

Dear parent and carer,

Re: Spring Reset – High-quality, high expectations & consistency

As we approach the ‘half-time’ point of the academic year, I felt that it was important to remind all our school community of our expectations at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport as we prepare for the second half of the year.

Our Academy is very proud of the overwhelming majority of its pupils and the way in which they apply themselves at Newport. Many of our young people adhere to our pupil code of conduct every day and are a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

However, there is a small minority of pupils who are not consistently meeting our expectations. Therefore, after half-term, from **Monday 24th February**, we will be launching a ‘Spring Reset’ to ensure purposeful, high-quality teaching, excellent behaviour from consistently well-presented and prepared pupils who learn in tidy and organised classrooms. I will be leading assemblies for all pupils on Monday 24th February, however, I would greatly appreciate you sharing this letter with your child/ren over the half-term break.

In the first part of this Spring Reset, the Academy will be particularly focusing on all pupils adhering to our dress code and mobile phone/devices policies. For ease of reference, [here](#) is a link to our dress code which can be found on our website. There has been a particular increase amongst older year groups of wearing jumpers which are not part of our dress code. For clarity the Academy will now take the following steps:

- If a pupil is wearing a jumper that is not a Joyce Frankland jumper, the pupil will be asked to remove it.
- Plain navy or black jumpers are not part of our dress code.
- The jumper will then be placed in a bag, labelled with the pupil’s name and taken to Pupil Reception where the pupil can collect it at the end of the day.
- I would like to also take this opportunity to remind you that coats are allowed in our school. However, they must be removed though when in lessons.

The Academy feels that the Smart Card, which all pupils are given at the start of half-term, is not having the impact that we would like. Therefore, these will no longer be issued. Instead, the Academy is working on a positive version, where a card will be signed when a pupil has demonstrated exceptional work and pro-social behaviours which exemplify our values of independence, imagination, insight and inquisitiveness. We will be seeking advice and guidance from our Academy Parliament in shaping the categories for this card next half-term.

Our policy on mobile phone and devices (including earphones) is very clear. They must not be seen or heard during the school day from 8:35-15:15. This includes break and lunch times. This part of the policy will not change. However, we will be making a slight alteration to how we respond to a situation where we do see or hear a mobile phone or device being used. This will be as follows:

- Academy staff will confiscate the device if it is seen or heard, including during break and lunch times.
- There will be no warning to put it away as we have been clear on what the expectations are. It will then be placed in Pupil Reception and the pupil will be able to collect it at the end of the school day.
- If this happens a second time, during a half-term, for the same pupil, the device will be confiscated again and we will then contact you to collect it from Main Reception at the end of the school day. The Academy will not return it to the pupil directly in this instance.
- If it happens a third time, within a half-term, we will set up a process where the pupil must hand in their device every morning and collect it at the end of each day for the remainder of that term.
- The Academy will no longer keep the device for 5 days which is stated in our current policy as we believe this causes too much inconvenience for families.

Lastly, if a pupil is defiant and refuses to hand us their jumper or their device, this will be recorded on Sims, our Management Information System. A member of the Academy Leadership Team will be informed and the pupil will be asked again to comply with our reasonable expectations. If they do not comply, the pupil will then be removed from lessons that day. If this defiance continues, the Academy may have little other option other than to suspend the pupil for continuous defiance and organise a reintegration meeting with their family where we will once again remind them of these expectations. This will happen only as a last resort.

In other changes, the Academy will also be moving our Impact Time. Currently, our Impact Time is after school from 15:15-15:45 from Monday to Thursday and 15:15-16:00 on Fridays. Unfortunately, the Academy does not have consistent attendance to the Monday to Thursday sessions, especially. We also know that after-school collection can be a further inconvenience for families. Therefore, we will be moving Monday to Thursday Impact Time to **lunchtimes**. Colleagues will collect pupils for this time during period 4 so that we can ensure full attendance. The 15:15-16:00 Friday Impact Time slot will remain in place and this will be for pupils who have not attended or demonstrated poor behaviour during the lunchtime session.

We regularly visit lessons to ensure that pupils are receiving a high quality education. Senior leaders in the Academy Leadership Team will be asking themselves the following questions when they enter the classroom:

- Has the teacher effectively greeted the pupils at the door?
- Are the pupils consistently wearing the uniform as per the dress code?
- Are pupils focused on the expert in the room and engaged with their learning?
- Are pupils taking pride in the quality of their work? Are they working quietly or silently?
- Is the classroom organised and tidy?

If all the answers to these questions are 'Yes', this will provide the climate we need for high-quality teaching and learning. Where pupils do not meet our expectations, we will ensure this is addressed.

Two weeks ago I wrote specifically to Year 11 parents and carers and explained the expectations for this cohort. Because they are moving towards public examinations and the end of their time at Joyce Frankland, the consequences to breaches in our Behaviour for Learning policy are more wide-ranging and impactful on their future. If you are a parent or carer of a Year 11 pupil, this letter can be viewed again [here](#).

Additionally, we do understand that some pupils in this cohort have grown out of blazers and buying a new one at this stage would be expensive, especially for the period of time that they have left with us. Therefore, we will not be enforcing the blazer for Year 11 pupils only.

Our Academy remains an environment that is fully subscribed to the philosophy and ethos of unconditional positive regard. We want our environment to be a place where all pupils feel they belong and are cared for. This will not change and is what makes our school a special place to work and learn.

For the majority of pupils, these changes will not affect them directly. Indirectly though, they will have a calmer and more productive environment in which to work and learn. This Spring Reset will ensure clarity of what we expect and the **consistency** of how we respond, it will enable the climate that is required for **high-quality teaching** to take place and it will ensure that we have **high expectations** for what our exceptional pupils can achieve. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this reset, in helping us to meet this goal.

Kind regards,

Duncan Roberts
Principal