



# Ringwood School

20 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Minor Changes to our Behaviour/Rewarding Policy**

It was great to see so many of you at our information evenings for Year 7, 8 and 9 last week, and to see so many of our students proudly showing you our school (including the new toilets!). We are really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers of Year 10 and Year 11 at their respective information evenings over the next two weeks.

Those of you that were able to attend will already be aware of the minor changes we have made to our behaviour policy this year, however for those of you that were unable to make the evening or who have not attended yet, I wanted to make you aware of the changes we have made.

Firstly, we are no longer putting 'strikes' in the student diary for minor issues; these have been replaced by 'formal warnings', which are recorded directly onto the new school system, Arbor. Students can receive formal warnings for lack of equipment, incorrect uniform, no PE kit/performing arts/drama kit, chewing gum, jewellery, not completing home learning in a subject for the first time in a half term, or for disruptive behaviour in a lesson (first warning). From today (Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022), if a student receives three formal warnings in a week they will automatically be set an after school detention and you will be informed; if a student receives six formal warnings in a week then they will automatically be set a leadership detention and you will automatically be informed. These are all basic expectations and ones that most students can adhere to without any issues, however if you have concerns about your child's ability to meet these (eg. they are on the SEN register and struggle with organisation), please get in touch with your child's Tutor or Head of Year so we can discuss how we can best support them.

We have changed the process for recording these minor issues to help ensure consistency, which is something students had raised as a concern last year. Already it has had a significant positive impact on both students and staff, as getting the little things right means that staff can maximise learning time in a lesson and, with the little things addressed before the lesson has begun, staff/student relationships are immediately far more positive.

Similarly, in the interests of improving consistency, we have also changed the way in which we award House Points this year. These are also now awarded on Arbor (we no longer use ePraise), so staff can award them simply and quickly during a lesson. There are currently only five categories of award (home learning, classwork, positive attitude to learning, school ethos, general) and you will be automatically informed if your child receives House points during the school day. Students are working towards the same milestones as before (see the rewards page of the student diary for more information), however we have

already seen a huge increase in the awarding of House points, across all year groups. We are looking to get a 'shop' set up on Arbor, like we used to have on ePraise, so that students can spend their House points again; hopefully this will be in place by Christmas. We are also delighted that Celebration Evening can be a face-to-face event once again. We look forward to welcoming those of you invited to last year's celebration next Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup> September) – this was delayed to ensure we were able to host it in our new building. This year, the event will go back to being in the summer term; we look forward to inviting many of you to celebrate the success of our students this year in July 2023.

This year we continue to place high importance on punctuality to school and lessons. The school day still begins at 8.40am and ends at 3pm; if a student is late to school (after 8.40am) or late to lesson (after the second bell has gone after break or lunch, or after the lesson has started at any other time), they will be put into lunchtime detention the same day (or the following day, if they are late to lesson after lunch). If there was an exceptional circumstance that meant your child was unable to get to school on time through no fault of their own, please contact our Attendance Officer, either via email [attendance@ringwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@ringwood.hants.sch.uk) or by contacting school reception on 01425 475000, as soon as possible so the detention can be removed. Thank you for supporting your children in arriving to school on time; we know that for many of you the local roadworks often make this difficult (although hopefully not for too much longer!), and so we really appreciate your support.

As always, we will be taking feedback from students on the minor changes we have made this year via Student Voice, and those of you that have attended our information evenings already will be aware that Miss Adams is running a Parent Forum this year to ensure your voices are also heard.

We are incredibly proud of how positively our students have returned to school this academic year, and we are looking forward to a successful year ahead. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school and our students.

Yours sincerely

Miss Heather Jolly

Assistant Headteacher for Student Behaviour, Welfare and Personal Development