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ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL
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Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You will likely be aware of some disruption involving a minority of students at the school today. I wanted to tell you as much as I am able and to explain what steps we are taking and how the school will operate next week.

Over the past few days, the school was presented with evidence that a small group of students had used an instant messaging group to share highly offensive racist messages in 2020. We dealt with these gravely serious allegations, which are at odds with every value we hold dear, in a robust way, including notifying the appropriate authorities. The messages were completely unacceptable, and this has led to the exclusion of six students from the school. You'll appreciate that it would be inappropriate to comment further while the investigation continues.

Another group of students this morning brought their justifiable concerns about the messages to the school leadership team's attention. They congregated in the canteen and had a productive discussion with the Acting Principal. It was agreed that the school's leadership team would work closely with students to review procedures and create a new strategy which addresses discrimination of any form.

Regrettably, the unrest in the morning triggered several further unacceptable incidents amongst a minority of students. These incidents appear to have little bearing on the original issue and will be dealt with accordingly through our behaviour policy.

Be assured that we are working intensively as a team and with partners to resolve the issues raised this week. We are also keen to address the understandable concerns you may have, and I invite you to email parent-view@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk at any time, including over this weekend.

It is the leadership team's fundamental responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone in the school community. We must also ensure that disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. The disorderly incidents which occurred today, including violence and threats against students and staff, will not be tolerated, and will be sanctioned.



May I also take an opportunity to remind you that our mobile phone policy is very clear and that any materials whether social media posts, photos, videos, or messages that actively discriminate, endanger or abuse any of the school community will not be tolerated.

We will advise if there are any adjustments to our usual operating procedure this coming Monday 31st January in due course.

It is our role, as a whole school community, to pull together, that is most certainly what we shall do.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs F Aris
Acting Principal