

School Update

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to see the children return to school after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The term has started well with children settling down quickly into their normal routines, lessons and activities.

As you will be aware, the Omicron variant is resulting in significantly increased numbers of cases of Covid-19 across the country. As a school, we continue to have in place a range of mitigation measures in line with national government guidance and regulations. For example, masks to be worn in school and in classrooms by pupils in year 7 & 8 until at least 26th January (unless children have an exemption). Pupils and staff will continue to observe other measures such as regular handwashing/sanitising and ensuring adequate ventilation in school buildings. If your child has any Covid symptoms, please keep them at home and book a PCR test or use a lateral flow test. Year 7 & 8 have been able to be tested this week in school and should continue to carry out Lateral Flow Tests twice a week at home. We are grateful for your continued support with all of these measures.

We are very aware and regret that this latest increase in Covid infections may cause some changes to normal school routines or activities, but we will endeavour to minimise this disruption and, where appropriate, communicate these to everyone concerned. We will also update everyone with any changes to the running of the school or if the government regulations change.

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to having our first virtual parents' evenings in the coming weeks for each year group. Please see this [letter](#) for information about your child's specific evening and the opening dates for school cloud to book appointments.

Building work

You may be aware that there is some building work happening onsite. This essential work is to refurbish the roof of the building. Again, this may result in some minor changes to school routines and activities.

Mr Brynley Evans

Acting headteacher

[Check out these links](#)

Trick Box-[Click Here](#)

Volunteer Request-[Click Here](#)

Free behaviour and emotional support for parents-[Click Here](#)

Uniform Summary-[Click Here](#)

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS

We are a Trick Box School!

TRICK BOX[®]

WHAT IS TRICK BOX?

We all need a few tricks up our sleeves.

It's not always easy being a young person working out who you are and how to navigate challenges and changes in the world.

Building Happy Life Habits

Trick Box is a simple, evidenced based, whole school, whole journey, emotional management and personal development programme. It supports children, young people and their families from pre-school to sixth form. Each programme, which is available across the Academy Trust, (Early Years to KS5) builds on the others but also stands alone.

We are utilising this programme in school to support the mental health and wellbeing of your children. In TRICK BOX time, children will be taught a series of 'tricks' to help them deal with everyday situations.

In KS2, these tricks are printed on cards and used throughout the school. If you would like box of TRICK BOX cards to use with your child at home, then please order these via ParentPay. They are very reasonably priced at £3.



to purchase a ParentPay.

In KS3, children will be provided with a journal to be filled with the tricks. An overview of the half-termly habits and tricks will be provided that they can reflect on when further support is needed for their well-being.

Years 5 and 6- The 4 C's

The Trick Box programme develops personal skills in 4 key areas



Trick Box programmes from Reception to year 6 develop personal skills in 4 key areas through positive habit formation.

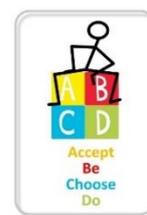
Children develop self-coaching skills and use tricks from their Trick Box to help them manage everyday life.

Teachers use the tricks in class and parents are able to practise these with their children at home (cards are available to order).

introduced and practised regularly everyone is confident about using Trick Box offers the personal skills need to not only manage ourselves but to take up positive opportunities and thrive!



24 Tricks



Self-Coaching Model



Happy Habits

The tricks are so that them. we all

life

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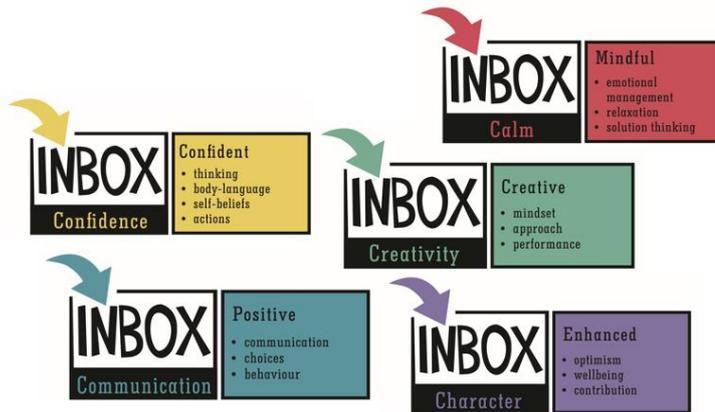
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This programme is already in place in some of our first schools and will be in all our trust schools imminently.

Years 7 and 8- Inbox

The **Inbox programme** for KS3-5 (Middle years 7-8) is all about developing personal habits and skills in 5 key areas (building on the skills already practised with Trick Box).



Less is more

Developing personal habits doesn't have to be hard work. Inbox tricks in the 5 key areas are introduced weekly, building on the skills learnt previously with Trick Box.

The habit-based tricks develop progressive skills and subskills in line with age-related experiences and development.

This programme will then continue if they transition to Wolgarston High School or The Rural Enterprise

Academy.

Independence is key

The Inbox programme encourages young people to build individual strengths.

Using a self-coaching model alongside the habit-based tricks helps to manage challenges in the here and now and create motivating for the future.

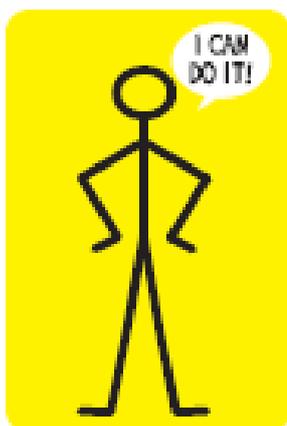
Everyone is unique and we all need to find our own paths

Some young people may prefer to keep which tricks they're practising to themselves. Some may wish to share with parents/carers and gain further support. The family can choose to work on some tricks together. Others prefer to talk to peers or get a little extra help from staff.

We are very pleased to be introducing this programme and hope that we see the benefits soon. Please do not forget to order your Trick Box cards for KS2 children, via ParentPay.



them plans



KS2 TRICK BOX example:

With this trick there is a focus on building inner strength, with the 'I can do it' strategy.

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Volunteer Request

PMS are looking for a volunteer to help on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am to 12.30pm to escort children along with a member of staff to swimming classes at Penkridge Leisure Centre. Your help will be required to ride on the minibus with the children, help our female students in the changing rooms and check that no items have been left behind for two sessions of swimming each week.

PVAT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Further details regarding this check are available from schools or by visiting

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs Blakeway in the PMS school office.

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Family Support Service by SCTSP in Partnership with Staffordshire County Council

South Staffordshire

FREE ONLINE BEHAVIOUR & WELLBEING WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMMES

Workshops for Parents: January- March 2022

Helping children to manage anger and difficult emotions

Date: Monday 24th January: 1.30-2.30pm

Parent Wellbeing Workshop

Topics covered: Understanding emotions, building confidence & feeling more positive

Monday 7th March: 1.30-2.30pm

To book your place please email your **name, date of programme and phone number** to raminderdhaliwal.fss@sctsp.org.uk or

text/phone with your **name, date of programme and email address** to [07741645691](tel:07741645691).

Once you have booked onto you will be sent instructions on how to access the

Workshop/Programme. 

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Uniform Summary

PENKRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our uniform is simple and readily available. We are well-supported by parents in maintaining a smart, distinctive appearance.

We hope that parents will continue to encourage their children to take pride in themselves and their school.

Boys

- Dark Grey/Black tailored school trousers are the **ONLY** trousers allowed. (wide, flared, denim, jeans, skinny or fashion trousers are **not** allowed)
- White shirt which buttons at the neck long enough to tuck into waistband.

Summer uniform

- School approved black, knee-length, tailored city shorts.



All Students

- Y7/8 Black Blazer with school badge
- Y5/6 Scarlet Sweater (V neck sweater or V-buttoned cardigan).
- House Tie
- Sensible, sturdy, black leather low-heeled shoes without coloured branding/decoration/trim (**not** trainers, canvas or boots)
- In bad weather, pupils can walk to school in boots/wellies and change into shoes at school
- Plain black socks
- School Bag
- Coat



Girls

- Dark Grey/Black knee length skirt (**not** tight, figure-hugging stretch material (e.g. no lycra / jersey materials), please)
- Dark Grey/Black tailored school trousers are the **ONLY** trousers allowed (wide, flared, denim, jeans, skinny or other such fashion trousers such as leggings are **not** allowed)
- White **school** shirt/ blouse which buttons at the neck long enough to tuck into waistband.

Summer Uniform

- For those wishing to wear a summer dress we recommend: Material – red and white candy stripes or gingham.
- School approved black, knee-length, tailored city shorts.



To be read in conjunction with the school uniform policy



KS2 (Years 5 & 6)



KS3 (Years 7 & 8)

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