



Headteacher Mr P Brockwell

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Dear parent/carer

I wanted to give you some information regarding an incident that took place on school grounds last week. I have been informed by a number of parents that rumours are circulating in the community that we had an intruder in school on Friday and that a member of staff was injured. Clearly if this was the case then this would be a very serious issue for the safety of both our students and staff. Thankfully this is not the case and as a result of parental concerns I am writing to outline the facts and how we have dealt with the situation and above all I want to give you reassurance regarding the safety of your children at school.

On Friday lunchtime a student, who has not been in attendance for a while, was invited into school by our team of staff who work to re-integrate students into school after a period of absence. The student was not in uniform and was escorted to our student support area that we now call "1 point", an area of the school where students can access support with their learning.

During lunchtime the student took it upon themselves to leave 1 point and go on to the yard. At this point the other students saw someone out of uniform and started to follow the student around. Despite having three staff requesting that the student return to 1 point this was refused and students continued to follow the student. Whilst many students behaved well, there were a small number that saw the opportunity to cause a disruption and started to push and shove each other. These students are being dealt with and parents have been informed. There was a short tussle on the yard between two students which was quickly stopped by the school team.

Members of staff removed the student from the yard and they were escorted offsite, while other staff quickly and professionally dispersed the group of students and directed them to their lessons. Again, I can only commend the behaviour of the majority of our students in the way that they conducted themselves during the incident and the way that they followed instructions from teachers and other staff. Period 5 was both calm and focussed as with most of the lessons in school on each day. The family of the student was called after they were escorted from the site and the student was collected. At no time was there an intruder on site or a member of staff injured. Having worked in education for over twenty years I can state categorically that the team of staff at Graham behaved appropriately and professionally throughout the incident to deescalate a difficult situation created by some students who took advantage of our school's policy to give all of our children the best opportunities to succeed.

I hope that this clarifies the incident that took place and clears up many of the rumours that have been circulating. If any parent or carer would like to discuss this or any issue further I remind you that I am available every Thursday evening for 1 to 1 meetings or I am happy to meet during the school day and tour the school to show how the majority of our staff and students work well and learn together.

Kind regards



Paul Brockwell
Headteacher