

Dear Pimlico Academy Parents and Carers

As parents of students at Pimlico Academy, we were not at all surprised by the events which took place on 31st March. Quite the reverse: we were surprised it took so long for the pot to boil over! We were suspicious when we received Daniel Smith's new policies a week before the start of autumn term, but curious to see how they would be received. As the first isolated showers of exclusions turned into a storm, we started to get very worried....

We were astounded by the scale of the protest, appalled that it brought so much negative publicity to our beloved school and remain baffled as to why matters have come to such a state. Many of our children feel they had to take such drastic action as they would not watch their school disintegrate under such extreme new rules. We were, however, impressed at the discipline, good behaviour and peaceful way in which our children conducted themselves and expressed their grievances. As much as we might complain about social media their use of it, to co-ordinate with their peers so quickly and without us being aware, was admirable.

We have not been blind as to what has been going on at school since September. There have been only 86 school days since the children returned after over 5 months away. However, in that time, the great school that we have all loved has become 'The Racist Academy' or 'Academy of Anarchy'. Staff, students and school management seem locked in a stand-off with teachers planning to go on strike and the school building covered in graffiti daily. Teachers are leaving in droves and there has been a vote of no-confidence in the Headmaster. How will the school recruit decent teachers now to a school known as a 'Racist Academy'? American Presidents are judged by what they achieve in their 'first 100 days' in office. What more damage might be inflicted on Pimlico Academy in the next 14 days?

The Easter holiday has not been the period of quiet reflection for which we had hoped. The letters from Lord Nash and Daniel Smith, implying disciplinary action against the organisers, have not had a calming effect.

We fully support our children in their actions during the protest and DO NOT want the organisers of the protest to be disciplined. The protest on the 31st March was a peaceful one, primarily due to the influence of the older students. We want Pimlico Academy to return to normality as quickly as possible. For those taking exams to be able to get all the required work done and be assessed by teachers who know them, not strangers.

Change IS required at Pimlico Academy, for the good of our children and their futures, not for the management of the school. Its standing in the league tables does not compare to genuine care, the provision of a safe space to enrich and nurture and the high academic standards of the excellent staff. We hope we can count on your support.

Pimlico Parents Group

Please get in touch with us at Pimlicoparents@gmail.com