



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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Ref: KR/parlet/kv

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been fantastic to welcome our students back to school this week, with our attendance at 97% it has truly felt like a sense of much needed normality.

It has been a really positive week back, Year 7s have settled very quickly and are beaming with enthusiasm and anticipation, and our Year 11s have hit the ground running in what they know will be a challenging year ahead for them.

As a school, we are delighted to be fully staffed, with specialist teachers in all subject areas and there is a real sense of pride and optimism in the direction that the school is taking. Naturally, the last two years have led to a great deal of disruption, particularly with regards to the examination process but nonetheless, with moderation procedures in place from the examination boards, we are proud of the results our Year 11s were awarded this summer. The percentage of young people leaving with a level 5+ in Maths and English was the highest in the authority, and our overall progress score was very positive. A huge thank you to all of our teachers for their hard work, but also, well done to our students, for the resilience and determination to achieve what they did.

It is scientifically proven that effort matters more than intelligence and it stands to reason that the harder you work, the better that you will do. That is why we take a rigorous approach to our teaching, and we encourage frequent assessment to monitor our students and support them to improve further.

We recognise that in the past two years, it has been a challenge to meet with parents and discuss progress further and we are very much looking forward to reintroducing parents' evenings this year so as to keep you fully informed and involved in your child's learning. We are also continuing to develop our approach to reports, and will continue to send home test scores and 'attitude to learning' grades to give you a snap shot of how your child is doing. I would ask all parents to encourage their child to prepare for their end of unit assessments across all subjects and ensure they are revising and revisiting their school work at home on a regular basis.

As a school, we were one of the first to reintroduce extra-curricular activities in the summer term after the last lock-down. We are now looking to build on that, both during lunch time and after school and we will have a wide range of opportunities available. Please do encourage your child to get involved in as many things as possible, in particular there will be a school production to enjoy, music lessons and we are also delighted to see school sports fixtures returning.

At Winterton Community Academy, we are committed to a culture of high expectations and standards are important across all aspects of school life. That is why we reintroduced detentions as a deterrent for any of the negative behaviours that we sometimes see our students making by choice. This includes poor language, littering, being on time for school / lessons, mobile phones and for incorrect presentation of the school uniform. The details make a difference and help to ensure that the school is a safe and happy environment for everyone. This approach has been successful and I would like to thank you as parents for your support in upholding these standards.

I would like to also reiterate our stance as a school in terms of working closely with our surrounding communities to help promote a positive environment that we can all be proud of. This includes working with the town council and the local police to ensure that the expectations we have of our students extend beyond the school gates. Sadly, in recent weeks, we have received reports of some anti-social behaviour in the community including damage to property and park equipment. If we receive positive identification of any of our students behaving in this way, then we will intervene in line with guidance of the DFE, and parents or carers will always be informed. I appreciate this is a very small minority and often it is evident that those involved are not a part of our school community. However, I want to reassure you that we will play our part, I am very proud of the students at this school and the positive reputation that they have, and we will always work hard to protect that.

Finally, I understand that there have been some small system issues which have resulted in our communications not reaching all parents and in particular the parents of our new Year 7s. I apologise for this and for any inconvenience caused. I believe the issue has now been resolved and our letters and texts should be received by everyone.

Have a lovely weekend

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

Kind regards,

Mr Rowlands