



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KR/ AW/CL

25<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

When Winterton Comprehensive became an academy, the governors of the school were absolutely determined to ensure that the school remained central to the community and hence, the reason the name of the school became Winterton Community Academy.

We recognise the importance of that now - more than ever - with the increased cost of living and the impact that has on so many families.

I feel that as a school serving the vast majority of children and young people within our immediate community and the surrounding villages we are well placed to help. We are therefore identifying ways that we can provide support and also act as a central point to facilitate the opportunities - to make it easy for those who can and want to help - to be able to do so.

Our prime aim is to ensure that no child or young person will go hungry this winter.

To achieve this, we want to implement a number of strategies which will enable us to achieve the following:

- Offer emergency supplies (food / clothing / hygiene products etc.) for those who need them, to be able to access them through the school.
- To be able to offer any student who needs it, access to food.
- To be able to offer a warm space and a hot drink to anyone who needs it.

There are a number of ways in which we can support these objectives including working with established organisations and charities and working with local suppliers.

In addition, we will operate a food / clothing bank where families will be able to discreetly contact us to access the things that they need.

To achieve this, we will request donations and for those who are able, the opportunity to contribute and help us to build reserves of non-perishable food items, clothing (including school uniform) and hygiene and cleaning products. These will then be made available for those who need them.

In addition, we will set up a range of 'clubs' for breakfast / break, lunch and after school where again, any child or young person who needs access to a meal, will be able to do so. We hope to be able to offer cereal and toast in the morning and a selection of easy fix meals such as beans on toast or pasta / rice etc. to ensure that support is available if a child should need it.

We will encourage our students to get involved, to help promote this initiative and support collections and distributions. We will also ensure that we are discreet in offering our support to those who need it.

We will communicate with our students in school to inform them how they can go about accessing support if they wish to do so. However, in addition, if any parent or carer needs to contact us to discuss how we may be able to support their child, then please contact Mrs Walton either through reception or by email on [Walton.k@wintertonca.com](mailto:Walton.k@wintertonca.com).

We are also looking to open our doors to the community and provide a warm, safe place and a hot drink for anyone who needs it. This would be an open-door approach, although we may structure this further to try and create a meeting place for people to come together. We will use our staffroom and / or canteen (when not in use) to allow people from the community to drop in, enjoy the warmth and a cup of tea or coffee.

We know that we serve a very special community and we feel that we have a role to play in supporting that community and pulling together through challenging times. A part of that support is to facilitate the opportunities for members of the community to help one another.

Donations to the food and clothing bank can be made at any time during opening hours or, if you contact reception, we will arrange to come and collect if that is preferable. Students can also help by bringing any items down to reception.

We will communicate further when we have built up some stocks but equally, if you know of anyone who may be in need of support, please encourage them to contact us.

Please also help to raise awareness of the support and opportunities that are available. Our doors will be open, not just to the parents of children in the school, but to anyone who needs us.

There is an African proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child". In recent times, that has never felt more appropriate than it does now and it is our commitment to ensure that no child will go hungry.

Thank you for your time and support,

Kind regards,

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

Mr Rowlands and the Academy Leadership Team