

22 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Throughout the last term we have seen a significant increase in the number of students requesting to go to the toilet during lesson time, for some of our students this is resulting in too much lost learning time. When students make a request to access the toilet during lessons, staff are able to make an immediate check to confirm if there is a medical condition, ensuring that those students who readily need access to the toilet are always granted permission to do so. When students are given permission to use the toilet during lesson time, staff will always sign their planner on the daily page, this enables you and us to gauge whether the frequency in which they are attending the toilet during lesson times is excessive or not.

We feel that a break time of 15 minutes and a lunchtime of 30 minutes in duration, provides our students with ample opportunity to access the toilets available. With the added capacity we have due to the number of toilets in the new building we can adequately cater for the needs of those students who may be on break or lunch at any one time. In response to our student voice we have recently spent a significant amount of money on our toilets to ensure they are in good condition following a spate of vandalism during the previous term and we have also appointed two toilet attendants in order to maintain a good standard throughout the day. This now means that all of the toilets are clean, well maintained and that the numbers of students using the space are managed effectively. We feel this is of paramount importance given that our most recent student voice feedback identified that some students found these areas to be unclean and at times felt uncomfortable using them, particularly due to the numbers of students in the space at any one time. This is now managed much more effectively by our toilet attendants and the early feedback received is very positive from students, in particular from some of our younger students.

Giving consideration to this, staff will be using their discretion when students make requests to access the toilet during lesson time. I am sure that you are aware that occasionally some teenagers/students will opt for 'the path of least resistance' and during lessons, this can sometimes mean a toilet visit is seen as preferential rather than working with the maximum effort. Equally, we recognise that there are times when a visit to the toilet will be needed and the professional discretion of Academy staff will be applied on these occasions.

As we continue with our commitment to raising standards and transforming the academic lives of our students, we believe that they are discerning enough to make the right decisions and understand the importance of taking every single learning opportunity available to them, whilst also developing the resilience needed to manage challenging learning situations. In this way they will learn how to successfully manage the demands of everyday life long after they have completed their compulsory education.



Mr J Pape
Principal