



February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Behaviour and Culture. I took up my post on 4th January 2026, and have thoroughly enjoyed my first weeks at the school.

Since joining, I have been struck by how welcoming and supportive the whole school community has been. Staff, learners and families have been incredibly generous with their time, and it has been a pleasure to begin building positive relationships across the school.

It is already clear that the school has huge potential. I am excited to work alongside learners, staff, parents and carers to further strengthen our culture, ensuring that high expectations, respect and positive behaviour underpin everything we do.

Following the letter sent home by our Headteacher, Mr Tristan Muller-Forster, after the Christmas break, regarding the importance of raising expectations, I am writing to reiterate that this same approach will continue after the upcoming half term.

As Deputy Headteacher responsible for Behaviour and Culture, I will be expecting more of our learners in terms of their conduct, punctuality and adherence to school policies. High standards are essential if we are to create a calm, focused and respectful environment in which all learners can both thrive and achieve.

You may have recently seen in the press the Department for Education's updated guidance encouraging all schools to be mobile-free spaces. Brannel School has operated as a no-mobile-phone site for a considerable period of time. However, despite this, mobile phones are still being seen on occasions, and this must change, previously this was only school policy, however, this is now national guidance.

Learners must ensure that mobile phones are switched off and as per current policy, be secured in their Yondr pouch and in their school bag at all times while on the school site. If a mobile phone is seen, it will be confiscated and a sanction will be issued. Sanctions will increase with each occurrence. Any refusal to hand over a mobile phone will result in parents or carers being asked to come into school to support the matter and will lead to an immediate four-point sanction.

We also need to improve punctuality to lessons. Learners that are not in lessons on time can cause disruption to learning by being late, as well as missing vital learning opportunities. I have asked staff to be more rigorous in recording lateness. If a learner arrives more than three minutes late to a lesson, a lunchtime detention will be issued. Any learner arriving over eight minutes late will be classed as truanting and will receive a four-point sanction.

I would also like to reiterate our uniform expectations. Blazers must be worn at all times, shirts must be tucked in, and skirts must be worn correctly and not rolled up. Learners must wear black socks and black, polishable shoes only.

If a learner is not in the correct uniform, appropriate uniform will be lent to them for the day. Should a learner refuse to borrow the correct uniform, a four-point sanction will be issued.

There should be no jewellery worn in school, with the exception of a pair of single stud earrings. Any jewellery outside of these expectations will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Learners must have a natural hair colour. If a learner fails to meet these expectations, they will be placed in Reset. Finally, we will be reviewing all time-out cards and leaving-lesson-early passes. Toilet passes will be under review and medical evidence requested, if we do not currently hold this for your child.

We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Your support is essential in ensuring interactions with learners remain positive and purposeful, allowing us to focus our time on learning and making every second in lessons count for your son or daughter's progress. By working together, we can ensure that learners meet the high standards expected of them and make the most of the educational opportunities available at Brannel School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Read', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr N Read
Deputy Headteacher Behaviour and Culture