

Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher - Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KR/ AW/PPC

15th November, 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is our mission to ensure that all children who attend Winterton Community Academy are safe, happy and successful. That is our commitment to you when you choose our school.

Our standards, expectations and policies are all created with this in mind, to ensure that the decisions that we take are made in the best interests of our young people to give them every opportunity to succeed. We recognise that on occasions, circumstances are such, that a young person may face challenges and barriers which mean they are at a disadvantage and as a result, without further support, they may not fulfil their potential.

I am writing to inform you therefore of one such strategy that we have put in place to support students where appropriate.

One of the most significant barriers to learning is due to low attendance. If a young person is missing lessons, it is highly likely that they will not make the progress that is expected of them or that they are capable of. Therefore, under these circumstances, it is important that we consider all options available to offer the best support and eliminate any gaps in their learning. I am writing to inform you that we are therefore introducing a Pupil Progress Charter which is available in full on the academy website: www.wintertonca.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Progression-Charter.pdf

In short, where a student has been identified to be at risk, and other methods of support have not been or are unlikely to be successful, we will consider allocating the pupil a place in an alternative year group. This would mean that instead of progressing in line with their chronological age, they would engage with their learning at the most suitable stage. It is not necessary to wait until the end of the academic year to implement this change, where appropriate, it could take effect from the beginning of any given term.

We would only look to apply this strategy where we feel it would be supportive however we feel it is important to be transparent and to share this approach in advance. It is a strategy that we have used previously to support some students under exceptional circumstances and it has helped them to achieve. We now feel that on occasions it would be beneficial for other students and may help alleviate the pressure if they have not been able to meet attendance thresholds and have missed a significant amount of their time in education. Where this applies, they would continue to progress through their education within their new year group and still sit their GCSE examinations when they reach the end of Key Stage 4.

In addition, any such change would only take place after further consultation with you as their parent / carer.

I would like to reassure you that this strategy does not apply where pupils are attending well and their progress fluctuates from time. We understand that progress is not linear, that young people will develop at different rates and it is our responsibility to support them in the classroom through high quality teaching.

Please do take the time to read the charter in full on the website and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mr Rowlands