Morton Academy
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Part of United Learning

MMc/KRE

16th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

After-School Detentions

At the Academy, there is a great importance on maintaining high standards of attendance, punctuality, conduct and personal responsibility. The systems in place are designed not simply as sanctions, but as part of a wider approach that supports students to develop positive habits and make the most of their education.

Following feedback received through the ongoing United Learning Parent Survey, particularly regarding concerns around darker evenings and students travelling safely during the coming months, I have reviewed our after-school detention arrangements.

As a result, until informed otherwise, after-school detentions will reduce from one hour to 30 minutes. It is hoped that this adjustment strikes the right balance between maintaining high expectations and responding thoughtfully to the concerns raised by families, something I am keen to demonstrate more in a collaborative spirit.

It is important to note that after-school detentions are already used sparingly and are issued only for matters relating to punctuality and home learning. The focus is always on preventing sanctions from being necessary in the first place. Through support, clear routines and positive relationships, the Academy continually seek to reduce the number of students receiving after-school detentions and encourage students to make the right choices from the outset.

Whilst the duration of the after-school detention is changing, the expectations remain the same. When an after-school detention is issued, students are expected to attend. Failure to do so results in a referral to Independent Learning, which has a significantly greater impact on a student's day. I therefore encourage all students to attend any after-school detention that is issued and avoid the escalation that results from non-attendance.

I appreciate the support that families provide in reinforcing these expectations, as by working together this ensures that students understand the importance of punctuality, engaging with their home learning and taking responsibility for their actions when standards are not met.

Yours sincerely,

M. McClelland

Mike McClelland
Principal

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