



Diocese of St. Albans



December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: After School Detentions

We have, unfortunately, this term seen an unprecedented level of challenge from parents / carers to after school detentions. Almost without exception, these challenges are difficult to justify and incur significant staff time. The School Behaviour for Learning Policy is followed closely so that the use of detentions is appropriate and a justified response to inappropriate behaviour.

Students are sanctioned, and will continue to be so, when their behaviour impacts on teaching and learning and/or student/staff safety and welfare. These behaviours are inappropriate within any school setting and as such will be sanctioned to uphold our school standards. Imposing a sanction, such as an after school detention, also encourages students to recognise that they need to be accountable for their behaviours and that inappropriate behaviour will have a consequence.

There have also been a number of requests from parents / carers to have detentions rescheduled to fit around other commitments after school, or to negotiate an alternative sanction. This only seeks to undermine our Behaviour for Learning Policy and whole school consistency.

In response to the above, as from the start of the Spring Term 2019, which commences Tuesday 8 January 2019, I would like to clarify that:

- All students are expected to attend any school detention that is issued to them on the allocated day
- Where a student does not attend a detention, this will be escalated to an SLT detention which will be a 2 hr detention on a Thursday each week. Failure to attend an SLT detention will result in further sanction, i.e the use of Internal or Fixed Term Exclusion as appropriate
- The school will not reschedule or negotiate any after school detentions (except where there is a family emergency)
- Staff will not be able to remove a detention or respond to any challenge about after school detentions. Students should know the reason for a detention, but any requests for more information about detentions will need to be made by email. Please note, parents/carers can use the SLG (School Learning Gateway) to look at their child's behaviour log where they will see details of any detention and rewards given.

In addition, to allow parents/carers additional time to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to support any detentions that are sanctioned, after school detentions will now be run by Teaching & Learning teams and Year teams. This means that same day detentions will no longer be issued. Students will, instead, be expected to attend a detention overseen after school by the Teaching & Learning team of the subject in which the misbehaviour occurred or your child's Year team in cases of lateness, uniform or mobile phone mis-use. These detentions will operate on rotation across the week. Parents/carers will continue to be informed of these detentions by text message.

ASPIRE • CHALLENGE • SUCCEED

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354
e: admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk w: www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Ms Stephanie Benbow MAEd., B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH

'A good school' Ofsted May 2018
'An outstanding church school' SIAMS May 2015

St Mary's CE Academy, Cheshunt, is a limited company registered in England and Wales
Company No. 07999861 Registered Office: As above

Senior Detentions, run by SLT in response to more serious incidents or continued failure to comply with expected standards, will continue to run for two hours every Thursday and parents/carers will receive a letter confirming the SLT detention in advance.

The behaviours that the School deems as unacceptable, and the consequent response to these, are set out in the Behaviour for Learning Policy. This can be accessed via the school website under the 'About' tab and by clicking on 'Policies' heading.

I hope that you will understand that if parents/carers can work with staff to support our high standards and to reduce the amount of time spent administering sanctions, more time can be used on teaching and learning.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in upholding the highest standards to ensure the very best outcomes for every one of our students.

Yours faithfully

S Warner

Steve Warner
Deputy Head Teacher – Behaviour for Learning

ASPIRE • CHALLENGE • SUCCEED

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354
e: admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk w: www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Ms Stephanie Benbow MAEd., B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH

'A good school' Ofsted May 2018
'An outstanding church school' SIAMS May 2015

St Mary's CE Academy, Cheshunt, is a limited company registered in England and Wales
Company No. 07999861 Registered Office: As above