

31 January 2018

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to let you know that we had a situation at the Academy last week in which sharp implements were bought into school. There was no intent at any time to cause harm or injury to any other person.

In line with our safeguarding and behaviour policies, the matter was raised with our resident PCSO, who was in school at the time. Local police are involved in the matter, the items were confiscated quickly and are now in police possession.

I want to stress that we take a zero-tolerance approach to knives or blades of any kind being brought into school. Any pupil caught doing so will be excluded, unable to return to the Academy, and we will be reiterating this position in assemblies this week.

We take the safety of our pupils extremely seriously at Folkestone Academy and we have made our expectations very clear to everyone. I'd like to assure parents that serious sanctions will be imposed on pupils not following the Ready to Learn, Respectful and Safe ethos of the Academy in place since Turner Schools took it over.

Sanctions continue to be applied, including exclusion, where behaviour is having a negative effect on safety and learning. I am confident that this will continue to improve progress for pupils throughout the school year.

I also know that reinforcing for our students that we are here to give them successful futures relies on great relationships with parents and I encourage you to speak to me and meet me so that together we can support the school on its journey to being one of the best in the South.

I know that in the past, some parents have felt their only outlet for concerns is social media, but I am very keen that we start to engage more constructively and openly with all parents. To this end, I am instituting twice weekly opportunities to meet with me and senior leaders on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. I very much encourage you to come along if you are able. Do please let Reception know if you are planning to come; for health and safety reasons we will need to allocate passes as it is during normal school hours.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Colin Boxall
Interim Principal