



The Hollins Technology College

Hollins Lane, Accrington, Lancs, BB5 2QY

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Headteacher: Mr M Jackson BSc MA

20 January 2010

Dear Parents / Carers



You may have heard in the news recently about the government's views on substances known as "legal highs" and the problems associated with the ease of their accessibility. In light of this we feel we need to amend our existing policy to incorporate these substances.



We do not feel that drugs or "legal highs" are a problem in school and we are determined that this remains the case. Next week's assemblies will focus on the dangers of illegal substances and "legal highs". Our proposed, amended Exclusions Policy, which will be reviewed at the Pupil Welfare Governors Committee on Wednesday 3 February 2010, is very clear about how 'drug' related incidents will be dealt with within school and I include the relevant extract below. If you have any comments on this please contact me at school.



1.1 The Governing Body has agreed that there should be clear guidelines with regard to illegal substances. Any pupil found to be possessing or under the influence of illegal substances during school hours, including while travelling to and from school, will result in a 5-day fixed term exclusion for a first offence and a permanent exclusion for a second offence. Anyone supplying an illegal substance will be permanently excluded. This policy can also be applied to legal 'drugs' or chemicals which can change the state of a person's mind without prescription.



In addition I would like to congratulate all pupils who won prizes in the Christmas Attendance Draw, with over four hundred pupils with 100% attendance in December and over 100 prizes on offer. A number of attendance duties previously performed by the Educational Welfare Service are now carried out within school. With this delegation of responsibility we are now required to pass serious attendance issues directly to the local authority. This now includes, in extreme circumstances, the issuing of fixed penalty notices and ultimately legal action.



To help us meet these responsibilities we have appointed Laura Heys as our Attendance Improvement Worker. Our school attendance has improved considerably so far this year and I would like to thank staff, students and parents for all their efforts. The school remains fully committed to supporting students and parents in times of genuine need and the earlier you can contact us with any issues the greater the chance of a successful resolution.





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The school's recently revised Attendance Policy will be submitted to Governors for their approval at the Governors' Pupil Welfare Committee Meeting due to take place on Wednesday 3 February 2010. The agreed Attendance Policy and the Exclusions Policy will be available for parents to view on the school website after that date.



Yours sincerely



I Butterfield (Dr)
Deputy Headteacher

