



DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Thursday, 6th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

This afternoon, at the end of the school day, a group of four protestors positioned themselves on Lovibonds Avenue immediately outside the School gates. They had a megaphone and were protesting about the government's guidance to secondary schools for children to temporarily wear masks in classrooms. Whilst we would respect their view and their right to protest, I witnessed them speaking to our students, approaching them and giving out leaflets and cards. Some of our students were alarmed about being approached in this way and I am very sorry they had to experience this. Despite our best efforts the group would not move on. The police were called, but unfortunately did not reach us before they had eventually left. A number of parents/carers and members of the general public stopped to offer their support to us and I am very grateful for this.

I cannot guarantee this group or others will not return and so we are liaising with our dedicated school police officer and will be in touch with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to request support. In the meantime, please re-assure your child about what happened. Senior staff were present at all times and will be again. The advice from the police is that students should walk by quickly and make their way home. We will, as usual, be vigilant around the local area and will of course do what we can to help our students.

On a more positive note, I have been so impressed with our students as they returned this week. As the above shows, we are in far from normal times, but the vast majority have now been in for their LFD test and all year groups will tomorrow have returned to lessons in school. I look forward to seeing everyone. Thankfully there have been very few positive LFD tests. None of us want to have to wear the masks in lessons or indeed around the School for any longer than is deemed necessary, but we will do all we can to ensure as many students as possible can attend school in person by minimising the risk from COVID-19.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey

Head Teacher