



Wykham Park Academy Banbury

an Aspirations Academy

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Miss Sylvia Thomas – Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus

20 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As some of you will be aware there was a particularly unpleasant incident that took place on Wednesday down the bottom of Ruskin Road as students were leaving site at the end of the school day. This involved a large number of our students inciting an act of aggression between two students who had “fallen out” with each other. Having spoken to the nurse who liaises with us from the hospital the number of incidents they are getting from across the town related to youth violence is on the increase. To put in context, three young people were taken to hospital after school from across Banbury that night due to acts of aggression from their peers. I will be working with the other headteachers in the town to decide on a town wide approach and campaign. We are all facing the same antisocial and violent incidents and we cannot ignore the culture that is developing across the town. We can only do so much as a teaching profession to instil the values we expect our young people to develop as they grow older.

I felt it necessary to write to you for two reasons:

1. To categorically express our total disgust at the behaviours shown by the students who were active bystanders in this incident. We will not tolerate this kind of behaviour from any of our students at any point. Those who have already been identified as the main instigators of the incitement have been suspended and their parents informed. There may be others who are yet to emerge as key players as we watch the footage of the incident we have managed to gather so far.
2. As part of our response to this next week we have already changed our assembly programme so that we can talk to all students about what it means to be an “active bystander” and why we cannot tolerate it in our community (or any community for that matter). We ask that you support us by speaking at home with your children about what is acceptable behaviour when out in the community.

We have a clear set of values here on campus – Kindness, Community and Inclusivity – which align completely with the British Values we teach your children. What we saw yesterday is not tolerated within the school gates and neither will it be tolerated when your children are walking home in our school uniform.

The vast, vast majority of the students on our campus adhere to the code of conduct you have all signed, day in day out. Everyone, including my staff and passers-by in the street are entitled to feel safe on their way to and from school. We will work tirelessly, with other external partners, to rid the town of the thuggish behaviours that we all know are on the increase.

Yours sincerely

Sylvia Thomas
Executive Principal



ASPIRATIONS

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Wykham Park
Academy Banbury



Banbury Aspirations
Campus Sixth Form