

2 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 10 students

Vandalism of Toilets

You are receiving this communication as I am extremely concerned about the level of vandalism we have experienced since September in the Year 10 toilets. Firstly, I need to make it clear that extreme vandalism has mainly been limited to the boys' toilets, but nevertheless the girls' toilets have not been without their own issues. I should also acknowledge that the majority of our boys and girls in Year 10 will have played no part in this vandalism and must be just as frustrated by this as the premises team and I are.

To maintain the bubble system, which for so long has kept us safe in school, we had to increase our toilet capacity as we did not have enough toilets in the separate areas of the school. To this end, we hired a plush toilet block for the Year 10 students at a cost of £600 per week. This block has been subject to severe vandalism, with a door kicked in and holes punched through as well as disgusting graffiti plastered over the walls. We are now faced with a ridiculous repair bill as we send this block back to the rental company.

To support the Year 10 boys, we have allowed them to use the Year 11 toilets now that their bubble has collapsed. These toilets have been vandalised with one toilet pan being ripped out of the floor and left in the middle of the block, and toilet rolls stuffed down the pans and splattered all over the ceiling and floor. Likewise, the girls' toilets have had drains blocked by stuffing toilet rolls down the pans so far that they have had to be disassembled to clear them, in addition to graffiti and general mess.

The premises team has worked very hard to refurbish additional toilet spaces, plumbing in new pans and wash basins to make our facilities better for our students. They are disgruntled that their work is ruined by just a few students, who go out of their way to cause upset for the rest of the student body.

It is everyone's basic right to have access to a clean and decent toilet, especially at this time when Covid-19 is so prevalent across the country. This vandalism is having such a detrimental effect on the majority of our student body that, once the culprits are identified, I shall be speaking to the headteacher about removing their place at The Abbey School and referring them to the pupil referral unit in Herne Bay for the rest of their school career. We can no longer tolerate such antisocial behaviour within our school community.

If your child has any information regarding these incidents, I urge them to come forward and help us eliminate this vandalism. This information will obviously be treated with the utmost confidence.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Dickens
Director of Resources