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**LEARNING TO BE EXTRAORDINARY**

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Part of the CSIA Trust, Company No. 7551989

28 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you to offer some guidance and clarity following the start of term. The vast majority of students have started the term incredibly well with over 3,000 postcards and over 10,000 praise points issued this term. However, I also know that for some students, the adjustment has not been as easy. This letter and supporting document is designed to help answer some of the questions that we have had.

Supporting students with changes

We have confirmed that with the exception of the requirement for a clear pencil case, our rules have not changed. However, the rules are now upheld consistently and there are follow-ups if the students do not meet the expectations. For some students this has felt like a big change. We know that this has been difficult for some students but we want to reassure everyone that staff are here to support all students.

The follow up system is based on 'look back, plan forward'. It is important to us to help students to look back at the choices they make and the things they do, so they learn how to do better moving forwards – an important life skill for everyone!

It has been great to talk to parents to find out how we can be even better at supporting students in meeting our expectations. These changes have included:

- ✓ Uniform for students to borrow in triage before school
- ✓ A stationery shop is available in the Learning Zone before school, break, lunch and afterschool.
- ✓ Helping students to correct equipment and uniform issues in triage to prevent reflection time
- ✓ Meeting with students individually to prepare for the day and make positive plans
- ✓ Working with Parents/Carers to review reasons for triage to make positive and supportive plans with students and trusted adult mentors

In this letter:

Well done everyone - we are proud of you.

Frequently asked questions and Myth Busting – we please read the document which we hope will answer some of your frequently asked questions.

More information about how your child can access support.

Please do book a tour of the school or a meeting if you would like to talk anything through.



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### Frequently asked questions

It is important to us that we are clear in our communication with parents. We have had feedback that not all students understand the new systems fully and this has made it difficult to have supportive conversations at home. We are also aware of damaging inaccuracies that have been shared on social media and media outlets. These have not been helpful in keeping a harmonious learning environment for all. So to help all Parents/Carers to support their child, and to ensure clarity, we have created a 'Frequently asked questions guide to the school's approach towards our Habits for Life. We hope that you will be able to see the reason behind the 'rules' but also how we support students to achieve the expectations. We do have high expectations of our students; we always have and we always will. We know that this will help all students to be successful in their future ambitions.

### Parent Forum

I would also like to explain why the Parent Forum, scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> September, was cancelled. This forum was designed to engage with members of our community who want to work with the school. This may have included setting up a PTA or volunteering at school events. Unfortunately, it became clear at the Year 11 Welcome event and through social media that a vocal minority intended to use this meeting for a different purpose. We want to listen to and work with all Parents and Carers, but large meetings where people cannot speak clearly and staff cannot respond appropriately do not help to move things forwards. For further context, we have received complaints from Parents and Carers about the Year 11 Welcome evening because they were not able to achieve the intended outcomes of the event.

We are looking at opportunities for Question and Answer sessions, but these are likely to be conducted remotely to allow everyone involved the opportunity to be heard and for the school to respond. In the meantime, please do continue to email Miss Hendrick on [hendrickk@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:hendrickk@cambornescience.co.uk) who will be able to help you to talk to the right people and resolve any worries you may have.

We are proud to serve our Community and we have always been proud to work together with our Parents and Carers. This must continue for the benefit of the students that we work with.

### Moving Forwards

We have reviewed our practice and implementation of our behaviour policies. We have added many measures to support our students in meeting our expectations. It has been impressive to see the number of students in reflection reducing dramatically – students are very quickly becoming more confident, organised and successful; students and staff have shared that they like the focus in the classroom. We are more than happy to show parents around the school to witness this for themselves.



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We are confident that the school will continue to operate smoothly and students will be able to experience the benefits of the more consistent systems as their learning environment improves even more. The majority of students in the school are already very successful and we will continue to work with any student who is struggling. We want all students to be happy and successful.

We hope that the enclosed document explains in more detail what our expectations are and how we will support students to achieve them. If there is anything else that we can do to help you in helping your child be as successful as possible, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Emma Haase

Principal