

Our ref: TSA/lwt

11 October 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that some of you will have heard by now that there was an incident involving some of our students on Friday morning before school. The incident was responded to quickly by both school staff and the Police and has been followed through appropriately and robustly by both.

The incident, unfortunately, was a result of an escalation of opinions on social media the night before and became serious for a number of reasons:

- 1) Students becoming involved and inflaming a situation, via social media, when it would have been more sensible to not become involved at all.
- 2) Students choosing to encourage and watch a confrontation rather than realising that it was not their concern and walking away – or even better, seeking help to prevent the situation.
- 3) A very small number of students believing that violence is the best way to resolve a situation.

I can assure you that no students have been seriously hurt – but we have, nonetheless, taken the situation very seriously indeed and the two students whose actions were most dangerous are now facing very serious consequences for the decisions that they made.

Today I have personally spoken to all Year 10 and Year 11 students about this and tomorrow morning Form Tutors will be delivering a message, from me, to all the other year groups.

I am pleased to say that incidents like this are very rare indeed (in seven years of Headship I have not seen anything like this before), but when they do happen we will leave no stone unturned to address the problem, punish those who need punishing, protect those who need protecting, and to make sure that all of our students are safeguarded.

I do believe, however, that the incident would not have occurred if it were not for other students (rather than those centrally involved) encouraging/inflaming the situation via social media, going to watch the confrontation and/or inciting violence, and I would be grateful if parents could help by reinforcing the message that we are delivering in school, that this behaviour is never appropriate or helpful.

Despite what happened on Friday, I continue to be very proud of Sandwich Technology School, its students (the vast majority of whom are very sensible and who consistently make the right decisions), and the staff, who, before school on Friday, did everything they could to ensure the safety of everyone concerned.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Savage
Headteacher