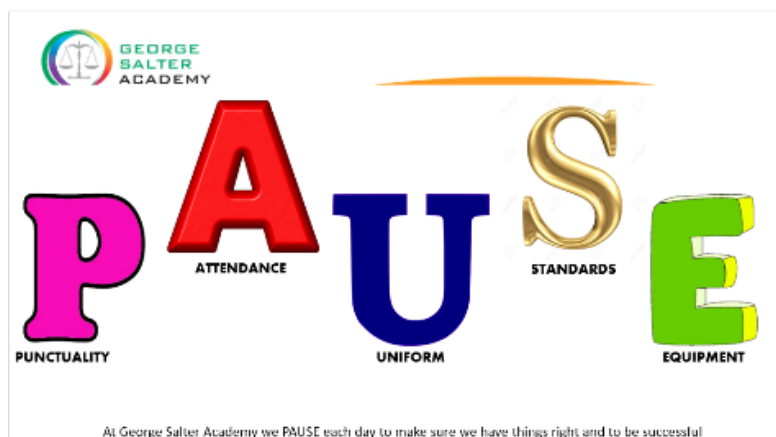


3rd October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardians

Firstly, my name is Mr J P McInerney and I would like to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal for Student Welfare. We have been back in school for over 4 weeks now and our students have been fantastic. When walking around the Academy, watching our young people engaged in their particular lessons is a real pleasure.



Since starting back, we have introduced PAUSE into our Academy language which is a way of asking our students to stop, think and reflect each morning to ensure they are ready and equipped to face the day ahead. We feel that if our young people do this they have the best possible chances of being successful.

Punctuality – We also pride ourselves on working with you to instil the importance of excellent punctuality (above 98%) with your child. Students at George Salter are expected to be on school site

by 8:35am and begin making their way to tutor time from 8:37am, with learning beginning promptly at 8:40am. Any students arriving after this time and before 9:00am, when the register closes, are classified as being late and will consequently receive a late mark next to their name which will incur a 20 minute lunch reflection on that day. Any students who arrive after this time without medical evidence will receive an Unauthorised Absence mark for the AM session and consequently receive a 40 minute lunch reflection.

Attendance – Attendance and punctuality at George Salter Academy is taken very seriously and it is important to reiterate the importance of this message on a regular basis. Education is strongly linked to achievement and having good attendance (above 96%) is the single most important factor to ensuring that young people have the maximum life chances.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few key attendance messages:

- If your child is absent (on a given day), a message should be left on our absence line each day that this is the case and indeed any subsequent and consecutive days of absence.
- Any medical appointments must be made before or after school. Where this is not possible, it is requested that your child comes to school before their appointment and returns afterwards.



- If your child falls ill during the school day, our school nurse will contact you in the first instance. Please do not encourage your child to contact you directly as the message you receive might differ from what is actually happening.

Uniform – The vast majority of our students look fantastic in their GSA uniform, however a small number of students sometimes choose to push boundaries with the rules. This can sometimes lead to conflicts with members of staff when challenged. Students must ensure that they arrive to the academy in the correct uniform, in particular the correct shoes, tie and jacket. Failure to do this will result in difficult conversations and this will never go unchallenged by any member of the Academy staff. For girls, coloured nail varnish has also become common practice, please discourage this from happening during the school week as we will be asking the students to remove the nail varnish with make-up remover.

Standards – Behaviour around GSA is excellent, this includes behaviour for learning within lessons. Sometimes students choose not to behave in the way we would expect and consequently our behaviour policy is enforced. Students must remember that self-regulating their own behaviour is just as important as doing the right thing when a member of staff is present. We all have a collective responsibility to ensure the Academy is a safe place to be and that every student is able to progress academically. We simply ask every student to be the best person they can be at all times.

Equipment – All students must arrive to school each day equipped for the lessons they have. The very basic equipment **EVERY** student should have is: Pen, Pencil, Ruler, Planner & School Bag. As above, most students have this day in and day out, however if a student goes from lesson to lesson inadequately equipped, they immediately undermine their learning opportunities that are presented. Equally some students are arriving to the Academy without a suitable rucksack to carry items of equipment and books and instead choose to carry the small 'man-pouches' which are not suitable. We are asking all parents to ensure students carry a rucksack that is big enough to hold an A4 Folder. **When we return from October Half-Term, we will no longer allow students to carry the 'man-pouch' and will ask them to remove it and put it inside their rucksack.**

The information above is not new, however at various times throughout the year we need to stop and remind our young people that in order to be successful within GSA adopting good habits are crucial.

Effective partnerships between school and home are important. In this I trust that we have your support in ensuring that your child knows and understands the importance of being ready to face the day to day of GSA. I look forward to working with you in the future around the issues above.

Yours sincerely

J P McNerney

Mr J P McNerney

Assistant Principal