

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Dear SGS Forest families,

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school this week.

### **Prize Giving**

Thank you to all the families who supported our inaugural SGS Forest Prize Giving evening just before half term. It was wonderful to celebrate the success of our students and I look forward to lots of other ways we will be doing this for as many students as possible in the coming months.

### **Student protests and 'riots'**

You may have seen news reports about students staging protests at schools in different parts of the country. The reasons for these protests vary, but they are all about aspects of school rules with which students feel unhappy. In some cases, a minority of students have used these protests as opportunities to cause damage to school property. The protests are organised on social media – normally Snapchat – with videos of posted on TikTok after the event.

We have become aware of a possible protest being planned to take place here at SGS Forest later this week. I am wholly supportive of students wanting to help make our school better and of the need for them to learn about how to stand up for their beliefs; but, as Headteacher, it is my legal duty to ensure that students are safe and attend lessons, thereby upholding their human rights to security of person (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3) and to education (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26). This is what every one of our school rules is designed to achieve and it is the reason why we cannot condone students refusing to attend lessons or follow those rules.

Please speak with your children about positive ways they can influence change at the school, including: continuing to talk to me or other staff members; emailing or writing to me with their concerns; and, establishing a student-staff council that is consulted on changes and proposes its own ideas.

### **NEU strike this Thursday**

Please remember that we will be open to all students on Thursday. We will put together a timetable on the day, once we know which staff are not in school. The priority will be for Years 11 and 10 to have as close-to-normal a day as possible, with alternative activities in place for Years 7, 8 and 9 if necessary. We also reserve the right to send some year groups home early if we absolutely have to, but we will contact families individually if this is the case.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours,

**Alan Dane**  
Headteacher