



6 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I just wanted to take a moment to convey our sympathies to all those affected by the tragic death of a student following a stabbing at a Sheffield school earlier this week. I am sure I speak for us all when I say how saddened we were to hear of this terrible news. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and the whole school community.

We understand that incidents of this nature can be deeply distressing for our young people, parents, our staff, and everyone connected with Sheffield. It is only natural that these events may cause concerns, and feelings of uncertainty, and I want to ensure that you know we are here to support you during this difficult time.

I have been in touch with several of our parents and different members of our wider community, including Local Authority support services. I would like to share with you our processes around lockdown, our crisis management plans and our first aid support to hopefully reassure you that we have extensive safety plans and control measures in place.

We currently have eight staff that are full first aid trained in school. This means that as part of their 3-day training, they have covered trauma that include cardiac incidents, knife wounds and excessive bleeding, to give some examples. In addition to this, we have a further ten members of staff who are trained in emergency first aid at work. We also have a first aid lead who oversees the first aid provision and wider strategy across school.

We have two defibrillator machines and first aid trauma response kits in school at key locations. The first aid trauma kits are specialist pieces of equipment that would support us to administer first aid until the emergency services arrived.

We have a rigorous and a regularly reviewed lockdown process in place that covers morning, lesson time and unstructured time (break and lunch) that we have practised once already this year; and we plan to do this again in the coming month. The details of our lockdown processes can be found on our website. We also have a supportive training session that we share with our students to alleviate some of the stress this can cause.



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As part of our morning routine, we have eight members of staff on our main entrance in place from 8.15am every morning. We have a further fifteen staff based at locations around the internal school site every morning. The student entrance and main gate closes at 8.40am and is only accessible with a member of staff allowing entry. During the day, the student, the visitor entrances, and the main gates are permanently locked, only staff in reception can allow access. We only have one entrance into school every morning and each student is spoken to as they pass into the main building. The checks in place are for uniform and planners, however this gives us an opportunity to ensure any unknown visitors to school are challenged well before entering the building.

Next week, we have planned to complete a range of tutor activities with all our students about knife crime, keeping in mind that this is a very raw and emotional subject for us all.

We continue to work with bereavement UK and have a range of external agencies in place to support any of our students who feel they would benefit from this. The offer of support will remain open for everyone, please contact us at school to speak to your Head of Year, or our Safeguarding team if you need any further support or guidance.

It goes without saying that this horrific event has shocked everyone in our school, across the city and the Country. I hope I have offered some reassurance about the processes we have in place at Handsworth Grange, but if you require any further details of the lockdown processes or anything mentioned in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Mattock
Headteacher



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