

January 23rd 2023

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to you today to thank you for ongoing support.

Leading, educating and supporting the personal development of any young person can be very challenging, even more so as we move on from the recent Covid pandemic, but it is made significantly more effective when parents and school staff forge a positive partnership based on mutual trust and understanding. I know how much all the staff at St Antony's appreciate the support and understanding provided by you, our parents and carers.

In the short time they are with us, we take great pride in the responsibility we have in helping you to bring up your child. We also recognise what we need to do to improve things at our school. We are not perfect and we certainly don't get everything right; any mistakes will be honest mistakes that we seek to learn from and improve on. But please be reassured that we are working tirelessly each day to ensure our provision for your child is as good as it possibly can be.

With this in mind, can I please ask you to be mindful that children may not always relay to you the full, most accurate, version of an incident that may have happened – so please get in touch with us either on the phone or in person to find out the full story before you draw any conclusions about what might have happened. Supporting our position in how we deal with your child's choices and behaviour helps your child in the long run to know that home and school are in partnership together, therefore helping to prepare them for adulthood where they must take full responsibility for their words and actions and the subsequent consequences.

When you do try to get in touch with us, I know you will appreciate we are not always immediately available and I recognise this can be frustrating. We have a small pastoral team (where all our Heads of Year have a significant teaching timetable), we have nearly 700 pupils on roll and we have the highest proportion of pupils with an EHCP out of any mainstream high school in the whole of Trafford. This places demands on our time that means we may not be able to get back in touch with you as quickly as you might want. Please be patient with us and have in mind we will do our very best to get in touch as soon as we are able to.

Furthermore, in any communication between us, I expect our staff to treat you with courtesy, professionalism and respect – and know it is right to expect that from you when communicating with us in return. On the very rare occasion it may happen, I have instructed all staff to terminate any phone calls or meetings where parents or carers are rude, abusive, threatening or disrespectful and to seek support from a senior colleague as behaviour of this nature towards staff won't be tolerated under any circumstances. In order to ensure we provide all staff at St Antony's with a safe working environment, I reserve the right to limit communication access of parents and carers and, in extreme cases, ban abusive parents and carers from our site should that be necessary.

Finally, I want to thank those parents and carers in attendance at the parents' forums so far this year. These events have proved a very effective way of strengthening communication between home and school and have helped us to reflect on our provision for your children and how we might make refinements going forward. If you would like to join us for our next parent forum, this will take place on Tuesday 6th June in the school hall from 4pm – 5.30pm.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Campbell

Headteacher