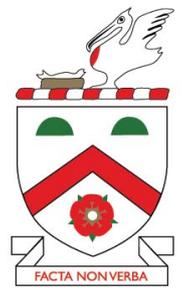


FRED LONGWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the start of the new term with some updates, and to make you aware of changes we are planning to the school day which will come into effect after the February Half Term 2024.

Changes to the School Day – lunchtime arrangements.

Since moving into the new school, we have kept under review all the routines and systems that we have in school. The new school building and site functions very differently to our old site, in so many ways it is more efficient. Specifically, we have been keeping under review the timings of the school day. Based on how the site is currently operating, we feel it is necessary to make a slight alteration to the lunchtime arrangements. Currently lunchtime is 45 minutes long, after the February Half Term we intend to reduce lunchtime to 40 minutes. This is because since moving into the new school and having adopted facial recognition software, service in the canteen has speeded up significantly which in turn leaves the students with far more unstructured social times than is necessary. 40 minutes is more than enough time for all students to eat their lunch and enjoy some social time before their final lesson of the day.

This change means that from Monday 26th February, lunch will run from 1:20 to 2:00 and school will subsequently finish at 3:00 as opposed to 3:05pm.

During the course of this half term, we will start to regain access to more external areas of our site which in turn will allow us to review the current zoning arrangements for students and the lunchtime sittings. Year 7 and Year 10 both currently have the first sitting at lunchtime, but this will be reviewed over the next few weeks. I will of course keep you updated on any more changes that we need to make.

Celebrating Excellence

As a school we make it a priority to celebrate excellence and reward students whenever possible. In lessons, staff will routinely issue reward points for excellent work and participation. As parents you will see these reward points on your child's Satchel. As students accumulate points we issue rewards in school, with special rewards going to students with 50+, 100+, 150+ and 200+ reward points achieved. Every two weeks we also have what we call Freddie's Focus on the Stars which is shared with all forms during form time. Each fortnight, each subject area will nominate a student in each year group whose work or positive attitude has stood out over that time period. Each student who is mentioned on Freddie's Focus on the Stars will receive a special subject badge. Heads of Year also nominate students who have stood out over the fortnight, and they receive the Head of Year Award as part of Freddie's Focus. I also ask staff to nominate students for the Headteacher Award, when a child receives a nomination for this, they receive a postcard home and a badge. This week I have had 15 nominations from staff. Rewards can be given for any of the following:

- Outstanding commitment to extra-curricular activities in school.
- Outstanding participation for activities outside of school.
- Showing excellent resilience and determination in their studies.
- Outstanding academic achievement.
- Outstanding demonstration of our BEST values.

If your child receives any reward in school, please praise them and reward them at home.

Uniform and personal appearance

The standard of uniform so far this year has been very good and our students look smart. Please keep in mind our policies on uniform, haircuts, jewellery and make up. Remember false eyelashes, false nails and fake tan are not allowed in school. Hoodies should also not be worn as an alternative to a coat. Our full uniform policy can be accessed [here](#).

Attendance and child sickness

We appreciate that at this time of year various illnesses can circulate; however, if your child has mild symptoms, this does not necessarily mean that they have to remain off school. To help determine if your child needs to remain off school or not, the NHS have provided useful guidance for parents on a range of common conditions. A link to it can be found [here](#).

Excellent attendance to school is critical and it may be useful to consider the following information. 90% in an exam would be celebrated as excellent but in terms of attendance, it means a child is missing 19 school days per year.

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning hours lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
Good	99%	188 days	2	10
	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
Room for Improvement	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
Danger Zone	92%	175 days	15	85
	91%	173 days	17	
	90%	171 days	19	95
Serious cause for concern/Potential Legal Action	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
	86%	163 days	27	135
	85%	161.5 days	29.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
80%	152 days	38	190	

**Figures based on 190 (whole year) expected attendance*

I'd like to thank-you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Davies

Headteacher