

7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I am writing to tell you about some changes that I hope you will see as positive ones about how we support students at Cottenham to succeed over their time with us. The pandemic has meant that there are fewer opportunities in school to create a collective culture as we cannot gather students in year groups together, and many of the opportunities such as trips and visits we usually offer to students are limited at present. We will be trying to increase the number of extra-curricular opportunities this term, as circumstances allow.

The start of the New Year seemed to us the perfect opportunity to focus on how we might reward students for positive behaviour. We are going to use our House System, with the introduction of 'House Points', to encourage students to collect points for themselves, and for their House Team. Celebration assemblies and certificates will be given out at the end of each term to recognise the achievements of individuals and of each House. We hope that this will begin to create a more collective sense of pride in our school and provide opportunities for students to work towards something with students from beyond their own form or year group.

We are also re-emphasising the importance of our Shine Award system at the College, building on the SHINE programme for our main feeder primary schools. Students will be actively encouraged to work towards these awards that encourage students to take part in activities beyond the classroom and to recognise that endeavour.

We also need a renewed focus on minimising any disruption in lessons so that all students to learn and meet their potential. It is important that we allow all students to learn and our clear system of consequences is designed to support students to recognise and meet our high expectations in the classroom. This term we want to make this system even clearer to both parents and students.

The vast majority of the behaviour system remains the same. The key changes are outlined below:

- A new platform for recording behaviour allocates points for certain behaviours. C1 (a verbal warning) is allocated 1 point, progressing through to C5 for more serious behaviour events, which results in 5 negative behaviour points. Until we get our new Astrea App for parents you may notice a change in the number of behaviour points that your child receives.
- In order to minimise disruption to learning in classrooms, if a student gets 3 verbal warnings across one school day they will receive a detention. We are making this change to encourage students to recognise the cumulative impact of that behaviour across the school day. Our analysis of behaviour data suggested that a minority of students were being reminded about their behaviour multiple times. We want to support students to recognise that every minute of learning time is precious, both for themselves and for others in the classroom.

From the start of this term, we are delighted to be moving to a new software platform BromCom. We have made this change because we believe that it will make it easier and more transparent for staff to be able to communicate with families about how their child is getting on at school. We are piloting the changes above for this half term and will review their impact on behaviour across the College in February.

This new BromCom system will also enable us to communicate effectively with you about when your child has received a reward or a sanction. We believe this is important as students are most likely to succeed when teachers and parents work in partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It has been a real privilege to work with Cottenham students, in my first term, because they are self-disciplined, respectful, serious about their learning and take responsibility for achieving their potential. We hope that these slight changes to our behaviour systems, and our renewed emphasis on encouraging positive behaviours, will allow every student to have these efforts recognised and to ensure that everyone can meet their full potential.

I am very conscious of the trust parents/carers place in the college to guide, support and prepare children for their next steps in employment, education or training. I would like to assure you that our focus is always on what is in the best interests of the children and the community we serve. #

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Crisford', written in a cursive style.

Clive Crisford
Assistant Principal