Dear Students,

We recently asked you to complete a student voice survey and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who did.

I have personally read every comment that has been written and we have analysed the highly detailed report that we received. I now want to share the headlines of that feedback with you and to also let you know what we intend to do to improve those areas where you feel we can do better.

I accept that you may not always believe me, but we care greatly about you and your future and it is important to me that your experiences as a student at Winterton are positive and that ultimately, we are supporting you to ensure that you are safe, happy and successful.

You may not always like the things that we do, but certainly I would hope that you recognise that it is always with the best intent, as professionals and as responsible adults to ensure that we do the best by you and I assure you, we will always try our best to get things right.

I have recognised that we do not always tell you why we do things the way that we do them and I want to ensure that we communicate with you more frequently and create opportunities for your voice to be heard and to help shape the school moving forward.

One example is coats, a few of you asked us to ‘chill-out’ about coats. That’s ok, because that’s your opinion. In response, I would like to explain to you that taking coats off inside is about setting the right culture. School is a professional environment and like any place of work, it is courtesy to remove your coat when inside the building. Removing your coat is a recognition that you are inside school and you are expected to behave in a different way. It is also about basic respect and compliance. So, we ask you to remove your coats, because it is about setting the right tone.

Yes, it might not be important to you, but it is important to us, because it is the way that we do things here at Winterton and it is a simple message that shows that you respect the school rules.

Whether you like that rule or not, I hope that helps to explain that there is a reason why.

In terms of the general headlines from the report, you have told us that the following things are some of the strengths of the school:

* School Discipline
* Communication
* Developing moral values
* Developing your potential
* Caring teachers

You also told us that you feel the following are areas which we can improve:

* School facilities and computer access
* Developing confidence
* Control of bullying
* Overall happiness

It is important therefore that we work more closely with you to better understand some of those issues and gain your views on how we can improve further.

Overall, most students rated the school as good or very good, but still a significant number of you felt that it was neither good nor bad and some of you feel that the school is poor. Whatever your view, I want us to understand why.

Whilst the overall satisfaction score has improved significantly on the last time we did this survey in 2020, it is clear that students in Years 10 and 11 feel the least happy with their experience. We know that it is hard work preparing for your examinations, but I want you to feel that you are supported and that it is a positive experience.

In the classroom, you gave us some really positive feedback around the following areas:

* Quality of feedback
* Pupil’s general attitudes to learning
* Regular marking of work
* Celebrating and rewarding achievement
* Attitude of non-teaching staff

You also told us that the following areas need to improve:

* Treating all pupils fairly / Equally
* Encouraging and listening to pupils’ views

I recognise that I have not met with the Form Captains in the last half term and that is something I intend to put right in the next two weeks. With this in mind, I would like you to share your thoughts and views with your representative, focussing in particular on the things that are listed in this letter. Your tutor can help you to do that.

There is nothing more important however as a priority than your safety and with that in mind and given that some students have expressed concerns that they feel that the control of bullying is an area of improvement, I would strongly urge you to come and speak to either Mrs Daveran, myself or any adult that your feel comfortable speaking to, if you have any concerns about bullying whatsoever.

The report shows that students feel that this has improved over the last couple of years however bullying in any form cannot be accepted and you have my word that it will be dealt with.

Finally, the student comments reflected some varied views relating to the school canteen. We will set up a working group of student catering representatives to create the opportunity to share your feedback with the catering manager. If you are unhappy with the quality of food or choices available, then I encourage you to get involved.

Winterton is a school that you can be very proud of. We have over the last three years been in the top two schools in North Lincolnshire for GCSE performance. We work hard to try and get things right for you however, I need to hear your views to help ensure that we do. If something is wrong, I need to know about it so that I can try and make it right.

I recognise that your well-being is important and we are delighted to be one of four schools working with the Local Authority on an initiative to support mental health in schools. I would like to see us develop opportunities for mental health champions in school, another area where you, as students, can get involved.

I am strong believer that you get out, what you put in and therefore I would strongly encourage you to share your views, get involved in school councils, enrichment opportunities and wider school life to help make the school the best that it can be.

Please also remember that you have a role to play in helping the school to achieve that. How you behave and the values that you demonstrate, all make a difference. We now have a school where it is normal for adults and children to hold the door open for one another and to say hello. We now have a school where litter is rarely dropped and bad language seldom heard. We have a school that is a positive place to be and a school where you can get on and learn.

Finally, one of the comments that was left in the survey related to the cleaning staff and chewing gum being left under tables. In response, I would firstly like to say that the site staff and cleaning staff have been incredible, cleaning the school constantly and helping to make sure it is safe for you. I would like to say a huge thank you for all that they do. Cleaning chewing gum off tables is not their responsibility, it is your responsibility not to stick it there in the first place. That is why we have a no chewing rule. We do our bit to ensure that the school is nice place to be, but you also need to be respectful and to not create extra work for people by doing things like this. The same can be said about IT… there would be more money available to improve the IT services if we didn’t have to spend money on repairing the damage and vandalism caused by students.

It goes both ways and you have a responsibility to help get things right also.

I am proud of this school and I know that we will keep getting better and better to ensure that all young people who attend here, have the best chance in life.

I am also proud of you… keep being your best... Mr Rowlands