

14 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

You will probably be aware that we run a daily after-school detention until 4pm to sanction those students who have been responsible for a C2 incident. The vast majority of Birchwood students don't receive this sanction as they work hard and have excellent attitudes to learning. However, if a student does receive a C2 then it is usually a same day detention that runs on the day of the misdemeanour (with the exception of C2s that occur after lunchtime, where the detention is carried over to the next day to give more notice to parents/carers).

We run a same day detention because the more immediate a sanction, the more understandable it is to the student and the greater the deterrent effect. We do not agree to requests from parents/carers to move a detention unless in exceptional circumstances. A detention is in its very essence inconvenient - that is the nature of the deterrent rather than being a reason to move it. Geographical distance from school is also not sufficient reason to move a detention. If it were then we would in effect have a two-tier sanction system where students who live closer to the school are sanctioned more strictly than those who live further away.

It is important to note that, in the vast majority of cases of C2s, the student will have been warned at the C0 and C1 stage first and so will have had a chance to change their behaviour before it reaches the stage of an after-school detention. We always encourage students to take these verbal warnings as a cue, especially if they feel that the inconvenience of doing a C2 detention is too high to bear.

It is also important to note that, although talking about detentions is rarely welcome, a school's sanction system serves the ultimate purpose of reinforcing shared expectations of behaviour so that the more pleasant and rewarding business of students making good progress in lessons and getting the credit for this can take place.

Yours sincerely

Sam Stopps

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