

Security incident at West Avenue Update



NEWCASTLE SCHOOL
FOR BOYS

Dear Parents,

13th October, 2009

On Friday 2nd October I wrote to all parents regarding a security incident at our West Avenue site which had occurred on Thursday 1st October.

Newcastle CID have continued their extensive investigations and I have been in regular contact with them. Whilst they are clearly taking this matter seriously, they have not expressed any ongoing concerns regarding the nature of this intruder. Their advice has been to ask staff and parents to remain vigilant around the site and to follow the current routines for collecting boys from after school activities. They have asked me to state that parents and staff should not allow any 'tailgating'; being direct about this with other mums and dads is better than being unsafe. All parents and carers are required to sign their boys out from the after school activities at the Junior School. I have asked staff to insist on this, so please do expect it to be part of the collection process.

On Tuesday last week the Governors of the school met to review our own procedures and to make recommendations following this event. As a result we have decided to install recording CCTV cameras on each of the sites, starting on the West Avenue site as soon as it practicable. If CCTV cameras had been in place, we would have quickly been able to identify this intruder, something which the CID have failed to do, despite having a description of him from the boy involved.

We are also planning to relocate the after school room to the ground floor of the building, so that parents do not have to pass through the building to collect their sons.

The safety of the boys remains our highest priority and we will continue to provide a secure and caring environment for them at the School. Thank you to those parents who have written with their views on this issue. If you have any ongoing concerns, please contact me directly.

With best wishes

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