

Dear Parent,

You will have probably seen in recent days a national social media trend with students choosing to protest in their schools. Protests across the country have typically been in response to uniform rules, locked toilets and other operational matters.

On Tuesday, following on from this we had a small number of students engage with the beginnings of a protest. When we collected them together to explore the issues, students raised concerns about toilets being locked, (for clarity, we do not lock any toilets at any time), and students not being allowed to visit the toilets during lesson time. This is again not correct. Staff and students have been asked to avoid toilet visits during lessons where possible, but we will never prevent a child who is in real need from going. We have seen recently a small number of students that are trying to spend time in corridors, using the excuse of visiting the toilet. I am sure you will agree we cannot allow this, as students are missing learning and are not directly supervised in corridor spaces.

This school is proud that it has always been a school at the heart of its community and we work hard to respond to the views of students to improve our offer. Students who have concerns they wish to raise are invited to do so regularly and a reminder of the methods they can choose to do this with are below

1. Speaking with a tutor
2. Speak to your elected school council representatives
3. Direct conversation or messaging through Edulink with any member of school staff, including the headteacher
4. Emailing talktojesse@sslp.uk
5. Feedback using the student survey

A recent example of student feedback informing school decisions, is the redevelopment programme of the toilets, with the first block completed and a second and third block planned throughout the year. This has been a significant financial investment, but has been really well received by all.

I am sure you will agree that there is no need for our students to protest, as they have many ways in which their voices can be heard. This is what makes a successful democracy and I would urge students to offer the feedback that they have. With this in mind, please speak with your child to ensure they understand that protests they are seeing on social media are not an acceptable choice in school and will disrupt the learning of not only themselves, but also others, meaning they cannot be tolerated.

It is also clear to me since I came in September, that parents are keen to be involved with school and have views about what we are doing well and could look to improve further. I will be writing to parents in the near future to invite you to self-nominate to become part of a parental group that is representative of our community, meeting periodically to provide feedback directly to senior staff. Please do look out for that letter.

Yours sincerely

Simon Maxfield

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