

January 2024

Dear parent/carers,

During the latter part of term 1 and at the beginning of this new term, we are seeing a significant number of students requesting to go to the toilet during lesson time, for some students it is resulting in too much lost learning. When students request access to the toilet, staff are able to check if there is a medical condition, meaning that the students who need immediate access to the toilet are always granted access. When students are given permission to use the toilet in lesson time, staff will always sign their planner on the daily page, this enables you and us to see whether the frequency in which they are attending the toilet during lesson times is excessive.

Break (15 minutes) and lunchtime (30 minutes), provide ample opportunity for students to use the toilet. Furthermore, there are a significant number of toilets in social spaces to cater for the number of students on break and lunchtime at any one time. Additionally, when students move from lesson to lesson, this movement period provides adequate time to visit the toilet and arrive on time to the next lesson.

With consideration to this, staff will be using their discretion when students request access to the toilet in lesson time. As a parent of teenage children myself, I am aware, as you will be, that occasionally some teenagers/students will opt for 'the path of least resistance'. In lessons, this can sometimes mean a toilet visit rather than working with full effort. Equally, there are times when a visit to the toilet will be needed and this is why the professional discretion of the staff will be applied.

Students will be made aware of this on Monday 15th January in tutor time. They will be informed of the opportunities available to them to use the toilet in social times (break and lunch) and it should be required, as they move from lesson to lesson (they would still be expected to arrive on time to lessons due to the adequate movement time).

As we continue with our commitment to raise standards and transform lives, we will always ask students to think discerningly about taking every single learning opportunity available to them and practicing the resilience needed, in challenging learning situations, to cope with the demands of everyday life when they finish their compulsory education.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul Taylor
Principal