



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

*"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10*



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 17.05.24**

What a week! I'm going to park the news and information I planned to share in my update letter to focus on two important messages for our community:

### **1) Potential Safeguarding Concern this Afternoon.**

Once again, we were notified that a naked man was seen on the far side of our top field. This field is not currently in use by the school, although is trespassed by members of the public.

This was reported to school by a member of staff returning from Bincombe woods, following a canine-therapy session with 2 students. 6 staff were immediately deployed and the police were called.

Again, this person made no attempt to make contact with the school or enter the site, he remained at the opposite side of the top field, far away from the back gate, and we do not think he was seen by any students, as lessons were still running.

As a precautionary measure we closed the field and green spaces at the back of the school during lunch break, and I am extremely grateful to the Year 13 students that offered to help staff in managing this situation. Great work, everyone!

The man left the area and the police confirmed that they were with him and providing support. We have requested follow up from agency services so we can be involved in partnership working to minimise the risk of this happening again. I do not feel that anyone was affected by events today, and again I hope you are reassured by action taken.

### **2) Use of Social Media – Potential to Cause Alarm and Distress.**

As can be expected, there was some 'excitement' among students at lunch as a result of the action we were taking. I am aware that some students called parents and in turn this has led to posts on a parent Facebook Group, commenting on perceived events.

Please can I stress that some of these posts are incorrect and have the potential to cause alarm and distress. I do not believe this is the intention in every case, but am asking parents and our community members to think carefully about the purpose and benefit of what they are posting.

Staff and students have consistently demonstrated the importance of safeguarding themselves and shown excellent attitudes and behaviours to follow processes in place when we've needed to take extraordinary action in response to a possible risk or threat.

Some parents and community members need to follow this example and behave in an equally supportive way.

Thanks in consideration of this important request.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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