



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This morning's assembly focussed on British Values and in particular the value of "Democracy."

You may be aware from the media that a number of schools nationally and indeed very close to home, have experienced some awful, unsafe situations with students "protesting" over school rules and protocols. The media is not really supporting schools with the positive messaging around this current craze hence, my information letter today.

We completely understand there may well be some students at this school who have not even heard about the protests. I also know that the vast majority of our student body would not dream of taking part in such activities. However, this has gone viral on social media, particularly on TikTok. The latest TikTok reports seem to suggest that Friday is going to be a 'national strike' day. The older students at our school do not appear to want to engage in any of this, but the younger students are more drawn to TikTok influences and the number of views they can receive. The older students are all currently focused on their pre-public exams which continue until late next week.

The main areas of contention raised in other schools appear to be locking of toilets during lessons and uniform. In our school, both of these issues have benefited from significant student voice consultation, as detailed in our assembly, for example, gender neutral uniform; girls can wear trousers and boys can wear skirts, toilets are not locked and students can be released from class if they need the toilet during lesson time.

We are incredibly proud of the student voice culture in our school. As a student leadership team they have contributed towards us adopting the 'Halo Code', updating our uniform policy, including Key Stage 3 students being allowed to wear PE kit on the days they have PE, installing water fountains all over the school site, naming new school buildings and to tackle issues that bother students such as the "Just pick it up" litter initiative. These are just a few examples of how our student body has helped to shape Roding Valley High School.

As you know, I am incredibly proud of our school and the students' conduct. Our recent Ofsted report highlighted, "Pupils are proud to attend Roding Valley High School. From the time they arrive in Year 7, to when they leave the sixth form, they respond to leaders' high expectations...Pupils enjoy many opportunities to develop their individual characters. They participate with pride in leadership positions, such as subject ambassadors, house captains, or in the school council. Pupils value how their voice is heard."

We have explained to students and therefore, I am informing parents and carers that we would and always do, take a very dim view of anyone that deliberately disrupts the good order in our school and/or makes the school an unsafe place.



I really do not expect our students to engage in any of these activities but thought it both proactive and prudent to highlight to parents this very damaging national TikTok craze. If students are hearing it from us and they know we have your support from home, I am confident our students will make good choices.

Please do raise any concerns directly with the school and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "S Jenner". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Mrs S Jenner  
**Headteacher**