



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

27th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that a great many of you will have seen the press coverage and social media film of the incident at school on Monday. It is upsetting to watch, even more so as we know that a number of young people suffered bruising, grazes and other injuries for which we are deeply sorry. Everyone involved will have been unsettled and worried by the experience. I have spoken in a school broadcast to ensure that our students know where to go to get support and the Sixth Form team have shared information in assemblies. We also have the Portishead Youth Hub on site who are available for drop-ins at break time and lunch time, and we would continue to ask students to use the contact form or liaise with their tutors if they wish to have any support from our pastoral team and counsellors. I also wanted to give you an update on what we are doing to ensure that there is no recurrence at the school.

As you are aware, we are undergoing a full investigation into the events that took place, so far it is clear that the pedestrian gate on St Mary's Road should have been opened before the end of the school day so that pupils could pass straight through as they leave the site, as they do every day. We always have several staff on duty here as we did on Monday and our focus is usually on the road crossing to ensure that pupils leave the site safely. On Monday due to human error, the gate was not unlocked before the end of school. Discovering that, staff on duty immediately sent for a member of the premises team with keys but by the time that the gate was unlocked a crowd of students had built up and when the gate was opened pupils surged forward with the consequences that we have all seen. Things clearly went wrong, and I apologise that our students had to experience that situation. Our review and investigation will include this incident and also the wider issue of how we manage large numbers of pupils in similar situations on our site so that we consider these safety issues in the broadest sense.

I have commissioned our external Competent Advisor for Health and Safety to oversee this review and ensure that we engage with any appropriate external bodies. I will write to you again to share the review's outcome and any changes we need to implement permanently as a result. In the meantime, all gates, including the car gate on St Mary's Road will be opened at the end of the school day with additional presence of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that students are able to leave the site safely as they did yesterday.

Yours sincerely

Louise Blundell
Headteacher

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP