

21st May 2021

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: Behaviour expectations at JOG**

I am writing to ask for your support.

At John O'Gaunt we rightly set the bar high to ensure that our students can access the best possible education. Unfortunately, we are experiencing a small but significant number of our students falling below our expectations in terms of their conduct. I am in the process of holding targeted assemblies to speak directly to the students who are receiving too many negative points. Unfortunately, your child has been included on this list.

Whilst it is pleasing that we have seen an overall reduction in the number of students requiring more serious sanctions, sadly minor poor behaviour seems to be on the rise at the moment. Much of this poor behaviour is characterized by disrespectful attitudes towards staff, defiance of school rules and low-level disruption in lessons. We also have a significant minority of students who are failing to wear their uniform correctly and using their mobile phones during school hours without permission.

We completely understand that young people make mistakes and we have designed a behaviour system that gives students opportunities to adjust their behaviour and prevent further disruption. This staged system, includes the provision that a member of the Welfare Team or a senior member of staff will visit every child who reaches a Stage 2 (S2) to try and help reset their behaviour.

As well as the stages system, we have a wide range of other measures in place to support students to reset and reform their behaviour, as well as a strong team of support and pastoral staff to assist students. Given the support that is therefore available, it is disappointing that some of our students seem to be flouting the rules and acting in a way that has a negative impact on their fellow students and the ethos of the school. Therefore, I would be extremely grateful if you could reinforce the following key messages at home:

- **Be respectful**
- **No defiance**
- **No arguing**
- **Do as you are told first time**
- **No disrupting the learning of others**
- **Uniform is not negotiable – it must be worn properly at all times. No hoodies, jumpers, trainers, nail varnish or piercings**
- **Mobile phones must be switched off and in your bag. No headphones or speakers etc. allowed in school**
- **You must be on time for all lessons**

There are, of course, other rules students need to follow, but these are the important ones we need to highlight at the moment. In simple terms, all we ask of each student is that they work hard, try their best and follow the rules. I am sure you will agree that these are all very reasonable requests to make and that every child who attends JOG has the equal right to enjoy an uninterrupted high-quality education and feel safe, including your own children. If we work together, I know that we can achieve this.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. If you would like any clarification on any of these issues, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hawthorne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

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**Mr R Hawthorne**  
**Head of School**