



Monday 27th February 2023

Dear families,

A warm welcome back to the Academy following half-term. It has been wonderful to see so many of our young people returning with enthusiasm and a readiness to learn today. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you our **key priority for the academy**, this half-term and beyond. Please do take time to read the letter below and contact the academy on office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, should you have any concerns or questions following this.

Taught Behaviour Curriculum

To ensure that we are able to provide good learning experiences for all students at our Academy, we will make our requirement for all students to:

- demonstrate that they are **ready** to learn,
- be **responsible** for their own learning behaviours and
- show **respect** to all members of the school community

much clearer and we will be reminding students of their responsibilities much more often.

The Academy does not tolerate poor behaviour or disruption to learning at any time. We will support all students to meet our expectations by teaching them how to behave in the right way.

Today we have launched our taught behaviour curriculum with the students. This is called **The 'Right Way'**. All students have received an introduction to this through assembly and through their tutor time. This curriculum will be taught across all subjects and your child(ren) should see a consistent approach to this across all of their lessons. Your child(ren) will also be taught the 'why' behind our expected behaviours, which is important for their understanding.

Academy leaders have worked hard to ensure that this curriculum is based on current research about what works best in schools, so that all our community can have confidence that we are doing the very best for our young people. This research states that students' behaviour improves when families and schools work together to provide clear expectations and support for their young people, and I am certain that this community has the strength to do this. We need to collectively teach our young people how to be **ready, respectful, and responsible for their learning**. Alongside teaching expected behaviours, we will pledge to continue to do the following:

- ✓ Know and understand our children and their influences outside of the academy
- ✓ Continue to support our teachers with high-quality training and recruitment
- ✓ Support children with additional needs, by being consistent with our expectations and by following expert advice, where necessary
- ✓ Being consistent, open, and transparent with all members of our academy community

We expect our students to be excellent ambassadors when travelling to and from the Academy, whilst at school and in the local community. To make this clear to everyone, we have created an information booklet that outlines our Academy **'Right Way'**. The link to this is [here](#). You will see that this includes a section that will provide families with guidance too. This is important. We need your full support and help. We all need to work together to provide the young people in our Academy with the tools to become **responsible, respectful young people who are ready to flourish in all aspects of life**.

On the 10th March 2023, we will be inviting families into the academy to provide parents with an opportunity to discuss this with senior leaders. More information on this will follow before the end of this week.

Toilets in D-Block

Your child may have informed you that toilets in D-Block have been closed on the first and second floor of this block. This is to ensure that we can maintain supervision of the toilets and having three sets of toilets in one building is difficult for us to staff throughout the day. It is the only building where this is the case, for example, A-Block has three floors and only one set of toilets on the ground floor. Students have asked for increasing supervision in this

area and we have listened to their concerns. Based on our comparisons with other schools and with building requirements for the number of toilets on a school site, we have too many. Our most used toilets in D-Block, A-Block and B-Block and in the PE changing areas, remain unchanged and provide enough facilities for our students. All toilets remain open throughout the day. We will monitor toilet use and if there is any evidence that this is impacting student welfare, we have made changes that mean that they can be reopened at a later date. We do not envisage this to be the case, however.

The Turning Circle

Some students and their parents have raised concerns about the amount of traffic on the school site and the number of parents using the turning circle to drop off and pick up their children before and after school. We agree with their concerns. Because of this, after the Easter break, the academy site will no longer be open to parents for drop-off and collection. We appreciate that this is a significant change for the Academy and so, wanted to provide you with this information in a timely manner. We have spent time considering the impact of this and we are confident that this will make a real difference to our school community. Some of the key reasons behind this decision are listed below:

Long-term investment in the playground space for our children.

As well as wanting to feel safer, students have told us that they want more sporting and playground facilities during social times at break and lunch time. We believe that this is important, so after Easter the turning circle will become a further playground area for students. The Trust will be investing, over the summer and beyond, in new sporting facilities, seating areas and food serveries to provide students with more space during these times. The turning circle will provide this much needed outdoor space. Work will begin on this, after Easter, with the starting phase being fencing and pedestrianisation.

Safety and Wellbeing of staff and students

We will be investing in new gating across the site over the coming months and this will include closing off the main site to visitors and cars so that students and staff feel safe. Unfortunately, we have had incidents where parents and other children from outside our community have approached children and staff during the school day and have been abusive and aggressive. Whilst this is rare, we have managed this, with support from the police. We have listened to parental and staff voice and have acted accordingly here. We will make further alterations so that parents and visitors will be able to access the site through a visitor's entrance which will lead to main reception only. Car parking will be available for visitors and parents who have appointments only, not for drop off or collection.

Our pledge to the sustainability agenda

We wrote recently about our pledge to make the Academy more sustainable. Once the turning circle is closed to all parents, we would encourage families in the near local area to walk or cycle to school, reducing the number of cars moving to and from the academy site.

We will, of course, provide more detailed information on all of the above, over time. We thank you for your support and your children's support in providing us with vital feedback. We hope you can see how important improvement is to us.

We will write again, this week, with an update on the parental engagement day (10th March 2023), mentioned earlier. Once again, if you have any concerns or questions, contact office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk for further details.

Kind regards,



Miss Nicola Crehan
Principal