

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear parents and carers,

## Headteachers update – October 2022 – School Improvement

As the autumn term progresses, I am writing to update you on a number of matters linked to school improvement.

### Attendance

Attendance is the foundation on which any successful school is built. In recent years, school attendance has been challenging for all schools nationally. This year, we have placed attendance and punctuality at the heart of our school improvement agenda. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of students have responded well to this and are meeting attendance expectations on a daily basis.

The government's minimum expectation is that all children of compulsory school age achieve an attendance figure of 95% on an annual basis. Here at Kirk Hallam, we expect all children to attend school, on time, every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our new Children's Services Team and newly appointed Attendance Team will be working closely with families where students are not meeting attendance expectations.

This term, we have met with all students to reinforce our expectations in terms of punctuality. All students are required to be on-site by 8.25am each morning, and be present in the tutor group or assembly for a prompt 8.30am start. The school website clearly outlines this expectation and whole school assemblies have been held to reinforce this expectation. Where students arrive late for the start of the school day, they will be issued with a breaktime detention.

Whilst we are delighted to welcome **Ilkeston Fair** to town next week it is absolutely imperative that children continue to attend school and that the fair is not a distraction to good attendance and punctuality. We really hope that they have a fantastic time at the fair when they visit next weekend.

### Uniform

I want to personally thank parents and carers for helping ensure our students arrive at school looking smart and in the correct uniform. Our uniform ensures a clear sense of identity for Kirk Hallam students and instils a collective pride amongst the student body.

As colder weather approaches, I would like to clarify that hoodies and sweatshirts are not allowed in school and should not be used as an alternative to a coat. A plain black, woolen school jumper can be worn under a blazer in colder weather, but it is not an alternative to the school blazer. Black sweatshirts or crewneck jumpers are not permitted. Please see the website for further clarity on uniform expectations.

[Uniform and Equipment | Kirk Hallam Community Academy \(kirkhallamacademy.co.uk\)](http://kirkhallamacademy.co.uk)

## **Bags**

All students are required to bring a bag to school each day. This enables them to carry their:

- pencil case
- student planner
- subject specific equipment
- PE kit (as necessary)

Without an appropriate bag, students are simply unable to carry items required for the smooth running of the school day, and are likely to be unable to organise themselves appropriately.

Can all parents and carers please ensure that students leave each day with their bag packed for the day ahead. We believe that this is a basic life skill that all students should develop for future success.

As always, I thank you for your continued support in making Kirk Hallam the very best school it can be.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr C Turner  
Headteacher