



ASPIRE

We endeavour to achieve and aspire to be successful

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Executive Headteacher Mr M Bowler **Headteacher** Ms F Beach

9th January 2017

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you of some recent changes made to inclusion and pastoral support to further improve school systems and to ensure that all students are able to make good progress in a safe and happy environment.

Since the Ofsted inspection the school has moved quickly to address the recommendations so that the journey of improvement that we are on moves even quicker. I have now been appointed as Assistant Headteacher of Inclusion and I will ensure that this area of improvement will be managed effectively leading to better outcomes for students at Astley.

In my new role, and working alongside Mrs Parker, Deputy Head and Miss Jackson, Assistant Headteacher - SENDCo, we are reviewing areas of our provision. We have already started to review the implementation of certain policies and systems and I want to take the opportunity here to highlight these to parents to ensure that we are all clear on the school expectations and rules.

Choice, Chance, Consequence.

In a recent review, staff and student voice, highlighted the belief that the current detention system was ineffective. In response, and with the aim of further improving consistency, we will be introducing a new whole school detention approach in January 2017. Here at Astley we value the importance of relationships and **our vision is to build an inclusive approach that facilitates mutual respect through relationships and consistency.** The approach we will be implementing has a focus on providing opportunities for students to reflect on any poor choices they may have had but will also provide direct opportunities for staff to have restorative conversations with students to ensure relationships are rebuilt quickly.

Our school behaviour policy is around the language of choice, chance and consequence. Staff will use this language when addressing any poor behaviour choices. If students' attitudes to learning' are not correct they are choosing a poor behaviour. In a non-confrontational way staff will, in a first instance use this language to support students to correct and improve their behaviour. If students still fail to continue to improve their behaviour choices within the classroom, the classroom teacher will issue a detention. It is the student's responsibility to attend this detention which could be at break, lunch or a period of time after school and will provide an opportunity for staff and student to plan for improvement in the following lesson.

DTW

If a student fails to attend a detention issued by their teacher, this will then automatically escalate to a whole school detention which will be described as a DTW. This detention will be held in the school canteen at 2.45pm for one hour every day and staff who have issued the DTW will use this as an opportunity to discuss with students any barriers to learning or making the right choices. DTW is the highest form of detention at Astley and attendance is compulsory. If your child fails to attend a DTW, parents or carers will be required to attend a reintegration meeting with a member of our senior leadership team. Until this meeting has taken place students

will remain in isolation. After a successful meeting the DTW still needs to be completed by the student. However, repeated failure to attend a DTW may result in the student being considered for internal isolation, Reflect or exclusion.

Included in this letter, is the DTW pathway which will hopefully support your understanding of how the new system will work.

DTE/DTU – Detentions for Equipment and Uniform.

At Astley we pride ourselves on our professional core values and students are expected to show high levels of organisation and presentation. To support students with their organisation, students are able to purchase equipment from reception between 8.15 and 8.45am. If students do need to use this facility, they are expected to do this before they attend registration which begins at 8.45am.

If students arrive to registration in the incorrect uniform or are not fully equipped, form tutors will issue a 10 minute break detention for the same day. This is compulsory and if students fail to attend this detention, this will then be escalated to DTW on the same day.

Parental engagement

Improving parental engagement is another focus for us throughout the year. Working with parents and good communication is vital if we are going to support our young people in fulfilling their potential. If you have not already done so, please can you sign up to Parentmail by accepting the text invitation which will be sent to your registered mobile number. This will improve communication and ensure you are kept up to date with current events. If you do not receive a text please contact reception and ensure we have your correct up to date details.

Litter

We are rightly proud of our school and want our environment to reflect our core values of ASPIRE. Unfortunately a small minority of students continue to drop litter rather than place it in the bins provided. Our recent ASPIRE challenge was extremely successful in helping us to address this and you can find out more in our Christmas newsletter. Please could you reinforce the school message on the importance of placing rubbish in bins.

I hope you will support us in the changes we are making to further improve school systems to ensure that all students are happy learners at Astley and are able to make good progress and enjoy their time at school.

Yours faithfully



Victoria Cooke
Assistant Headteacher Inclusion