



Miss Sylvia Thomas – Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus

12th November 2021

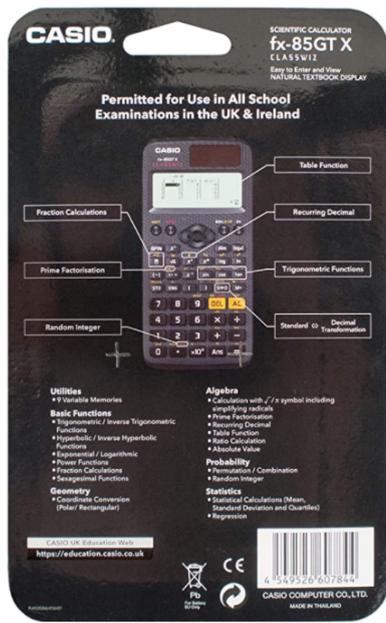
Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday was a very poignant day in our country’s calendar as we commemorated our fallen from decades of wars across the world. As usual we held our two minutes silence – the respect shown by the whole school community was incredible – the site was absolutely silent, save for some beautiful bird song.

Standards

Going round this week it was noticeable that both equipment and uniform are showing continuous improvement thanks to you supporting your children to meet our expectations. We will maintain our focus on the basics until every single child has raised their game to meet the standards we expect.

If you need to purchase your child a calculator we strongly advise that they have one that will last them all of the way to GCSE. The model we suggest is shown below as it has all of the functions they will need for their Year 11 exams. We start using the functions in Year 7 in our spiral maths curriculum to help students become adept at using the device.



With the weather changing now we wanted to reiterate that hoodies are not part of the school uniform. We encourage students to go outside at break time and lunchtime so please support them with wearing a suitable coat to school. We all know that teenagers for some reason seem to have a dislike for coats but sitting in wet clothes all day and being cold is not great for learning.

Punctuality

Whilst the vast majority of students are at school on time every morning (we expect them through the gates by 8.40 a.m. ready for mentor time at 8.45) we can still do better. We will not be satisfied until every child is on time for learning every day. This applies to both morning and afternoon registration.

We are putting in two new initiatives to support students being on time to learning.

1. We are employing an attendance support worker who will be starting work at 7.30 in the morning and visiting homes of students who are consistently late to school or don't turn up at all. He/she will be knocking on doors to make sure that students are up and about and ready for school. Please note that we will be fining those families whose children are persistently late for school and show no signs of improvement over the next few weeks.
2. We are putting in place a whole school detention on a Friday night for those students who fail to reach learning on time, either to am or pm registration. If a student is late once in a week they will have a 20 minute detention. This will increase to 1 hour for those who are late more than once.

There are really no excuses for being late for secondary age students and punctuality will be extremely important when they move into the world of work, often meaning they will have to be up far earlier than they have to be for school.

Reading

We are currently looking into grants to provide new resources for the library.

How can you help at home?

Having books, magazines and other texts at home makes a difference to children's interest in reading and their achievement. Exploring your local library is a great way to bring new texts into the home at no cost to you and it allows your child to encounter a variety of text types.

Extracurricular activities

Art club got off to a roaring start this week and was a mix of students from different ages. I got to see the work that they had produced – it was of great quality and I only wish that I had half of the talent these students possess.

If you have any concerns, worries, ideas for improving our work with you as parents please do not hesitate to contact us at school. We are striving for continuous improvement and any ideas you have are always welcomed with open arms.

Yours sincerely



Sylvia Thomas
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