



# Reminders and updates

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

Happy New Year! I would like to thank you for your continued support as we begin the start of a new term. I hope this message will clarify important aspects of school life and ensure that all stakeholders are fully aware of the important decisions made concerning our "Rockstars" to ensure that we demonstrate the CORE value of "excellence". In my communication before the Christmas break, I detailed our intention to focus our actions on key aspects of school life that require a "reset" to ensure the highest possible standards at Rockwood Academy. In our last Ofsted inspection, Inspectors recognized that, 'pupils behave well around school' and 'learning is not hindered by low level disruption.' We achieve this through constant reminders of how to behave in a positive way that leads to success.

## Excellence at Rockwood

At Rockwood, building a sense of belonging and developing excellence in all aspects of school life are paramount to our success. In order to achieve this, we are delighted to be working with the CORE Education trust extended leadership team which will enable us to add additional capacity to fully support every student to achieve their potential and rise to the challenge of our "reset" expectations. We have taken the opportunity to share with students some new systems and processes that will address some identified areas for improvement. As always, I would welcome your support on these matters and have detailed these below so that you are able to support your children to demonstrate excellence:

## Uniform

We expect all students to arrive in **full school uniform** with full equipment, ready to "reach for the stars". Our 'Uniform and Equipment Policy' is clear and is available here:

<https://www.corerockwood.academy/school-life/uniform-equipment>

Full Rockwood PE kit should be worn on PE days, together with lanyards and blazers. Trainers are not to be worn at the Academy unless a PE day. We will provide suitable footwear to any student who fails to meet our expectation and we have introduced the removal of outer coats in the building. This means that during the day the standard of uniform can be recognised more freely and we are keen to reward students who are demonstrating excellence. If you have any queries or require support with any aspects of uniform or PE kit, please contact us and we will be happy to support.

## Attendance and punctuality

- I have reminded all students about the importance of **attendance and punctuality** to school and every lesson. Our gates open at 8:25am each day, with the school day starting at 8:35am. Students arriving after 8:35am are considered late and will be issued a 60-minute correction to be served after school on the same day. To avoid this, please ensure that your child arrives early ready for the start of our school day. Unfortunately, I have had to write to some parents personally regarding the issues around punctuality, which can become a legal matter.

- To further support punctuality and academic progress, we are now only accepting **3 minutes** to travel to lessons. Please could all parents remind their children that lost learning time will lead to a decline in academic progress. For Year 11, students not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths had an overall absence rate of 8.8%, compared to 5.2% among those achieving grade 4 (Department of Education, 2022). Where truancy occurs during the school day, we will contact parent/carer to ask you to support the sanction accordingly. To support your child, we have clubs before school, starting at 8:15am. All students are welcome to attend. Our library is open for students to read or use the computers. Our Breakfast Club offers free tea and toast to all students; we believe that no student should start the school day with an empty stomach. Further details about school clubs can be found on our school website: <https://www.corerockwood.academy/school-life/clubs-activities>

### **Conduct for Excellence**

- We have also discussed the schools **code of conduct** with students - Ready, Respectful and Safe. In these sessions, we shared our expectations for excellent social time conduct and how to move around the building in a safe and orderly manner. I am sure that parents would welcome this initiative and will support us in communicating to your child the importance of sensible and safe conduct.

We have shared this with students and have rewarded those students who have demonstrated the value of "respect". As with all aspects of school life there are consequences in place for any student that does not adhere to our code of conduct.

### **How you can help**

We will continue to use the Class Charts app to communicate key data about your child's conduct at school, including rewards, attendance, and behaviour. Please can I ask all parents to check Class Charts on a daily basis so that any rewards are praised at home, sanctions are well communicated, and children are safe when returning home later than usual.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing successes and continual development with you and will continue to welcome your feedback so that we can work together to support your child to demonstrate excellence as a student at Rockwood.

Our next Parent Symposium will be held towards the end of this half term, details will follow shortly.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Kind regards.



**Mr D Cooke**  
Head of School