



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/Halfterm/jsn

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is somewhat strange writing at the end of a half-term during which, most of our students will not have attended school.

I recognise how difficult it has been for everyone to try and maintain a sense of normality and to remain motivated but that said, I have to say that I am so very proud of how well the vast majority of our students have accepted the challenges of remote learning and have just 'got-on with it'. The level of engagement has been fantastic and I would equally like to publically thank all of the teachers for the work that they are doing. It is not easy to deliver a lesson in this way and they have done a fantastic job in delivering engaging lessons for our students to access. I would also like to thank all of the staff who are attending school to support those students who need to be here, it is greatly appreciated.

I remain optimistic that we will be in a position to re-open school at some point in March as we continue to monitor the guidance provided by the government. In the meantime, we will continue to do all that we can to ensure that our students have a good range of provision in place with some variety between on-line Zoom calls and independent study tasks. The hardest element is in finding ways to provide our students with feedback whilst they are learning in a different way. This is one of the reasons why we are asking that students are still assessed in each of their subjects and whilst we understand it may not completely replicate what they would do in school, it is still an opportunity for them to test themselves and see how they are doing.

I am also writing to advise you that with effect from this half-term, Mr Gallacher will be leaving the Academy to take up a senior leadership role in another school. I have known Mr Gallacher professionally for over ten years and whilst of course we are sorry to see him leave, it is with my absolute blessing and understanding of his desire to further his career. Mr Gallacher will continue to support us for one day a week for the immediate future and we have appointed a new member of staff who will join us in September.

In terms of his pastoral leadership responsibilities, Miss Holmes will be taking the lead for year 8 and Mrs Graves has kindly agreed to take the responsibility as the head of year 7, both with immediate effect and until the end of the school year when we will have had the opportunity to review things further.

We have worked hard over the past few years to really develop a culture of reward and recognition within the school, celebrating our students for their hard-work and their achievements. Despite the obvious challenges that we have faced, I am delighted that we have still been able to find a way to recognise some of the students who have excelled in the learning over the past 6 weeks. Therefore, some students will have received a fantastic surprise package on their door step, or a letter of commendation. As ever, we appreciate your hard work and wanted to acknowledge that it has been noticed. If you didn't receive something this half-term, keep working hard, it may be you next time!

Finally, with school now closed next week and due to the fact that it is slowly getting lighter in the evenings, I have been asked by the local police to remind our students and their families that we are still in a national lockdown. There have been some reports of young people congregating and not social distancing, both in the evening and during the day when we had no zoom calls. From our perspective, whilst school has been open for those students who need to attend, we will refuse entry to anyone who has been identified as not following social distancing regulations. This is so as to not put our other students or our staff at a greater risk as a result. Thank you for your vigilance and understanding on this matter.

Have a fantastic half-term and thank you as always for your support.

Kind regards,

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

Mr Rowlands  
Headteacher