

20 September 2018

Dear Parent and Student

I understand from some enquiries made earlier today that there exists some misinformation and misunderstanding about two incidents involving Beechwood students, so I thought it would be most helpful to share information and address any confusion which may exist and which may, in turn, lead to concern.

Firstly no student has been abducted from school and there has been no attempted abduction from school immediately before the start of the school day, during the school day or indeed immediately after the end of the school day. An incident which happened shortly before 8.00 pm on Tuesday evening in one of the roads on the estate has been reported to police. This incident on Tuesday night did involve a Beechwood student but the young person is unharmed and safe and the police are investigating.

This morning, before the start of the school day, there was an unrelated incident near the entrance to the school. This was a minor road traffic accident. Thankfully it was not a major incident and no serious injuries were sustained although, as always, emergency services were involved both as medical precaution and also as such an incident needed to be reported. We are very pleased to be able to share with you that the student involved is okay.

I am grateful that a few parents contacted school to advise that there had been some miscommunication and information has been incorrectly relayed. This has given me the chance to provide clarity, confirm the facts and also to take the opportunity to reinforce further messages about personal safety.

Students have been advised about the following as they travel to and from school.

- They should not engage with strangers and should report it to a parent, back at school or to the police if they are approached or see anything suspicious. They should never accept a lift from anyone they do not know even if the person seems as if they may know their family or friends.
- They need to be mindful of road safety - they need to pay good attention when crossing the roads
- Those students who travel by bicycle need to be mindful of other road users and should think seriously about wearing appropriate protective clothing - eg a cycle helmet- as this could save serious injury if they were to have an accident.
- As the evenings get darker earlier, they should always seek to travel via lit and more populated routes rather than taking short cuts down alleys or across parks etc.

We frequently share personal safety messages with our young people, as we are sure that parents and families do. In light of recent concerns raised, it is timely, once more, to re-visit these with our young people.

I hope this communication is of assistance to you.

Very best wishes



Kathleen Higgins
Executive Headteacher