11 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Staying safe: Travelling to and from School

As you may know there was a number of incidents last year of students from various local schools, including Rickmansworth, being approached by members of the public whilst traveling to and from School. The nature of these incidents ranged from inappropriate comments to more serious incidents where police involvement was required. On two occasions last year this was due to the presence of a weapon. Unfortunately, a similar incident occurred last week in Croxley that required Police involvement and the member of the public has been arrested.

I would like to assure all parents that the safety of our students is our number one priority and we will provide parents with as much information as possible as quickly as possible should there be a credible threat. Where appropriate and along with other schools in the local area, we share information to ensure parents, students and staff are kept fully informed.

At the start of a new academic year and as the evenings draw in I would be very grateful if you would discuss your son/daughter's journey to and from School to ensure they stay safe. We would welcome your support in reinforcing the key messages we share with your son/daughter;

- Road safety: safe cycling and walking to School (further information on website)
- Distractions: avoid listening to music and texting whilst walking to School
- Valuables: keep valuables out of sight (particularly mobile phones)
- Friends: walk with friends
- Phone: ensure phone is charged and call 999 if they feel at risk
- ETA: agree an Expected Time of Arrival at home

I would like to stress that incidents such as those mentioned are incredibly rare, but it is important that your son/daughter's know how to reduce the likelihood of such an event as much as possible and how to react should such an incident occur.

Your sincerely

Mr C Hambleton
Associate Deputy Headteacher