



# SKEGNESS ACADEMY

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@SkegnessAcad

1 November 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you had a restful half-term break. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 4 November 2024.

I am happy to announce that we have made substantial improvements in all areas of the school since the start of the new school year. Particularly, our attendance has increased by 5% compared to this time last year. Additionally, student behaviour has shown significant improvement, with a decrease in suspensions while still upholding our high standards and expectations. We have had a positive beginning to the new school year, and I am confident that we will continue to make progress.

To ensure a smooth start to the second half of the autumn term, I would like to share a few reminders and updates with you.

## **Uniform, Personal Presentation, and Equipment**

Please ensure that your child returns to school in full and correct uniform, along with the necessary equipment. The following points are important:

- Students are only allowed to wear plain black, non-branded socks.
- Students are required to wear black, low-heeled leather or leather-type shoes that can be polished. Trainers or trainer-style shoes are not permitted.
- Students must wear a blazer. While the school jumper is permitted, it is not a replacement for the blazer.
- With the weather getting colder, students may wear a jacket or coat; however, hoodies, sports jackets, gilets, and leather jackets are not allowed. All jackets and coats must be worn over the blazer and cannot be used as a substitute.

In addition, I ask for your support in ensuring that your child meets our expectations regarding personal presentation:

- Hair should be of a natural colour, and emblems or lines are not permitted.
- False eyelashes, false nails, and shaved lines in eyebrows are not allowed.
- Students may wear a simple watch and one small stud in the bottom of each earlobe. No other piercings are allowed, and clear retainers are not permitted.

## **Mobile Phones**

Research has shown that the use of mobile phones is linked to reduced educational performance and that excessive screen time negatively impacts children's wellbeing. Therefore, the use of mobile phones is prohibited on the school site between 8.30am and 3.10pm. If a phone is seen or

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heard, it will be confiscated and placed at reception, where it can be collected by a parent or guardian. Please remind your child of this rule.

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the school's reception or a member of your child's year team. Similarly, if your child needs to contact you, they can see a member of the year team who will facilitate a call.

### **End of the School Day**

We have noticed a rise in parents entering the school premises to collect their children at the end of the school day, which can cause unnecessary congestion. To prioritise health and safety, and guarantee a safe departure for all students, please can I ask all parents and guardians to wait at the main school gate for your child instead of entering the school site.

### **School Dog**

I am pleased to inform you that we will be getting a school dog. 'Pippa', a cockapoo, who has been chosen for her non-shedding fur and hypoallergenic properties, making her suitable for most children with allergies to dogs.

Research has shown that having a school dog can:

- Provide emotional support
- Build relationship skills
- Have a calming effect and help children regulate their emotions
- Encourage expression and communication
- Foster a sense of responsibility
- Help children build confidence in reading

Pippa will join us after half-term, and a gradual introduction process will take place. Initially, she will be walked around the school to get used to her surroundings, and the students will have the opportunity to get used to her. Pippa will always be kept on a short lead, and students will be able to keep a distance from her if they wish.

If you have any concerns about your child having one-on-one contact with the school dog, please email us at [admins@skegnessacademy.org](mailto:admins@skegnessacademy.org).

We look forward to seeing all students return to school on Monday 4 November. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Gissendorf  
**Principal**

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