



# Winterton Community Academy

Newport Drive, Winterton, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN15 9QD

Telephone: (01724) 732777 Fax: (01724) 733051

email: [reception@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:reception@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

We were immensely proud to open our doors last week for open evening and to welcome our prospective pupils and parents. There is a real sense of optimism around the school at the moment and the evening was a huge success. I was proud to receive a great deal of positive feedback, commenting on how welcoming and supportive our staff were and how polite and engaging our pupils were. It feels like a great time to be joining the school. I would like to thank all of the pupils who helped support the evening and also to all of our parents who have helped spread the word of the many great things that are happening.

Last week, following a round of impressive interviews, I was delighted to appoint our senior student leadership team. Rather than appointing the traditional Head-boy and Head-girl roles, I opted to give the 2 Head-pupil positions to the two outstanding candidates in their interview. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that our Head-Pupils for this year are Ellissia Banks and Olivia Harness. Our senior leadership team representatives are Shane Scott, Lucy Knowles, Keegan Ricketts, Jake Walkeden and Katie Robinson and I am looking forward to working with them this year.

In the summer, we opened up a consultation to engage our stakeholders views on our school uniform. Through this process, we received over 400 responses from parents, pupils and members of the wider community. The outcome of the online survey was highly insightful, with a balanced outcome in terms of deciding what the uniform should be in the future. The next stage of our consultation was to survey all current students in the school, with a direct choice between whether they would like to remain in the same uniform, or whether they would like to change in to a more formal uniform with shirts / blouses and blazers. The outcome of the survey is that the majority of students have voted to remain with the existing uniform, and therefore there will be no change to our uniform in the immediate future. I feel it is important that we gave our students a voice on this important matter and that ultimately, they had the final say. It is perhaps also an important lesson in democracy and we will respect the outcome as is appropriate.

Finally, we are now really starting to focus on the support and intervention required for our Year 11 students in their final year at the school. I have spoken previously about the benefits of using our SAM learning platform as a resource for additional study and revision. We know that 3x15 minutes weekly of extra study on SAM learning in any given subject leads to an improvement of one grade. Despite this, there are still a number of students in Year 11 that are not using this regularly. Please check in with your child and encourage them to make the best use of this opportunity. We will look to provide intensive support to all of our pupils throughout the year however, it is important that the message is reinforced at home. Effort matters more than intelligence and if they work hard enough, they will give themselves every opportunity to succeed.

Thank you as always for your support of the school.

Kind regards,

Mr Rowlands  
Headteacher