

Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Road Safety / Parking at start and end of the school day

I am writing to you as parents and carers to seek your support in ensuring our students are as safe as possible on the way in and out of school at the start and end of the day.

As you may be aware, with over 1,200 students on the school roll, the volume of traffic at the start and end of each day can be significant. At the start of the school day, volumes are reduced as students tend to arrive during a relatively long time period, and traffic is by and large manageable.

However, at the end of the school day for most students (3.00pm), traffic volumes around the site and on the entry road can be very high.

At the time of writing, on Dove Valley Way, the entry bollards are now back in operation; these can only be lowered by an entry badge (staff and some visitors) or by intercom. In order to reduce traffic volumes, access to the car park directly in front of the school building will be strictly controlled, and vehicles will only be buzzed through the bollards if there is an agreement in place with the school already. Vehicles will only be granted access from 2.45pm onwards at the end of the school day.

Everyone should bear in mind that the bollards allow one vehicle to pass at a time; if other vehicles attempt to tailgate through, the bollards are very likely to raise and cause significant damage to vehicles. Please, therefore, do not tailgate through the bollards, as the academy will not be responsible for damage which is caused through misuse, and will seek to claim any resulting loss or damage to academy property from the driver responsible.

At the Pitt Street entrance (to the rear of the school), there are also parking restrictions in place. On occasions, at the end of school, the number of vehicles illegally parked around the rear entrance is very high. The police patrol this area regularly, and have informed us that they will issue tickets to anyone who is parked illegally or irresponsibly, and I felt I had to pass this onto everyone who uses this entrance to pick up their children.

I am sure you will agree, ensuring the safety of students on their way in and out of school is paramount; I hope I can count on your support in making sure this can be assured.

Recent Ofsted inspection

A couple of weeks before the Christmas break, the academy was visited by a team of Ofsted inspectors for an unscheduled inspection. The letter which Ofsted sends following the inspection will be published at some point over the course of the next two weeks. Once it is available for public consumption, I will be writing to you with further details of their findings.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Mitchell
Principal