

3rd September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a restful summer break and that students are well rested and ready for the term ahead. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to college tomorrow morning. Over the summer break the site team have carried out several of improvements to the site and work is progressing well on the Needhams redevelopment – so we hope that students will see many changes upon their return tomorrow.

Summer Results - You may have seen the headlines in the local press about the A Level, BTEC and GCSE results for our students this summer. I wanted to provide a little more detail to you directly as these results are the fourth year in a row since COVID where we have seen an improvement in many of the key performance measures for results. It is likely that, for the first time, our results will be rated by the Department of Education as being **well above average**, a banding that only the top 16% of state schools managed to reach last year. Not only did we see a staggering number of the top grades being issued we also saw exceptional progress from students across the ability range and those students in receipt of pupil premium or special educational needs. We aim to be an inclusive comprehensive school that supports achievement in a wide range of forms and the results this summer clearly demonstrate that we are supporting our students and parents well.

Term ahead - We have made some changes to the times of the college day and how we operate break and lunch times. Instead of a split break twice a day we will be moving back to a single break in the morning and a single lunch slot in the afternoon. This will enable us to give students the opportunity to use the artificial pitch to play sports during their lunch slot and give them slightly longer for their lunch break as it moves to 40 minutes instead of the current 30 minutes.

	Start	Duration	End
Registration	08:30	00:20	08:50
Period 1	08:50	01:00	09:50
Movement Time	09:50	00:05	09:55
Period 2	09:55	01:00	10:55
Break	10:55	00:20	11:15
Period 3	11:15	01:00	12:15
Movement Time	12:15	00:05	12:20
Period 4	12:20	01:00	13:20
Lunch	13:20	00:40	14:00
Period 5	14:00	01:00	15:00
Session 6 (Clubs)	15:15	01:00	16:15

Behaviour Policy Updates - As a college we are continually reviewing our policies and processes to ensure they meet their intended purpose but also reflect our college values.

It is evident from recent student and staff surveys, as well as internal and external monitoring, that behaviour at Ely College remains of a high standard with limited instances of disruption or detrimental behaviour occurring. Where behaviour falls below college expectations, we believe we challenge this robustly.

Following feedback from parents and students, alongside our commitment to move to a more therapeutic approach to managing behaviour, we have made some key changes to our behaviour policy and processes. Below is a summary of the key changes, and a full break down of our rewards system which is central to creating a positive culture for learning.

The purpose of these changes follows several therapeutically rooted philosophies:

- Our reward system supports the recognition of valued behaviours and builds helpful feelings in students, along with positive relationships.
- Changes in sanctioning ensures that behaviour consequences are administered in a timely manner (same day where possible).
- There is a reduction in the unhelpful feelings of accruing large numbers of behaviour points which undermine students' belief in education process and relationship with staff.
- Consequences should not be seen to reward students' behaviour and choice with impact on own time. Sanctions remain robust in holding students to account for their behaviours.

Summary of key changes - Classroom management follows a 4 staged approach providing greater opportunity for correcting of behaviours:

- Students will not receive behaviour points for the following 3 bullet points listed below but will instead be required to attend a same day break time detention (15 minutes)
 - o Lateness to college or lesson (unless permitted by House team or another appropriate adult)
 - o Mobile Phone used without permission
 - o Incorrectly worn/incorrect uniform
- Removal from lesson will no longer result in two behaviour points and an after-college detention later in the week but will require the student to attend a same day lunch time detention (30 minutes). If the student is removed after lunch, then they will carry out the detention the next day.
- After college detentions will only run on a **Monday night 3.05pm – 4.05pm** and be issued where students have failed to attend break time detentions or accumulated 5 or more behaviours points within a week-long period.
- Houses will retain the right to add an after-college detention for other behavioural related incidents at their discretion in line with our behaviour policy.



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Senior Leadership Detention - If student do not attend after college detentions on a Monday, then they will be placed in an SLT detention on a Friday afternoon. We will also use this detention if we deem an action or behaviour as being more serious than a Monday afternoon detention.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that all students will be agreeing to the college behavioural expectations, anti-bullying PLEDGE and Anti-Discrimination PLEDGE. We ask that parents also review the agreement and acknowledge their commitment to supporting the college via the link below:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/6sSXkIfRs6csAfH2?ref=Link&loc=play>

If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact your child's House team in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Warburton".

Simon Warburton
Principal

