



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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5th September, 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children back to school and offer a warm welcome to any new parents with children joining us for the first time.

We have enjoyed a really great first week back, school feels fabulous and full of positive energy. As ever, your children are a credit to you and they have really hit the ground running. Year 7 have settled without hesitation and it has been a pleasure to welcome them in to our community.

Our school values of Respect, Hard-work, Positivity, Community, Ambition and Diversity really sit at the heart of what we are about as a school. They are a real strength and in particular, their respectful conduct and behaviour shines through. It is engrained within the ethos of the school and our students know what is expected of them and how to conduct themselves.

Where we would like to drive things further is notably through Ambition and Hard-work. Sometimes, some of our pupils can be guilty of doing 'just enough' to get by rather than pushing themselves to achieve their best. We are working hard to change that mindset. We want to challenge our pupils to aim higher and in Year 11, for them not to accept a standard pass (Level 4) when they are capable of achieving a good pass (Level 5) and beyond. They are more than capable and we will be pushing them hard.

We are raising the bar, because we know that they are capable and in that sense, we are expecting more of them than ever before. Parental support is crucial in helping this happen and we ask that in particular, as your child enters Year 10 and Year 11, you talk to them about their target grades and encourage them to aim high. Of course, that means working harder, but they will get their rewards as a result.

I also ask that you check regularly as to whether they are receiving homework and you support us in ensuring that it is completed to a high standard. It is a good habit to consolidate their learning in school with independent study at home, there are many resources available to help learners gain a deeper understanding of the topics they are studying and by doing so, they will make accelerated progress. We are also prioritising reading across all year groups, because we recognise that there is a direct correlation between reading ability and GCSE outcomes. Encouraging your child to read frequently in their own time and having frequent discussions with them about what they are learning will make a significant difference.

If you have any concerns, I always ask that you speak to us. Your child's form-tutor or head of year will ordinarily be your first point of contact however, equally, if it is something that is subject specific, their classroom teacher or the head of department will be happy to help. We only ever want what is best for our students to help them succeed and we recognise the

importance of working closely with you to help achieve this. If you feel that your concerns have not been heard, then I am happy for you to contact me. The easiest way to do this is via email at Rowlands.k@wintertonca.com and ordinarily you will receive a response within 24 hours. Equally, if you have any concerns relating to the safety of a child or young person then our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Daveran. She can be contacted either by telephoning reception or on email Daveran.l@wintertonca.com.

We are excited and confident that the changes we have implemented this year, such as mixed ability teaching and 50 minute lessons will make a difference and help our students make even better progress. I am proud of the school that we have become over the last six years since I arrived and I can say with confidence that Winterton Community Academy is a wonderful, positive place to be. Certainly, I believe we are delivering on our promise of ensuring our children and young people are safe, happy and successful, however, we must remain ambitious for them and ensure that they fulfil their amazing potential.

Finally, we are still recruiting for school governors. If as a parent or carer you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact us at reception and our Chair of Governors, Mrs Ros Taylor will give you a call to discuss.

Thank you for the support that you provide as parents, it does not go unnoticed.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr Rowlands