

New Behaviour System Guidance

What has changed?

This year the system for dealing with poor work or behaviour will change. This is in response to requests from not only teachers, but also pupils, who gave their concerns with the old system through the school council. The aim is to make the system fairer and more consistent, so that more time is spent on girls who persistently break the rules, and less time spent on small misdemeanours. The main difference is that from now on, the old system of yellow/blue slips will be abolished, and instead teachers will deal with issues themselves rather than pass them on for the PAL to deal with. The PALs will only deal with matters when they become serious.

What will this mean for me?

It will mean several things. You will be seeing a lot less of your PAL, at least from a discipline point of view, and that for low level issues you will be seeing the subject teacher instead. This will mean that your PAL will have a lot more time to focus on your positive achievements. However, you should be aware that if the PAL does get involved about work or behavioural issues, it will be a lot more serious than it was before. Parents will be telephoned or brought in for interviews with you, and sanctions such as 1 hour detentions after school could be used. In short, if the PAL gets involved, the consequences will be serious. However, PALs will get involved much less often with work and behavioural concerns than they did before. Another difference is that you will probably also find that you will be chased for missing work much more than before, and that the consequences for missing work will be more severe. However, on the up side, you should also find that you will only be picked up for more serious issues, and that there won't be so much difference between how individual teachers apply the rules.

What do I do if I miss a lesson?

As soon as you can (the sooner the better, but definitely *before the next lesson*), see the teacher concerned. They will explain to you what classwork needs to be caught up, whether or not they want you to do the homework, when they want it in for, and how to do it. If they do want work from you, you should record it in your diary as you would for any other homework. **It is your responsibility to see the teachers – you must not assume that because you missed the lesson, you don't have to do the work.**

How long are records kept?

At the start of each term the slate will be wiped clean, so you won't find that teachers will give more severe punishments for missed work because you missed other work months ago. However, they will keep records for future reference.

But I'm no good at certain subjects – will I get into trouble?

No, allowances will be made for ability, and it is the effort that will be measured. As long as you give 100% effort in every subject, even the ones you don't like or are no good at, you will be fine. And remember, intelligence is not fixed, it is elastic. If you work hard at subjects you find difficult, you will improve.

Is it just about homework?

No, your classwork will be dealt with using the same system.

Will the new system affect my school report?

Yes, teachers will have very clear guidelines about how missed homework/poor classwork or poor behaviour will be reported back to your parents using the number grades. You should find again that there will be less difference between what individual teachers give you in the report as well.

What do the colours on the chart mean?

Green = You have made a mistake(s) and have been given fair warning of further consequences.

Amber = You have ignored warnings and are now in serious trouble with your PAL. Parents will be involved and sanctions will be a lot more serious.

Red = You are in extreme trouble and are risking your education.

What is a resubmission?

If you forget to bring a piece of homework, you will be asked to bring it in the following day, and hand in before the end of break. Your teacher will give you instructions as to when and where to hand it in. You must record this resubmission in your diary as an additional homework.

Does this new system mean I can miss lots of homeworks over a term provided they are for different teachers?

No. When you miss a homework it will be entered onto a common database that all the teachers can access. If you start missing lots of homework across the board, your PAL will be informed. You will probably be given a warning by the PAL that this is the case before they start taking action. If things don't improve, the PAL will then take appropriate action.

What do I do if I get a detention?

The first thing to realise is that you must do it. Not turning up to detentions will only make matters worse, as one way or another you will end up doing it – in all likelihood it will just mean that you will be collected from your classroom period 3 by your teacher to do a longer detention than the original was.

You should note down in your diary the time and place of the detention, somewhere where you will see it at the end of period 3. Arrive punctually at the allotted time. If the teacher is not there you should wait outside the room for them to arrive. If you have waited for 10 minutes and they have still not arrived, go to the staffroom and try to contact them. This is important as you may have made a mistake as to the time or place.

What do I do if I realise I've broken the rules?

If you realise that you have forgotten a piece of work or missed a detention, you should find that member of staff as soon as possible, apologise, and make arrangements with them. It is far better that you find them first, rather than wait for them to find you, as it shows maturity and a better attitude.