



8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support in getting your children into school and dressed properly in such difficult times. I received a very welcome phone call from the DfE late on Thursday night asking us to be part of a case study because our attendance remains consistently high compared to national figures. We would like it to be higher of course and we remain committed to working with you to achieve this. Please carry on testing regularly for Covid-19 so that we can maintain the high levels of student attendance we have managed so far this year and also to keep our school community safe and well.

### **Standards focus for this week**

Our standards focus for this week is equipment (although we will still be working with students who haven't quite got their uniform spot on yet).

I know that the equipment list is on the website but after doing some of my own spot checks last week it seems that the following items are generally those that are missing:

- **Pencil case to keep everything together (only needs to be clear for exams in the sports hall for KS4 students)**
- **Ruler with clear markings (not with bits missing off the end so accurate measuring is impossible)**
- **Green pen**
- **Pencil**
- **Protractor**
- **Compass**
- **Glue stick**

Please help us by doing your own checks at home to make sure that your child is not disadvantaged in any way by not being fully equipped for learning. We have lost enough learning time over the pandemic without having to halt lessons to give out equipment which everyone should have every day.

### **Reading**

We have agreed as a campus that one of our moral imperatives is that every child who leaves us at 16 should be able to read at a functional reading age (this is defined as 11 years).

Did you know research shows that a child who reads/is read to for 5 minutes a day will expose them to around 400,000 words a year? Increasing that to 21 minutes exposes them to 1,823,000 words a year. 40 minutes results in 3,646,000 words a year.

We have invested considerably in both human resources and reading programmes this year to ensure that we attain this goal as rapidly as possible. If you are a parent of a Year 7 student you will have seen your son or daughter engaging with a programme called Lexia which we will have used with the whole of the year group by the end of this academic year. Likewise, if you are a parent with a child in Year 8 or Year 10 you may be contacted by school if your child has been chosen to take part in the Thinking Reading programme.



## How can you help at home?

Research shows that parents have an important role to play in developing a love of reading. One way you can help with this is to explore different texts with your child: magazines, blog posts, novels, online articles.

## The School Newspaper

I am so proud of the School Newspaper that Mr Bent is facilitating production of. He now has an editorial team of seven students from Year 7 and Year 8 who are doing a fantastic job of collecting copy and creating the newspaper each week. The newspaper has taken over from the Wykham Word which we used to produce and is designed to provide you with up-to-date information about what we are doing as a school.

## Extracurricular activities

Please encourage your children to make the most of the enrichment opportunities we have on offer in school. Children had so little chance to come together and have fun over the last 18 months – it is so important that they can play sport, do art or practice for the show with their peers. These are just some of the activities we have on offer at the moment.

There have been notable successes for our sports teams this term already!

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  
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus