

CSB/LFA

4th October, 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with regard to some of the recent changes that have been happening at Central Academy.

I understand that a number of parents and students have been very unhappy about some of these changes and the way that they have been communicated. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to rectify that.

The areas in which the students sit during break and lunchtime changed in response to two concerns: firstly, we have a very large number of students in the school now, far larger than in previous years. Last year there were around 87 students in Year 11 and this year we have 240 in Year 7. Along with a large Year 8 cohort, this means that we have a much larger Key Stage 3 group made up of Years 7, 8 and 9. Years 10 and 11 are smaller year groups.

A decision was taken early in the summer term to change from a split lunch to a single lunch time. This has meant that every student in the school (except sixth form) is in the atrium at both break and lunch time, trying to eat a packed lunch or buy from the canteen, as well as socialise with friends. I am therefore concerned that movement around the atrium is unsafe, despite a large staff presence. In addition, some of the older students had said they wanted an area just for themselves, without the younger year groups.

In order to try and make sure that movement around the school is safe and to address the request of older students, we decided to put 'zones' into the atrium, so that different year groups had different areas. We also had large groups of students moving around the atrium in a way that made some students uncomfortable. This was the reason for asking students to move around in groups of a maximum of four. This did not mean that groups of students whose friendship groups were larger than four could not sit together.

However, it is very clear that the way that these messages were communicated to students was not ideal and the spirit of what we are trying to achieve, namely safety and fairness has been lost amongst a perception of 'lots of rules' that do not have a rational basis.

I will be holding a number of 'parent surgeries' in the coming days, on Monday from 09.00 - 12.00, Tuesday from 09.00 - 12.00 and then on Thursday from 09.30 to 12.00 at Central Academy. Parents are welcome to make an appointment with Mrs Farish, my PA if you would like to come and talk to me about this, or any other concerns you may have. You can contact her via email on linda.farish@rrca.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Miss Bacon
Principal