

7th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to follow up yesterday's letter to you with an update on our actions and responses to the behaviour that was demonstrated by some students at The Mandeville School yesterday.

Today we had a series of assemblies with all students starting with year 11 first thing this morning and finishing with year 7. In the assemblies Mr Iddrisu and I spoke to the students about our expectations and how badly they let the school down yesterday. We focused heavily on the *what ifs* of their behaviour. When students get over excited, they are not always aware of the potential consequences, and we reinforced this with them.

Through our review of the behaviour yesterday, we were able to identify a small number of students who were key to causing a commotion at school. These students are mainly in year 10 and 11 and they will all be removed from the playground and have break time or lunchtime detentions (or both) until the end of the half term on the 16th. There are some other students who did not follow staff members instructions and as a result contributed the situation. These students will also have break and lunch time detentions.

As I said in my letter, lessons 4 and 5 were generally calm and productive. Every lesson was visited at least once and generally students were getting on with their work as they would normally. The staggered end to the school day was also very calm and staff were on duty to make sure students left in a positive manner. The evidence from lessons and the end of the day demonstrates that this was not normal behaviour and behaviour that we do not anticipate again.

If any assessments that were scheduled for lesson 5 were missed by students, we will ensure that these assessments are rescheduled to take place as quickly as possible to ensure there are no gaps in students learning.

In relation to the two events that caused students to act in the way that they did, both incidents have led to initial sanctions, and they are being investigated fully by Leaders at school. However, I am not allowed to comment directly on the sanctions individual students receive.

One issue that became obvious to us yesterday was that several older students did not have their phones in their phone pouches. As a result between now and the 16th of October, we will be doing random bag checks for phones and additional checks at the start of the day. In line with the Department of Education expectation, we are a no phone school. Yesterday we did confiscate a few phones, and I would like to thank the parents my team and I spoke to for your support with this. We have no issue whatsoever, with students coming to school, placing their phone in the pouch and unlocking it at the end of the day. However, if we do identify students who have brought a phone to school and it is not in their pouch, we will need to apply sanctions.

Our students at The Mandeville School are generally positive, polite and well behaved. The relationship between students and teachers is generally very positive. Today we have reset our expectations, and I am confident that yesterday's silly behaviour, will not happen again.

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As always thank you for support, I will update you further on this matter if required. Finally, I want to thank the staff at The Mandeville School for the support and the kindness they show to the community.

Yours sincerely

Sara Durose
Head of School