

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to start by introducing myself as the new Principal for Secondary here at Serlby Park Academy. I have worked at the academy before, between 2020-21, however most of this time was spent with restrictions due to the pandemic, so I did not get to meet many parents. We have had fantastic engagement at the Year 6 transition evening and the Year 10 results evening. I look forward to this continuing and meeting you all throughout the 2023/24 academic year.

The 2022/23 academic year has been an incredibly successful one for students and staff here at the academy. Pupils are still working hard and will continue to do so until we finish for summer at **12.00pm on Friday 21st July**. Before this I would like to take the opportunity to give some notices and a reminder of several expectations that will make their transition back to school in September easier.

Piercings – Whilst at school, pupils are not to have any piercings in (including clears). They are only at school for 6 hours per day, so there should be no problems with removing the piercing whilst they are in school. Please support this by ensuring any new piercing that your child gets, is in the first week of the holidays, so it has plenty of time to heal before they return to school in September.

Uniform and footwear – Just a reminder that the same uniform rules apply, this includes: A Delta blazer, plain white shirt, plain black straight leg trousers or black pleated skirt (worn with tights) and plain black polishable school shoes (with no embellishments). I have attached a sheet with picture examples of what is considered appropriate uniform. Note – There are some slight changes to the blazer and tie for the 2023/24 academic year but there is no need to purchase new if the ones your child has are still serviceable.

Coats and bags – All pupils must carry a plain, fastenable school bag that is large enough to fit an A4 folder inside. Coats can be worn whilst outside the school building but must be removed when inside.

Punctuality – Children are expected to have crossed the blue line (school entrance) by 8.25am and can be considered late if they arrive after that. Please ensure your child has left the house each morning with enough time to make it to school.

School break/lunch menu – We have recently brought the school catering in-house (meaning we are no longer using an external company). This means that from September we can offer a new menu which we think the pupils will really enjoy. You will be able to view the weekly menu on our website.

Dinner money debt – We have recently audited our accounts and there is over £5000 of debt on our pupil's accounts from unpaid dinner money. To stop this happening again we have placed a £5 limit as the maximum amount of debt a child can have on their account. After this they will be unable to buy food from the canteen (alternative arrangements will be made). If there is ever a time when you know there may be difficulties around your child's account, please contact school in advance and we will try to find a solution.

Free school meals policy – Some of the debt mentioned above has come from pupils not understanding how free school meals work. A separate email/text will be sent to parents explaining how this will work from September. If you have had a change of circumstance and feel your child should be entitled to free school meals, please contact the Academy.

Water bottles – We have recently made the change to eliminating single use plastics being sold in the in the academy. When this came into effect, we gave every pupil a Delta water bottle and we will do the same for the new Year 7's. At lunch time, washable plastic cups will be provided for children to use at the water fountain or juice machine, but we suggest your child brings a reusable water bottle into school which they can use throughout the day. If they require a new Delta bottle, they are available from the canteen tills for £1.20, alternatively pupils can bring in another bottle of their choosing (please not glass).

Return to school in September – Pupils will start returning to school on Tuesday 5th September and we will be staggering the start times for each year group. When pupils come into the Academy, they will start with an assembly then go to form to receive their planners, timetable and any other relevant information. Please can pupils be at the blue line (school entrance) for the following times:

Year 7 – **8.25am** Tuesday 5th September
Year 11 – **11.00am** Tuesday 5th September
Year 10 – **12.00pm** Tuesday 5th September
Year 8 – **1.30pm** Tuesday 5th September
Year 9 – **8.25am** Wednesday 6th September

I hope you and your family have a great summer and we look forward to seeing the children again in September.

Mr J Hodgson

Secondary Principal