



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KR/ AW/expc

6th March, 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Throughout the school year, our pupil attendance has been really positive, tracking above average nationally and locally and as we have communicated previously, we are in the top 20% of schools nationally for attendance.

Further to that, I am delighted to be able to share with you that at this time, we are also the highest performing secondary school in North Lincolnshire. We know that positive attendance in school is the first step towards making progress and achieving great outcomes, so I would like to say thank you for your support and engagement in helping us to achieve this high standard.

I would like to also take this opportunity to remind parents of our position with regards to behaviour and conduct. I am proud of the positive culture that exists within the school. It genuinely feels like a warm and welcoming place to be and the behaviour of the vast majority of our students is absolutely exemplary. One of the reasons for this is because we uphold high standards and expectations and yet at the same time, always seek to be inclusive, to support our students and to build positive relationships. Our data for suspensions and exclusions highlights our inclusivity, where we have one of the lowest rates in the authority. That said, where behaviour falls short of those expectations, we will put the appropriate consequences in place. We expect our students to live up to our school values of respect, hard-work and positivity and where they fall short of those standards, it is important that we respond.

Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of students who are attempting to vape. There are significant risks associated with vaping and it is important to stress that it is illegal for minors and also, smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on the grounds of a public facility such as a school. We have communicated our expectations clearly with our students and they are aware that vaping in school will lead to a suspension. Our behaviour policy also states that any student who is repeatedly suspended from school may face a permanent exclusion.

For a long time now, our position on any act of physical violence will lead to a suspension and depending on the severity, even a permanent exclusion. We are proud of the fact that such instances are now few and far between, however again, in recent weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of incidents involving some form of physical contact.

You will be aware that our position on the use of toilets has changed recently. This is because a small number of students were misusing the facilities and using the toilets as an opportunity to be late for lessons or to avoid work. We felt that the toilets had become an unpleasant experience for other students and therefore, changes needed to be made. We are reviewing our measures on a weekly basis as in reality, we would like to be able to trust our students to behave responsibly. In the meantime, I would like to reiterate that all students are permitted to go to the toilet during lesson time, if they really need to go. We do of course encourage them to wait until break and lunch if they can, but ultimately, if they need to go, they will be

allowed to do so. The main toilets are all open during break and lunch and at other times, we ask that they use the toilets near to reception. This has allowed us to closely manage the circumstances and ensure that the toilets are a clean and safe environment for everyone. We have recently needed to suspend a number of students for sharing cubicles, despite our communications that this was not permitted. Again, I am sure that you can appreciate the reasons why this is so important due to the obvious safeguarding risks.

All of the standards and expectations that we uphold within school are designed in the best interests of our students. We are not willing to compromise on upholding high expectations and doing what is right for our young people. I politely ask that our parents and carers support our stance and trust that as professionals, we will do the right thing by your child. Please support us by reiterating our expectations to your child and where necessary, help them to understand why our expectations are as they are.

As a result of our high standards, the atmosphere in our school is extremely positive. You are welcome to visit the school during the day and take a tour to experience this for yourself. We are proud of the school that we have become and I would like to thank you personally for your support in helping us to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr Rowlands