

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following our message to you about a serious incident at the school last week, I am writing with an update on the school's continuing response to this matter.

Firstly, it should be acknowledged that the incident was a serious act of criminal violence in which staff, students, community members and local businesses were put at risk of harm. This incident was not confined to the school. It was an attack on the whole community. It is shocking that three youths not known to the school would so confidently roam the streets of the Jewellery Quarter with such brazen criminal intent. We understand that these youths were under the age of 16. The police have made at least one arrest so far and we have been pleased to support investigations, not least by providing school CCTV images.

I am working with my CORE Education Trust colleagues to call on the authorities and political leaders to respond to the seriousness of this level of shocking criminality on the streets of Birmingham putting **all its citizens** at risk. The Central Academy staff responded with selfless bravery in protecting the children in their care, but they should not have been put in this position in the first place. Civic leaders must make a stand and step forward to support my call for more urgent action against the rising trends of youth violence in our city. Today, I am writing to key individuals to ask for their response to this incident. I will write to you again with an update on my progress in developing a constructive dialogue with the authorities.

I am pleased to have received on-going support from my colleagues at CORE Education Trust. Within hours of the incident we had formulated the CORE **SAFE** Programme, which has been structured to provide a short, mid and long-term strategic response to this incident. It is now a live programme.

**Security:** We have put in place some immediate additional measures, but we will continue to develop additional physical modifications to the building and ensure staff are equipped appropriately to maintain the highest possible levels of safety and security, particularly when outside the building.

**Action:** We will continue to promote proactive measures to keep our students, staff and community members safe and secure. We will be campaigning with local stakeholders, political and civic leaders to make our voice heard. We will lead events to make a collective stand against violence and encourage our neighbouring community and business groups to do the same.

**Friends:** We will not allow criminals to deter us from building a coalition of peace in our community and for our city. We are proud of our community and understand that, however shocking, this incident does not define our community. Instead, it corrupts the truth of what we stand for. We will be building partnership networks to promote a strong joint message of defiance. We will encourage families of our students to support this.

**Education:** It remains an important priority for us to continue raising awareness and developing training programmes for students and staff. We will reinforce important messages about safety in



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assemblies and we will place an emphasis on promoting positive voices from community groups and individuals with authentic perspectives on staying safe.

It has been a challenging few days for our school community. Please continue to support your children and encourage them to speak to any adult at school if they are worried or upset. Finally, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks for all the messages of support I have received. Never have we felt such a strong bond with our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D Bailey'.

Mr D Bailey  
Headteacher

A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the page, divided into four colored segments: purple, pink, orange, and teal.

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