



21 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I wanted to write to you following on from Mr Johnson's letters earlier this week ([18 May](#) and [19 May](#)) relating to a video and associated comments linked to the school.

Unfortunately, as is often the case with social media, information included in the post was inaccurate and false, and as it went viral, these inaccuracies and falsehoods were shared and distorted. As a result, individuals have become the centre of hugely negative attention, including staff who have been named and had actions attributed to them which did not happen, and which cast aspersions on their professionalism and character. Furthermore, the school has been subject to hundreds of aggressive and abusive emails and phone calls which staff have had to deal with. We must also not forget that there are young people involved who did not ask to be in the limelight. The hurt and damage done by this is deeply upsetting.

Please rest assured that senior leaders have ensured that this issue has been dealt with in our usual measured, reasonable, and fair way, and that no one has been accused of terrorism or been excluded, nor have staff said they are scared of students. At the heart of their work is the education and welfare of students.

Everyone completely understands that young people feel very strongly about a range of issues, particularly when they relate to them or their community, indeed we encourage them to take an interest in the wider world. A key element of our work is helping students understand how to explore and discuss delicate and challenging topics in a questioning, constructive and unifying way. And so, even in the context of this week's events, the school and school leaders have been determined to stick to their values, to move forwards positively and to work alongside the student community, just as they did to set up the multicultural day at the start of the week.

I had the privilege yesterday of participating in an open forum organised jointly by school leaders and the senior student team. Around 60 students and many staff stayed after school to share their views on what had happened, discuss their thoughts and ask questions of each other.

As a result, this shared forum approach will be developed going forwards and the school and student leaders will work together to review other suggestions made by those who attended.

I was also extremely impressed by the interviews I heard taking place for the school's new senior student team. Their energy and recognition of the school's fantastic work, and their ideas for ensuring the school goes from strength to strength, were inspirational. Regardless of which individuals are appointed, I have to say that they are all a credit to the school and to themselves.

It has been a very challenging week for the school, but also one where the best of the school has shone through. Staff and students have worked extremely positively together (and will continue to do so) because they are rightly proud of their school and want the best for everyone involved.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Davies  
Chief Executive Officer