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Headteacher: Mr K John



learners who aspire for themselves and inspire others

17 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

CCTV INSTALLATION

As you will appreciate, safeguarding our students and young people in our wider community is a priority and you will already be aware from our previous correspondence that unfortunately we have been dealing with some anti-social behaviour from a small but significant minority of students. As a result of some disappointing behaviour choices, we have latterly had to modify the way in which manage access to toilet facilities.

The vast majority of our students are delightful and continue to operate in line with Calthorpe Park expectations however, it is of paramount importance that we ensure that they have a positive education experience while they are attending Calthorpe Park School. Therefore, we have taken the decision, after much consideration and consultation, to install additional CCTV capabilities. The prime focus of this will be to result in a mechanism whereby we can identify those students making poor choices and spoiling life for others. Sanctions can then be imposed against these students which are proportionate and fair.

Social media has certainly played a role in encouraging our young people to participate in a variety of 'challenges' which has included endeavours such as vandalising toilet facilities. Furthermore, we are aware that a very small minority of students endeavour to loiter and meet friends in the toilets, and some are evidently vaping in these spaces. Whilst the number of students involved in these activities is small, you will appreciate the very nature of the spaces makes it hard for staff to supervise them fully. Critically, we are also mindful that we have a duty to guard against the influences of the County Lines network whereby young people are encouraged to offer items such as vapes free of charge to others with a view to enticing them into a role within organised crime.

We are aware that the vast majority of our students have welcomed the changes that we have implemented regarding supervision of our toilet facilities, albeit a great shame that we have had to resort to such resource intensive measures. By installing additional CCTV capability, we will have the capacity to free up staff to supervise other areas of our site at a time when students will be wanting to take advantage of warmer weather and benefit from an extended variety of outdoor spaces. Safety is paramount so to ensure that this is possible, we must have the correct number of duty staff available at each break and lunchtime.

The problem relating to supervision of our toilets will be addressed rapidly by the careful and sensitive deployment of CCTV. Many schools have already implemented this, including other local schools, with great impact.

For the purpose of safeguarding students, maintaining good hygiene and preventing vandalism, CCTV has been fitted in the washroom areas adjacent to each set of student toilets. This has been done in such a way that students' privacy is not in any way compromised. To clarify, cameras will be used to monitor the following areas:

- sinks
- doors in/out of exterior toilet doors

The cameras **will not** have any view of:

- inside, or above toilet cubicles
- urinals



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Security measures are also in place to prevent tampering with any of the camera's parameters, including location and viewing angle.

As Headteacher and alongside the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), we will take full responsibility for ensuring that privacy is not violated in anyway. The DSL will be responsible for auditing the continued integrity of this installation (as part of the school's safeguarding audit process). Any footage will be destroyed within 28 days.

I am quite sure that you will agree that this is an important step for the school which will result in improved feelings of safety and an ability to hold the minority of students making poor choices to account, rather than penalising the vast majority of students who get it right all of the time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K John', written in a cursive style.

Mr K John
Headteacher

