



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9 students

I wanted to write to you about an incident which took place in school last week. This involved threatening behaviour, culminating in a physical altercation, resulting in significant harm to the students involved and to our school community. The incident itself has been dealt with and an appropriate sanction applied. I wanted to write to you, both to inform you about the behaviour which led up to the incident and to ask for your support in encouraging your daughters to act in a way which ensures that a similar incident does not occur again.

During our investigations, we have found that some students spread rumours which acted as a catalyst for the incident itself. We will be meeting with the parents of all the students involved in the spreading of rumours, in order to emphasise the harm which was caused as a result. We have also spoken to the year group about appropriate responses to harmful behaviour, emphasising the importance of involving adults where students' behaviour is deemed to be sufficiently 'risky' to potentially pose a threat to others and to prevent further escalation.

As a school community, we take great pride in how responsibly our students behave and how well they work together to resolve conflict and disagreements. This includes acting with integrity – always doing 'the right thing', even when no one is watching, rather than being 'bystanders' in relation to harmful or abusive behaviour - and in showing compassion for others.

Violence and hatred are never the answer and there can be no place in our school community for those who think otherwise.

Please could you speak to your child about the incident and support the school in reinforcing the importance of students following our ethos and expectations, both in school and on social media.

Yours faithfully

**Helen Marriott**

**Headteacher**