

## Students' Health and Safety

Dear Parents and Carers

I would be grateful if you could discuss the following with your children so that our students are clear about why the rules we have in our school are important in terms of their health and safety.

- Cans are not allowed in school. Discarded they can pose a risk especially if they end up on the field and are cut up by the gang mowers used to keep our grounds tidy. They chew the cans up and very sharp fragments of metal are left in the grass.
- Whilst canned, fizzy and energy drinks are not allowed we are keen to encourage our students to drink water. For the past four years students have been able to drink WATER in class so that they are 'hydrated' and better equipped to learn. Water must be in clear, name labelled bottles. Thank you.
- "Energy" drinks are not allowed. The stimulants in them can be harmful and can affect the concentration and behaviour of students
- Chewing gum is not allowed. I am particularly concerned about it when students are running around. It also causes havoc in our school environment.
- "Rough and tumble" play. Whilst I am pleased that many of our students get rid of surplus energy at break and lunch time playing sports and running around, there have been several incidents where "horse-play" has resulted in injuries requiring hospital attention. **Physical contact in play is therefore not allowed.**

Some other issues it would be helpful to reinforce in partnership.

- Uniform. Our Student Councils worked hard to design a uniform which is practical, suited to Key Stages 3 and 4 and simple to follow. Our students are smart but one or two creative interpretations to our uniform code have crept in which I would like to stop so that we don't waste energy chasing up problems which should not have occurred in the first place
  - jewellery. No piercings except for one stud ear-ring in each ear. (No "stretchies" or "danglies" ☺) No other jewellery is allowed
  - make up. At the moment this remains a Key Stage 4 privilege – and then only if worn discreetly
  - trainers are not allowed unless a student needs to wear them for medical reasons AND A DOCTOR'S NOTE IS PROVIDED. We have a supply of black canvas shoes for students to borrow if they come to school in trainers for any other reason
  - skirts KNEE LENGTH ONLY
  - tee shirts, if needed, under blouses/shirts – white only
- Sun glasses. We are approaching the hay fever season and some students need to wear sun glasses. Please note that sun glasses can only be worn outside. When students are indoors, sun glasses should be in bags – not on heads as a fashion accessory!

As a school we feel it is helpful to be clear about what is and is not allowed to avoid unnecessary arguments and expense. Rules are kept to a minimum but apply to everyone. They have not changed but are being misinterpreted. Thank you for your help in making sure we are consistent. Misunderstandings cause bad feeling and undermine the relationships for learning which we work so hard to build.

Mrs Hollinghurst  
March 2009