



St Margaret's Church of England Academy

"Achievement by faith and work"

Our Ref: SBR/GEN/AM014

Principal: Mr S Brierley MA NPQH

21 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Incident in school on Wednesday 20th November

I am writing to let you know about an incident that took place in school yesterday.

As part of our commitment to keeping students here safe, we respond robustly whenever we have concerns that a youngster may have brought a prohibited item into school. Yesterday we had such concerns about a Year 7 boy, and accordingly his locker was searched. Although we did not find the prohibited item about which we had initially been concerned, we did find what our colleagues in the police described as a "small kitchen knife".

As you might expect, we take any incidents of this nature exceptionally seriously. The police were involved at a very early stage, and the pupil left the site. Although I am not at liberty to disclose the outcome of this incident, please be assured that our response to incidents of this nature (which are very rare at St Margaret's) is strong and robust.

I would also like to reassure you that at this stage in our enquiries, there is no suggestion that the knife was brought out into the open at any point in the day. It was the vigilance of members of staff here that ensured a dangerous item was located and taken out of circulation very quickly.

We were already working with the police to promote anti-knife crime messages, and the planned campaign on the subject will now be an even more high-profile event in the life of our school.

I trust this letter offers you some reassurance about yesterday's incident, but if you wish to speak to a colleague or myself further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Brierley
Principal