



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref/O/LD/Detention/jsn

11th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the correspondence from Mr Rowlands prior to half term, I would like to provide you with some further clarity with regards to our standards and expectations and the issuing of sanctions, including detentions where this is appropriate.

We have this week, provided our students with some very clear guidelines around the expected standards at Winterton Community Academy. Whilst generally speaking, the conduct of our students is very positive, we have felt that for some students, there are some bad-habits and negative choices which undermine the values of the school and our ambition to be an outstanding school for all students.

We have a responsibility and duty of care to uphold high standards and expectations and as we have said in assembly this week, for us to allow such behaviours to go unchecked, would be to fail our students in helping them to develop into the fantastic, responsible young adults that we want them to be.

We have communicated a behaviour pyramid with them which provides them with some clarity and consistency, informing them of the consequences for different levels of negative behaviour.

One key element to this approach has been to challenge the negative behaviours which are a deliberate choice for some young people. This includes, but is not exclusive to behaviours such as swearing and inappropriate language, littering, chewing, going out of bounds, refusing to follow a reasonable request, failure to complete homework, throwing water, adhering to the one way system or deliberately choosing not to follow the school uniform policy.

The behaviours described are all negative choices that I am sure as a parent or carer, you would agree that they do not belong in a school environment. We have made a commitment to you to ensure that all children are safe, happy and successful and these behaviours undermine our ability to achieve that.

Therefore, we have put in place a detention system whereby any student making such deliberate and negative choices will be given a one-hour detention after school.

We have also informed our students that failure to attend this detention will result in a day in isolation and they will still be required to complete their detention.

We are taking this approach, because we care and because we have high standards and expectations. It is important that young people understand what is expected of them and that they can demonstrate the self-discipline to conduct themselves appropriately. Therefore, we ask that as a parent / carer, you support us in upholding these standards and if your child is given a detention, that you support the school and reinforce our expectations.

Disappointingly, this has not been the case on a number of occasions this week.

Government guidance clearly states that good schools encourage good behaviour through a mixture of high expectations, clear policy and an ethos which fosters discipline and mutual respect between pupils, and between staff and pupils and this is what we are committed to do.

The government guidance clearly states that:

- Teachers have the power to issue detention to pupils and that parental consent is not required for detentions.

Clearly, we do not want to be in conflict with you as a parent or carer and that is why we would always contact you and provide you with at least 24hours notice. We genuinely want to work with you and would anticipate your support in upholding our standards in school.

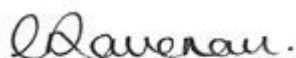
For this approach to be successful, we are not able to negotiate after-school detentions in favour of lunch-time detention or alternative arrangements. We do not have the capacity to do this. We will of course always try to work with you to find a suitable solution, however, the expectation is that if a detention is issued, then it is completed. The government guidance does clearly state that whilst we would not issue a detention if suitable travel arrangements cannot be made, it does not matter if these arrangements are inconvenient for a parent.

After the difficulties of the past year or so it is critical that we are doing all that we can to ensure that our students catch up and are making good progress. A culture of high standards and good discipline is paramount to that. It is important that we teach young people to take responsibility for their actions and the choices that they make, including accepting the consequences if they get it wrong.

We cannot apologise for upholding high standards in school and we understand that inevitably, people will make mistakes. However, by using detentions as a consequence, it will act as a deterrent and help our students make better choices in the future.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Daveran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Daveran
Assistant Headteacher