

July 17, 2018

Re: Principal's End of Year Letter

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we close this academic year, thoughts move toward a reflection on what has been achieved and what we can do even better in the year ahead. In this letter I want to share some of these reflections with you and the implications of these for pupils starting the year with us in September.

Academic excellence

The 2017-18 academic year has been a transformational one for our school community which saw our first cohort of year 11 pupils complete their studies with us and now moving on to the next stage of their lives. Our major focus has been on academic excellence and developing our teaching and assessment practices including the introduction of frequent homework and feedback for pupils on how they can improve their work. We have also provided a comprehensive intervention programme, mainly targeting year 11, to ensure they fulfil their potential.

Our school vision that "Everyone in the Compass School community will confidently reach the destination to which they aspire" will continue to underpin our drive for academic excellence next year. This, together with those wider values of character are essential in ensuring pupils have options and opportunities ahead of them that will set them up for life.

In return, I request your support in supporting and actively promoting our values of aspiration, integrity, exploration and resilience.

From September you will find a renewed focus on learning in the classroom. Students will be expected to make the most of their time in lessons, proactively taking part and responding to teachers' feedback in books. Your child will have regular homework which will be posted on the Show My Homework platform; if you or your child don't have a log in, Mr Jones will be the point of contact (gjones@compass-schools.com). A focus will be on developing your child's independent learning skills and resilience that will ultimately lead to academic excellence. Masterclass sessions will run on Saturdays for Year 11 which allows a small group of students to work with their teachers to improve their understanding. Master Classes for other year groups will take place during school holidays and will be by invitation.

Behaviour for Learning

With excellent behaviour being such a strong indicator of academic and social success, we have focussed on improving behaviour across the school and also, through our FOCUS strategy, particularly emphasising those behaviours that overcome barriers to learning. We have also been robust in dealing with poor behaviour through the use of internal and external exclusion, and regrettably, have resorted to permanent exclusions.

In the year ahead there will be a continued focus on high standards and behaviour which demonstrates our students' love of learning and aspirations in lessons. We will move to a Year team system with each year group being supported by a Head of Year. We welcome new staff to our pastoral team, Ms Collison, Head of Year 9, and Mr Snoxell, Leader of Behaviour for learning.

Please see attached expectations with regards uniform, equipment and use of mobile phones. A focussed drive on getting these basics right from September will ensure that all students are able to make the most of the learning available to them at Compass.

Please support the school in ensuring excellent levels of behaviour and attitudes to learning. Our FOCUS strategy aims to ensure pupils always arrive to school organised with the right equipment, uniform and are: ready to learn; communicate appropriately and engage fully in class.

Excellent attendance

All pupils should ideally attend 100% of the time and be punctual to school. Instances of non-attendance and lateness mean pupils miss out on learning, other pupils' learning is disrupted, and resources are diverted away from teaching and enrichment to address the problem. Every lesson, every day counts in your child's learning journey and I don't want anyone to miss out.

While many pupils have maintained excellent levels of attendance, a disproportionate amount of time has been spent on pupils with low levels of attendance. As a result, I have doubled the amount of Education Welfare Officer support we have to ensure appropriate action is taken where attendance falls below expectations.

In the new year there will be increased monitoring of absence, and we will be tightening the expectations around medical absence and parental requests for leave of absence from school. We will continue to work with our external educational welfare officer and be meeting very early in the year with families at risk of failing to meet the school's expectations over attendance.

Our drive to continually improve teaching and learning will mean that any missed lessons will hugely impact on the progress that can be made in lessons and we will be working with student council to further develop the rewards for excellent attendance at school.

Rewards

I would like to ensure that all pupils are rewarded for doing the right things to support their own learning and helping to make the Compass School a special place to learn. Regrettably, due to problems with our VIVO Miles provider, we were unable to realise our plans for rewards in this year.

For September, there will be a new and exciting rewards system and we look forward to sharing this with students on their return. This will focus on not only rewarding the collective efforts of students in each house, but also the individual achievements and contributions to the wider school community.

Working with parents

We are here to serve this community and strive for the best possible opportunities for our pupils. No school can do this without the active support of parents and I would like you to get more involved with the school. Over the course of the academic year there are a range of events planned to help you support your child's learning ranging from GCSE information evenings, parents' evenings and parental consultation opportunities. Unfortunately, these have not always been well attended which is to the detriment of our pupils learning.

In the coming year we will continue to put on activities designed to keep you informed about your child's progress, how you can support them, and also from time to time, to receive your feedback on changes that impact on your child's learning.

We will keep you posted about these opportunities through our calendar, text messages and emails, but it might also be helpful to also keep in touch by following us on Twitter: @CompassSE16.

Finally, attached to this letter are:

- Start of Term arrangements
- Key Dates for 2018-19
- Uniform and Equipment Requirements 2018-19

I very much look forward to another year at Compass School and your support in order to make it a successful one for our school community.

I wish you and your child the very best for the year ahead and a restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. M Huntley
Principal

Start of Term Arrangements

There will be a phased return to school in September with years 7, 10 and 11 returning on Tuesday 4th September and year 8 and 9 on the 5th. The respective arrival times are as follows:

Tuesday 4th September (Partial Return)

Year	Times	Programme
7	8:25 – 3:30	Assembly, Learning Family Time, lessons
11	9:00 – 4:30	Assembly, Study Skills Training
10	1:00 – 3:30	Lunch on arrival, followed by Study Skills Training

Wednesday 5th September (Full Return)

All pupils arrive on site by 8:25.

Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term

- Tuesday 4 September – Friday 19 October
- Half Term Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October
- Monday 29 October – Friday 21 December

Spring Term

- Tuesday 8 January – Friday 15 February
- Half Term Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February
- Monday 25 February – Friday 5 April

Summer Term

- Tuesday 23 April – Friday 25 May
- May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6 May
- Half Term and Intervention/Masterclasses: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May
- Monday 3 June – Friday 19 July

Staff Training Days

- Monday 3 September 2018
- Friday 30 November 2018
- Monday 7 January 2019
- Friday 28 June 2019

School Uniform

All students must wear the correct uniform at all times and are responsible for making sure that they come to school in uniform every day. Students must bring their PE kit on all required days. Students must also ensure that they meet our expectations of hair, jewellery and make-up outlined below.

Students who come to school without the correct uniform, inappropriate jewellery, hair or make-up or without the correct equipment may be asked to rectify the issue immediately by being asked to wear spare school uniform, including footwear, remove jewellery or make up or may be sent home to change. You will be given a 30 minute detention to be complete after school in that day.

School Uniform is:

- ✓ Plain mid-blue single-breasted blazer with Compass logo on the pocket – this must be worn at all times
- ✓ Plain navy blue V-necked jumper (optional)
- ✓ White shirt buttoned to the neck
- ✓ Embroidered tie in house colour
- ✓ Socks – grey or black
- ✓ Plain black leather shoes with no logos (please images of suitable and unsuitable shoes on our website)
- ✓ Belts, if worn, must be plain black with a plain buckle
- ✓ **Boys:** mid grey (tailored, not tight) trousers; **Girls:** mid grey (tailored, not tight) trousers or Compass tartan / grey knee length skirt
- ✓ Plain navy or black hijab (optional)
- ✓ A plain school bag large enough to carry an unfolded A4 folder

Physical Education Uniform (which must be worn during PE and Sports Enrichments) is:

- ✓ Compass School blue polo shirt
- ✓ Compass School reversible navy rugby top (optional)
- ✓ Navy blue shorts
- ✓ Pale blue socks
- ✓ Trainers with non-marking soles
- ✓ Plain black / blue tracksuit bottoms with no logo

Jewellery, hair and makeup

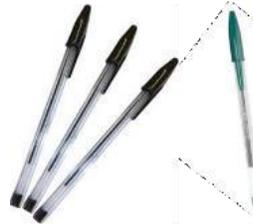
- ✓ Students should not wear jewellery to school, other than single, small, plain, gold or silver stud earrings and/or a watch. Jewellery and piercings to other parts of the face and body must not be worn whilst at school.
- ✓ Hair must be neat with no shaved patterns in hair styles or facial hair. Hair must be of a natural colour.
- ✓ Any hair accessories must be discreet and navy blue/grey/black. No brightly coloured hair accessories will be permitted. Headscarves are not permitted unless worn for religious observance. All items must be removed for PE lessons for health and safety reasons.
- ✓ Where a pupil is required for religious reasons to wear additional items of jewellery, parents/carers must send a letter to the school to confirm this and reasonable allowances will be made, providing the health and safety of the student or their peers is not compromised.
- ✓ Students should not wear makeup or nail polish to school, and staff have the authority to ask students to remove makeup with makeup remover wipes. Acrylic nails will be removed.

Equipment for Learning

All students must have full equipment with them every day and it must be displayed during each lesson. If you do not have the right equipment, you will receive a 30 minute detention afterschool.

The following equipment is required to be brought to school every day:

- ✓ Black or blue pen
- ✓ Green pen
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Eraser
- ✓ Reading book
- ✓ Casio Scientific Calculator
- ✓ Planner



Optional but useful items include

- ✓ Colouring Pencils
- ✓ Highlighter pens
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Compass

Equipment for learning is available to purchase from the library before school, or students services during morning break, at lunchtime and afterschool

Mobile Phones

You are allowed to bring mobile devices (phones or tablets) to school **but they should not be used anywhere on the school site.**

During the school day your phone should be **turned off and out of sight**, unless you have been asked to use your phone by a teacher.

Mobile phones should not be seen or used anywhere on the school site (this includes any point after the green entrance gate on Drummond Road). Phones seen and/or used on site will be confiscated. **Confiscated phones will be taken directly to the main office/reception where they are put in the safe until collected by a parent on Friday afternoons.**

Your phone is your responsibility. The school will not be responsible for any lost or stolen mobile devices.