

28 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you following the need to trigger the lockdown alarm yesterday. Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, some examples include:

- A reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and students in the school);
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and students);
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc);
- A major fire, incident or accident in the vicinity of the school;
- The close proximity of a dangerous animal roaming loose.

On this occasion, an ex-student and his friend gained access to the site and at the time their motives for this were unclear but they were not responding to school staff or acting appropriately and obviously should not have been on site at all. I can confirm no weapons or substances were found on the two trespassers when searched by the police. I will be meeting with the police to talk about how we avoid this happening again and we are asking them to increase their presence in the community and around school today.

When a lockdown procedure is initiated, in the first instance we expect all students to follow the procedure as has been explained to them previously. Often there is not time to explain to students why a lockdown has been initiated, and therefore we expect students and staff to follow the procedure without question.

As with any critical incident we will review the process and decision making at the time and address any areas that need to be improved including communication strategy. Thank you for the feedback I have received from families. I understand this type of event is worrying and can be stressful for students, parents and carers as well as my colleagues, but it's important to ensure we have this procedure in place as although it can be stressful it is on occasions the right thing to do at the time.

I have spoken to Year 7 students in assembly today and tutors will outline the importance of these procedures in tutor time as well as check in with any students who were impacted by yesterday's events. Please do also encourage your child to speak to an adult in school if they are at all worried.

Thank you for your understanding and support, our priority is to always safeguard your children as well as learning from events to further improve process.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SQ

T: 01884 256655

E: admin@tiverton.devon.sch.uk

W: www.tiverton.devon.sch.uk

Learn Together. Grow Together. Succeed Together.

