



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of this half term approaches, I am writing to provide you with an update on how things are progressing at Winterton Community Academy.

Whilst it has been a very busy half-term, I am pleased to say that it has also felt like a very positive one.

Year 7's have settled in very quickly and I have to say, they are an absolute credit to you and to their former primary school whilst our Year 11's have quickly embraced the increasing workload and additional pressures that Year 11 brings. We are continuing to provide additional booster classes alongside a wide range of resources and guidance to support them through this challenging year. It was lovely to see so many of our Year 11 parents in attendance at the recent 'how to support your child' evening however, if you were unable to attend then I would still recommend that you contact the school to ensure you are informed of the support that is available and that you can help keep your son/daughter on track.

We have enjoyed a positive start to many aspects of wider school life, with rehearsals for 'Young Voices' well under way and a huge number of sports fixtures completed. For a small school, we also have a huge number of highly talented young people who are involved in so many exciting ventures outside of school. We have students successfully selected for county and regional sports representation, students representing the academies of professional football clubs, students winning regional competitions across a range of disciplines and students performing in fantastic theatre productions. We really are privileged to have such a talented group of young people in our care.

In terms of school improvement, I feel that we are still very much in a transitional period and I am continuing to seek a greater degree of consistency across all aspects of school life whilst also further raising expectations and embedding changes. This I feel will help to make us a better school and we have certainly made good progress over the last 6 months.

We have tightened up on our punctuality procedures recently. Students have been advised that if they are not in the gates before the first bell at 8:45am then they will receive a late mark and a break-time detention. They have responded well to this and I am pleased to say that the number of students attending school late has reduced significantly.

It is important that I mention attendance however, where I would like to see us improve further. I know it sounds obvious, but both nationally and within this school, there is a significant difference in the success of those students who are above 95% attendance than for those who are below. The difference is startling and carries through to GCSE outcomes. It certainly serves as a reminder to the importance of keeping your son/daughter in school.

Now at the time of writing I am looking forward to our first reward and celebration lottery. Our students appear to have really bought in to the concept and this approach presents us with the opportunity to further recognise those students who come to school every day and give their absolute best. I know that it will be an exciting occasion and that many students will take home a wide range of prizes at the end of the week. If not this time, then we will be doing the same again just before Christmas – so good luck to everyone!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share the news with you that we have successfully appointed a Head of Science and that Mr Gorman will start with us immediately after half-term. Thank you to those students who helped with the interview process. I should also be able to confirm the appointment of a new science teacher shortly and that will mean that the academy is fully staffed. Whilst we have had a couple of unavoidable absences, staff attendance has been good and that means a more consistent and settled experience for our pupils.

We will continue to work hard to ensure that we are getting it right inside and out of the classroom, to meet our promise of providing a safe, happy and successful experience in school. We know that there is more we can improve on and we will continue to do so, but equally I would like to thank you for your continued faith and support in helping us become the school that you deserve.

Please continue to help us by signing planners on a weekly basis and supporting your son/daughter to ensure that they complete their homework.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr K Rowlands  
Headteacher