

Stranraer Academy

19th November 2021

Ref: JF/kr

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Any enquiries please contact

Mr J Farquhar

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Dear Parents / Carers

It is a pleasure to write to you and share success, but it is important that I also share when we have challenges.

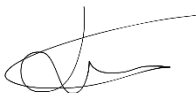
As I imagine you are aware we have seen a number of physical altercations this week within the school grounds all involving S1 Girls. Firstly, I want to express my absolute commitment to remove this type of behaviour from our school. These incidents have been dealt with as robustly as possible with police involvement and a range of sanctions including exclusion. All parents of those involved have had discussions with senior school leaders.

The school has responded with increased staff and police presence. I have spoken to key groups, including all S1 girls. There are various quiet and well supervised spaces within the school building and if any group of S1 girls would like further quiet space they need only approach me and ask. A contributing factor to these incidents has been deliberate provocation by older pupils. These pupils are using low-level unkind comments made by S1 girls and escalating the situation to start fights. We are of course challenging these pupils. I have spoken to all S1 girls today and informed them of how they are being manipulated, the appropriate action to take if they feel uncomfortable and advised them to be careful of their language about fellow pupils.

I would be very grateful if parents could reinforce this message to pupils and inform the school of any concerns. Please be assured that I am as concerned by these incidents as you and that the whole school is working to ensure that incidents like these no longer take place at Stranraer Academy. I would also acknowledge that nearly all of our pupils are kind, hard working and respectful. I am determined to ensure their school experience matches their contribution.

Please contact me directly to discuss any issues with your child. I am here to help.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Farquhar
Headteacher