

Expectations of the academy

We like to remind you of certain expectations we have at Cedar Mount Academy, and to ask for your support in ensuring your child meets these expectations.

Scholars

We expect all students to sit up, ready to learn at all times and to challenge themselves by working hard, being organised, listening and following all instructions, aspiring to be the best version of themselves and being respectful at all times. By doing this, students give themselves the best opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Uniform

Uniform gives a sense of 'belonging' and by dressing correctly we believe that a well-presented uniform allows students to demonstrate their self-respect and their pride in the academy. Students are required to wear uniform at all times unless specifically stated so by the academy (e.g. non-uniform days, activities, trips). We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the school uniform:

Outerwear

- Academy uniform blazers should be worn by all.
- Coats and jackets should not be worn inside the academy.
- Hooded tops, sweatshirts and tracksuit tops should not be worn.
- Students should wear ties at all times.
- Dark grey trousers or skirts should be worn.
- Dark grey or black socks only.
- Trainer socks, patterned and coloured socks are not permitted.
- Girls have the option of wearing plain black or dark grey tights or socks below the knee.
- Students should wear plain black formal school shoes. Trainers are banned except for PE.

Hair, makeup and jewellery

- Hair should be: of natural colour; smart, neat and tidy; professional and business-like.
- Boys should be clean shaven, unless it is a requirement of their religion.
- Coloured/shaved patterns in the hair or eyebrows are not permitted
- Unnaturally coloured braids, accessories or extensions are not allowed.
- Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted.
- The only forms of jewellery that can be worn are wristwatches and a single stud in each earlobe.
- Hooped or drop earrings are not permitted.
- Students should not wear rings.
- Facial piercings are not permitted and should be removed.

Unacceptable items will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. If a student has incorrect shoes, shirt, trousers or blazer, they will be sent to student services to call parents and may be isolated until the uniform is correct.

Lunchtime

The bistro is a communal area and as such allows students to develop a sense of community with friends and other members of the academy. Our expectations of behaviour are as high as those elsewhere in the building.

Students are expected to queue in a sensible and mature fashion when purchasing food from the bistro. By doing this, the queue moves quickly and students are served effectively. **Students who have purchased food are expected to sit and eat the food in the bistro.** We will not permit students to eat whilst standing up. No food is permitted to be taken into other parts of the building. Students who wish to take part in our wide range of lunchtime clubs will be supported in ensuring they can finish their lunch quickly enough to participate. We recommend students make use of our pre-order system.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones have changed the way students interact with the world and if used effectively they can be a powerful educational device however as a school we believe that there are more useful ways we can harness technology to help our students learn and make progress. Mobile phones can be extremely disruptive to the social and academic development of students through the addictive nature of some games and apps, through the damage to mental health caused to young people by social networks and through the interruptions to learning that are so often caused by mobile devices. These interruptions can happen in lessons, where pupils find it difficult to concentrate if they have a mobile phone on them and also outside lessons where mobile communication is replacing face to face communication.

It is for these reasons that we have banned mobile phones from use on the Academy site. This means that **students must not be seen with mobile phones from the moment they enter the Academy site in the morning to the time they leave the Academy site after 3.05pm, including both break and lunchtime, unless they have the express permission of their teacher for their lesson.** If a student is seen with a mobile phone or earphones/headphones in school, a staff member will confiscate the item/s. Students must be aware that refusing to comply with this request will lead to the involvement of the senior leadership team and to internal or a fixed term, exclusion.

When a mobile phone is confiscated we will only return it to a parent/carer.

For students who have a phone confiscated more than twice in a term, a meeting with parents will be arranged and the student will be expected to leave the phone at home for the remainder of the term or hand the phone in at 8:40 am every morning. Students who fail to meet this condition will have their phone confiscated for the remainder of the half-term.

Students should be aware that wearing headphones will be seen as equivalent to using a mobile phone. Students with headphones will have their headphones confiscated along with their mobile phone.

We understand the concerns that parents have around this and would like to answer some typical questions below

1. What if parents wish to contact their children?

The academy is not banning children from having mobile phones. They can bring them to school and can use them to contact parents before they enter the premises and when they leave at the end of the school day. In the case of an emergency parents should ring the school reception and we will get a message to their child immediately.

2. Doesn't this kind of technology actually help teaching and learning?

The academy believes in the intelligent use of technology but more importantly we believe in equity. Not all students have access to smartphone technology and even those that do, do not always know how to use it responsibly. Whilst we will teach students about safe and responsible behaviour when using mobile technology, we will ensure that all work and homework is accessible to all students, regardless of the technology they have access to at home. Therefore we will use mobile phone technology very rarely in lessons. Research has shown that student performance in GCSE exams improves after mobile phone bans in schools.

Punctuality

Most of our students arrive to school on time and ready to learn. It is pleasing to see so many students make use of our free breakfast however students who are not punctual will receive a detention at lunchtime. Extreme lateness or persistent lateness will result in an after school detention. Every minute counts and we expect all students to be in the right place at the right time.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum is banned in the Academy. It should not be brought into the Academy at all as it causes a huge amount of waste that is difficult to clean. Students caught with chewing gum will be issued with an afterschool detention.