



22 May 2023

Dear parent/carers

Re: Toilet Lanyards and Late Bell

This week we are launching new strategies designed to further improve pupil movement around the Academy site and build on the positive difference we have made to culture and climate this year. There is a summary of the updates below.

Toilet Lanyards

At TDA, we do not stop students from going to the toilet during lesson time. We are clear, though, that there are only two reasons students are allowed to go to the toilet during lessons:

- 1) There is an identified medical need linked to medical evidence provided.
- 2) There is a genuine emergency approved by a teacher.

As a result, we now have purple lanyards in place, which are given to students allowed by a teacher to use the toilet during lessons. This acts as a "Toilet Pass". The colour of the lanyard identifies the reason that the student is out of lesson and the pass details the member of staff who has given permission. We support students to manage the use of toilet facilities, and this additional strategy further improves safeguarding.

Late Bell

We are also working hard to improve movement to lessons, ensuring that lessons begin on time and learning can start straightaway. Most students are always on time and enthusiastic for their lessons. We expect all students to be on time to lessons, with no stopping and chatting to friends and no visiting toilets if doing so will cause lateness. Our aim is to make sure that movement around the Academy is even more purposeful and calm. As a result, we have added a new "Late Bell", this means:

- 1) At the start of the school day, and **five minutes into every lesson** a bell will sound. After this bell has sounded, if students are not yet in their lesson, **they are unacceptably late.**
- 2) If a student arrives in school or to a lesson after the late bell, **they will receive an automatic, same-day R30 detention.**

Obviously, there are situations where students might need to get changed for subjects or pack away specialist equipment. Teachers have been asked to factor this into lesson planning, so that students are always on time. Any extraordinary circumstances will be reviewed by the Head of Year, who may remove any detentions should this be the correct course of action. Students have been well prepared for this change through assemblies and their behaviour curriculum during coaching time, so are fully prepared for updates to expectations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch

Kind regards

Mr Mike Brett

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Brett".

Vice Principal

