

10th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is important for Parents/Carers and students to be aware of a number of security issues that are occurring in the vicinity of Southgate.

Before Christmas we were aware of a number of muggings in the Southgate area targeting school students. We informed the police of the issues and wrote home to all Parents/Carers giving advice as well as assemblies to all students.

On the last day of term, 21st December 2018, there were a large number of youths in the Southgate area. Some of these youths demanded money or phones from a number of students as well as being aggressive and abusive to other students.

Ashmole staff were on patrol in the area on the last day of term as part of our responsibility supporting parents and ensuring the students go home well behaved. However Ashmole staff have no authority or responsibility to become involved in tackling gangs of youths. This is very much the police and Enfield Council's responsibility. Nevertheless, members of staff did try to intervene where possible and were themselves subjected to threats of violence and abuse. We have reported the incident to the police and Enfield Council.

As the New Year has started, we have further reports of two students being mugged in Southgate.

With the safety of students going home being a top priority I would like to encourage all students to follow the advice contained in Mr Sullivan's original letter and to report any matters that do occur to the police.

Please find below the advice from the Metropolitan Police on how to attempt to avoid such incidents contained in Mr Sullivan's original letter dated 12th November 2018.

- 1) Keep valuables hidden – our mobile phone policy is designed to assist with this instruction. If criminals were to realise that Ashmole is a no phones school the likelihood of muggings is decreased. I urge both students and parents to abide by this policy.
- 2) Awareness – related to the above, hoods, headphones and mobiles are a distraction to students and them having an awareness of their surroundings.
- 3) Safety in numbers – we would ask where possible, that students do not travel home on their own and avoid isolated places.

As a school we have taken this matter up with the police as well as with officials within both Barnet and Enfield Councils and hope that authorities are effective in making Southgate safer for students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr D Brown
Head Teacher