



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Changes After Half-Term

Firstly, apologies for not being able to open today. The safety of our community is paramount, and whilst a difficult decision, I am convinced it was the right one.

However, my main reason for writing is to update you on some changes that we will be introducing after half term based on student voice and also after monitoring trends in behaviour.

Firstly, for the first time in the school's history we will be introducing a bell system. The school day operates in a way where there is transition time between lessons, and in recent years we have seen an increase in lateness to lessons. Having monitored this and observed the students moving around site, I decided to speak with some of them to find out why they are late. The answer was very simple – with mobile phones and smartphones not allowed to be used in school, they have no way of knowing what time it is and so are not aware of how long they have before the start of the lesson. With this in mind, I have decided to introduce a bell, not at the start and end of each lesson, but when there is 2 minutes to go until the next lesson starts. This will allow students to understand that they must now get to their next room quickly. Whilst this may sound minor, the impact of having students arriving at different times can delay the start of a lesson and we hope this will remedy this issue.

Secondly, through student voice, my parental focus group and observations, I am fully aware that the current toilet situation is presenting problems around the school (and speaking with other headteachers both locally and nationally the problem is widespread). These include congregation in toilets so some students cannot use the facilities, vandalism and vaping. I will not accept this kind of behaviour and as a result we are looking at the layout of toilets moving forwards as a long-term fix, but in the interim we will be implementing the following rules after half term:

1. Maximum occupancy in a toilet – we have audited the toilets to ensure that we know the maximum number of students that should be in a toilet at any one time. This is now clearly displayed on the door and will be monitored at break and lunch.
2. Change of staff duty – Each toilet will have a staff member outside at break to ensure maximum numbers are adhered to. This will allow those that really do need the toilet the opportunity to do so and also stop the congregations which may make some students feel uncomfortable to use the toilets.
3. Lunch time – again, to stop overcrowding, lanyards will be available to students from duty staff in the dining rooms to allow them to use the toilets at lunch – this again will allow us to monitor numbers and stop overcrowding.
4. Toilet passes in lessons – Due to the changes at break and lunch, we believe more students will be able to use the toilets at these times, but we also understand that some students may need to use the facilities in lessons. If this is the case, students will be given a toilet pass by the teacher so we can pick up students who may be wandering the school site and not using the nearest student toilets.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support on this matter. This has come from student and parental feedback, and as a result we hope these measures will improve the situation for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher