

14 November 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian

**CELEBRATING
SUCCESS**

We are rightly proud of the achievements of the young people at Heath Park. We are an outstanding school and have for many years secured outstanding outcomes for our students at both GCSE and A Level, comparable with the very best in the country. As a consequence, more and more of our students are able to make the positive next steps into further study and work. One thing all truly outstanding schools have in common, is that they continually review their practice in order to address emerging issues. We are now entering the era of reformed qualifications, which demand subjects to be studied at ever greater depth and to be assessed primarily by terminal examinations, sat at the end of a two or three year course. Many subjects, including English and maths, will have no coursework or controlled assessment elements and in the few areas, where that form of assessment continues, it will represent a far smaller proportion of the overall mark.

**A NEW
CHALLENGE**

As a consequence of the above, schools will have to alter the way they teach in order to develop students with the required skill set for success in these new examinations. We are calling these new skills “Scholarly Behaviours” and aim to develop them in our students through the creation of supportive, scholarly, learning environment in all our classrooms. This requires us having some changed, non-negotiable, expectations of all our students. We cannot do this in isolation hence us writing to you; successful students need to be committed, independent and resilient and, as parents, you can help foster these qualities. Working together in this way we will ensure that your child will enjoy the success they so richly deserve. Full attendance, punctuality, preparedness for learning are obvious givens and students failing to deliver these will obviously face consequences. Our intention is to develop an environment in which all students take greater responsibility for their behaviours and their learning, developing their resilience and reducing their dependency on others. The result will be a more self- reliant individual, better placed to make the right decisions, which will impact positively on their futures.

**READY TO
LEARN**

All students must come to school ready to learn. The uniform policy at Heath Park is clear and we are very appreciative of your support in this regard. Students do not come to school wearing trainers and they do not have excessive jewellery. In the new building we continue to insist that no outdoor coats are worn and that phones and earphones are neither used nor seen. All staff support this by consistently addressing students who fail to respect these guidelines. As we move towards a more independent student though, there will be an increased need to bring work home, and for this, all students will be required to carry an appropriate bag, one able to carry a range of exercise books and text books back and forth as well as all the equipment needed for the day.

**THE RIGHT
PLACE AT
THE RIGHT
TIME**

To be successful, students need to be in school and lesson on time. This is the most fundamental part of schooling – if you’re not here, you can’t learn. The correlation between good attendance and good attainment is unavoidable, and similarly, those who fail to attend fail to achieve. We expect all students to attend every day that they are physically able to do so, and have a minimum expectation of 96% attendance for all students. We cannot authorise holidays during term time and believe that this time out can have a major negative impact on a student’s chances of succeeding. We also expect all students to attend school on time. All students should be in the building by 8:45am when their form tutor will be ready to greet them. Anyone registering after 8:50am will be marked late and consequences will follow. Just as these rules apply to the start of the school day, they apply at lesson change over, lunch and break. All students should make their way promptly to the lesson they should be in, where staff will be waiting to begin the lesson. Again, any lateness will carry consequences.

**EFFECTIVE
LEARNING**

Our teachers and support staff will provide the very best learning experiences for all students, and to get the most from this, all students must meet the expectations of the teachers. They should listen attentively when the teacher is talking, or another student is contributing. They should respect the opinions of others in the room, drawing on it to inform their own views, and challenging in an appropriate way if needed. Teachers’ instructions will be for the smooth running of the lesson and to deliver the best possible experience, and students should act on these instructions quickly and without comment. The importance of homework in this new approach is paramount and we appreciate that for differing reasons not all will be able to complete this at home. We will ensure that any student wanting to complete their homework tasks at school, beyond the timetabled day, will be able to do so. Separate homework books are being provided in all subject areas and the expectation will be that they are maintained to the highest standard and kept in an appropriate sized school bag (rucksacks are ideal) along with all the other equipment needed to engage positively with their learning on a daily basis. When homework is set, this

should be recorded in homework planners and completed in the way set out. Failure to meet these standards of learning will result in consequences which are set out below.

HIGH STANDARDS OUTSIDE OF LESSONS

We are glad to finally have the facilities which Heath Park students deserve, with a first rate building and extensive grounds. Outside lessons, we expect all students to be respectful of their environment and other users. When moving between lessons, all students should make their way quickly to the next class without disturbing the learning of others. At break and lunch, all students should move to the ground floor and outside; there is no reason to be on the upper floors and both food and support can be found on the ground floor. Food can be consumed in the Dining Room and outside (as well as the Plaza for Key Stage 3 and the Sixth Form Café for Post 16 students (and Year 11 at lunchtime)) and all litter must be placed in the many bins around these areas. When the bell signals the end of break and lunch, students should quickly move to the next lesson; staff will be on duty to support this. The same level of respect and courtesy we expect in lessons should be shown outside lessons to all adults working in the building.

THE END OF THE DAY

At the end of the school day, students will leave lesson as they have throughout the day, orderly and when the teacher allows. Those leaving the building should do so by the main entrance unless being collected by car, when we insist that parents pick up from the Coronation Road entrance. There will always be extensive after school activities in all areas, and staff will be on hand to supervise these, as well as independent study in the library. Those not involved in such activities should leave the building when school finished.

Our expectations of students behaviour both in lessons and beyond is very high and supports learning. Where learning is good, students will be rewarded with 'Rs':

R1	Meeting all expectations of the classroom
R2	Good work and effort in the lesson
R3	Exceptional work and effort in the lesson

Further 'Rs' can be gained from activities beyond the classroom and in form time. All Rs are recorded and monitored and successful students celebrated.

SUPPORTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

Where students fail to meet our expectations there are consequences, or 'Cs':

C1	Clarification on the expected behaviour and a direction to amend actions
C2	A follow up to reinforce the expected standard
C3	Failure to make the required change and a consequence within the class eg moving seat, a change of activity
C4	Continued failure to behave in a way appropriate for learning and removal from the lesson to a senior teacher within the department. A 20 minute detention is issued for that day
C5	A refusal to recognise the required changes and removal from the department. A 60 minute detention is issued, to be completed after parental contact

The consequences system is intended to allow children to right their behaviour and return to learning. All Cs are recorded and monitored and additional support and programmes put in place to ensure that students are able to play a positive role in the classroom.

Where students are unable to be positive members of the school community, they will be removed from the school site to work in an Inclusion Centre. There, we will work with parents and outside agencies to support the child to understand the choices they are making and the impact this has on their learning. Once this remedial work is successfully completed, we will reintegrate the student into Heath Park. However, if the child is unable to respond, we will look for more permanent solutions which meet their needs.

I am confident that, as parents, you will agree that the principles outlined above are what you would expect from Heath Park, in order to support the progress and achievement of all students in our school. Please complete the attached form and return to your child's form tutor by Monday 21 November. Where requests are made, we will contact parents in the weeks following this date.

Yours faithfully

Mr Selkirk
CEO Central Learning Partnership Trust

Mrs Holloway
Executive Headteacher

Name	Form Tutor
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Please tick the statement which you believe to be correct:

I believe that the principles and guidelines outlined above ARE in the best interests of my child	
I believe that the principles and guidelines outlined above ARE NOT in the best interests of my child	

AREAS FOR CLARIFICATION

Please indicate below any areas where you wish for more clarification or any issues you wish to raise:

Signed	Name
	Relationship to Student
Contact Number If Clarification Required	

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S FORM TUTOR BY...