



7 September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer/Taxi Driver

### **Parking and gathering in front of the school gates**

You will be aware we have some concerns about the safety of our students as they leave the school site, particularly in front of the student entrance and exit gate. Parents have quite rightly pointed out the same concerns, and we are keen to address these issues promptly to ensure the safety of our students and school community.

**I must insist that you do not gather directly in front of the school gates when waiting to collect your child.** When this occurs, students are not able to safely check for oncoming traffic when leaving the main school grounds and this then poses the possibility that a student could step onto the road and be struck by a vehicle. Taxis are also unable to collect our students which has caused students to be without any transport.

**I also ask that you do not park or wait in your car in front of the school gates on Oak Street.** This has caused significant traffic congestion and has led to some people getting frustrated and driving away at a high speed. This could potentially cause a road traffic accident and/ or a student being hurt.

**Please do not park on yellow lines leaving your car unattended.** This has caused serious congestion along Bright Street and led to grid lock. Again, this poses a risk for our students when attempting to make their way home.

Please agree on a meeting spot *away from* the school entrance or directly outside the school, for you to meet and collect your child.

We are making immediate changes to the end of our school day in order to keep the students safe. Please take note of the following:

1. There will no longer be any recitation at the end of the school day.
2. Students will leave the classroom at 2.30pm when period 5 ends. They will then walk from their classroom and go directly out of their allocated exit. *Please note if they are on the top floor that day they will need to walk down the stairs so please don't expect them to be off the school grounds immediately.*
3. Year 7 will leave via the student entrance/exit and walk directly to the gate on Oak Street.
4. Year 8 will leave via a side door and be led round the front of the school - they will leave via the gate on Russell Street near Reception.
5. Year 9 will leave via the side door onto Bright Street.

If your child is walking home with someone from a different year group then they can arrange to meet them on the school yard from tomorrow but they must still use the exit allocated to their year group.

There will be a high staff presence at *all times* around the perimeter of the school and further into the town to ensure the safety of all our students. Please can you also discuss the need to cross roads properly, to reach you, with your child.

We will continue to monitor the situation and make improvements on this where possible.

Thank you for your understanding, it is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Brant-Smith', with some overlapping and scribbled lines.

Melissa Brant-Smith  
Principal