



19 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Update on recent incident

Following my letter sent yesterday, referring to an incident in school and the subsequent coverage on social media, I thought I would update you about the situation and our next steps.

Firstly, I can confirm that there are no ongoing safety concerns for students or staff following the incident on Monday. The school is operating normally, as are all of the routines and processes in the school. My apologies if my letter raised any unnecessary concerns on that front.

The incident emerged as a result of the frustration and concern that many of our students feel about events in the wider world.

Our school and Trust values state that “we actively promote mutual respect, equality, and understanding of other cultures, empathy with the wider world and a strong and collaborative work ethic.” And that we want our students to “develop the skills they need to become highly effective and positive citizens, employees and employers in an ever changing and complex world.”

To that end, this morning members of the senior student leadership team met with staff to “co-construct” a positive opportunity for students who are exercised about events in the world to express that and share their concerns as part of our community. At the end of the school day, tomorrow, we are inviting any students that wish to be part of this opportunity to gather in the school hall from 3.00-3.30pm. We are still putting the detail together with the student leaders, but staff will be present to talk to students and there will be a number of creative ways provided for students to express their thoughts and feelings. Members of the senior student leadership team will be supporting this. We will ensure that this happens in a safe and mutually respectful environment and will be asking students who attend the event to follow the following guidelines:

- Students should support a calm and quiet environment;
- Students should take the opportunity to express their views either through speaking to staff / students or by writing them down;
- Students are expected to follow the normal behaviour code of the school, acting in a manner which is responsible, respectful and safe.

We hope that this event is part of an ongoing programme of opportunities that we can take as a school to support our values in this area.

Social media comments and accusations about staff members

Perhaps the most distasteful and hurtful impact of the social media comments are those that mention members of the staff team and some students. Several members of my senior leadership team have had many unkind, untrue and inaccurate things said about them by people that do not know them or their work, including accusations of racism and Islamophobia. As I wrote yesterday, the way that social media works does not provide a satisfactory opportunity to answer these groundless allegations, so I want to make it absolutely clear that my senior team are not racists and many of the accusations made about the words and actions of staff relating to the incident on Monday across social media sites are simply not true.

Those who have ever met or spoken with members of my team will know that they work passionately and diligently to support all of our students and I am very proud to work alongside them, as with our entire staff team to support our students in their learning and in their care.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher