



19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

I wanted to pass on some of the messages shared with students this week, in assemblies upon our return to school after the Easter break.

The focus of my assemblies this week, has been our school community and the values that are essential to it being one in which all are treated with genuine mutual respect and feel safe and valued. I had a lovely email from a member of the public at the end of last term who had been helped with her shopping, at the train station, by a really polite and helpful student from Warlingham. It always makes me feel really proud of our students when I get emails like this and as always they are a credit to you, in the way so many act in our local community.

I also reminded students that we show each other respect in our community every day using STEPS, using names, Sir or Miss, just like at home saying 'thank you', 'excuse me' and 'please' and being warm, welcoming and friendly towards each other. Every morning, I greet our students on the gate and wish them a good day in support of the warm, welcoming and friendly school community we strive to be. I told a student, that I had bought a counter in the week before Easter, just to count how much they are contributing to this, by initiating the greeting, or wishing me a good day, as oppose to responding to my greeting. This has gone from 78 on the first day to over 300 everyday so far this term.

With exam season approaching for Year 11 and 13, I wanted to highlight to parents how much we need to work together to keep the students focused, calm and believing in themselves. The famous quote 'whether you believe you can, or believe you can't – you are probably right' always come to mind when supporting students at this point in the year. Bolstering their self-belief, showing that we believe in them as parents and as teachers and staff at the school, is always such a big part of securing success later in the summer.

Genuine mutual respect is a cornerstone of our school community so that we can support all students to achieve the best for themselves and for others. Mutual trust and good communication with you as parents is hugely important. Thank you to those parents who came to our parents forum before the Easter break. We discussed the school keeping parents informed if clubs are cancelled, the need to review the positive value points for star student etc. and ensuring this is comparable to the negative points values (as well as the subject of emails being the same for both positive and negative emails generated by arbor). It is hugely helpful to have this feedback and input to support reviewing and improving the work we do.

Working together in support of your child requires us to trust and support each other and nurture the sense of belonging that is critical for success and happiness at school. We, as staff, want the best for your child and all children at the school, our rules and boundaries are there to help them feel and be safe, valued and respected and we have high standards to help them achieve success. As parents I know you reinforce the importance of school, the values that underpin what we do at school, the need for attendance and punctuality in support of that sense of belonging. Nothing undermines a child's sense of belonging more than feeling that their family are in conflict with the school. They want to fit in and be successful at school and be loyal and supportive at home. Please do raise questions and concerns, but do so without undermining that sense of belonging for your child.

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A major way in which you can support the school community and contribute to it is through membership of our PTA, helping out at PTA and School events or simply by attending and supporting them in their work. There are two great events planned in the term ahead that I would like to draw your attention to.

The first is the PTA Quiz Night on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May – it would be great to see you there and to enjoy some healthy competition with the teacher teams! Details are being shared with this message. Secondly, a massive highlight for our community last year was our summer music festival, Warlstock, for which we have now finalised a date. Please put the 20<sup>th</sup> July in your calendars, as it will be a great day of music, entertainment, food and fun and we will share more information as soon as possible.

Thank you, as ever, for your support in maintaining the values that are so important to our school community and supporting as parents, the need to be polite, respectful, thoughtful and safe in all our interactions with each other and also to get involved in some of the fantastic community events and the work of the PTA.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher