

Thursday, 16 May 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians



The second term is well underway with our academic, sports and extracurricular programmes on the go. While watching our learners participate in various activities, I am reminded of the importance of a school having a uniform that the learners wear with pride. Our world has become obsessed with appearances and if we are to prepare our children for the realities that they will face in the working world than a few important truths about how you will be judged bear reminding.

1. Statistics have shown that people will have made their mind up about someone within the first 6 seconds of meeting them and 55% of this is determined by what you wear. Being neat and well-dressed are essential for a good first impression. We encourage learners to wear their uniforms with respect; ensure that their shoes are polished; that their shirts are ironed and that their ties are done neatly. This is all done to ensure that when they leave school they understand the importance of the way you dress.
2. It is also important to take care of personal hygiene. Hair should be combed, clean shaved (if a boy), teeth cleaned, nails trimmed and clean, to ensure that the learner appears both clean and fresh. In the business world this could mean the difference between getting the job you want and remaining in the unemployment line.
3. Body language or non-verbal cues are another important lesson that our students must learn. Sitting up straight, walking with purpose, smiling, and having a firm handshake are all positive signs that the people you meet will judge you by. They are easy to remember but many teenagers seem to believe it is cooler to slouch, dawdle and mumble.
4. We have all heard the saying that a person's attitude determines their altitude. Learners who remain positive in the face of adversity and show a never say die attitude naturally attract positivity to themselves. Employers of the future are looking for employees who can face uncertainty with tenacity and grit. Those people who arrive with a smile on their face every day to face the challenges of the day.

Our world is certainly not an easy space for teenagers to navigate but if we can teach them some of the survival techniques that can help them in the future then we must do so despite many of them complaining of the formality of uniforms and greetings. We will be having our High School photos on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Please ensure that your child wears their blazer and tie to school; that their hair is neat and that they are clean shaven (if boys). Photos last forever these days and may one day mean the difference between success and failure.

Yours sincerely

Leon Grove