



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

The Armthorpe School

A Specialist School in The Arts and Sport

16th September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to introduce myself as the new Headteacher at The Armthorpe School. In this role, I am determined to build upon the school's success in recent years and establish a reputation for excellence in all aspects of provision and performance.

Last week, I spoke to students and staff about the values which will determine the ethos of the school:

- Fierce Ambition
- Respect for others
- Being responsible/taking Responsibility
- Pride in belonging/making a positive contribution

During the course of this term, I intend to consult members of the school community to establish a clear definition of these values and what they mean in practice.

In the meantime, the following objectives will drive sustained improvement in the school:

- an insistence on positive behaviour with a firm, fair, reasonable and consistent approach;
- the highest standards in provision for student care, guidance and welfare;
- a relentless focus on learning, and a curriculum which provides opportunities for engagement and success at all levels of ability;
- the highest professional standards in classroom practice – 80% of lessons good or better.

I have been impressed by the way most students have responded to the issue of uniform. Parents are asked to support uniform policy by ensuring that shirts allow the top button to be fastened and ties pulled up. Some students are wearing fitted blouses which do not stay tucked in and are not acceptable uniform.

All students must bring a bag to school and must take responsibility for ensuring they have the right books and equipment.

Continued overleaf . . .

Headteacher: Andy Cope BA MEd



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I would ask parents to ensure students look smart, attend school every day, and that they have had a good night's sleep and eaten breakfast before setting off each morning.

Inevitably, new leadership will bring change at the school. We will seek to work in partnership with parents in order to build upon existing strengths. To start with, the questionnaire which you completed last summer clearly indicates priorities which will inform our improvement planning. Having said this, it is possible that parents will disagree with me on some matters. On these occasions, I must ask, for the sake of the students, that you support the drive to raise standards.

The community deserves an excellent school with a solid reputation for standards. I want your sons and daughters to enjoy coming to a school that they are proud to attend and which will make a difference in their lives.

Thank you for reading this letter. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

Andy Cope
Headteacher

