

I am proud to be writing my first fortnightly update as Headteacher of Kelmscott School. The first two weeks have flown by in the blink of an eye but I am thrilled with the start that we have made. Staff and students alike have been working exceptionally hard and the results have been very impressive. Special mention must go to our new year 7 cohort who have made a particularly good start, settling in very quickly.

Our focus has been on a new behaviour system, in essence a more joined up approach across the school of rewarding good behaviour and dealing with less desirable behaviour. Of course the vast majority of our 900 students behave impeccably day in day out and it is nice to be able to recognise this more formally. Students are accumulating rewards points that they are able to cash in for a variety of different things such as a movie experience or a VIP early lunch pass. Our aim as a staff is to maintain a 5:1 ration of rewards points to consequence points which we believe will help to foster a positive ethos throughout the school. I'm pleased to report that we have managed this very well in the first two weeks. The honesty and good citizenship of our students never fails to impress me; evidenced this week with a number of expensive smart phones being handed in by students (having been found misplaced on the playground) across the age range.

We also believe that every student at Kelmscott has a right to disruption free learning (DfL). With that in mind we have introduced our DfL checks every morning during registration. All 900 or so students are checked to see that they are in possession of a black pen, red pen, ruler, pencil and journal. Only once this is done do we sound the bell for the start of lesson one. Students have been taking this very seriously and have organised themselves to ensure they are properly equipped every day. This has led to some very positive conversations at the starts of lessons as opposed to a moan, nag or detention when students are without the necessary equipment.

The impact of our new approaches to both behaviour and equipment has led to even better teaching and learning this week. I make a point of walking our corridors for at least one hour a day popping in and out of lessons. I have seen some really exciting and inspiring lessons and very engaged students enjoying their day to day learning. I am confident this will continue once our new approach is embedded and becomes the culture in our classrooms. If any families would like to join me on one of my walks they would be most welcome. Please get in touch with my PA Alison Scotchmer who can book a time for us to walk the school.

Can I take this opportunity to thank families for their support these past few weeks in ensuring that students arrive to school on time, in the correct uniform, with the correct equipment ready to learn. Your support with our new behaviour systems is vital as we continue our improvement as a school. Working in partnership with families is crucial here; we simply can't do it without you.

I plan to keep you updated about how we are getting on each fortnight. If you are interested in hearing more and are on social media, do give our Kelmscott Twitter handle a follow or indeed my Twitter handle a follow;

@KelmscottSchool

@KelmscottHT

Please do get in contact if there is anything you would like to discuss about your child's education, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Mr Sam Jones 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019