



15th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The Big Ask 2.0 and The Big Answer!

Over the course of the last few weeks, I have been working on a project across the school on which I wanted to take the opportunity to feed back to you. Parents/carers who had a child with us last year may remember The Big Ask where Senior and Middle Leaders met with all the students across the school in a mass student voice activity to glean their thoughts and feelings on what was working well at JF and where improvements needed to be made.

Off the back of this piece of work last year, the students were able to drive some changes in the school including configurations to the Science toilets, an enhanced lunchtime supervision rota, changes to the cafeteria food, introduction of a "Call it out" button on the website for reporting bullying or unkindness, higher frequency of toilets being checked and cleaned and the setting up of the Student Council to more regularly report into myself and the Senior Leadership Team ideas for improvements the student body would like in their school.

A year down the line, we wanted to give the students the opportunity to reflect on what has improved (or indeed for Year 7s what they like about joining us!) and to hear where students would now like further improvements. To this end, we have completed The Big Ask 2.0!

I recently fed back to Year 7-10 students in assembly on The Big Answer 2.0 and Year 11 had their delivery through a recording due to the mock examinations. I'd like to share this recording with parents/carers so you can get a feel for what the children told us and how we are responding. You can find the video here: <https://youtu.be/d051jidrKtc>

As you will see, a key focus in this presentation is on the continuation of the development of a culture of kindness where derogatory language is not tolerated. In the assembly, I made a pledge to the students on behalf of all the staff, following a training session I completed with teachers and support staff. Staff commit to this pledge through wearing their Kindness Champion badges on their lanyards:

I have been delighted with how the students have responded to our Kindness Campaign with hundreds of kindness achievement points having been accrued in only a matter of weeks.

OUR PLEDGE

At JF, we understand that if derogatory language is heard and not challenged, that this empowers the agents of unkindness and reinforces a misconception that this behaviour is tolerated in our school.

- **We are ambitious** in wanting to eradicate all derogatory language of any kind at John Flamsteed
- **We are committed** to challenging derogatory language pertaining to protected characteristics such as ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation every time and using any opportunity where it arises, to educate.
- **We are proud** of our differences and communicate this vision to our students through The JF Way

Any support you can give us to eradicate the use of derogatory language in school by reinforcing the messages from the assembly would be most appreciated. Being explicit with the terms that I don't expect students to use was difficult and a decision I deliberated on for some time with my Leadership Team. I wanted to be clear, fair but sensitive in approach as the students themselves, through The Student Council, had asked for this level of clarity so they knew exactly what they needed to do to not get this wrong.

I look forward to continuing to foster a culture at John Flamsteed whereby we embrace and celebrate our differences, are kind to one another and celebrate our own and each others' successes. This is The JF Way!

Best wishes



Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs
Executive Head Teacher
John Flamsteed Community School and The Ripley Academy