

21st December 2018

Same Day Detentions - January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Why introduce Same Day Detentions?

We have high expectations for behaviour at Tanfield School. Just like you, we want the school to be a warm, caring, friendly and happy place, where learning can flourish, so that your child can progress to university, or a real alternative, achieve their dream job and have a happy future.

All students' behaviour around the school should support this aim. Every lesson should be characterised by a relentless focus on learning, free from distractions. This means that poor behaviour- even low level disruption such as talking, not following an instruction or disturbing others' learning- is not acceptable.

This letter is to make sure our classroom expectations are transparent and clear to all. The vast majority of our students are impeccably behaved and this letter will not apply to them- though they will benefit from these changes.

We obviously hope that we do not need to issue detentions to our students as we expect that they will behave in line with our school rules. However, from time to time students sometimes need reminding of this and on the rare occasion where a student does not meet these expectations, a consequence will be given.

What will happen?

From January, the following process will be used in such cases:

- a verbal reminder will be given to the student from the member of staff, with the expectation that the student will modify their behaviour;
- a second formal warning will be given if there is no change in the student's behaviour. At this point, the students' name will be written on the board as a final warning;
- if, after a formal warning has been given, there is still no change or a student's behaviour is unacceptable, the member of staff will request support from a senior member via our "on-call" system. This will mean that they will come to the lesson to speak to the student who is preventing learning from taking place;
- If the student receives an on-call, they will be given an instant after school detention to be carried out **the same day.**

You may have some questions about same day detentions, which the rest of this letter will address.

Are same day detentions allowed?

Some parents have expressed concern about same day detentions in the past, on the basis of legality, inconvenience and safety of a child getting home in a different way. We wish to reassure you on these matters.

The Department for Education states that schools do not legally need a parent's permission to detain a child and no longer have to give 24 hours' notice. There is no legal obligation to inform you that your child is being kept back after school and schools do not need to provide a reason as to why a detention has been issued. Teachers have a legal power to put a student aged under 18 in detention; this includes detention outside of school hours.

However, it is our priority to work in partnership with you for the benefit of your child. We **will** inform you if your child has an after school detention.

For further information on the DfE guidance, please follow the link: <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/discipline>

Same Day Detention will take place after school for one hour. Any student who receives an “on-call” will be collected towards the end of period 5 and taken to the detention that day.

How will you be informed?

The school will send a text message to inform you that your child will be carrying out an after school detention that afternoon and will be late home. You will also receive a phone call from your child’s class teacher to discuss any issues that occurred in the lesson.

Please ensure that we have your correct telephone number. If you have recently changed your number, please contact school as soon as possible, so we can update our records.

Your child gets a bus. How will they get home?

If your child travels to school by bus, we will provide them with transport via our new after school bus to ensure they get home safely.

What will happen if the detention is not done?

Student failure to engage with this process will result in one or more of the following:

- internal exclusion;
- meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- fixed term exclusion or
- any other sanction deemed appropriate.

We appreciate that in some cases students might have legitimate reasons why they are unable to complete a detention. Therefore, if your child has a pre-arranged appointment/responsibility it is best to assume they might have to stay back after school, so it is advisable to inform the office in the morning just in case they do receive an after school detention.

Although parental permission is not required, if parents do object to a detention, the school will take their objections into account. A parent who remains dissatisfied can complain to the Head Teacher or the governing body via the usual complaints procedures, although the detention may have already taken place before the complaint has been considered.

I hope you appreciate the reasons why we have decided to adopt such strict sanctions with an approach that will allow all children to learn in an environment free from distractions so they can be successful in their futures.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Jones
Deputy Headteacher