



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very successful start to the second half term at Burlington Danes which has seen us celebrate the academic success of pupils last year at our awards evening, a commitment to support homeless charities locally this term through our non-examined curriculum and Y9 engaging with the options process and asking thoughtful and aspiring questions about future study and careers.

This term we will also reflect on the commitment and attitude demonstrated by our Y11 and Y13 pupils in the completion of the assessments and look to ensure that the rest of the school (Y7-Y10 and Y12) are ready for their assessments which begin on 25th November (see website for further details).

I would also like to thank you as parents for your support in ensuring that pupils understand the importance of being out of the local area and being directed to go home straight from school. The key areas outside school are now often completely clear by 4pm and the feedback from local residents and businesses reflects the calmness and respectful conduct of our pupils. Again, I would like to thank you for your continued support with this.

This term the focus moves to the expectations of pupils before school and the instilling of good punctuality amongst our pupils.

All pupils must be in school by 8.25am. When pupils arrive after 8.25am they will receive a late mark on page 110 of their planner. If a pupil is late on more than one occasion per half term they will receive a catch-up that day after school.

Pupils' punctuality to school is imperative, not only in ensuring pupils' development of good habits in relation to their timekeeping as they move towards their future jobs and careers, but also directly linked to their academic progress. Last year of the 29 pupils that failed to make expected progress in year 11, 23 of these pupils demonstrated punctuality issues. This correlation is also evident when analysing the purposefulness of how pupils transition within the academy between lessons. Pupils are expected to walk purposefully from one lesson to another, conducting themselves in a responsible and respectful manner as they move across the site and through corridors where learning is taking place. Pupils that cannot meet these expectations or that arrive late for their next lesson (pupils are permitted a maximum of 5 minutes to complete the transition and should be seen to take the quickest and most direct route) will receive a transition check in their planner. The importance of pupils arriving promptly at their lesson, greeting the member of staff and completing the Do Now Activity independently is indicative of pupil progress.

5 minutes of every lesson wasted adds up to almost one whole lesson missed per day. That is then 5 lessons per week and nearly 200 lessons per academic year. This means that if your child is late or doesn't use their learning time effectively for just 5 minutes each lesson, over the course of their secondary school education they will have missed almost 1000 lessons!

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burlingtondanes.org



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I would also like to reiterate the message from my last letter regarding the importance of the pupils coming to school equipped to learn each day.

As indicated in the academy's home-school agreement and detailed in each pupil's planner, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that your child has the following equipment each day;

- 2 x Black pen
- 1 x Green pen
- 2 x HB pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator
- Mathematics set (not including compass – these will be provided where required)
- Dictionary, including French where necessary
- Reading book
- Transparent pencil case
- Planner – If planners are damaged/lost they will need to be replaced at the cost of £3.50.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate the expectations regarding food and drink permitted on school site. As an academy we are not only committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle/diet for our pupils, but also to ensure that our school remains a pleasant place to be, with litter kept to an absolute minimum.

The following are some of the key rules/expectations regarding the possession and consumption of food and drink in school;

- Under no circumstances are pupils permitted to sell/distribute food and drink on school site. The academy will sanction any pupils found to be in breach of this expectation.
- Pupils are not permitted any energy and/or fizzy drinks on school site.
- Only water may be consumed in lessons.
- Chewing gum is not permitted in school at any point. Pupils will receive a 30m after school catch-up if found to be chewing/in possession of chewing gum.
- No food is permitted to be consumed in lesson (30m after-school catch-up) or inside the school building at break/lunch outside of designated areas.
- Sweets, large chocolate bars and oversized packets of crisps are not permitted in school. These items do not support a healthy lifestyle/diet amongst our pupils and where seen items will be confiscated and 'poor self-discipline' check issued.

As always, we will be communicating all the above to the pupils, and where appropriate through assemblies.

Kind regards,

Danny Bryant | Vice Principal

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