

23rd September, 2020



Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

Year 11 punctuality

I'm writing to you to ask for your support.

As you know, we've put in place a number of arrangements for the new school year to ensure our students and staff are as safe as possible. I'm happy to report that generally, the new arrangements appear to be working as well as we could have hoped. Hopefully your son will be able to confirm this!

As I wrote in *Coronavirus Update 20*, one of the features of our new timetable is that the total amount of teaching time for classroom-based subjects has been increased by 25 minutes a week. This was a deliberate move to give teachers and their classes a chance to address any gaps in learning that emerged post-lockdown – *ie* to enable some 'catch up' time for everyone.

I'm sorry to advise you that this extra provision is being undermined (and, indeed, reversed) by the fact that a large number of our Year 11 boys are not arriving on time for school. One morning this week, for example, only 41% of the year-group was present on the large yard when the boys were told to go to their lessons (at 8:31am).

I appreciate 8:35am is an earlier start than some students may have been used to. We deliberately gave Year 11 an early start (and hence an early finish) so that if restrictions allow, we will be able to look at running a version of our popular (and impactful) 'Revise Till 5' initiative after Christmas. But at the moment, too many boys are missing out on learning at the start of the day.

This morning I asked a number of later arrivals why they were late for school. Many of the answers outlined circumstances entirely within the boys' control, such as "*I was late leaving the house*" (setting an alarm for five minutes earlier may help), or "*I couldn't find my RS book*" (it's still worth packing the night before!).

If your son is one of those who arrive punctually – thank you! But if your son is one who struggles to get to school on time, please could you stress to them the importance of arriving at school so that they can start their lessons promptly at 8:35am? (In practice this means being in the large yard by 8:30am). I've asked our Lesson 1 staff to record how late any late arrivals are, as repeated lateness may need to be something that is reflected in any future reference we may write – to say nothing of the lost learning time too.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If there are any specific issues that we can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.