



15th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Keeping Safe

I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Christmas break. It has been great seeing the students return so positively in readiness for what will no doubt be another busy but successful term.

Robbery is a main priority for police officers in Croydon and they continue to patrol in key areas in order to prevent offending and catch offenders. Their analysis shows that young people are generally targeted by other young people for phones and high value clothing such as designer coats. The Met Police offer DNA tagging for mobile phones and advise parents to understand how they can monitor these electrical devices through family accounts and other useful apps. Please find attached to this letter a poster from the Met Police regarding Crime Prevention Advice.

We are keen not to cause alarm within the school community, but feel it is prudent to share the information we have been given so that we can continue to work in partnership with families to ensure we are keeping our students as safe as possible. Through the Daily Slide this week, we have shared the following key pieces of advice around travelling to and from school and guidance from the police about how to respond in the event of being approached by a potential perpetrator.

Travelling to and from school:

- Take the most direct route to school and when travelling home from school, sticking to recognised and well-lit roads
- Travel in groups where possible
- Make sure your phone is charged
- Avoid displaying expensive items - latest phones, headphones, watches are commonly targeted items
- Maintain awareness of your surroundings - don't walk with headphones in



If approached:

- Do not get into a confrontation, even if this means handing over possessions - your safety is more important
- Try to remember any details of the person, e.g. clothing, distinctive features, approximate age etc.
- Find a safe place, e.g. a shop and if possible, arrange to be collected by a family member - keeping a list of key contact numbers somewhere other than your phone is a helpful thing to do
- Report the incident to the police as soon as possible

We have been assured that the police are currently engaging in active operations in the local area to try and tackle this issue and prevent further incidents, but it remains important that our young people are doing everything they can to keep themselves safe.

If you have any specific concerns about this issue and wanted to discuss it further, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Woodcock
Principal

