

Wednesday 8 November 2017

Dear parents and carers,

I'm writing to inform you of some refinements made to our teaching and behaviour management in order to improve the quality of these vital aspects of our work and ensure pupils have the best quality of provision possible to achieve their goals. I thank you in advance for your full support in upholding these high standards.

Furthermore as the school progresses through this transitional phase, it is important that you have a voice on the Governing Board. As a result, I would like to invite expressions of interest in the Parent Governor role (see details below).

Written Feedback and Homework

For students to progress, it is important that they have feedback on their work. At Compass we give the students detailed feedback in the form of an improvement prompt. This asks the student to self-assess their understanding following an assessment, the teacher then provides a chance for the student to improve in the form of feedback and a follow up question.

- KS4 students are entitled to improvement prompts at least fortnightly
- KS3 students are entitled to fortnightly improvement prompts in the core subjects and two per half term in other subject areas
- All students are entitled to general teacher marking of work to check for completion, understanding and spelling, punctuation and grammar errors (see literacy key below). Students might also be asked to self and peer-assessment against specific criteria.

√	Good / Well written / Clear and correct
√√	Excellent / Success criteria met
^	Word missing
P	Missing punctuation
C	Capital letter error
Sp	Spelling error
//	New paragraph needed
?	Unclear - reread then rewrite

We have also introduced homework to support the learning in class. To help staff, students and parents monitor and manage homework we have bought a software package 'Show My Homework'. This is a great investment in home learning and will allow parents and students to access on line resources and a diary of

their child's homework. Downloading the app allows parents and students to receive notifications about the work set and its completion. A letter is to follow soon with details of how to access this.

Homework will be set as outlined below:

	English, Maths and Science	Humanities and languages	Arts, Computing, PE, Business studies
Year 7	Weekly homework	Half termly exploration projects	Half termly exploration projects
Year 8	Min		
Year 9	30 minutes	Weekly homework	
KS4	Weekly homework 60 minutes	30 mins Year 9 60 mins Year 10	Weekly homework 60 mins Year 10

Night Club Café

All pupils now have access to our Night Club. An after-school homework, study and revision session in the library supported by teachers (and snacks) from Monday to Thursday till 6pm.

High Expectations of Behaviour

All pupils are expected to arrive on time for lessons to maximise learning time. Classroom doors will close 3 minutes into the start of lessons and if students arrive after this time they will receive a same day 30-minute detention.

It is also vital that pupils are fully engaged in their learning and do not disrupt the learning of others. Unless an incident warrants immediate removal from a lesson, teachers will issue pupils with a series of cues to correct their behaviour:

1st Student's name on board

2nd Tick next to student's name and a 20 minute Teacher Detention

3rd Student to be removed from the lesson by an 'On-Call' member of staff.

Removal by the On-Call member of staff will result in a 60 minute Whole School Detention that evening which will include the opportunity for a restorative conversation with the class teacher. The school will notify you by 3pm if your child has a 1 hour detention. If the removal occurs too late in the day for this, we will arrange the detention for the next day.

Becoming a Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body of the school. As a school firmly rooted in our community, we are committed to providing a voice to our parents, and representation on the Governing Body is a great way to do this. Being a parent governor is an important role. As a parent governor you will become involved in the functioning of the school from a strategic perspective, helping to set the direction of travel, and ensuring that the Governing Body provides the necessary oversight and constructive challenge to continually drive improvement across the school. This is a significant unpaid commitment, which would require you to commit many hours to the school.

If you are interested in standing for election, please email chairgovs@compass-schools.com with your name and your child's name, a short biography, and 200 words on what you would bring to the board, by **Friday 25 November 2017**. Following this, parents will be invited to vote for their preferred candidate.

Keeping in Touch

We would like to keep in touch with all parents and carers on a regular basis to keep you up to date with events and important notices by email, text messaging and via the Parents' section of our website. We will also be re-introducing the Compass Community Bulletin. Please ensure we have the most up to date contact details for you including mobile number(s), email and address by contacting info@compass-schools.com.

Key Dates

Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th November	Year 10 work experience
Thursday 9 th November	Year 11 target pupil meetings
Tuesday 14 th November	KS4 options information evening
Wednesday 15 th – Friday 24 th November	Year 11 mock exams
Thursday 23 rd November	Year 10 academic parents evening (4-6pm)
Wednesday 6 th December	CommuniTea SLT parent forum (3:45-4:30pm)
Wednesday 6 th December	Year 11 parents evening (5-7pm)
Wednesday 6 th December	Winter Show Dress Rehearsal (5-7pm) [Y11 not involved]
Friday 8 th December	Winter Show 13:00-14:00 matinee to Primary Schools and 19:00-20:30 evening performance
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch at school
Wednesday 13 th December	Storytelling CommuniTea
Friday 15 th December	Last day of term (early close, 12 noon)
Wednesday 3 rd January	Students return to school for spring term

Please contact Ms Quigley via squigley@compass-schools.com if you would like to attend our CommuniTea events. The CommuniTea SLT parent forum is a good opportunity to meet with myself and other senior leaders in school to ask any questions and discuss ideas. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I hope to see soon you at one of our upcoming events and look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Marcus Huntley
Principal