



16 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Serious Incident on 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Following our earlier communications with parents/carers on Tuesday, we wanted to provide you with further feedback regarding the serious incident which took place at the School earlier in the week.

To begin with, we would like to thank the students for their supportive and mature response and thank you, their parents/carers, for your fantastic support to the School and to your children during what has been a challenging time for all of us. Your positive feedback and good wishes have been greatly appreciated by our staff and governors.

In managing Tuesday's incident, the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Governing Body have acknowledged that in extraordinary circumstances, the School managed to balance the immediate needs of the situation to deliver the best outcomes. Everyone was kept safe, the School worked collaboratively and successfully with the Police and students were supported via additional assemblies.

We want to acknowledge that the actions of well-trained staff who displayed impressive initiative were key to bringing about the best outcomes for everyone, and as a school community we are enormously grateful to these colleagues.

We would also like to acknowledge the concerns of some parents/carers regarding the timing of communication to parents/carers when managing this complex incident and we will consider this feedback when reviewing our procedures; we have also received a significant amount of parental and staff feedback that is very appreciative of the timings and quality of information provided, whilst managing an unprecedented and isolated incident, which had an outcome of a school still being able to deliver the day's teaching and exam timetable uninterrupted and where students remained calm and were not unnecessarily panicked.

As a matter of course, after any level of serious incident, it is standard procedure to carry out a review of how the incident was managed and how effectively procedures worked, to identify areas of strength and things that could be done more effectively. We will be feeding back to Warwickshire County Council on this so that our experience can positively influence the practice of other schools, both within Warwickshire and across the country. We would like to refute the implication made in a local newspaper that the Local Authority has asked for a review because of concerns about the way the incident was managed. This is not the case and we are pleased to see that this article has now been removed from the newspaper's website.

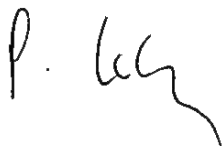
The media has reported information issued by the School, the Police and the Court. We appreciate that some of the information reported from the Court hearing may have caused anxiety and distress. We are supporting students who have been upset by this, for example by making counsellors available to them. Some of the communications in the media and on social media have unfortunately been inaccurate, misleading and sensationalist.

We can reassure you that the safeguarding of our students and staff remains our highest priority and that the School is a safe place for your child to attend. Of course, in reviewing our current procedures, we will seek to make any improvements if these are deemed necessary.

We are confident that our response was well balanced during an unprecedented event. We believe that the cumulative effect of all the decisions made, ensured that everybody was kept safe, which we are sure we can all agree, is the number one priority.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



**P.Kelly**  
Headteacher



**M.Whitelegg**  
Chair of Governing Body

Ref: Misc (KL-AAL)- Serious Incident on 13<sup>th</sup> June-June 2017