



Our ref: MME/HFT
Date: 24th May 2018

Dear parent or carer,

I wanted to address a matter which has been raised regarding a particular request which Mrs Martin made in the assemblies yesterday and which has given rise to some student and parental concerns.

As part of the assemblies it was mentioned that due to a small minority of students moving around the school in large groups, students should aim to move around corridors in groups of no more than four. Unfortunately this message has been mis-interpreted by some students to the extent that they appear to think we are banning students from having more than four friends in their social group! This is clearly not the case nor was it the intention for students to think that. In a building of 1200 people this request regarding student movement is not practical at all times. However, it is a request which was made to ensure the smooth movement of students around the building continues next half term, particularly during lesson transition and social times. In addition, there are large social areas around the school both inside and outside for students to congregate in and socialise.

Our students behave extremely well (whether they are in large or small friendship groups), as confirmed by our latest Ofsted report from September 2016. They commented on the 'calm and purposeful environment' in the school and said 'behaviour has improved rapidly since the last inspection due to the new behaviour system and consistent application of policies by teaching staff'. The inspection did comment on corridor movement, stating 'despite some corridors in the school being narrow, pupils move in an orderly fashion'. We are a heavily oversubscribed school and the request to students regarding moving in smaller groups in corridors was specifically to ensure we maintain the high standards we have.

We apologise for any concern or confusion which may have arisen due to this mis-interpretation from yesterday's assemblies. Mrs Martin will be sending a longer letter tomorrow to highlight some of the other key messages for students but I thought it worthwhile that I contact you directly today on this specific matter to clarify it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M McKelvie
Principal