

November 3rd, 1999.

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the chance to talk yesterday. I am grateful for your time, empathy and honesty. At the same time, I would be lying if I didn't say I left feeling hurt and angry, if not at you then at the school in general. Most particularly I am hurt at the lack of honesty which has forced me now to accept that I have no career at Knox, if I ever had such a thing, merely a job.

I did not ask you yesterday whom it was that passed on comments to you, although now I feel I should have asked. It seems that my prospects at the school have been damaged by them, and it is impossible to deal with unless I know from where the criticism comes. At its worst this might also be considered defamation and I do have legal rights in this regard. That is NOT meant as a threat, merely as an indication of the depth of my pain and confusion as to what step to take.

I have also been thinking carefully about what I perceive as some people's hypocrisy. I have had vague and unsupported comments made about my behaviour and intentions, while others high in the hierarchy act in a questionable way with impunity, if not endorsement. I refer, for example, to Adrian, who, I have been reliably informed, acts in ways that are questionable and yet goes from strength to strength. Have these rumours reached your ears? Have they made any difference to his career?

I do not allow students to smoke while playing golf with me, nor do I let them call me by a nickname or first name, nor do I invite them to my flat or office for lunch alone. As far as I am aware, I have never had a parent make a complaint against me. I have been informed that Adrian does, or has done, all these things. I do not say these things to accuse Adrian; in fact I quite like him. Nor is he the only person subject to such rumours and innuendo. It is more the injustice that strikes me.

I accept your word that, as the criticism of me is widespread, I obviously have a problem and need to address it. There do seem to be some steps to take and I would welcome your response. One is to decline to take any more photos except for my own House, although this angers me also as it seems an admission of guilt. Another is to ask you to identify from where the innuendoes have come so I can speak directly to the source. I have thought of perhaps contacting the parents I discussed with you yesterday, but would feel humiliated to have to disclose to them why I needed their endorsement. Any suggestions from you would be welcome.

Where do I go next to deal with this? In your opinion, is there any point?

I would appreciate your feedback.

Yours,

ARH

