

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

With September now behind us, I wanted to write to you again. The theme of this message is one of an incredibly positive start to the school year.

We have put a major focus on the start of the day. The Golden Hour as we call it has been transformational for the school. Students have adapted to it very quickly and almost to a child have demonstrated they are 'ready to learn' each and every day.

Following the orderly and supportive start to the school day, we have been holding a very firm line on what will and won't be accepted at school. As a result, we have had to suspend (fixed-term suspensions – not permanently excluded) several students that have failed to adhere to our expectations. In context, that means that 30 students have been suspended since the start of term and of that group 18 have been suspended more than once. If we put that into percentage terms that means that 98% of our students have been consistently adhering positively to the school rules without issue.

It may read somewhat negative that I begin with a statistic about suspensions. It is important to stress that each of these students are not contributing to making this school a consistently safe environment. The majority of these suspensions are for 'failure to follow school rules'. We are clear that as a minimum we expect students to follow instructions, be polite, attend lessons and work hard. I'm sure you would all agree with the stance and approach the school is taking.

The result of this work is lessons and corridors in our school are disruption-free and your children are able to learn without distraction. I regularly visit lessons, walk corridors, and oversee the Golden Hour. Our school is moving forward rapidly.

If you would like to come and see any of this in action, you are all very welcome. I am personally inviting parents in to offer a window into the school. We walk corridors, visit lessons, and enable you the opportunity to get a feel for the school we are becoming. This invite is open to all. You can find further information [by clicking here](#). As an interesting aside, we have had multiple visitors from across Peterborough schools, coming in to see the Golden Hour and the impact it has had.

Other events:

- Recently we held the Prospective Parents Evening. The feedback we received about the evening was beyond positive. Equally pleasing was the number of parents who approached us to thank us for the work we are doing with the school. On a personal level, thank you, it is greatly appreciated.
- At this stage of the year, we are expecting all year 11s to be attending Session 6 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For year 11, time is running out, now is the time to put in the hard yards!

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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- In terms of standards and expectations. We are nowhere near 'there' yet. We really need your ongoing support. In the mornings:
  - Students need to be in their first classroom by 8.45 am, if they arrive at the front gate at 8.45 am they will not be there on time. The gates open at 8.30 am and we expect your children to walk through the gate at this time.
  - Their uniform must be consistent with our policy – as I have said, you spend a lot of money buying uniform and equipment, we simply ask that they wear it and use it. There are still some skirts that are not appropriate. Please do not buy stretchy/Lycra-type skirts.
- Attendance – this is a huge driver for the school. In our last set of exam results, those students whose attendance was below 90%, achieved on average, a grade lower than those who were regular attenders. Currently, the attendance across the school is Year 7 - 96%, Year 8 - 93%, Year 9 - 93%, Year 10 - 91% and Year 11 - 92%. As you can see, we have a lot more work to do on this!

#### Up and coming events

- Open Morning Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 8.15 am to 9.30 am (Golden Hour & Roll Call)
- Open Morning Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – 10 am to 10.30 am (School tour followed by tea/coffee/cake (Macmillan coffee morning) with the Headteacher)
- Year 10 Parents Evening (virtual) – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Post 16 Opportunities Evening – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November
- Staff Training Day - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> (school closed to all years)

Finally, thank you for all the support that you have given us. That very much means getting your children to school on time, with the correct uniform and with the right approach to lessons. Our job is to educate your children, we can do this so much easier when we are able to get the basics right.

Many thanks



Damien Whales  
Headteacher