



5th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

After-School Detentions

In line with the introduction of the Positive Discipline behaviour system, it has been necessary to make some changes to our detention system, which we have been trialling during the Summer term of 2017. This is not only to encourage good behaviour in school, which in turn creates a positive learning environment for the students at Vale of York Academy, but is also important in delivering a clear message to our students that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and will be sanctioned accordingly.

Detentions will be issued for the accumulation of comments within subject areas; for poor punctuality; inappropriate uniform; lack of equipment; and for poor around-school behaviour. Detentions are held on a Monday and Wednesday evening in the main hall, and will last for 1 hour. Should a student fail to attend one of these detentions, they will be automatically entered for a Principal's detention on a Friday for 1 ½ hours. Failure to attend this Principal's detention will result in the student spending a day in our seclusion centre. This is our most serious sanction before exclusion.

There will be no exemptions from the after-school detention system. If your child has a medical appointment, parents/carers must inform the school and rearrange the detention. It will not be possible for a student to rearrange it themselves. If your child is absent on the day of a scheduled detention, it will be rearranged to the next detention session automatically.

In line with the Department for Education, schools have no legal obligation to inform parents/carers that their child is being kept back after school for a detention. Nor do schools need the consent of a parent/carers to issue and detain a student for an after-school detention. As an academy, we have however made the decision to continue to notify parents that their child has been entered for a detention by writing this in the student planner. In the event a child has been issued a same day detention (perhaps due to absence on the day in which the detention was issued), we will endeavour to contact parents by telephone.

We understand that after-school detentions can sometimes be an inconvenience to parents/carers, however they are an integral part of the behaviour system, and as such we urge parents/carers to encourage their children to adhere to the rules and expectations of the academy, so that ultimately they are not issued with a detention.

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For further information on the guidance surrounding detentions, please visit the links below for the Department of Education:

www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/discipline

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488034/Behaviour and Discipline in Schools - A guide for headteachers and School Staff.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488034/Behaviour_and_Discipline_in_Schools_-_A_guide_for_headteachers_and_School_Staff.pdf)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Should you require any further information regarding the use of afterschool detentions as a sanction, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Miss L Scaum



Assistant Vice Principal