



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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12th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my intention to write to you more frequently this year to help improve communication and to keep you informed and hopefully involved in all aspects of school life.

I have to say that I am delighted with the start that our pupils have made. Year 7 have settled in amazingly well and Year 11 have approached the year with a really positive attitude and work ethic. Around the school the atmosphere feels extremely calm and purposeful and as always it is a pleasure to spend time talking to your sons and daughters, you should be proud of them.

Our new staff have settled in quickly and are building really positive relationships with our pupils and setting the standards and expectations that I know you would want.

The introduction of our vertical tutoring system has been well received and this is a significant factor to the positive environment we are experiencing. If you are a Year 7 parent, you should have by now received a call from your child's tutor to welcome you to the school and to allow us to start to develop our relationship with you.

Can I please ask that all parents sign the student journal each week and use this as a first line of communication with the school. We will also sign the journal to ensure that we are working together to give your child the support that they need.

If the journal is not signed regularly by the school, please do let me know.

There are many ongoing developments in the school. Our behaviour tracking has improved further and this means that we are much more proactive in tracking positive behaviours.

After the first week, Trent were leading the way with 4166 house points followed by Humber on 3041 house points and then Ancholme on 2601.

We will continue to promote and celebrate the positive achievements of our pupils both within the house system and individually. Pupils will work towards achieving bronze, silver and gold certificates as they collect their reward points and these points will count towards the end of term prize giving lottery.

Next week, our Year 7 pupils will take their Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) as part of our initial benchmarking assessment. Alongside other subject specific benchmarking tests this will provide us with a rich source of information to ensure that we are best placed to meet the individual needs of your child.

As a part of this, you will receive a fully detailed report of your child's strengths and development areas along with recommendations to support their academic development.

This is part of a wider strategy throughout the school where we will use nationally accredited testing to allow us to build up a strong understanding of our pupils. We will keep you informed and make reports available to you as and when appropriate along with the opportunity to discuss any information during your academic tutorial meeting with your child's tutor.

In addition, later in the autumn, we will be asking our pupils and then our parents to engage in a highly detailed survey. The purpose of this is to allow us to develop a good understanding of the things we do well and the things that we can improve on, to ensure that we are best able to meet your needs and expectations.

I would like to remind you once again about our enrolment to **SAM Learning**.

SAM learning is an online platform with 1000's of resources to support students across most subjects in all year groups. It is a great resource to enable pupils to undertake additional independent study, to research and revise the topics they are covering in class and to really help embed their understanding.

I ask that you check whether your son / daughter has signed in to the platform yet and monitor their weekly progress. We will be issuing prizes to encourage regular usage and already it is fantastic to see that some students have accumulated more than 7 hours additional study in their first week back.

As little as 15 minutes, three times a week is sufficient to boost progress in a subject by one grade. The materials are designed to be fun, engaging and ultimately, rewarding for the students to allow them to see how well they are progressing.

I was delighted to see so many clubs and enrichment activities starting up this week, please encourage your child to get involved in something. We are committed to giving our pupils a broad and enjoyable range of experiences in school and extra-curricular activities are an important part of enjoying school life.

Finally, I feel it is worth a special mention to Charlotte Ogg who continues to represent herself and the school as a representative of the National Youth Board. We are very proud of her involvement in such a prestigious role, allowing her to go to London to attend the Anti Bullying Alliance this week.

The recognition of her work and the difference that she makes, both locally and nationally is highly impressive and we are very proud of her.

As ever, thank you for your support and the important role that you play in helping our young people succeed.

Have a lovely weekend,

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

Mr Rowlands
Headteacher