



St. Antony's Catholic College

in partnership with Loreto Grammar School

May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately, since returning from the Easter break, we have seen a significant increase in the number of physical confrontations which have occurred both in and outside of school. It is essential that St Antony's is a safe school for your son/daughter to attend and it is priority for us to return to the situation of recent years when fights were a rare occurrence. We have dealt severely with the instigators and aggressors in each of these incidents and will continue to do so. There is no excuse for a student to physically attack another student. It is not a sign of strength, rather one of weakness. To deter other students from making similar poor choices in the future, the sanctions for such incidents are being increased. Any instigator of a physical assault can expect to be isolated, stepped out to another school or excluded. We will not tolerate violent acts in our school.

At the heart of the relationship that exists between the staff of St Antony's and its parents is the understanding that we have the long-term interests of your children in common. I am extremely grateful to the majority of parents/carers who support the policies and decision making of the school to ensure that their son or daughter is making the right choices, thereby enabling them to achieve their academic potential and be the best that they can be. A small but seemingly increasing minority of parents are, however, frequently challenging staff who need to raise a behavioural concern or impose a sanction. This challenge often manifests itself in the form of verbal abuse. I'm sure you would agree that this is not acceptable in our school as it is not acceptable in other work environments or indeed other social settings. It is essential that teachers can focus on teaching, preparing high quality lessons and marking. It is essential that our support staff are not verbally abused as they go about doing their daily jobs to the highest of standards.

Some challenge from parents focuses on the high expectations established at school with regard to behaviour and appearance. There are no new rules or policies in place and parents have been informed of our expectations on numerous occasions, in letters, on the website and at school events. Students also have these expectations frequently explained. For clarity, I would like to reiterate:

- A student arriving to form after 9am is late and will serve a 30 minutes detention that night.
- A student receiving a C3 in class, usually for repeated disruption to learning or refusal to undertake a class task, will serve a detention of up to 60 minutes that night.
- Makeup, including nail varnish or false nails, is not allowed. Students will be asked to remove makeup and refusal to do so will be considered defiance and dealt with as such.
- Jewellery is not allowed and removal will be required, including piercings. Items may be confiscated.
- Mobile phone use is not permitted inside the school building and phones will be confiscated until collected by a parent. Refusal to hand over a phone will be considered defiance and dealt with as such.

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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We must remember that we are the adults in this triangular relationship (St Antony's, parents, students) and that our school is a caring and supportive environment. We do not wish this environment to become eroded by the behaviour of a small minority whose parents will not back the school in its efforts to ensure that all students achieve to the best of their ability whilst learning to conform to the rules of an organisation, an essential life skill. Students must accept that there will be consequences when they breach the rules and I look forward to full parental support when a sanction needs to be imposed.

With kind regards,

Mrs Wright – Headteacher

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