

## 15 top tips for parents and carers to best support their child's education at Southborough High School

- 1) **Engage with the school** - This is vital and the best way to do so is through our home/school monitoring and communication system called ClassCharts. Through an app on your phone or on any other device or computer you can engage very easily and keep up to date with the school and how your child is progressing via this excellent, simple to use, communication platform. ClassCharts will enable you to -
- **Communicate directly to any teachers** - Quickest and most efficient way to communicate with any member of staff through a simple two way messaging system.
  - **Receive important school announcements immediately** - From time to time the school will have to make important announcements regarding your child's education and an instant announcement on ClassCharts will be the first way we will inform you.
  - **Monitor your son's behaviour** - Behaviour is logged and monitored for parents to see as and when they happen through positive and negative points.
  - **Informed of any Zehrs (detention) issued** - If your child needs to see a teacher after the lesson regarding their commitment to learning then parents will be informed by ClassCharts as to why, where and when this Zehr will take place.
  - **Monitor your child's homework**- All homework, with description and due date is shared with students and parents on ClassCharts the second it is set by the teacher.
  - **Check the rewards store** - Accumulation of net positive points allows students to cash in their hard earned positive points for a number of popular rewards such as canteen queue jump passes, footballs, basketballs and the top prize of a brand new bike.
  - **See your child's attendance** - You can see your son's attendance immediately after a morning or afternoon registration or for each individual lesson once the register is taken.
  - **Give parental consent** - Any letters that require parental consent such as a school trip will be sent home via ClassCharts to parents/carers who can simply click one button on their ClassCharts to reply back to the school with their consent.
  - **Make well-being referrals** - During recent difficult and uncertain times, we have made it even easier to make us immediately aware of any concerns you or your child may have over their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. This wellbeing referral will alert key professionals within the school who will act as soon as possible and prioritise the wellbeing of our students by ensuring the appropriate support is applied. A referral can be made at any time and anywhere by students and/or parents.

\*Clear [here](#) to see a helpful ClassCharts parents/carers user guide\*

**Important - Please download the free app and use daily to support your son and the school.**

- 2) **Communication with the school** - If your child is absent for any reason or running late then you must make us aware. This can be done by phoning the school, messaging, emailing or even easier, report on ClassCharts. We will communicate key information which will be mainly through ClassCharts but occasionally can also be by text and email when necessary. We also produce a weekly newsletter which contains important up to date information and this is sent to all parents/carers and also placed on our website. Our website is another important mode of communication such as giving parents/carers full access to the schools live calendar. Another effective way to keep up to date with your child's education and school is to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
  
- 3) **Building positive relationships with teachers** - Now that communication between parents/carers and teachers has never been easier, it's important to build a positive rapport with the school and your child's teachers. After all, we all want the same thing and that's for your child to be happy and achieve the very best he can in school. Some parents/carers may decide to go a step further and join the schools Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or the governing body. The role of the tutor is invaluable and in almost all cases when parents or carers need to contact the school then the form tutor should be your first point of contact.
  
- 4) **Knowing important dates, deadlines and attending key events** - Throughout the year there are several key dates for parents/carers to be fully aware of such as exam weeks and assessment results being published along with important deadlines not to be missed such as prefect and Sixth Form applications. Parent and carers support in ensuring their child is also fully aware of important dates and deadlines is extremely valuable to both their child and the school. Along with these important annual dates and deadlines there are also key events that take place in the school such as parents consultation evenings, prizegiving events and curriculum information evenings and again, parents/carers involvement and support in all these events is crucial to ensure their child gets the full benefit of these important initiatives.
  
- 5) **Promote independent learning** and home revision the best you can, especially in the lead up to exam weeks. If you are not sure how best to do this then we have additional support, resources and revision material available on our website for independent home learning for all our students- SAM learning is an online resource that provides instant feedback and marking of students' work. Click [here](#) for more details on how best to support your child with independent learning by using SAM learning.

- 6) **Encourage Extra-Curricular activities** - One of the schools many strengths is the extra hours staff put in to make sure our students have as much opportunity to develop and progress in any area of interest they may have. Before school, break, lunchtimes, after school and even at the weekends, Southborough is always very busy encouraging our students to be productive in their own time and engage in our extensive extra-curricular programme. This could include one of our many sports clubs, music lessons, chess club, DofE, Combined Cadets Force or simply attending our daily after school homework support club for those students that might find it difficult to complete at home, might need to use the schools resources and facilities or simply need that bit of extra help from the support staff available during this time.
- 7) **Building a healthy balanced lifestyle** - All children benefit from routine in school and this can certainly be the case at home as well. Getting a healthy balance right of dedicated time on homework, social activities and social media involvement is crucially important to any child growing up. Monitoring and ensuring reasonable online activity time, healthy eating and reasonable bedtimes has an enormous effect on children's concentration and progress in school (see our safeguarding section on our website for support with building a healthy balanced lifestyle).
- 8) Trying **a Restorative approach to improving your son's independent commitment to learning** at home - At Southborough, we use a restorative justice approach to deal any student that does not show the right commitment to their learning. We call this RJ approach a Zehr, named after the american professor who came up with this concept. Howard Zehr and along with many other professor before and after him believe that being responsible and respectful when dealing with poor commitment is the most advantageous way for children to learn from their mistakes. At Southborough we also believe in this approach which is also reflected in our core values. As per our behaviour policy we may have to keep some students behind either before school, break, lunchtime or after school for any period of time between 5 to 45 minutes. You will always be informed immediately on CC of the time, day, reason and duration of any Zehr (detention) issued.
- 9) Students being **organised and prepared to learn** by being self reliant and taking responsibility of their own education. This will include all their learning equipment but also their PE kit, catering ingredients or anything else they may need to bring in to school. Further information on the student equipment list and uniform can be found on our website.
- 10) **Using the school website** - Our school website is regularly updated and there is a lot of useful information available not just to our students but also our parents and carers. You will find supportive helplines for parents, advice on how best to deal with children who are feeling stressed or suffering depression, there is helpful guidance on what parents can do from home to help their child's career decisions along with how they can contact the schools safeguarding team if needed. This and much more is available to all our students, parents, carers and staff.

- 11) **Supporting the development of your child's future career options and opportunities** - Starting from the first term in Year 7 and for each term straight through to Y13 every student will work on building their personal careers portfolio. It goes without saying how vital this is to all students so the parents/carers support on developing their sons portfolio is greatly beneficial to them and appreciated by us.
- 12) Wearing the **correct uniform at all times** - Looking smart and presentable is one way of our students adhering to our school values. We know responsibility and respect is important to us and by having shirts tucked in, ties done properly and wearing shoes, our students know the importance of our schools core values. Along with smart uniforms, students must wear plain coats, no hoodies and this includes in school and to and from school. No jewellery is allowed to be worn at any time whilst in school.
- 13) **All working together to support your son and family** - One of our core values is support. If any student or parents/carers are facing some form of difficulty and this could mean anything from not having internet access at home to complete homework, having financial problems and unable to buy new school shoes or unable to pay to send their child on a school trip then please contact the school. We can never promise but we always do our utmost to support students, families and the local community the very best we can.
- 14) **Safety to and from school** - The Hook Road can get busy so we encourage all our students to wear helmets and we expect our parents and carers to do the same. Everyone must allways cross the Hook Road at the traffic lights. For all those parents and carers who drive their child into school, we politely remind you that no cars are allowed into the school, even if it is to just turn the car around quickly. As I'm sure parents and carers are aware, schools are very busy places in the morning and for the safety of all our students we ask parents and carers to find a sensible location down the Hook Road to do so. Electric scooters are not allowed.
- 15) **Safeguarding**  
CareNet is our online safeguarding service that has supportive helplines and guidance for students and parents to promote students' physical, emotional and social health. Information on children's online safety is also available and provides details on what parents and carers can do if they have any concerns. Along with this you will find the schools contact details and the safeguarding teams details if any issues are of great concern for you. As already explained, we also have a wellbeing referral service for students and parents/carers to use at any time if they feel school support is needed in any way. As I'm sure parents and carers are aware, we recently introduced Personal Development Time into our curriculum and the main objective to this was to ensure the school had the appropriate time and resources to support and

educate our students on all areas and difficulties that young people face in the world today.