



# Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of **INSIGHT**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Our Ref: MMM / VM

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date with some important reminders and news from the school.

## **INSET Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Please be aware that we have an INSET day for teacher training on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November where students will not be in school. School will be open as normal on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## **PSHE and RSE Lessons**

I would like to remind you that all secondary schools should teach lessons in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and it is compulsory for all schools to teach lessons in Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE). Here at Balfour, PSHE is taught by your child's Form Tutor during Form Time and during our PSHE Days. Our next PSHE Day is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. RSE is taught by a dedicated team of subject experts during lesson time. The curriculum content for these subjects can be found in the curriculum section of our school website.

## **Updated Behaviour Codes and Lates**

Over 95% of students in school currently have more merits than demerits. Over two-thirds of students have not received a single demerit. This is hugely to their credit and I would like to commend these students for their excellent attitude towards all aspects of school life. However, when things are not as positive we have a behaviour system in school where demerits can lead to detentions. All students are aware of this when they choose to disrupt the learning of others or behave inappropriately in school. You can see the reasons for any merits or demerits your child may receive on the SIMS Parent App, but to better reflect the issues that we are dealing with in school we have updated the demerit descriptions to include defiance, rudeness to staff and refusal to attend lessons. These have no place in school life, they will continue to be dealt with robustly and we appreciate your support in addressing the issues.

The vast majority of students arrive to all their lessons on time. When a student is late for their lesson it does disturb the learning of others as the teacher has to pause the lesson to get the individual settled and ensure that they have all the resources needed for the lesson. This week we have introduced a system of next day lunchtime detentions for students who are late to lessons. The duration of their lunchtime detention will be the same amount of time that they were late to their lessons. The SIMS Parent App will tell you if your child has been late to class.

Yours sincerely,

**Matthew Mason**  
**Headteacher**