

## **SURVIVING OFFICE POLITICS**

### **What do you do in the following situations?**

#### **George- dressing down in public**

George is a well-respected teacher of origami. He strives to make his lessons interesting and his students work hard for him. George has been at St Stephen's School for 15 years and has recently seen a change in Head of Department. The new HoD is younger and has worked at a range of schools, though is one of the first teachers to leave each day at 3.15pm. On Thursday lunchtime, the HoD is outside George's room when he finishes teaching. He starts shouting at George whilst he is walking down the main corridor outside the staffroom, in full view of students, making untrue allegations that he has missed departmental deadlines.

#### **Idris- control of deadlines**

Idris is a workaholic and loves his teaching job at Mervyn City College. He teaches 25 hours per week and ensures he sets homework and provides clear feedback to each student at least once per week. He also runs the extra curricular timetable, ensuring a range of activities are available. On Wednesday, Idris' HoD is instructed by the Vice Principal to complete a new extracurricular timetable for each of the 150 students he supervises- by Friday.

#### **Doreen- sexual harassment**

Doreen has recently arrived at College and has received some unwelcome attention from one of the English teachers. She is keen to get on and is well liked by the students due to her hard-working approach and being available to help outside of class. One evening after work, the English teacher makes a lude comment about her clothes as she walks to the car park.

#### **Martin- social media comments**

A teacher in Martin's department has made accusations on social media that he is spending a lot of time in school with one of his Year 13 students, with

suggestions something is going on. A colleague draws his attention to this.