

19th July 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are near to the end of the summer term and it is at this point that we have to say goodbye to some of our students and parents who are returning to mainstream schools or are moving on into new educational provision. It is always a sad time for us at The Darley Centre as we have got to know you all very well. This time of year can cause uncertainty as to what happens next, but as your child embarks on the next phase of their academic career, please feel free to contact us should you have any concerns about your child's education. We will do all that we can to support and offer advice.

REVIEWS

During the Autumn term, we will be holding our reviews on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st October. These are a time when we can come together with a staff member from your child's school and representatives of the Local Authority to celebrate your child's successes. It is important that you attend these, so please put the date in your diary. These meetings require a lot of planning to ensure that everyone needed for the meeting is available.

UNIFORM

It is important to remind parents/carers of our uniform policy at The Darley Centre. Students should wear their school uniform that they would be expected to wear at their mainstream school (not blazers/ties). This does not include casual trousers, jeans, tracksuits or hoodies. If for any reason your child cannot wear his/her uniform, please contact their child's teacher to discuss the problem. Often we can find a solution to help you with this.

FOOD/DRINK

Some of our students are bringing packed lunches instead of choosing a school dinner. We have been accredited as a Healthy School and as such, spend part of our curriculum time explaining the virtues of healthy eating. We ask therefore, that you do not send fizzy drinks to school as part of a packed lunch. We know that students do 'test us' by periodically bringing these drinks into school. We will continue to discourage this and will confiscate and dispose of high energy caffeine 'Red Bull' type drinks should we see them.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the key elements that support a successful placement at The Darley Centre. During the last term, several students and parents/carers, were surprised to find that they were being given late marks on arrival. We understand that there are occasions when students are late due to circumstances beyond their control e.g. taxis being held up in traffic. These situations are no ones fault but there are occasions when individual's time keeping is not acceptable. If a student was in mainstream school, they would be expected to have an attendance of over 95%. When we see that a student has not arrived at school by 9.05 a.m., we will immediately contact you and work with you as to how we can overcome this difficulty.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We will be using our website to inform parents of dates for the forthcoming year as well as publishing our letters to parents/carers. Please ensure that you check this on a regular basis. The address is:

www.thedarleycentre.org.uk

DATES FOR DIARIES

| Holiday | School closes (pm) | School re-open (am) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Start of school year | | Thursday 8 th September 2016 |
| Autumn half term | Friday 21 st October 2016 | Monday 31 st October 2016 |
| Christmas | Friday 16 th December 2016 | Wednesday 4 th January 2017 |
| Spring half term | Friday 17 th February 2017 | Monday 27 th February 2017 |
| Easter | Thursday 7 th April 2017 | Tuesday 25 th April 2017 |
| Summer half term | Friday 26 th May 2017 | Monday 5 th June 2017 |
| Summer | Tuesday 25 th July 2017 | |

May Day – 1st May 2017

Good Friday – 14th April 2017

Easter Monday – 17th April 2017

FINALLY

If there are any issues that you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me or call in to see me.

Mike Burnett
Headteacher