



7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

I wanted to reach out and communicate to parents and carers, as it has been brought to my attention that there are some inaccurate reports of events at school causing some alarm and concern amongst some of our school and parent community.

Firstly, I want to reassure all parents that no one at the school was the victim of a stabbing at the school.

There was a police car at the school at the end of the day on Friday, however this was to interview some students from the school about an incident that took place outside of school that did not involve any other members of our school community.

It appears that as a misguided joke, a small group of students while out of school and primarily on social media pretended to set up fake gangs for the different blocks in the school and joked about 'rough-housing' - as they would describe it – each other. At the end of last week though, a small group carried this on in school asking other students who know nothing about it what block they were in and chasing others of their group and confronting them. These incidents have been and continue to be investigated, and serious consequences put in place where appropriate.

For some time now, we have made it clear to all students that our school community is built upon a culture of genuine mutual respect and shared values. Moreover, that everyone in our school community has the right to feel safe and respected as part of that community and everyone has a responsibility to make sure that no other member of our community is made unsafe or to feel unsafe or disrespected in our community.

There is no humour to be found in spreading fear and intimidation and this is not acceptable in our school community. Students have been clearly told that they are not to joke about being part of any school 'block' or 'gang' or to ask others whether they are this, even as a joke, undermines our community in which everyone belongs and we treat each other with respect and kindness.

Students have been reminded that should anyone do this to them or anything else that makes them feel unsafe, they must report it duty staff, their tutor, Head of Year or the reflection room.

In some cases, the spreading of rumours about the actions of others, can also make others fearful and undermine our community. All students have also been told not to do this, but rather to work together with the staff to keep all members of our school feeling safe and supported.

Let me be clear that any item that is brought into school and used in any way to intimidate or cause harm to members of our community will not be tolerated. While items such as scissors and compasses are allowed in school and used for learning in lessons, they should always remain in the student's school bag/pencil case when moving around the school site. If a student is found with these in pockets or using such items in an inappropriate manner, this will be taken very seriously with our highest sanctions being implemented.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that any behaviour of this manner is reported to the school and reiterating that it is not acceptable at school and will have serious consequences for any individual who repeats or continues to do it.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher