

March 2026

## Re-focus half term

Dear Parent/Carer,

We wrote to you at half term about our refocus on standards this half term, and wanted to share with you how that is progressing:

### 100% prepared for school

Significant improvement is visible, with students arriving ready for school with perfect uniform and all equipment. This ensures that students enter the school calmly and focused for learning. (Last week, 24 students were unprepared; by Friday, this was down to 4). Winning tutor groups are rewarded weekly with bagels.

### 100% attention in class

Students have ensured that they give 100% attention in lessons—sitting up, tracking the teacher, and avoiding disruptions. This has reduced the need to remove students from lessons and led to a surge in 'Golden Tickets' (398 given out in two weeks), which offer rewards like 'jump the queue' and cinema tickets.

### Calm movement around the college

This week we have focused on calm transitions and corridors during lessons - late to lessons, disrupting the start of lessons reduced from 8 lates to only 1 late by the end of the week, with students calmly walking through the corridors. This helps keep everyone safe as they move around the busy college.

### Last week - Communication and participation

The focus was on rewarding politeness and good manners. In lessons, we expect 100% participation using the **SHAPE** framework (answering in full sentences, hands away from face, articulate, project voice, and eye contact) and actively **ECHOING** key words.

Students are brilliantly embracing the focus each week which will contribute to a reward at the end of term if they meet all the challenges each week - a reward they are choosing via their tutor group council reps.

Anita Frier, Headteacher

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One area that they do need to address is '**Skirts rolled up**'. Visitors and staff note that they are 'very short'. We have also noticed that some skirts have been altered to make them shorter than purchased! Parents - please support us with this - staff should not have to ask a student to unroll the waistband and adjust their skirt to an appropriate length. If too small, please replace, if broken, please replace so they do not tie them up. If you have financial concerns, as ever, contact us and we can support. We want students to wear our school uniform with pride - it promotes a focused professional environment; it fosters equality and reduces social peer pressures. If all students wear their uniform as it should be worn, we remove the wish for it to be accessorised and altered to 'fit in'.

As always, we welcome the opportunity for parents to walk around the college during the day to see learning in action, and see how our systems are working to benefit all. Please email [info@sdcc-smhc.net](mailto:info@sdcc-smhc.net) to arrange a visit.

As ever, we appreciate your support, working together to get great outcomes for our young people.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Frier". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Anita Frier  
Headteacher