



## QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of our drive to ensure students are happy at school we have tightened our expectations which all students should follow around the building, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain the reasoning behind the routines and expectations. None of these changes are radically different and they take no extra effort from students to ensure a calm and orderly school environment.

### **Toilet use:**

Toilets are to be used at the start of the school day, at break and lunch times, and at the end of the school day. We are able to ensure appropriate adult supervision in the toilet areas during these times. In recent months students have raised concerns about poor behaviour of other students in the toilet areas. Some students are consistently waiting for the bell that signals the end of break and lunch to then go to the toilet, which then disrupts the orderly start to their next lesson.

The safety of all students will always be of paramount importance, therefore, we are asking students not to use the toilets in the change of lessons as providing adult supervision is difficult during these times. This will ensure adults are present when toilets are at their most busy and that students are in their lessons at the right times.

**As a parent it is important you are aware that we are not restricting toilet use at other times in the day, students may request to go to the toilet during a lesson by speaking to their teacher.**

If your child has a medical condition, adjustments can be made via a toilet pass, if this is the case please contact [r.hope@qphs.co.uk](mailto:r.hope@qphs.co.uk) who will support with the matter. Any non-medical cases must be initially discussed with the relevant pastoral team.

### **Late to lesson:**

We ask students to take the shortest route to lesson when moving around the building. The start of a lesson is one of the most important parts of the learning process - it's when teachers set the scene for the lesson and complete prior learning checks. If a student is not present for the start this will have a detrimental impact on their learning. It also stops the flow of the lesson as the teacher will need to stop and recap what's been missed, therefore, affecting the learning of others in the class. If a student is late to lesson, the teacher records the minutes late to the lesson and students make the cumulative time up on a Friday evening at the Headteacher's detention.

### **Movement around the building:**

We now have larger numbers of students at QPHS; the school has grown by 40% in the past 3 years, with increased numbers projected for next September - the corridors are busier than ever. To ensure safety, we ask students to walk calmly on the left of all corridors. This ensures a safe flow of movement around school. We ask noise to be kept to a minimum around the building, this again is to ensure all students feel safe. It is difficult to ensure adult supervision on every section of the school during the change of lessons, so a calm, quiet corridor ensures all students feel safe.

### **Uniform:**

Students regularly ask me why uniform is so important and why wearing coats and hooded tops inside are banned. With the school having so many students now, and with 90+ adults working in the school, it's important that we are able to recognise students as being members of QPHS instantly. Students have a uniform and adults wear lanyards. When a student is wearing a hooded top or coat inside the building this makes it more difficult. Ensuring all students wear their correct uniform means any person who isn't a

member of our community can be recognised instantly. This once again ensures our building is completely safe. We also want students in **full** uniform. I regularly tell students that I believe they are as good as, if not better than, students from the highest performing schools in our country and I want them to wear their uniform with a sense of pride. I also want members of our local community to see young people at QPHS as well-mannered and behaved young people, who all look smart in their uniform.

### **Mobile phones:**

As you are aware, we ask students to ensure mobile phones are turned off and placed in the bottom of their bag during the school day. This is to ensure students are free from distraction in their lessons and to ensure they socialise together at unstructured time, free from social media and its associated dangers. If a student is seen using a phone during the day, this is confiscated and can be collected at the end of the school day from the main office.

All of our routines and expectations have been discussed at length by the senior leaders and staff, each carefully thought through to ensure all our students have a school within which they feel they can truly be themselves, free from peer pressure and poor behaviour.

It is our vision to **inspire individuals, empower minds and define futures**, we want our students to enjoy coming to school in a calm building where teachers can teach and students can learn free from distraction.

### **Rewards:**

In addition to ensuring our students are able to learn in a safe and orderly environment we want to celebrate students when they are 'getting it right' both academically and as positive, engaged members of our school community. Our rewards system now allows staff to celebrate both students' classwork and effort in lessons, along with their engagement in extra-curricular and interactions with the wider community. We look forward to celebrating with you the successes of your child throughout their school life whether that be through special assemblies, certificates, prize draws, badges or even afternoon tea with the senior leadership team.

All students have been spoken to in assemblies around these expectations, the rewards and sanctions system, and why they are so important. I would ask for your continued support by reinforcing the messages in this letter to your child/children. The overwhelming majority of students are getting it right in school and these students are already being recognised through the reward points system.

If we can do anything to further support your child/children then don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's group tutor via EduLink in the first instance. Please allow 2 working days for them to respond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr T Kearns**  
**Headteacher**