Our Ref: MGE/woo/InciUpIndLtr

06 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you all with a further update on the incident at The Portsmouth Academy at the end of the school day yesterday.

The incident itself was difficult for all involved and, as I am sure you can appreciate, is now subject to police involvement so I cannot provide too much specific detail.   I wanted however, to communicate with parents at the earliest opportunity as I was very aware that stories of this would appear on social media and the nature of this will lead to rumours and inaccuracies being formed.

To confirm facts for you:

- The school day ended at 3pm
- At the gate in question, two members of staff were on duty overseeing the pupils leaving school, two staff were overseeing the churchyard and a further two staff were circling the perimeter of the school
- At 3:07pm a group of unidentified individuals wearing face coverings entered the school without permission and ignoring instructions from duty staff
- Additional staff including staff from the security company came to the area straightaway
- **Lockdown procedure was actioned immediately by staff for the pupils still on site**
- The individuals left the site at 3:10pm
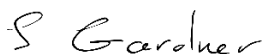- Police had been called immediately and attended the school at 3.20pm

Over the past months, we have put in place increased measures to support the need to keep the school community safe and these include:

- The introduction of staff from a security company
- Increased staff on duty before and after school
- Increased patrol during the school day and during breaks
- Investment in securing the perimeter fencing

We welcome the opportunity to hear from concerned parents and pupils about any additional measures we should introduce, and you are welcome to come along to the next Parent's Forum at TPA on Tuesday 12 March 2024, from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

In the meantime, I hope this further response provides you with additional reassurances.

With kind regards

S. Gardner

Stuart Gardner
CEO, Thinking Schools Academy Trust