

Dear Families,

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Centralised Detentions

Altwood School has grown significantly over the past few years so, to improve consistency around detentions as well as support staff wellbeing, we will be trialling a centralised detention system over the next half term.

This will be run in **C215**, and a rota of staff will supervise the students.

Detentions will initially be for 20 minutes and run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You will always be given at least one day's notice via ClassCharts. Detentions will not happen on the same day they are set to enable arrangements to be made for picking your child up if needed.

Research suggests that the length of the detention is not key to determining future behaviour, so we are moving away from initial 60-minute detentions for infractions of our behaviour policy.

Because detentions will only be for 20 minutes, **we expect students to attend every time.**

Failure to attend will mean the detention will increase to 40 minutes and then 60 minutes for three failed attempts at sitting the detention.

Anyone who persistently fails to attend detentions will be issued with a Senior Leader Detention which will last for an hour. All detentions will be set on ClassCharts. Staff will not be required to phone or email parents to confirm detentions. These will be visible on both the student and parent App.

You will be able to see the detentions of your child on ClassCharts. Choose the **Detentions** tab when viewing pupils.

Selecting this tab will display a list of **detentions** which have been set for your child

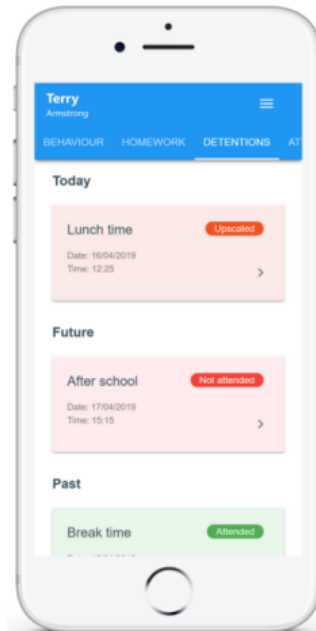
Detentions fall under 4 categories: **Attended**, **Not attended**, **Pending** and **Upscaled**.

**Attended:** Your child has sat this detention.

**Not attended:** Your child did not sit this detention.

**Pending:** This detention has not been sat yet.

**Upscaled:** Your child's detention has been escalated into another type of detention.



If you do not currently have the app, please download it. If you do not know your parent code, then please contact the school office [altwood@altwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:altwood@altwoodschoo.co.uk)

We understand the inconvenience to students who take the bus at the end of the day but feel that our behaviour policy is very clear and that students who are behaving well in lessons and engaging in their learning should very rarely, if ever, receive a detention. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this at home.

Teachers may still set detentions at break and lunch for minor infractions. The pastoral team may set longer sanctions following investigations into more serious incidents. The centralised system is mainly for poor behaviour in lesson time or minor incidents during social time.

Examples:

Teacher Detention (break or lunch)

- Late to lessons
- Lack of homework
- Low level disruption in class
- Chewing gum

Centralised detention (20 minutes)

- Persistent lack of work completed in a lesson
- Defiance – refusal to follow basic instructions
- Sent to Cool Off room
- Rudeness – answering back
- Disrupting the learning of others
- Persistent disruption in class
- Poor behaviour during break or lunch
- Casual swearing

More serious sanctions:

- Swearing at staff
- Aggressive behaviour towards students or staff
- Fighting
- Persistent defiance or refusal to follow instructions
- Persistent call outs to be removed from a lesson

These lists are not definitive and are just to give some examples.

We will be reviewing the detention data closely and will make any changes needed to support the implementation of this new process. Any feedback from you as parents is also welcomed and we appreciate your support as we try to create the most positive learning environment for every student.

Kind regards



Cath Harden

Headteacher