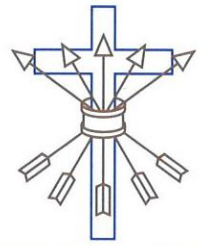


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Headteacher: Matthew Abbott



9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you with further information in relation to yesterday's Lockdown and the information we have shared today with the students.

I appreciate that some of you may be deeply concerned about what you have heard. Our first, and instinctive, response as parents in the face of perceived threats to our children is fear, followed by 'fight or flight'. You may have experienced some of these natural responses yesterday and may still be experiencing them today, too. I don't underestimate the impact of something of this nature on some people's sense of safety and well-being.

Our first priority yesterday and today has been to put in place the right supportive steps for all of our young people and our staff. Our staff have been fully briefed to look out for students who may be worried, or simply have questions. In assembly, I reiterated several times, the help that the school can provide for those students if they need to talk to someone. If your child feels anxious over the weekend, please let their Form Teacher and Head of Year know.

In assembly, I also outlined the reason why it was right to initiate a Lockdown and I thanked the students for the mature way with which they responded to it. We had practised this in the autumn term, as we do annually, which meant that the Lockdown procedure was appropriately followed. You might want to use, or repeat the words I used to conclude my talk with the students:

Overall, if it helps you, keep these two thoughts in mind:

- *It looked like a problem, but it very quickly turned out not to be.*
- *We are as safe as we were before yesterday.*

I judged that this was the right message to give to the students.

You will, of course, understand that while there is an investigation underway, it would be improper for me to share any confidential information with you. What I would like you to know is that the reports you may have heard will be exaggerated. Inevitably, our minds can jump to the worse case scenarios and all the associated fears and threats. Please be reassured that, despite the decision to call a Lockdown, it does not appear that anyone was at risk yesterday. The wording from my communication yesterday remains accurate:

A member of staff alerted me to a student who they thought might pose a risk to others. The student was quickly found and the situation was resolved.

Although the actual risk was, in fact, minimal, I hope you understand that we will always prioritise your children's and our staff's safety. We took swift action on the basis of the information that we received.

Although, based on the rumours and incomplete information you may have heard, this may sound surprising, please trust that this is the case. Even ten minutes after the event, the students in the classroom who were directly involved, gave me a wide range of accounts in relation to what they had directly witnessed. I shall be in contact with their parents separately, later today.

There are very clear guidelines that the school will now follow in relation to the investigation which is underway.

You will understand that it is difficult to respond to individual parents, but if - after reading and digesting this letter - you would like to speak with me, or another member of staff, please don't hesitate to let us know.

With all good wishes,

Matthew Abbott
Headteacher