



15 July 2021

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Dear Family

Headteacher Mrs K Kerry

We are excited to be launching a new concept at the Manor Academy from Monday – ‘Ready to Learn’. ‘Ready to Learn’ is a set of routines that children will learn and follow which will allow them to be more successful at school and in their studies. The routines help to build ‘intrinsic motivation’ – a desire to do well for oneself – and maximise learning time, attention and focus in lessons. It is a proven programme that has worked for many schools nationally, and will build on the Manor Academy’s strengths.

Ultimately, what we all want for the young people of the Manor Academy is for them to be happy, confident and successful in the outside world beyond school. Employers value punctuality, attendance, confidence, resilience, teamwork and the ability to work independently using their initiative. Furthermore, academic achievement is also hugely important in today’s world with many professions requiring strong GCSE passes. ‘Ready to Learn’ will help to foster these skills and qualities, creating successful students with a desire to learn and to develop.

The first element of ‘Ready to Learn’ is simple; being in the correct uniform for school, with the correct equipment – just as you would be expected to be in the world of work.

There are then some in-school routines that students will be expected to follow, for example:

1. **Strong start to lessons:** Staff will greet students at the door of the classroom and students are expected to go into the room in silence, get their equipment out and begin their first task straight away. This provides a calm and focused start to lessons and maximises learning time.
2. **SLANT:** During teacher-talk and class discussion, students will be asked to follow ‘SLANT’ – Sit up, Listen to the speaker, Ask and answer questions, Never interrupt the speaker, Track the speaker. This helps develop interpersonal and communication skills alongside building respect for one-another.
3. **Silent written tasks:** Occasionally, when completing important pieces of work, students will be asked to work in silence. This helps focus and concentration and is proven to improve work completed – it is also good practice for exams.
4. **Focused Finish:** At the end of lessons, students will pack away and leave the lesson in silence. This allows a calm transition between lessons and again prevents disruption to the learning of others.

There are more elements of Ready to Learn that will be introduced to the students in the launch. On Friday 16 July 2021, all students will have an assembly outlining what ‘Ready to Learn’ is and how it will work. Then, on Monday 19 July, students will have lessons with their tutor which demonstrate our new routines and strategies.

These routines will support children with their focus and attention in lessons, help them to become independent and able to make good choices and help them to succeed academically and generally. They also help to maximise learning time, which is vitally important after the disruption to education caused by COVID. Whilst lost learning time may not seem like a huge issue, consider that just 5 minutes lost in each lesson would equate to 91 hours of learning lost every academic year.

In a world where competition for employment and education places is fierce, 'Ready to Learn' will ensure that the children of Mansfield Woodhouse have the best possible chance of success.

Finally, we pride ourselves on our restorative practice and in the positive relationships that we have between staff and students – something that is regularly commented on by the children themselves. 'Ready to Learn' builds on our culture and our values, aiming to support students in their learning and enabling them to make good choices. It is not a change of who we are and what we stand for. If you would like to discuss 'Ready to Learn', please contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

Mr C Hudson
Assistant Headteacher