

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Dear all,

As we reach the end of this half term, we want to thank you all for your ongoing support. The term has truly flown by, and it's hard to believe we are now heading into the final half term of the academic year. It's been a busy few weeks, and we're incredibly proud of our students for the progress they've made and the way they continue to rise to expectations.

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### **Strengthening Expectations Around Punctuality and Lesson Starts**

As part of our ongoing work to **raise expectations** and maintain **high standards** at KSA, we are refining our approach to **punctuality** after the half term break.

### **Why Punctuality Matters**

Being on time to lessons is essential for learning. Every lesson at KSA begins with a '**Do Now**'. This is a short, focused activity designed to:

- Recap key knowledge.
- Reinforce prior learning.
- Support memory and long-term retention.

This approach is grounded in **educational research** and is proven to improve outcomes.

### **Responding to Student Feedback**

We've heard from students that:

- Some *Do Now* activities **go on too long**.
- Others **don't always feel relevant**.

As a result, some students feel the **start of the lesson "doesn't count."** In response, we've worked closely with **Subject Leads** and staff to ensure that *Do Nows* are:

- Sharp and purposeful.
- Consistent in quality.
- Clearly linked to learning.

We want students to see the **value of being on time and ready to learn from minute one**.

## What's Changing After Half Term

To support high expectations:

- Students must arrive within **5 minutes** of the previous lesson ending.
- Bells will continue to signal movement time.

From after half term:

- **5–10 minutes late** = *Late mark* + **1 behaviour point**
- **10+ minutes late** = *Partial truancy* + **2 behaviour points**
- **Failure to attend** = *Truancy* + **3 behaviour points**
- *If a student is with a staff member, no points will be issued.*

## Daily Behaviour Consequences

- **2 points in a day** → 30-minute detention
- **3 or more points in a day** → 1-hour detention

This consistent and purposeful approach helps reinforce that **every part of the school day matters**, and supports all students in making the most of their learning time.

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## Knife Crime Awareness Assembly – Year 8

On **Friday 23rd May**, PCSO Steve Coles from Northamptonshire Police delivered a **Knife Awareness Assembly** to Year 8 students as part of the **national police initiative Operation Sceptre**, which is running this week.

The session covered:

- **Misconceptions around knife crime.**
- **The dangers of carrying a knife.**
- **The law and legal consequences.**
- **The prevalence of violence on social media and the impact of this.**
- **How to report concerns and keep themselves safe.**

This powerful and age-appropriate session forms part of our wider work on safeguarding, promoting personal responsibility, and supporting students to make safe, informed choices.

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## SEN Information Event – A Successful First Step

This week, we hosted KSA's **first-ever SEN Information Event**, and were delighted by the positive engagement from families.

 Attendees included:

- **SEND Support Services (SSS)**
- **Maplefields Teaching School**
- **Better Together Learning Trust**
- **Sea of Support** – a local family support group

 Feedback from parents:

- *“Very good and informative. Well done.”*
- *“Everything was super. Thank you.”*

We're excited to build on this success and strengthen our partnerships with families and external agencies to ensure the best outcomes for all students.

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## SEND IASS – New Video Launch

We're pleased to share a new video from **North Northamptonshire's SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS)**, which highlights the real experiences of families and young people supported by the team.

 **Watch the video here:** <https://youtu.be/fpZvJGa3x5Q?si=j4J1LiLif7V28JWL>

The film also features the **'Truth from the Youth' Advisory Council** – a group of young people aged 13+ who help shape local SEND support. The footage shows how empowering, enjoyable, and valuable these experiences are.

### **What is SEND IASS?**

SEND IASS offers **free, confidential and impartial advice** to:

- Children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND
- Parents and carers of children with SEND
- Schools and professionals

The team helps families:

- Navigate the EHCP process
- Attend meetings
- Access services
- Make informed decisions

### **Contact Details**

Email: [SENDIASS@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Advice Line: **0300 373 2532** (Mon–Fri, 9:30am–4:30pm)

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Thank you once again for your continued support this half term. We wish you all a **restful and enjoyable break** and look forward to welcoming students back for the final half term of the year.

With my very best wishes

Mrs Giovanelli