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Mrs Kerry Inscker | Principal BSC (Hons), Cert Ed, MA, NPQH

'LEARNING FOR LIFE, SECURING SUCCESS'

RHU/ALA/June 2018

18 June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Principal of Ormiston SWB Academy. It is a privilege and honour to have been appointed by OAT and the school Governors and entrusted with the job of leading such a fantastic school.

Over the last few weeks I have been fortunate enough to have been able to visit the academy. I have spent time walking around the site, spending time with staff, meeting with governors and getting to know the students. I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome and, in particular, Mrs Inscker for her support as we work together to enable a smooth transition, ready for September.

I am determined that the school builds on its successes and continues to flourish and maintain its position at the heart of the community. I have several ideas for how we can ensure our school further improves.

The first step in any school improvement is the raising of expectations. It is important that we are ambitious, and I am sure that the students will always respond positively to a challenge. So, next term we are introducing some changes that we believe will make a significant impact on our school culture. Your support with these changes will be greatly appreciated and will help us get off to a positive and successful start in September.

Uniform

In order to help you prepare for September, we thought it was important to inform you we intend to make uniform a priority in terms of having high expectations of our students. From September the basic principles are listed below:

1. Academy trousers will be **black. No leggings/jeggings/jeans/cords/lycra or very tight styles will be acceptable**
2. Shoes must be **plain black sensible school shoes, that can be polished.** No trainers or plimsolls.
(Girls shoes: Low heel only. No open toe or open back)
3. If girls wish to wear a skirt: Plain black **knee length 'Charleston Skirt' with embroidered academy logo**
4. All ties purchased from any supplier will now be **clip on.**
5. Year 11 will be presented with a new tie in September (no purchase necessary)

Any student wearing incorrect uniform items will be challenged and offered alternative items to wear (trousers/shoes) if we have them available or we will phone you to ask you to bring in correct uniform for your child to wear.

Students who refuse to wear or adjust their uniform to our regulations may be isolated until rectified or be sent home to remedy. Excess make up, jewellery (single stud only allowed), extreme (tramlines etc) or dyed hairstyles and nail varnish will be also be challenged and students will be asked to remove heavy makeup. Facial piercings are also not allowed.

Mobile phones

From September we are moving to a: NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD approach to mobile 'phones and devices. This is because of the negative effect they can have on student learning. Parents have previously been informed that we are unable to filter internet access for students using their own 4G rather than academy filters, therefore to further promote safeguarding they will be banned from the building. This decision has not been taken lightly and we have done significant research into the topic to look at some of the issues.

Students will not be allowed them in the Academy in sight or earshot – **if seen or heard**, it will be confiscated by staff, placed in a labelled bag, locked away to be collected by the student at the end of the day.

To ensure that the policy is clear the basic principles are listed below:

1. Mobile phones (including music players and ipods) should be 'switched off and stored away' at all times. Any phone seen or heard will be confiscated, including phones on display in shirt pockets. Headphones should not be visible.
2. Phones that are confiscated will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first instance. However, should this become a regular occurrence, a call will be made home with a request for a parent/carer to collect the phone on their child's behalf.
3. The restriction is in place at all times whilst students are on the Academy premises (main building & external grounds and building). Phones should be switched off and put away when students arrive at the start of the day and not accessed until after they have left the Academy building at the end of the day.
4. Should students wish to use their phone at the end of the day to contact parents or to arrange to be collected following school-based activities, they should do this once outside the academy building.
5. The only exception to this will be if a teacher specifically asks for students to use their mobile phone in a lesson for the purposes of learning.
6. Sixth Form students may use their phones within the Sixth Form Centre

Should you need to contact your child in an emergency, please contact the Academy; we will continue to pass on urgent messages.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and I thank you in advance for your support. I am determined to do the very best for Ormiston SWB Academy. I will always make students safeguarding, welfare and the raising of expectations my priorities when making decisions.

I am excited to take up my new post in September. I hope you have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Rod Hughes
Designate Principal (In post from September)



Examples of suitable footwear for Girls



Examples of suitable footwear for Boys



Examples of suitable trousers for Girls



Examples of suitable trousers for Boys

