

8 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year. It has been lovely to see our students return. We have been joined by 186 new students in Year 7, some new students in other year groups and we are fully staffed.

Obviously the issue of RAAC concrete in schools has been dominating the news. Our buildings are now quite old and are regularly surveyed but as far as we are aware there is no RAAC in the school.

The catering service would like to remind you that the cost of meals has increased from 1 September with a meal deal now costing £2.50. A list of prices is attached to this letter. Currently we have a £5 spending cap per day for students who might purchase items at break time as well as lunch. If you wish to increase this spending cap for your son or daughter please contact the finance office in school.

PE lessons have resumed and I would like to remind you that there is a strong recommendation that students wear protective items – shin pads for football; mouth guard and scrum cap for rugby; and shin pads and mouth guard for hockey. Mr Haydock has already sent a broadcast with a timetable of after school sport opportunities next week. The whole school extra-curricular offer will be sent out next week.

The vast majority of our students have returned looking very smart and wearing the correct uniform as it should be. Please remember that we do not allow make-up, false tan, fake eye lashes or nail extensions; shoes should be black school shoes and not trainers – students can expect a detention if they are not complying with uniform expectations and sanctions will increase if the issue is not corrected. We make no apologies for having high expectations.

We want to reward and praise students for getting it right in and out of the classroom and Mr Long is now responsible for leading on this in school. Unfortunately, a minority sometimes make the wrong choices and detentions this year will be in the new dining room and given on the same day. We will inform you via synergy by 2pm if your son or daughter is in detention (or multiple detentions) which now are in 3 time slots:

- 3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.
- 3.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.
- 4.15 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.



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Deputy Headteacher Miss A Jordinson, BSc Hons

If a student fails to attend detention then they will be put in the Head's detention which is on Fridays until 5.00 p.m.

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the Information Evening for Year 10 and 11 students yesterday. We have two more events:

- Thursday 14 September: Year 8 at 5.30 p.m.
Year 9 at 6.30 p.m.
- Thursday 21 September: Year 7 with 2 sessions – meet the mentor from 4.45pm till 5.30pm with a talk at 5.30pm or meet the mentor from 5.30pm till 6.15pm with a talk at 6.15pm. We will send out further information about this next week.

We now have two SHINE workers in school on Mondays and Tuesdays to provide early mental health support. These workers are members of school staff but funded by Blackpool NHS and they provide a great addition to our overall package of student support. A newsletter from SHINE is attached to this broadcast.

Encore Productions are encouraging opportunities for young people in the Performing Arts and have asked that we share their details: Empress Buildings, 97 Church Street, Blackpool, FY1 1HU www.encoreblackpool.co.uk

Traffic and resulting delays around school have been a problem this week due to road works. Please be mindful of this and the need to set off earlier if at all possible so that students arrive in time to school.

I look forward to working with you and all our staff over the coming year to support each and every one of our students to achieve their best and become their best. There is no more important task!

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Waller
Headteacher