



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you about an incident which took place last week after school. This involved two students from WSFG, one of whom violently attacked the other near St Mary's church, resulting in significant harm to this student. Because of both the public and violent nature of the incident, this will also adversely affect the reputation of our school. I am grateful to parents and members of the community who contacted us and sent video footage of the incident. The incident itself has been dealt with and an appropriate sanction applied. Whilst you will appreciate that I cannot disclose details of the sanction, given the shocking nature of the incident, it has been dealt with very seriously indeed.

As well as thanking those who contacted us and informing you about how we have dealt with the incident, I also wanted to ask for your further support. When watching the video footage, I was shocked to see a number of students filming the incident and others shouting and cheering. Some students were courageous enough to try to intervene and stop the attack or to notify an adult of what was happening and I am grateful to those students for acting with integrity. However, the vast majority of students who were present effectively colluded in this violent assault, simply by being present and doing nothing to stop it. Others made the situation worse by posting the video on social media, suggesting that violence is a form of 'entertainment'. This is contrary to our expectations as a school and, I am sure, to your expectations as parents.

As a school community, we take great pride in how responsibly our students behave and how well they work together to resolve conflict and disagreements. This includes acting with integrity – always doing 'the right thing', rather than being 'bystanders' in relation to harmful or abusive behaviour - and in showing compassion for others.

Violence and hatred are never the answer and there can be no place in our school community for those who think otherwise.

Please could you speak to your child about the incident and support the school in reinforcing the importance of students following our ethos and expectations, both in school, out of school and on social media.

Yours faithfully

Helen Marriott

Headteacher

