



6th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'Connecting with others'

With just two weeks to go until the Christmas holidays start, preparations are reaching the final stages for festive events in December. Students are putting on a school production of Annie, the sixth form are performing a production of scenes from Shakespeare's plays and rehearsals are in full swing for our new Graduation/Christmas concert in Coventry Cathedral.

We are starting a piece of work with students about routines and procedures for moving around the site and when in lessons. It is being modelled around 'respect'; respect for others and the environment. We are holding assemblies this week to give some clarity around this:

- **Registration:** Students are prompt to lessons.
- **Exits:** If a student is allowed to leave a lesson, it must be with a valid pass such as a toilet pass. (NB: Students must not leave lessons to fill up water bottles).
- **Start of lessons:** Students are greeted at the door and given a task to complete.
- **Phones:** Mobile phones are away, unless directed for use by the teacher.
- **End of lessons:** Lessons finish positively and on time with students not being allowed out earlier.
- **Coats:** Students should remove coats in and be correctly dressed in full school uniform.
- **Truancy:** In lesson truancy is followed up by the teacher with work being completed later.

We took possession of our new E block last week. Students have been enjoying eating in the new canteen, having music lessons in the bespoke music rooms and Year 11 have been sitting mock exams in the new, multi-purpose, sound proofed exams spaces on the first floor.

As a physics teacher, I have been fascinated to read about the new 'Square Kilometre Array' (SKA) that started its construction on Monday. It will be the largest radio telescope in the world when completed in 2028 and is split across South Africa and Australia, with a headquarters in the UK. The facility will address the biggest questions in astrophysics and will perform the most precise tests of Einstein's theories, and even search for extra-terrestrials. One of the exciting things about it is the extent of co-operation required between countries to deliver projects like this. These connections are vital to its success. Being able to communicate effectively and connect with others makes the world a kinder place. The search for E.T. has captured the imagination of generations as we look for the answer to that question, 'are we alone?'

We are talking to our children and young people about how to connect with each other and staff positively and effectively, to leave their mobile phones alone when in school so that they can hold conversations and learn from each other. It is such a joy to be able to connect and live with others in community that we must not take that for granted. Christmas is a time for families and friends gathering, perhaps meeting for the first time in a long time. Whilst this can be a stressful time, I do hope that you enjoy the festive break and take time off to connect with loved ones as you are able to.

Yours faithfully,

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