

Our ref: CDC/EFO
19 June 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Personal Ambition

Keep away from those who try and belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you believe that you too can become great. (Mark Twain)

Last week our round of assemblies focussed on "Personal Ambition", during this time we recognised the importance of surrounding ourselves with positive influences.

At the Academy, we have an overwhelming ambition that every child has the chance to become great. I know that this too is an ambition you share. However, our children are surrounded by small people who wish to belittle their ambitions, this happens through social media, everyday interactions and the behaviours of those whom we should look to as an example of national and international leadership. These small people have large voices, and they influence the behaviours of others. Our challenge is for our positive influence be greater in volume and frequency than the small people.

On Tuesday, our staff received training to intervene when students use inappropriate, and discriminatory language. To educate them that what they say not only belittles others but also reflects on their own personal ambition. We will be challenging students to be the best person they can be and reminded that they need to respond positively.

The following evening, we experienced a significant incident at the "top shops". A small number of students behaved in a way that is unacceptable to our values and our expectations. Their actions do not reflect the overwhelming majority of students who would be embarrassed and ashamed of their actions. As a result, we have used our behaviour policy to apply appropriate sanctions.

Anti-social behaviours within our community are becoming more frequent and if as a community we do not respond, this activity will define the estate.

As a school we will be reinforcing our values with the students and I ask that you work in partnership with us, support our decisions and allow us to stop the small people from belittling your child's ambition.

Yours sincerely

C D'Cunha

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