



Smithdon High School
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Dear parents

We have had another largely positive half term, with over 35,000 reward points issued since January (over 137,000 since September), some of which celebrated by our third set of Pastoral Manager breakfasts this week, in addition to some sporting successes and progressions to national finals.

However, as you will be aware from the media, there is a national concern regarding the numbers of young people taking up vaping and doing so in school bathrooms, and Smithdon is no different. As part of our actions to support the wellbeing of our students, we are increasing our interventions with regards to vaping and cracking down on students using cubicles together, a way for students to share vapes with one another. As such, please be aware that from the start of next half term, if your child is identified (or has previously been identified) as sharing a toilet cubicle and/or vaping in school, **we will be carrying out ad hoc searches** in addition to any searches carried out at the time of being caught in this position. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Manager or Assistant Headteacher, Head of Year, in the first instance.

In other news, we are looking to update some of our promotional video material for the school website and other media outlets. As part of this, there will be a small camera team coming into school in the week after half term (on Tuesday 25 February). They are beginning their filming around the listed historic buildings on this visit - the gym, A Block and the Maths block. They will be filming throughout the day to capture the daily life of the school. **If you DO NOT want your child to be captured during this filming please email office@smithdonhigh.org.uk** confirming your child's name and form and that you do not wish for them to appear in any footage.

On the day of filming, those students whose parents have contacted us will be provided a lanyard to wear ALL DAY around school, so the filming team know NOT to include them in the filming. It is therefore **essential that if you have informed us not to film your child, that you explain the importance of them wearing this lanyard visibly at all times on the day and not removing it.** If any child removes the lanyard, we cannot be held responsible if they later appear in the promotional material.

Thank you for your cooperation in both these matters. I hope your children have a great half term holiday and we look forward to seeing them on Monday 24 February, when I will write again to update you on events for the half term ahead.

With best wishes.

A. Gibbins,

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher

The Cambridge Partnership
Graduate Teacher Programme

