



Matrix Academy Trust

EDUCATION **WITHOUT EXCEPTION**

LD/DLE/MB/da

1st February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to everyone who has sent us messages of support after the events of today. Many of you have thanked us for keeping their children safe while having to endure abuse from some parents. The word so many of you have used to describe some parents' behaviour is "disgusting" and it is entirely appropriate.

Today, as part of our safeguarding procedure, the school went into a lockdown after we believed that someone who was not a member of the school community had briefly entered school site. We followed our procedures, putting the school into a lockdown state, notifying Police and parents. The Police arrived and quickly concurred with our assessment that the site was safe. As soon as they gave us the all clear, we messaged parents again to tell them that school was returning to normal.

Pupils' behaviour was superb during the lockdown. The procedure was flawless from start to finish.

However, despite the school clearly communicating that the school day was continuing as normal, some parents decided to gather outside the school. Some parents were communicating with their children, even though they had been informed by the school that everything was back to normal. Some parents tried to access the school site, barging their way past school staff whose job is to ensure no one unauthorised enters school site, therefore keeping children safe. Some even encouraged children to climb the security fencing.

For the safety of the children, leaders had no choice but to close the school. Staff stayed with the children who had to remain in school because they were unable to go home.

Because of the actions of some parents, many children became very anxious and upset.

At no time before parents started coming up to school was any child in any danger.

Some parents illegally forced their way onto school site. Some verbally and physically assaulted staff. Some broke school property. We have identified names of several offenders, passed them to the Police and we are pursuing prosecutions.





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Staff were imploring parents not to put students in danger by having them climb the security fence. Rather than help staff, a small number of parents dragged their children over the fences, putting them at risk of serious injury. Some pulled children through ground floor windows, despite staff pleading with them to stop.

Some parents exercised very poor judgement, behaving selfishly without considering the impact of their actions on others.

The Police praised the staff and school for managing a very difficult situation, commenting that they have never seen behaviour like this before. Many parents have been in touch to say how disgusted they are at the behaviour of the parents who caused this situation.

Can we thank everyone who supported us in keeping children safe, despite the actions of some.

So that we have a calm return to normal, we are phasing the return to school for different year groups.

Friday 2nd February 2024: Year 11, 12 and 13

Monday 5th February 2024: Year 7 and Year 10 will return, joining Year 11, 12 and 13

Tuesday 6th February 2024: Year 8 will return, joining Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Wednesday 7th February 2024: Year 9 will return. All year groups will now be back in school.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott
Chief Executive Officer

