

17 January 2024



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family have had a positive start to 2024. As we continue to work hard through another academic term, I wanted to take a moment to share some important updates and information about how we can best work together to support your child in school.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would like to emphasise the crucial role that consistent attendance and punctuality play in your child's education and overall development. Being present in school every day allows students to engage fully in their learning experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of the curriculum and strengthening their academic skills. Arriving to school on time is incredibly important for pupils at Smestow Academy; during form time, they will engage in the personal development curriculum in Year 7-10 or extra support in Maths and English in Year 11.

It is important to recognise that higher attendance is directly linked to higher educational outcomes at the end of Year 11. Please see the below table following analysis of GCSE grades for our Year 11 2022/23 cohort which shows the average GCSE grade for each attendance group. Not only do pupils who regularly attend school achieve higher grades, but they also develop better social skills, and are more likely to enjoy a richer, more rewarding educational journey.

Attendance	Average Grade
95%	5
90-95%	4
80-90%	3
Below 80%	2

We kindly request your support in ensuring that your child regularly attends school and has excellent punctuality, as these are key stepping stones towards their success and well-being.

Study seminars for Year 11

The mandatory study seminar sessions for Year 11 pupils continue to run from 3-3:50pm. These sessions are carefully planned to address gaps in knowledge/skills that will enable pupils to be better prepared for their summer examinations. There is also a strong focus on the best techniques to revise for each subject. We would appreciate your support in ensuring all pupils are attending every session in the lead up to the summer examinations.

Behaviour

I am very pleased with the consistent and incremental improvements in behaviour which have seen a huge transformation in creating a very positive climate for learning since taking over as Headteacher in January 2023. I am of course, always looking for us to improve. Can I remind parents that if pupils

are issued with detentions for not meeting expectations on behaviour, that the pupil should show parents the detention sticker which outlines when the detention will be taking place. As of September 2023, we record all behaviour incidents on Classcharts which is a web-based school behaviour management system for schools. We are looking to launch this to parents shortly (around February Half-term). You will then be able to download an app that will give an up to date daily log of positive and negative behaviours your child has demonstrated in lessons.

Uniform

Whilst the standard of uniform is generally very good (and we thank you all for your support on this) there are a couple of reminders we would like to reinforce with a small minority of our pupils regarding uniform:

- Fake nails are not permitted
- Nail varnish is not permitted
- Fake eyelashes are not permitted
- Only natural hair colours are permitted

For all information on expected uniform please visit <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

Photography Competition

Our chair of trustees Sir Mark Aspinall has been invited to have his photograph taken to be placed in the Victoria Law Courts in Birmingham. Sir Mark has over 20 years' experience in Law across banking, financial, media, NHS, Government and FTSE corporate sector and is currently a Judge and a Governor of a local authority primary school.

We would like to take this opportunity to see our children's very best photography work and give them the opportunity to have their work hung in the law court for years to come. See below details that will be shared with your child to get involved with our Matrix photography competition.

Submission Criteria: You can submit up to three portrait style images, each image can be of the same or a different subject. Your images should be saved in jpeg format. Images should not be altered or edited, we want to see your original photograph. Cropping is allowed. Images should be sent with your full name, form group, school name and a short write up to explain your style of image. Submit your images to photography@matrixacademytrust.co.uk

Submission Deadline: Sunday 18th February 2024. Speak to your media/creative arts teacher for help and guidance.

Prize: The winning submission will be chosen by Sir Mark Aspinall and Mrs Draycott (CEO). The winner will receive £150 and the opportunity to take the commissioned image in Victoria Law Court in Birmingham. The winners photograph of Sir Mark Aspinall will be proudly hung in the court. The oldest image currently hanging in the court currently is over 180 years old. This is a chance to take a photograph that will be seen in the courts for many years to come.

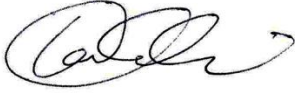
All details can be found on this link - <https://matrixacademytrust.co.uk/photography/>

If you have any queries, please contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form Office by calling 01902 539500 or email postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk and include your child's name and form group in the subject.



Thank you for your support. We have made a strong start to the new term with pupils responding well to the high expectations we have for them. Together, we can create an environment where every pupil thrives academically, socially and emotionally as our school motto states, Success Achieved Together.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



Smestow Academy
Windmill Crescent
Castlecroft
Wolverhampton
WV3 8HU
West Midlands



Matrix
Academy Trust
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

01902 539500



Smestow Academy



smestowacademy

