



September 2022

Theale Green School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Change to Behaviour Procedures, including Saturday School

Mrs Cartland has launched the video around the adapted behaviour and attendance procedures in place at Theale Green School. For many families this will feel no different, as the majority of students consistently demonstrate or exceed our expectations.

However, we are aware that a very small number of students repeatedly fail to attend both normal and then escalated detentions, which are normal sanctions in any school for poor behaviour. This small group of students often tell us that they have arrangements such as football matches, dentist appointments, haircuts or family commitments, or tell us that their parents say they do not have to go, or simply fail to attend. It is clear that sanctions in the form of after-school detentions must be prioritised, and while students continue to think that this is not the case, there will be no impact on the change in their behaviour that is required for that student, and for the students around them who continually abide by our rules and our values.

The remainder of this letter details some changes which do not apply to the majority of our students, but that are important for all parents to be aware of and understand.

To that end, having carefully reviewed the 'Department for Education – Behaviour and Discipline in Schools. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>' and having researched other schools' approaches moving forward, we will be running Saturday School with the Leadership Team for students who accrue detentions regularly, or who fail to attend detentions regularly. These detentions will be for two hours on a Saturday morning with the Senior Leadership Team. Failure of a student to attend at this point will then result in internal exclusion until the parent/carers is able to meet in person with the senior leadership team and commit to support the schools' policies and procedures, at which point the detention will then be carried out. A small number of parents are regularly asking for detentions to be re-arranged. This cannot be managed as there are staff meetings on other evenings and the workload is considerable for staff in chasing and amending administrative paperwork. Students must understand that poor behaviour or poor punctuality will lead to a consequence, and that consequence needs to be supported by all adults, as it is set out by the school. We fully understand that a parent may disagree with a detention, but parental consent for a detention is not required.



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We will be running our first Saturday detention this term, and those students who meet the criteria above will be told in advance so that they are able to reduce the number of detentions that they receive, or attend those that they are given so they do not have to attend on Saturday School. We appreciate that Saturday School may cause considerable inconvenience, but it will be given with notice, and only as a result of the student ignoring the rules and consequences on several occasions before then.

The following is taken from the Department for Education – Behaviour and Discipline in Schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>

Detention

What the law allows:

27. Teachers have a power to issue detention to pupils (aged under 18).

28. Schools must make clear to pupils and parents that they use detention (including detention outside of school hours) as a sanction.

29. The times outside normal school hours when detention can be given (the 'permitted day of detention') include:

a) any school day where the pupil does not have permission to be absent;

b) weekends - except the weekend preceding or following the half term break; and

c) non-teaching days – usually referred to as 'training days', 'INSET days' or 'noncontact days'.

30. The Headteacher can decide which members of staff can put pupils in detention. For example, they can limit the power to heads of year or heads of department only or they can decide that all members of staff, including support staff, can impose detentions.

31. Parental consent is not required for detentions.

This amendment has been made alongside the others discussed in the presentation by Mrs Cartland. This year we will be working with staff, students and parents on our rewards policy to consider further ways to celebrate and reward students for all the very positive behaviours and values we see being displayed every day by the majority of students. We are also looking forward to developing our use of Classcharts further in this year to ease communication between home and school. If you do not have full access to Classcharts where you can see your child's House Points, Badges, Punctuality and Behaviour please do contact your child's tutor and they will ensure that you are signed up. It is important that every parent has full access to Classcharts as much of your child's information is now held here.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and understanding of the need to ensure that all students at Theale Green School behave in a way that supports all students equally. We know that poor behaviour has a significant impact on the well being of both students and staff, and our aim is to ensure that every student understands the need to have a positive impact on their community.

Yours Faithfully

The Leadership Team