



2nd October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will know, following the retirement of Ms Rebecca Staples, LEAP Trust has approached New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) to gain immediate leadership capacity at Dinnington High School.

NCLT are a successful northern based Academy Trust that comprises of 3 OFSTED rated Outstanding post 16 colleges, 1 Good secondary school, Wingfield Academy, and 3 Outstanding or Good primary schools, one of which is Anston Greenlands J & I School.

Mr Davis, the current Headteacher of Wingfield Academy and Mrs Wade, Associate Headteacher at Wingfield Academy, are currently the members of staff who are leading Dinnington High School on a day-to-day basis. They are being supported by Ms Parks, Mr Grenham and Ms Noone from the existing leadership team at Dinnington High School. Mr Davis, Executive Headteacher, is based at Dinnington Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Wade, Associate Headteacher, is based here Wednesday – Friday. Both Leaders have a proven track record of school improvement and are fully committed to a child centred, progress focused approach. Feel free to check out their impact at Wingfield Academy on the school website. <https://www.wingfieldacademy.org>.

Following their first week in the school, leaders are delighted to have met so many well-mannered and hardworking students and staff. It is clear that Dinnington High School has the potential to be a great school.

Mr Davis and Mrs Wade pride themselves on having the highest standards and expectations in terms of all students having high expectations in terms of how they approach their learning and the way in which they conduct themselves. This is the foundation of ensuring outstanding outcomes for young people. They want all students to be proud of who they are, their achievements and of their school.

Having spent time in the school this week, it is abundantly clear that much work has to be done. Over the coming weeks, leaders will be raising standards for behaviour and teaching further, tightening up on some of the existing practices and rules at Dinnington High School to ensure that students are able to learn without disruption and have a positively safe and happy experience in all aspects of school life.

On Friday, leaders held the first of several assemblies with all students to reinforce expectations and make it clear how systems will work from Monday. The assemblies were particularly focused upon:

- **Respect:** We expect everyone to respect each other and our environment. Be polite and well mannered, be kind and considerate and respond quickly and positively to adults. We will not tolerate students who swear or who ignore a reasonable request from staff.

- **We expect all students to attend every day, be at school on time and arrive promptly to lessons.** Tutor time starts at 8.35am so we are now locking the main gate at 8.30am to ensure that all students can be in tutor time for an 8.35am start. After 8.30am, students will be marked late and will be issued a **30-minute detention** (we know and understand that there will be some exceptional circumstances and we will of course not issue detentions in these situations).
- **We expect all students to wear full and correct uniform.** Students should wear their blazer and tie at all times, students can wear a plain black V-neck jumper or Dinnington V-neck jumper over their white, tucked in, shirt and under their blazer, but not instead of their blazer. Any students who are not in uniform will be issued with a **30-minute detention**.

In the current uniform policy, it states that students can wear one pair of stud earrings and no hooped or dangly piercings. If students arrive in hoops or dangly earrings, they will be removed at the gate.

Detentions

The detention system has now been in place for several months at Dinnington High School, but may we remind you of how the system works and how you can support us in ensuring your child upholds the highest standards to secure their academic success.

Detentions are organised Monday through to Friday after school. They are held in the main hall and last between 30 – 60 minutes. All detentions will be communicated with parents / carers the day before via text and/or Class charts. 30-minute detentions will be sanctioned for the following behaviours:

- Late to school or to lesson
- Loud or boisterous behaviour on corridors
- Wearing incorrect uniform

Students who do not attend the 30-minute detention, will receive a next day 60-minute detention. Students who do not attend the 60-minute detention will receive a day in isolation the next day. Isolation room time will start at 8:30am until 4:00pm as this then includes the 60-minute detention missed.

ILZ - Isolation room

Time in the Isolation room is only sanctioned in exceptional circumstances whereby students have been provided with the time to make the right decision but unfortunately have continued to disrupt learning or ignore reasonable requests. Students placed in isolation will arrive at school no later than 8:30am and will leave at 4:00pm.

Suspensions

Suspensions will only be used as a last resort and ultimately with a minority of students. Leaders and teachers work tirelessly to provide every opportunity for young people to make the right choice. Time and a safe space is always offered to young people before behaviours escalate to such an extent that a suspension is the only option.

Leaders at Dinnington High School will not tolerate the following behaviours and as such suspensions will be sanctioned:

- Swearing directly at staff
- Refusing reasonable requests of staff. This includes running away.
- Threatening, aggressive or confrontational behaviour towards staff.

Finally, let us end by saying that we really value parental / carer support in ensuring we are able to execute our behaviour for learning policy and raise the high standards that Dinnington High School deserves to have. Detentions and other sanctions are a vital part of upholding the highest standards and we need your support. Parents / carers who are unable to support these standards and sanctions will be invited to join leaders to discuss their child's place at the school. We believe it's our mission to ensure that this community and its students have access to the very best educational provision to opening more doors and ensure better life chances are realised and we welcome your support in our work. The new leadership, along with existing leaders and staff, will be relentless in their drive to continue to raise standards as this is instrumental in delivering our mission.

We look forward to receiving your ongoing support in the coming months and the opportunity to meet you in due course to discuss the progress and achievements of your child.

Your sincerely

K Bottomley

Kim Bottomley
Chair, LEAP Board
of Trustees



Phil Davis
Executive Headteacher



Kerry Wade
Associate Headteacher