



ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday 26th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, either from the local and national press or via social media, there have been numerous 'Tik Tok Protests' in schools across the country over the last few days, with students protesting against a range of school rules, school dinners, uniform policies or accessibility to toilets.

We have become aware through social media posts shared with us that further 'protests' are planned for tomorrow / this week at Alsop and are concerned about the disruption this will potentially cause to the school day. I urge all parents and carers to check their child's social media and discourage involvement in any such protests or any other type of negative behaviour linked to this.

These protests have been fuelled by various social media platforms and, unfortunately, on Friday, we had a group of students, mainly from Year 7-9, imitating this within Alsop at different points of the day. Initially, there was just a small group of students 'protesting for freedom' during lesson changeover, but it was light hearted and students moved to lessons relatively quickly.

By break, the numbers grew and a larger group across Years 7-9 had gathered and the atmosphere was very different, with this larger group running between buildings on mass, causing disruption and recording the movement on their mobile phones. This had a significant impact on the start of Period 3 and although the majority of students involved co-operated and eventually returned to lessons, a small minority presented a significant challenge, were verbally abusive and refused to follow reasonable instructions from staff, putting themselves and others at risk. This is wholly unacceptable and follow up action was taken in response.

I, and other staff, spoke with students and some didn't even know what they were protesting about and just getting swept up in the events. Others were unhappy with our toilet pass system, which was introduced in January in response to student voice feedback in Term 1, where younger students, especially, felt that toilets, as in a lot of schools, were a negative space with groups of students congregating, vaping or causing damage. Some students were also looking to exit lessons and avoid learning, using the toilets as an excuse.

I will be reminding all students via a virtual assembly in PDR tomorrow morning that toilet access is available throughout the school day and staff will continue to implement the system in place to ensure that disruption to learning is minimised and that students feel safe when accessing the toilets, which are directly supervised by duty staff. I will also be reminding students of our Student Voice system in school and Form Council discussions, which is their opportunity to positively raise any concerns they have or ideas for future improvements to improve their school experience.

I would like to thank the majority of our students for their positive contributions to school and for working with us to create a positive school culture. I would also like to thank you as parents in advance for discussing these matters with your child and we look forward to a positive week ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Masher
Headteacher