

About Lanyards

Like many schools across Norfolk and the UK we are introducing student photo-ID cards to all year groups across the school, having already tested their effectiveness with our Sixth Form students.

We have identified them as part of the school uniform and therefore they are a mandatory item.

We expect them to be worn at all times in school (of course, we ask them to be removed when Health and Safety concerns prompt it- e.g in a PE lesson, in certain DT and science practical sessions).

At the beginning of the school day, BEST staff greet students at their entrance gate and check students have their photo-IDs. Whilst it is OK for students to wear them to and from school we do ask them to not have them visibly on display until they reach the school gate and to tuck them away on leaving school to preserve their anonymity in the wider community.

We have chosen to adopt lanyards as:

- They help students learn each other's names more easily, without having to 'pluck up the courage' to ask again, "What did you say your name was?" This makes forming friendships with new classmates easier
- With 1800+ students in the school and each member of staff typically teaching 220+ different students it speeds up the process of staff gaining familiarity with as many students as possible
- They support safeguarding, allowing a student showing signs of concern to be reported more accurately to support staff
- They help reduce bullying and vandalism by making it much easier for perpetrators to be identified by victims or witnesses

We have not yet issued 'smart photo-IDs', choosing instead to ingrain the habit of bringing the lanyards each day before we integrate smart functions. These will however have been introduced over the coming term, to include:

- Gate codes to allow students to release the digital locks on the school gates, for example following an after-school club or fixture
- The cashless catering system will be integrated into the photo-ID, meaning that the purchase of food at break and lunch will simply require the swiping of their lanyards
- Digital locks on toilets will be accessible through the lanyard
- Book loans from the library will be facilitated through the smart photo-ID
- Students accessing photocopiers and student reprographic accounts will be facilitated through their use of their photo-IDs

All year groups have it explained to them when their lanyards are first issued that they must bring it each day, and wear it at all times unless directed otherwise. Note that they are designed to pull apart with a small amount of force, and therefore do not pose a strangulation hazard.

When students are first issued lanyards they are told that over the first two weeks they will get reminders should they forget them.

BEST team members who welcome students at the school gates each morning check for the lanyards as part of their uniform. They provide temporary replacements for students who have forgotten or lost their lanyards. There will be a replacement fee for lost lanyards.

After this two-week settling in period most students have adopted the habit of bringing their lanyard to school each day- like their shoes or school shirt. Very few forget and those that do for valid reasons (for example if they have separated parents and some school essentials are with the other partner) are treated sensitively, without sanction.

However, sanctions are applied to those who forget their lanyards, particularly for repeat offenders.

We continually review our behaviour policies, our rules and the tariff of sanctions:

- If we felt that a rule was too strict or not strict enough we would adjust it
- If we felt that a sanction was too severe or not severe enough then we would adjust.

Dr Mark Evans

Vice Principal