



# THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL

*Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow*

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Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Organised disruption to learning**

You will be aware from news coverage of the recent social media trend of spontaneous school ‘protests’. I regret to inform you that we experienced disruption to our school day today as a group of students chose to disturb the learning of others and create an environment at school which led to some students feeling unsafe. I am deeply disappointed that lessons were interrupted as students banged on doors, ran through corridors and refused to follow instructions of staff. Those students not involved can be reassured that teachers will tackle the perpetrators robustly and with my full support. I will not tolerate disruption to lessons and will suspend any student who participates in unruly conduct of this nature.

Please can I ask for parents’/carers’ support in speaking with their children this evening to make sure my expectations are clear, and that they are not tempted to be involved in any other events that may be planned.

On a more positive note, I had a very constructive meeting with the Student Council today and heard from them some of the concerns about the uniform reset starting next week. I was able to confirm the following:

- 1) The original uniform policy allowed students to wear white socks with their skirt (but not in combination with tights) and in the redrafted policy this is not the case. I have agreed to revert to the old wording as we have done this under the banner of no change in expectations.
- 2) Some toilets are locked currently due to vandalism and will be reopened once work has been completed to fix them. This is not to be confused with the more general portrayal in the national press of students not being allowed to go to the toilet in some schools. Our expectations remain the same, if students can wait until the end of the lesson to go to the toilet then they should, but if they absolutely have to go, or have a medical need, they will be given permission.
- 3) Items of uniform more generally will be discussed later in the year, and we will look to involve our uniform suppliers in this conversation. This will not be a dramatic change, but some students raised the quality of the skirts as an issue (the buttons fall off easily) and they would like to revisit the regulations around footwear and socks. As a result, we will make sure this happens at a future Student Council meeting.
- 4) I explained to the Student Council that we needed to move students away from the front of the main building during break and lunch as the road is used by vehicles and minibuses. We discussed the recent changes to queuing for the canteen which have helped in terms of moving students through the canteen smoothly, but there are some teething issues that we will look to address.



The Student Council is an excellent vehicle for discussion that was not utilised by those involved in today's disruption. Listening to the views of students is very important to me (though we may disagree from time to time!) and I would encourage those who feel strongly about changes/issues in school to use this more positive method of communication, or the "Got a Worry" email address, in the future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mr J Anderson  
Headteacher