

3 December 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This is just a brief update to clarify some rumours that seem to be circulating. We have a close relationship with our neighbourhood police, as you would expect, and yesterday two PCSOs dropped into school, as they do from time to time. Some pupils seem to have jumped to the conclusion that someone had a gun on site. There have also been some wild suggestions that a pupil was found on site with cocaine. I am glad to report that neither of these rumours have any basis in truth.

On a different but important note, we have unfortunately had a number of complaints recently from members of the local community about the anti-social behaviour of a small minority of our pupils outside of school, normally on their way home. This has involved putting traffic cones into the road in the Landscore Road area, shoplifting, knocking on doors and one incident where some of our pupils were rude and abusive towards an elderly couple. Whilst the behaviour in school is getting considerably better, these incidents that involve a small fraction of our school community are exceptionally disappointing as they can lead others in Teignmouth to form very negative views of our pupils. This is unfair on the vast majority who behave impeccably in and out of school. It would be helpful if you as parents/carers could speak to your children and, if they do witness any anti-social behaviour, please tell them to distance themselves from this and report it in school. We are clamping down on this.

Mask wearing in school is obviously particularly important as the rates of transmission of the virus are still rising. Again, the vast majority of pupils are being brilliant with this but there is a small group who have to be sent to collect a mask on a regular basis. This is a huge waste of resources and time. From next week, there will be a consequence for not having a mask in school, if you are not exempt. Pupils will have to buy a mask for 20p or hand over a personal item (e.g. a mobile phone) until the end of the day in order to take a mask.

Finally, on a much more positive note, we are finalising merit awards for the end of this term and some rewards afternoons for lots of pupils who continuously do well and get things right. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Concert on the 16th December which we still hope to be able to hold in person, albeit with slightly reduced numbers.

Best wishes



James O'Connell
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr James O'Connell
Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9HZ
Tel: 01626 774091 **Visit:** www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk

Osprey
Learning Trust 

