



6th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome back to the new academic year. As we return to school we are celebrating some fantastic GCSE results with attainment in Maths and English GCSE amongst the highest in Devon. Many other subjects supported students in progressing to their next steps with excellent results in Science, MFL, History, Geography and Computer Science; subjects that make up the EBacc suite. A really pleasing set of results that show improvement from previous years and that the school is making progress.

The school site team have been extremely busy enhancing the campus with several major developments. We are finishing our roofing project to the South Block. Lighting has been upgraded to an LED based system to reduce energy consumption and also enhance corridor and classroom conditions. We have also added additional security to the front of school. Corridors and classrooms have been enhanced and we have invested in new serving and seating areas for the canteen. Over the past academic year we have invested in the region of £750,000 in enhancing our campus to improve the culture and facilities in school.

As I previously communicated staff have been working hard to prepare for significant changes at the start of the new term. Students have attended several assemblies and had talks from Senior Staff, Tutors and Heads of House to explain these. We are raising our expectations for all and are confident that every student can meet these. We are aware that for a few students this may take a few weeks to adapt to our standards and expectations but we expect the best from all members of our school.

“Park Culture” aims to address issues in school which students see as unfair; consistency across the school is key to maintaining a positive and effective environment which allows all students to learn. Clear boundaries and expectations help to improve consistency and standards.

Each day at Park School, we expect all students to be dressed in-line with the school uniform policy, fully equipped for the day with the correct/required equipment and with their completed homework. We know that if students are ready to learn they will make the most from their time at school and make the best possible progress.

This week we have been reminding students of our expectations and the consequences. The new systems will start with effect on Monday after a final assembly with Year 10. Sanctions will be issued on the same day to avoid confusion and conflict. This means that every student can start the following day with a ‘clean slate’ and fresh opportunity to support our Park Culture.

## Homework

We will continue to use ClassCharts to log homework. All students have been provided with a ‘tough’ wallet folder, Knowledge Book and Knowledge Workbook for homework. Students must look after these and bring them to school every day along with the correct equipment. The replacement cost for these items is £3 so please encourage your son/daughter to look after these.

Remember full stationery equipment packs are available from Student Reception, as are single items. Students must attend school every day with the correct equipment and kit.



The majority of homework will now consist of learning activities with all the resources provided by the school. This removes any barriers to completing homework. All students will be expected to complete the homework by the due date. The majority of homework will be based around learning key vocabulary and knowledge and so can be accessed and completed by all students. Homework will be checked on a daily basis by Tutors with a 'same day' after school sanction for those not meeting our expectations. Homework timetables are published in the knowledge organisers to help students plan their time effectively. Prep time has started to support homework and effective revision and preparation. In Years 10 and 11, students will also be expected to complete set homework from each subject; this will mostly be exam practice questions or linked to Non Examined Assessments in practical courses.

For more information on how to support your son/daughter with their homework please read the inside pages of the Knowledge Book or [follow this link to our helpful video guide](#).

### **Punctuality**

Tutor time at the start of the day is an important session. It is important that students arrive on time to these sessions and are ready for the day ahead. Registration starts at 8:45 am and students must be in school before this. We appreciate that on a few occasions a bus may be late or an accident across Barnstaple may cause a delay; we will make reasonable allowances for these circumstances.

### **Chewing Gum/Energy drinks**

Chewing gum and energy drinks are not allowed in school. These will be confiscated and not returned to students if they bring them into school.

The students have responded extremely well to the changes this week. The work we have seen completed in prep time and the use of Knowledge Books has been fantastic.

Thank you for your support and understanding. These expectations will help to further improve our school creating better opportunities for every member of our community whilst also addressing student concern over consistency and 'fairness'.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gareth Roscoe  
Headteacher



Mr Craig Tamlyn  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr Graham Sloman  
Senior Assistant Headteacher