

9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that we are in the final half term of this year, I wanted to contact you to introduce and update you on some of the changes and improvements that are happening at the school. There are quite a few, more detail will be shared as we begin to implement them.

### **Academisation**

We are in the process of joining the Four Cs Trust (AMVC), and we expect this to officially begin at the start of the next academic year. There will not be massive changes in terms of how things currently work. The uniform will remain the same. There will be no additional costs to parents, the biggest change will be that we will be called Ken Stimpson Academy.

### **Behaviour**

We have spent a lot of time looking at where we are successful and where need to improve.

We are pleased with the conduct and learning that is going on in classrooms. Where we need to improve further is around non-lesson time.

For example, we are looking at requests to leave the classroom, which includes toilet visits. For clarity, we do not refuse students access to the toilet, as we expect that as young adults they manage when they go. At the risk of stating the obvious – at the start of the day and during breaks students should go to the toilet if needed. There are exceptions including medical issues, but as a rule of thumb lessons are for learning and break time is for breaks.

Vapes have become a major concern in schools across the country and we are no different. We have taken a very serious stance on these. Vapes are not permitted in school and we will internally/externally suspend students, and if we have major concerns around their contents, we may permanently exclude them if they are brought into school.

It is also worth mentioning if anything is brought into the school that presents a serious safeguarding risk to students such as weapons or drugs they will be at serious risk of permanent exclusion.

Lastly, bullying remains an ongoing top priority. We rely heavily on communication to detect, deal with, and deter bullying. At school, we have multiple people that you or your children can confide in. These include teachers, support staff and wellbeing teams. If you have concerns, please do get in contact.

### **Uniform**

The uniform at Ken Stimpson School is very smart. The uniform is something that we take seriously, and we want to respect the financial commitment you as parents make.

Skirt length is an ongoing concern. There are currently far too many skirts that are not appropriate for school. Our school policy states that the length of the skirt needs to be 5cm above the knee. Please ensure that your daughters are appropriately dressed.

Ties have been altered so that we can identify who is in each year group. This will help things like year group zones at break time and increase a sense of year group identity.



Jewellery is also clear on our policy: one ring, one stud in each ear, not nose studs (just clear retainers). This has slipped and will be corrected in the coming weeks.

### **Roll Call**

To enable us to check these standards we are beginning a process where students will be checked that they are 'ready to learn' daily. From September each morning year groups will line up in the hall and their punctuality, uniform (including jewellery) and equipment will be checked. If students are not 'ready to learn' they will not enter lessons until the issue has been addressed. We have already begun to teach year groups how this process works; all year groups will be involved over the next few weeks.

### **Recognition**

There can be a tendency at school to focus solely on 'rules and discipline'. These are the bedrock for a functional school, but for the majority getting these things right is a given.

Alongside our Class Charts positive points system, we have created 'caught being good' and Principal's commendations. These have provided us with opportunities to recognise the amazing students and the contribution they make to our school.

Other improvements for September:

### **School Day**

The school day will alter slightly. The school day will begin at 8.40 am with a movement bell. By 8.45 am all students will need to be in Roll Call/Reading otherwise they are late and will be placed in after-school detention. The school gates will open at 8.30 and we expect all students to be on-site by 8.35 am.

### **Reading and Roll Call**

Each morning students will begin the day by either being Roll Call or in tutor reading for the first 15mins. This will alternate across the year groups. Lesson one will then begin at 9 am.

### **Pastoral Structure (year teams)**

From September there will be changes to this, with some students having different form tutors and heads of year. The Heads of Year next year will be as follows: Year 7 Mrs C Read, Year 8 Mrs S Searle, Year 9 Mr N Reed, Year 10 Mr I Housley, Year 11 Miss J Sothmann and P16 Mr K Abbott.

Lastly, to develop relationships between the school and home. I would like to offer an open invitation to come into the school to meet me and for me to show you around the school on a normal working day. I am suggesting three dates: **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 9 am to 10 am, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 9 am to 10 am and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 9 am to 10 am**. If you are interested in attending, could you please complete this [online form](#) so that we make sure we can manage the number of visitors.

I look forward to meeting some of you during our open dates, and as I say we will keep you updated in more detail as we roll out each layer of improvement.



**Mr D Whales**  
**Acting Principal**