Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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

Monday 21st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Safeguarding Incident – End of School Today

I am writing to give information following a safeguarding incident that caused a change in our normal end of day routine, which affected all students and, in some cases, may have caused upset and alarm.

This letter is written without blame or prejudice and is being sent to parents and carers so that you have the necessary information in supporting any discussions that may arise at home, with the view that incorrect rumours can be challenged and removed when heard.

The information I can share is:

- At the end of lesson 5 today, two students in Year 7 ended up in an altercation with each other.
- No other students were involved.
- Staff intervened, and both students were separated.
- Just before 3.00pm, the behaviour of a few adults at the front of school, in response to this incident, required the school to take action to safeguard the well-being of others.
- External gates were not opened at 3.00pm as staff worked to engage and support adults involved.
- Lockdown was briefly triggered in response to students being unable to leave and the anxiety this will likely have caused.
- Within moments of the lockdown bell sounding, the concern at the front of school was resolved, meaning gates opened and staff supported students in leaving the site.
- We are working closely with both families involved to resolve this matter.

I personally would like to thank students and staff for the immediate and disciplined response to the brief lockdown today, and the delayed release from school that quickly followed – it was completed with great maturity and consideration for others. That said, I know some students and staff will have been affected by today's events.

I will be completing a de-brief with staff tomorrow morning and speaking to Year 7 in their assembly shortly after. Support is available at breaktime and lunchtime in the Pastoral Hub.

Finally, can I remind everyone of the potential to cause unnecessary alarm and distress when people take to social media to make unfounded comments. 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.

I hope this letter gives explanation and reassurance that the school took swift and appropriate action to safeguard our community this afternoon. Tomorrow is very much 'business as usual' and we look forward to welcoming students back in the morning.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas NPQEL
Headteacher