



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KR/ AW/update

20th March, 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to advise you that all students have attended an assembly today, primarily to advise them of the changes that we are putting in place with regards to using the toilet facilities in school.

After a discussion with some representatives of the student council last week, we agreed that whilst the contingency measures that we had put in place were helping to manage some issues, they were also creating new challenges and ultimately, disadvantaging the majority of students in school for whom conduct is not an issue.

That is not the ethos that we want to create. We want a school culture where students are independent and self-regulatory in their conduct, attitudes and behaviours. We have therefore made some changes with immediate effect and as a result, students will have access to the main toilet blocks throughout the day.

Whilst we do allow students to visit the toilet during their lesson if they need to, we do also request that they try to avoid missing valuable lesson time unless they absolutely need to. We will continue to monitor where students are leaving the classroom and if we have any individual concerns then we will notify the respective parent / carer to discuss this further.

I feel that this is a positive way forward and allows students to demonstrate that they can be responsible.

In addition, we have set some very clear guidelines around the use of the facilities and advised students that they will face consequences for any misuse.

I have also advised students that we will be taking a much stronger stance on some of our other standards and expectations. I specifically referred to mobile phones, which, whilst they have been banned in school for a long time, we still frequently see phones hanging out of pockets and in places which are easily accessible, clearly highlighting a temptation or habit to use it. Therefore, we have advised students that if we see their phone, then it will be confiscated in line with our policy. Phones that are confiscated are returned at the end of the day and a detention is issued.

Students were also advised that they need to make every effort to ensure that their uniform is correct. In particular, hoodies are not permitted and we advise that they will be confiscated. We have always advised that students need a suitable coat or jacket for wearing when they are outside at school and if they are cold, they can wear a base layer underneath their uniform.

We have reminded students of the importance to remove their coat or jacket when they are in the building and advised them that they need to take responsibility for this otherwise they risk receiving a detention.

High standards and expectations are an important feature of any good school and they set the tone for so many other aspects of school life. We do not want school to be a draconian environment and our standards and expectations are designed to set the right tone and culture alongside strong relationship and an inclusive approach. It is through our high standards and expectations that we have developed a really positive school ethos and I trust that you will continue to support us.

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