students enter the academy safely, calmly and ready to learn. The two student access points will be:

- The usual ginnel/Annex entrance connecting Moorland Road and Poulton
- The front entrance to the right of the academy, next to the bike-storage sheds.

Both entrances **will open at 8:00am each day**, and **students must not enter the academy site before this time**. A member of staff will be present at each entrance to welcome students and conduct READY checks, including uniform, equipment and presentation. Students must use one of these two designated entrances. No other access point, including the Science car park, should be used by students. These arrangements will help us maintain effective supervision and provide a safe, calm and positive start to every school day.

Reflection: education, restoration and support: Our former Inclusion Room has moved location and has been renamed Reflection. Reflection is not simply a place for students to be removed from lessons; it is a structured environment where they will complete purposeful learning, reflect on their choices, undertake relevant educational work and participate in restorative conversations. The aim is to help students understand the impact of their behaviour, repair relationships and make better choices when they return to lessons.



Circuit breakers: A circuit breaker is used when a student is removed from a lesson for behavioural reasons and is expected to continue learning in another classroom. Students must follow the member of staff's instruction and enter the receiving classroom calmly. If a student refuses to enter or reintegrate into the receiving classroom, they will spend a period of time in Reflection. A circuit breaker may extend beyond the remainder of the lesson and into unstructured time. Two circuit breakers will result in a full day in Reflection. This ensures that removal from a lesson is followed by meaningful reflection, education and restoration.

Lunchtime detentions: Students issued with a 15-minute Head of Department or Senior Leadership Team lunchtime detention will have the opportunity to attend it promptly. We have previously seen a very small number of students openly refuse a lunchtime detention because they would prefer to receive an after-school consequence. **This will no longer be an option.** If a student does not attend, the detention will be reissued for the following day as a full-lunchtime detention. A member of staff will collect the student before lunch, allow them to use the toilet and collect a cold lunch, and then escort them to the detention venue. A student who refuses this process will spend a period of time in Reflection.

Standards, uniform and punctuality: Our standards remain unchanged and will continue to be checked and logged consistently. Students must arrive on time, in full and correct uniform, with the equipment they need for the day. Expectations include one small stud in each ear lobe only, no other piercings, natural nails with no acrylic or false nails, no fake tan, and skirts worn at an appropriate length. These routines help every student to begin the day prepared and ready to learn.

Our new Character Curriculum: We are excited to launch the Hodgson Character Curriculum on the week beginning 14th September, which will be taught during morning form time. Through two short, focused sessions each week, students will explicitly learn about character, behaviour, CARE, positive relationships, inclusion, British Values and the habits that support success in school, work and life. Students will learn, discuss, apply and reflect on these themes, linking their choices to their impact on others and the wider community. This work will also strengthen our approach to rewards and recognition as the year progresses, celebrating students who consistently demonstrate our values, make positive choices and contribute to the academy community. Our shared aim is clear: Building Better People through CARE - Consideration and Respect for Everyone.

Searching, screening and confiscation: We have developed a new Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy. Screening will not form part of our everyday practice and will only be considered where specific information or a reasonable concern has come to light that a student may be carrying a prohibited item. Where necessary, trained staff may use non-invasive handheld electronic screening devices to help identify items such as mobile phones, vapes and other metallic objects. Any screening will be conducted safely, respectfully and in accordance with statutory guidance, with appropriate consideration given to students' individual, medical and additional needs. Any prohibited item found will be managed in line with the academy's policy.

Working together: Thank you in advance for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Clear routines, consistent boundaries and a strong partnership between home and school will help all students make a confident and successful start to the new academic year. All relevant changes have been incorporated into the academy's updated policies. These policies will be published on the school website in due course. We look forward to a positive and productive year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mr McCann

Deputy Headteacher

