November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter our second half term, I wanted to ensure that you are kept as fully informed as possible throughout this year. Therefore, along with our usual newsletters and letter communications, please can I ask that you keep an eye on our website [**www.thebourneacademy.com**](http://www.thebourneacademy.com)and our twitter feed **@BourneAcademy.**

I am delighted to say that all the summer and half term programme of works have gone very well. The students, and staff, are enjoying the use of our purpose built IT suite, with state of the art computers, as well as a recently installed astroturf and floodlighting on the MUGA. Furthermore, we are always keen to ensure that your child is safe within the Academy and therefore, we have installed electronic gates at the front and rear of the school. Please note that the main front **entrance gates will be closed at 9:00am** and any parent or student who wishes to gain access to the Academy after that time will need to use the intercom.

As always, thank you all for your support with regard to uniform and expectations. I am delighted to say that our new Year 7s have settled brilliantly into the life of the Academy. As you are all aware, in our opinion, school uniform and personal appearance play a vital role in contributing to the ethos of The Bourne Academy and setting the appropriate tone and standard. Furthermore, a smart appearance is essential in most workplaces and we aim to prepare our students for the world of work. The majority of our students wear the correct uniform with pride, however, current fashions do, sometimes, negatively influence a minority of students and we have particularly noticed that a number of students are wearing tight non-regulation trousers.

Our uniform policy and student planner are very clear about our expectations for uniform. They set out clearly that only “natural” make-up and hair colour, with only one pair of stud earrings and a watch, is permitted. Furthermore, visible facial piercings and stretcher earrings are **not allowed** and students will be asked to remove them, this includes retainers. The policy goes on to say that **coloured nail varnish will not be tolerated and only plain black socks/tights and shoes (with NO coloured decoration or logos) will be allowed.** Very importantly, **chewing gum** is not permitted in the Academy. Please see our Uniform and Equipment Policy on the website or page 17 of the planner for a full list of what is acceptable.

For clarification, our uniform suppliers are currently Stevensons in Southbourne. As you are aware, **from September 2015 our school skirt changed to a regulation skirt, with pink piping, which can ONLY be purchased through Stevensons. This means that ALL Year 7 and Year 8 girls will be in regulation skirts. Alternatively, girls and boys trousers are also available from Stevensons**. For current Year 9, 10 and 11 students, a standard plain black skirt is also available should you have any doubt as to what skirt or trousers are appropriate.

Please be aware that as well as our usual daily checks on uniform we will be holding a **formal uniform inspection during the week beginning 7th November.** This gives you a weekend to ensure that your child is in the correct uniform. We have purchased new trousers and skirts from Stevensons and any student not in the correct uniform will be sent home to change or borrow one of our uniforms.

As we move towards much colder weather, I would urge students to bring a warm coat to school with them. Please note that coats, **but not hoodies**, may be worn to and from the Academy, but not inside the Academy, except on arrival and when leaving at the end of the day. Furthermore, in order to ensure that students are prepared for learning, and valuable time is not wasted at the start of any lesson it is vital that students have the correct equipment with them at all times and a suitable bag that is big enough to contain all the equipment required.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Head of House, in the first instance, with any questions or advice regarding your child’s uniform or appearance. However, we reserve the right to determine what is and what is not acceptable.

We expect parents/carers to support us on all issues regarding uniform.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Kind regards

**Mr M Avoth,**

**Principal**