

9 September 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to all parents/carers to say a personal thank you to you all for taking so much care to ensure that your daughters and sons were so well prepared for the start of term. I was so impressed with and proud of the students when they arrived at school on Friday. Their uniform was excellent; they were all polite, friendly and warm in their interactions with staff. It is very important to me and to all the staff at TFHS that all students feel happy, safe and secure in school and that they look forward to their learning. One of our key objectives this year is to make the learning experience of the students so good that they are inspired to further their learning in whatever direction their passion takes them.

John Whitehead | Headteacher

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You may be aware there was some inaccurate reporting of events at the school on social media and in the local press. One estimate claimed that 75 students had been sent home. This is completely untrue. A very small number of students were asked to change into the correct uniform. Some parents kindly delivered uniform to the school; others agreed to students returning home to get changed. Altogether this involved fewer than ten students. I completely understand that we live in the age of the 'keyboard warrior' and that people like to have their say before they know the facts. I also appreciate that the local press make their money from 'click bait' stories and will therefore print rumour and conjecture before any proper investigation has occurred. These are the times we live in. All I can say is that the vast majority of students and parents are a great credit to this community and that their decency and ethical behaviour will be what ensures that this school continues to improve.

I hope many of you will take the opportunity to come to TFHS in the next few weeks to talk to me and hear our exciting plans for the school. I took this post at TFHS because I believe that the young people of Cinderford deserve the absolute best in terms of educational opportunity. I believe that by transforming schools you can bring renewed hope to communities. I would like to invite you to support me in this quest and, in the process, challenge those who fear change and therefore threaten the potential for our young people to have great futures.

Yours faithfully

John Whitehead  
Headteacher

**Meet the Heateacher** - John Whitehead will be available to meet parents and answer any questions:  
Wednesday 11 September – between 5pm and 6pm  
Wednesday 25 September – between 6pm and 7pm