



11th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safety in the Local Community for Sydenham Students

As you are aware, safeguarding is the 'golden thread' which runs through our school and Sydenham School takes the safeguarding of our students very seriously. I am writing to ensure that you are aware of some recent safety concerns in the local area so that all members of our school community stay safe.

Last week a student was robbed on the footbridge over the railway line between Sydenham Park Road and Dacres Road shortly after the end of the school day. Please encourage your child not to use this footbridge and to use an alternative route. This is especially important with the darker afternoons as we move towards winter. We continue our campaign to improve lighting and security in the area.

We have also had some incidents of members of the public approaching our students in an intimidating way on the way home from school. If this occurs to your child, please report this to the police and to the school as soon as possible so that these can be investigated.

It is important that students go straight home at the end of the school day and do not wait around in the local area; all students should travel in groups or pairs. Wherever possible, students should not be travelling home from school alone. Please ensure that you always know where your child is at the end of the school day to ensure that they return safely home from school.

Finally, as it gets darker please remind your child about road safety when travelling to and from school. Students must use pedestrian crossings wherever possible. Students are not allowed to cross the road directly outside the front of school. Please talk to your child about not being talking on the phone or to a friend, or looking at their mobile, when crossing the road.

Our staff do duty in the local community every day after school and will continue to do so. Many thanks of your continued support of your child and Sydenham School. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,
Emma Quartey

Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead