

25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear parents and carers

### Head Teacher's Update 25 September 2024

Thank you for the warm welcome that many of you have offered me over the last few weeks as the new school year has started. It was good to meet some of you at our 'Meet the Head Teacher' event last week. Our Year 7 students have settled in well and it has been brilliant to see the focus from returning students in their lessons. It is especially good to see so many Year 11 students working hard in lessons and pushing themselves ahead of upcoming mock exams.

#### Student punctuality

There is an increasing problem with students arriving late to school. Students need to have **arrived at school by 8:30 each morning** and then need to be at their Development Time rooms by 8:35. Students need to arrive on time to school to help them develop the good habits of punctuality they will need for the rest of their lives; punctuality is a habit that will help students achieve success. It is also important that they are arriving at Development Time and lessons on time so that teachers can start their lessons promptly and maximise the learning for students.

Therefore, we are making a change to the sanction for lateness so that we can emphasise the importance of this habit. From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September if a student arrives late to school, they will receive a 15 minute detention that they will sit between 15:00 and 15:15 on the same day. In the unlikely event that this detention is missed this will escalate to a 30 minute detention on the following day. You will receive a message letting you know about the detention, so you know when to expect them home. I am confident that only a small minority of students will receive a late detention, but it is important that we improve the current situation. I know that we can count on your support as we help our young people develop good habits that will last them a lifetime.

#### Mental health support

We have been contacted by The AIM Group who deliver **Free Online Level 2 Accredited Courses** to help better understand some key issues around young people's mental health and wellbeing, along with a range of other qualifications that may help with developing your own careers.

Here's some of the most popular subjects available:

**Neuroscience in the Early Years - Children and Young Peoples Mental Health - Understanding Autism - Specific Learning Difficulties - Nutrition and Health - Adverse Childhood Experiences - Bullying in Children and Young People - Distressed Behaviour in Children - Mental Health Awareness - Counselling - Team Leading - Business Administration - Customer Service - Safeguarding and Prevent - Functional Skills English & Maths**

These are just the popular qualifications, but they have over 30 available. The qualifications are completed within a 6–12 week period at your own leisure. They are equivalent to a GCSE Grade C. You can do as many as you like, however you can only do one at a time.

**The only criteria you must meet to be eligible is:**

- Aged 19 or over on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024
- Have lived in the UK/EU for 3+ years
- Not already on a Government funded course

If you are interested in undertaking one of these free online courses or would like further information, then please complete [this link](#). You will then be sent an enrolment form to complete set up.

If you have any questions prior to expressing interest, call **Shane Cooke on 0203 923 4013** or drop him an email at [shane.cooke@theaimgroup.co.uk](mailto:shane.cooke@theaimgroup.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Cassidy', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Cassidy  
Head Teacher