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Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this term I wrote in my Blog about some of the issues we have concerning how students use the toilet facilities in school.

This term students have been engaged in a survey so that we can fully understand the issues and look at solutions. This work was initiated by the school's Student Council.

Over the last seven years, we have spent over £200k on improving the facilities. Unfortunately, these refurbishments have resulted in design compromises.

In a new school build, toilets are often open access (you can view circulation areas from corridors). At Oaklands these solutions were not possible due to the design of the buildings. However, in two areas, Newman and Thomas More blocks, we were able to create sightlines or vision panels into the vestibule areas. I have included what can be seen from the corridors in this letter. As you can see sightlines cannot see directly into cubicles.



Unfortunately, it is not possible to station staff to supervise in and around toilet areas, when unsupervised problems arise. You will be aware that I have written to you on a number of occasions about vaping, and this is one such issue that students identified in the School Council's survey. Vaping amongst teenagers is a national problem; sadly, it is on the rise.

Our survey data suggests that a significant number of students maintain they believe that problems in toilet areas would reduce if the views from the corridor or the reverse images, were captured on CCTV. This way those involved in inappropriate behaviour could be identified.

I am aware than many of the Havant area secondary schools now use CCTV in toilet circulation areas, so this is not uncommon. CCTV in schools, particularly in toilet areas, is controversial. However, as this was a matter brought to my attention by the School Council, I would like to find a compliant solution.

It is my intention to start a pilot to capture the images, or the reverse image looking out to the corridor in the Thomas More and Newman block toilets only. Because our existing CCTV infrastructure has spare capacity, the additional cost of this is minimal. If in the final analysis, once the pilot is complete, if we no longer wish to use the equipment it will be repurposed elsewhere.

I will write to you again in the summer term to let you know the outcome of the pilot.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher