

Ysgol Uwchradd y Drenewydd Newtown High School

Pennaeth/Headteacher: Mr R Edwards
Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr/Chair of Governors: Mr P Hough

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27 June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to provide you with an update of our recent Estyn visit, which mainly focussed on Recommendation 2: Improve attendance and reduce fixed term exclusions and Recommendation 5: Review and strengthen the school's arrangements for tackling bullying.

Estyn reported that:

- Rates of attendance have improved significantly.
- This improvement compares very favourably when us comparing against similar performing school. (We are currently ranked the highest school for attendance when comparing us with 53 similar secondary schools across Wales).
- The number of Fixed Term Exclusions has reduced considerably since the Core Inspection in 2015 (The lowest of all Powys Secondary Schools).
- The majority of pupils behave well in lessons.
- The school has effectively helped develop a clear understanding of bullying and what to do if it occurs.
- Most students have no concern and many believe the school deal well with instances of bullying.
- The school monitors suitably and provides appropriate support where needed.

Estyn identified that:

- Low-level disruption and inconsistencies in following the behaviour policy (First Warning and Second Warning) prevents learning in a minority of lessons.
- This was supported by a recent Estyn student behaviour questionnaire and feedback which suggested that the students felt that behaviour wasn't good enough.
- The recent parent questionnaire and feedback suggested that the parents felt that there were inconsistencies in the way that some teachers apply the policy.

Therefore, following this valuable feedback and to address the Estyn, pupil and parental comments we are changing our behaviour policy and will introducing a new 'Ready to Learn' approach at Newtown High School from 1 July 2019. Essentially, the system will aim to:

- provide **clarity for staff and students** about acceptable behaviour and the consequences of misbehaviour;
- encourage students to **take responsibility** for their own actions;
- **eliminate disruptive behaviour**, so that there is a culture of achievement, ambition and learning everywhere in the school, and no learning time is wasted;
- enable teachers to **deliver engaging and creative lessons, experiment and take risks**, without concern for behavioural interruptions as barriers.

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The Ready to Learn approach will cover all aspects of school life, both within and outside of the classroom. It involves sanctions being given through a central school system, which will be carefully monitored by Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership Team, both to identify early any students who may need support with their behaviour, and to ensure sanctions are applied fairly and consistently across the school. This will involve all students operating under a one-warning system and a 30 minute detention after school, should they fail to correct their disruptive behaviour following the warning being issued.

Of equal importance are rewards and we will also be revisiting our Character rewards system to continue to promote a positive 'can do' attitude in all aspects of school life, and to reward our students for their fantastic work, attitude and effort.

We would ask that all parents and carers to continue to promote the importance of excellent behaviour at all times both inside and outside school and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Newtown High School. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Edwards', written over a light blue grid background.

Mr R Edwards
Headteacher

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