



Aspire & Achieve Together

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Executive Principal: Mrs. M Gage

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Extreme Weather Procedure and Punctuality

Your son/daughter is one of a large number of students who travel a significant distance to school and who, therefore, may be dependent on public transport links. You will, I am sure, have given a great deal of consideration to the challenges this may present your child and the impact it can have on their education and beyond. You will also be aware that the school has a duty of care and will strive to take every step possible to ensure the safety of all our pupils. It is therefore important that we clarify the following points:

- All students are expected to be in school, and outside their Form areas, by 8.35am. Those who do not attend on time are required to attend a 30 minute punctuality detention on the same day. This detention is not negotiable and students who fail to attend are subject to further, escalated, school sanctions. Although it is appreciated when parents/carers advise us of delays in students arriving at school, this does not mitigate lateness. We are still required, by law, to register students as late and to notify attendance authorities when this becomes a regular occurrence. We continue to expect students to attend detention even when parental notification of lateness has been received.
- When there is inclement, or the possibility of inclement weather, we realise that you will have to consider carefully the implications of sending your son/daughter to school, and the likelihood of their journey being affected by extreme weather and public transport delays/cancellations. We cannot legally authorise any school absence on the grounds of 'a possibility' of extreme weather, therefore please ensure you have looked into alternative methods of getting to and from school in the event of poor weather.
- We have continued to receive complaints regarding the behaviour of a small number of students when using public transport to travel to and from school. These complaints are most frequent (but not only) regarding behaviour on buses to/from Chatham Train Station and on the Lewis Coach Service. A number of students have been identified by members of the public and several have been spoken to by the police. The school will continue to take action against any students found to behave in an anti-social or dangerous manner when travelling to and from school. We will also continue to encourage members of the public to ensure the relevant authorities – including the police – are aware of any concerns they have. We have recently worked with the police to identify and provide the names of students acting inappropriately and we will continue to do so.

Please do speak very carefully to your son/daughter with regards to the points raised above. They should be fully aware of the actions they should take if they were to become stranded or delayed on the journey to or from school. Student safety should be the paramount and overriding factor in the consideration of your child's journey and you must ensure they are very clear about the different scenarios they could find themselves in, and where they can safely seek help in each of these scenarios

Yours sincerely

David Hayes
Deputy Head of School