



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave Garstang Lancashire PR3 1YE Tel: 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

23 June 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

As you know I joined Garstang Community Academy (GCA), part of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) in January 2023 as Headteacher. Since my appointment we have been actively improving GCA, by raising expectations for all stakeholders, especially through closer and more effective working relationships with yourselves as parents/carers. I have met with parents/carers on a number of occasions to develop our work with you as key stakeholders.

During the spring and summer terms a number of parents/carers and representatives of the local community have complained about the anti-social behaviour of a small number of young people, some of whom come to GCA. Where anti-social behaviour has brought GCA into disrepute; on school premises or whilst students wear our uniform, we have acted.

We have amended our curriculum to better inform and support students on anti-social issues and the consequences of such behaviours. Our aim is simple; to make a positive difference for our children. However, where the education and support has not been effective we have taken further action. Unfortunately, as a last resort four pupils have been permanently excluded since January and the number of suspensions have increased. This I hope indicates our commitment and determination to make GCA a beacon in the community, not just for academic standards but for respect and tolerance of others. Each term gives the opportunity to improve our culture and procedures. September brings our next opportunity to build on and improve behaviour and attitudes in school.

The **overwhelming majority** of students behave superbly, virtually all of the time. The concerns shared with us do involve acts of anti-social behaviour taking place in the evenings and weekends. It is alleged that some aggressors are current or former pupils. The types of anti-social behaviour that are reported to us mainly relate to physical assault and intimidation. In each case reported to us, we have encouraged the incident to be reported to the police. This is important as it supports the police to understand our concerns and act on them.

Last weekend a further incident and resulting concerns were raised with the school, for which we advised the police to be informed. In addition, we arranged to meet with the police on 20 June 2023 to share your concerns and ours. I have also written to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Andrew Snowden and Ben Wallace MP, because of the importance of addressing the unacceptable behaviours. We have no authority or jurisdiction to act when students are not in school uniform, however, we like yourselves have a part to play in improving behaviour in our community and will act whenever possible. Consequently, I have withdrawn invitations for specific students to attend our upcoming Year 11 Prom, as they have not met our expectations. Please can we ask you to act and share anti-social behaviour with the police using the 101 number or to report anonymously to Crimestoppers unless it is an emergency where you should call 999.

There has been much in recent weeks that has been positive and productive. The GCA's Parents and Teachers Together Group have met for two consecutive weeks and will soon be sharing some exciting news about the plans they will be implementing in the near future. I

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave Garstang Lancashire PR3 1YE Tel: 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

would like to thank each of them for their commitment and contributions thus far. We welcomed parents/carers into school on Wednesday 21st June as Mr Felvus and I provided an update on how we will be reporting on your child's progress prior to the summer break. Our new approach has considered your comments and opinions. Again, parents/carers in the meeting demonstrated their commitment to supporting their child and the school, which was great to see.

Our Year 11 students have been involved in some delightful events. Firstly, they were impeccable when they departed us for study leave on Tuesday 13th June. During this celebratory event, the students joyfully signed each other's shirts and asked staff to add their comments and signatures to a key piece of personalised memorabilia. We consumed complimentary bacon, sausage and vegan butties as a community, thanks to our wonderful catering team before the students departed to their freedom, collecting their leavers' hoodies en route. They were not gone long, before the invited ones returned for the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly. Miss Hall took the Class of 2023 for a nostalgic journey down 'memory lane' and the atmosphere was warm and wonderful. A special thanks goes to Miss Hall for the time and preparation she put into making it a great event for the students.

I wish you all well.

Satinder Singh
Headteacher