

8th February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

To ensure that we can continue to improve standards and raise expectations at Hanson Academy, we thought it would be useful to outline the policies regarding mobile phone usage and uniform to avoid any confusion for students, parents and carers alike.

At Hanson Academy, we understand the importance that many parents place on being able to communicate with their children, both travelling to and from school, and we have for some time allowed students to have mobile phones in school as long as they are used responsibly and discreetly. We must stress, however, that students bringing items such as mobile phones and music playing devices on site do so at their own risk as the school cannot accept responsibility for lost items or accidental damage.

Please be aware of the following:

- **Using a mobile phone during and between lessons is not permitted;** I have informed teaching staff that, if necessary, they may confiscate a mobile phone if it is being used inappropriately, causing disruption or where a student is deliberately defying school rules by not complying and following reasonable requests. This will be secured in a safe place and returned to the student at 2:40 p.m.
- If inappropriate usage of mobile phones persists after the first infringement and students have their phone confiscated for a second time in a half term for non-compliance, then parents and carers will be required to meet with a senior member of staff and the mobile phone will be returned after school hours.
- To clarify, during the Hanson School day, students are allowed to use their mobile phones at **break and dinner times only. Between and during lessons, their use is strictly prohibited.** Having a mobile phone in school is to be seen as a privilege and not a right.
- **Hand held devices such as IPOD and MP3 players** should not be used to play music that is audible on corridors and in classrooms. Such behaviour may result in a device being confiscated. Earphones and accompanying wires are not to be worn between or during lessons but are permitted during morning and lunch breaks. **Any student refusing to remove these items will be asked to hand them over until the end of the school day.**

Equipment in Lessons

We have recently had a drive on standards and myself and other senior leaders have conducted lesson 'drop ins'. It has come to our attention that a growing number of students aren't equipped properly for lessons. A pen, pencil and ruler are fundamental basics for the vast majority of lessons and I would encourage you to ensure that your child has these before setting off for school. Time being wasted on initially providing equipment and dealing with damage to (or the loss of) borrowed equipment is unacceptable.

One of our key responsibilities is to prepare students for the worlds of further education and employment, where having competent organisational skills and being prepared for the job are not optional. On that note, could I also please remind you of **the importance of students bringing and wearing their identification lanyards for safeguarding reasons** as well as the practicalities of having a cashless system at break and dinner times.

Uniform and Personal Property

At Hanson Academy, we are immensely proud of the smart appearance of our youngsters. Unfortunately, over time, a small but sizable minority of students have begun to challenge the Academy's uniform policy. A smart uniform signals a parent or carer's pride in their child's appearance and positively reinforces the Academy's standards and ethos. The blazer and tie give a professional and business-like look to our student body; it also symbolises our desire to raise the profile of the Academy, and enhance the image of our students in the wider community.

We firmly believe that our uniform makes a positive impression on visitors to the school and, moreover, why our students leave a lasting impact upon other institutions when we visit them. The Academy is committed to high standards of dress and the governing body, **The Interim Executive Board**, have agreed that acceptable and high standards of personal presentation and uniform play a fundamental role in maintaining our ethos.

Personal presentation includes **sensible black shoes or black canvas pumps** and appropriate outerwear such as winter coats. '**Hoodies**' and sports apparel such as **tracksuit tops** or **branded sweaters** must not be worn over or under blazers within classrooms or on corridors. **Such items, if persistently worn inappropriately in classrooms and on corridors, will be confiscated, if deemed necessary, and returned to students after school.**

As of Monday 22nd February, students wearing inappropriate footwear, **such as trainers**, will not be allowed into classrooms unless there are exceptional circumstances or genuine medical reasons for such footwear being worn. The providing of a note will not necessarily excuse a student from being isolated if, after consulting with parents, a quick solution cannot be found. I have had to take this stance as a growing number of students are continually bringing notes over lengthy periods of time as a way of ensuring that they wear

expensive trainers as a fashion accessory meaning that they are undermining the very notion of a uniform.

We therefore strongly urge parents and carers to help our youngsters adhere to this policy and support the Academy in enforcing the very highest standards of dress and presentation.

Please contact the school if you would like guidance on aspects of our uniform policy or visit the Academy's web site:

<http://www.hansonacademy.org.uk/uniform.html>

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued and invaluable support.

Yours faithfully

Graham Moffatt

Consultant Head Teacher