

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent's / Carer's

**Re: School evacuation**

I would like to update you regarding yesterday's school evacuation. Around 2:00pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, we received a telephone call from an unknown caller to say there was a bomb in school that would go off at 2:30pm. There has been a lot of speculation on social media and I would like to reassure parents that the evacuation was solely a result of this telephone call. As I explained in my previous letter, the safety of our students and staff is our utmost priority. The Police visited and walked our school site and nothing of concern was found. They do not believe there is a credible threat to the school. I was later made aware that at least one other secondary school in Sandwell also received a bomb hoax call.

I want to reassure parents and carers that we have well developed and practised emergency procedures for dealing with these situations. What we experienced yesterday is similar to what we, and many other schools, experienced in 2016. At the time, senior officers shared their strategy on how they dealt with and investigated the hoax telephone calls. We will continue to work closely with the Police during this current investigation. We have also worked closely with Mitie, our facilities management company that manage our site, and we have implemented additional security control measures.

If we receive any further telephone calls of this nature, we will always contact the police via the 999 service. After contacting the police, and assessing the risk through the control measures which have been put in place, the decision will be made whether the threat is credible or not. If the threat is deemed to be credible we will, of course, evacuate. If it is deemed not to be a credible threat we will not. I will always inform parents regarding the decisions we make.

**School is open as normal on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.** We will begin the day by talking to students to help reassure them about the evacuation from yesterday. As I have said, there has been much speculation on social media which isn't helpful. I will always communicate with parents and inform you about what has happened in school.

Finally, I would like to thank parents, carers, staff and students for your support. I have had a few negative comments which I have tried to address. On the other hand, there has been an overwhelming amount of support for the decision we had to make. This is very much appreciated and I am pleased we have been able to work together in the best interests of all of the students at our Academy.

I will continue to update you as and when I receive new information.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Phillip Shackleton

Headteacher