

Our Ref: Socialmedia

1 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week, I took strong action to keep our community safe and maintain the high standards that you demand of me in your school, worryingly however, some parents then took it upon themselves to post or share incorrect and defamatory messages on social media sites. This then led to a number of parents who were misled into keeping their children at home and many phone calls came into the academy from concerned parents. I was most surprised to return to the academy from a meeting at Outwood Academy Foxhills, where I had been sharing some of our great work in securing great progress for our students, to discover a rumour about me being arrested.

Unfortunately, in this day and age, it is very easy for those who wish to undermine the good order of a school to share defamatory stories and in doing so, to undermine the good name of the academy and those who work there. Whilst recognising the benefit online forums and social media bring, on this occasion the content some parents posted could be deemed to constitute defamation.

I would like to reassure you as parents/carers that all staff who work within our academy have full DBS checks and are deemed safe to work with children and young people. We take safeguarding responsibilities very seriously; indeed Ofsted said that 'safeguarding is a strength'. No adult comes into contact with students unless we have assurance of their DBS, or they are on a visit to the academy where they are escorted at all times and we deem there to be no risk to children.

I am saddened to have need to write this letter to you, at a time when I would much prefer to be preparing year 10, year 11 and year 13 students for their external exams, which begin in just four school weeks. Your support in not sharing 'fake news' and removing it from social media sites would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jayne Gaunt
Principal