

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today about something that sits at the very heart of what makes our school community strong: the power of partnership between home and school.

Every day, I see the positive impact when parents and school work together. When we communicate openly, share the same expectations, and present a united front to our young people, remarkable things happen. Students feel more secure, they understand boundaries more clearly, and they thrive and flourish, academically, socially, and emotionally. This partnership is not just beneficial - it is essential to achieving the very best outcomes for your children.

I want to begin by expressing our genuine gratitude for the support we receive from so many of you. Whether it's reinforcing homework expectations at home, attending parents' evenings, responding promptly to our communications, or supporting our behaviour systems, your involvement makes an enormous difference. We see it in the progress students make, in their developing character, and in the positive atmosphere throughout our school. Thank you.

We also recognise that effective partnership requires honest, open dialogue. There will be times when you have questions about our decisions, times when you might disagree with an approach we have taken, or times when you simply need to understand our reasoning better. This is entirely natural and understandable. We welcome these conversations. We want to hear your perspectives, to explain our thinking, and to work through concerns together. A strong partnership does not mean we will always agree on everything—that would be unrealistic. What it does mean is that we engage with each other respectfully, listen carefully, and keep your child's best interests at the centre of every conversation.

However, partnership also requires a shared commitment to the foundations upon which our school is built. When you chose Lowton Church of England High School for your child, you made a commitment to our school values and to the systems and processes that uphold them. This includes our behaviour policy and our detention system, which exist to maintain the positive learning environment that all our students deserve.

Our detention system is not punitive for its own sake - it is an educational tool. It teaches young people about accountability, about the importance of meeting expectations, and about making amends when mistakes are made. These are life skills that will serve them well beyond their school years. When we set a detention, it is because a boundary has been crossed, and it is important that this consequence is followed through. When parents support these consequences, even when it might be inconvenient, it sends a powerful message to young people: that adults in their lives want the very best for them, are united in their expectations, and that actions have consequences.

 **CARING, LEARNING
AND SUCCEEDING**

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Conversely, when consequences are undermined - whether through non-attendance at detentions, messages that suggest school sanctions are unfair, or challenges to reasonable decisions - it creates confusion for young people and makes it harder for them to learn these crucial lessons. More than this, it can impact the learning environment for all students, as consistent expectations are essential for maintaining the calm, purposeful atmosphere in which everyone can succeed.

We understand that family life is busy and that detentions can sometimes be inconvenient. We recognise that there may occasionally be genuine exceptional circumstances that need to be discussed. In such cases, we ask that you contact us promptly and directly to find a solution together. What we cannot do is waive consequences or allow non-compliance with school systems, as this would be unfair to the many families who do support our expectations and would ultimately disadvantage all students.

As we move forward together, I ask for your continued partnership in the following ways:

- **Reinforce our shared expectations** at home, discussing with your child the importance of following school rules and meeting behaviour standards
- **Support the consequences** we put in place when expectations are not met, including attendance at detentions
- **Communicate with us openly** when you have concerns or questions, approaching these conversations with a willingness to listen and to work together
- **Model respectful dialogue** in your interactions with school staff, recognising that we are all working toward the same goal: **your child's success at school and in adult life.**

Our school values are not simply words on a wall - they are the principles that guide everything we do. When home and school stand together in upholding these values, when we present a united front built on mutual respect and shared purpose, our young people flourish.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Thank you for trusting us with your children's education. And thank you for working alongside us to create the very best outcomes for every student at Lowton Church of England High School.

If you would like to discuss anything in this letter, or if you have questions about our systems and expectations, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year.

Yours faithfully
Jane Galbraith
Headteacher